

1000-F24;Philosophy of Love A

[Spring til i dag](#)

 Rediger



Philosophy of Love - section A

University of Copenhagen / DIS

Spring Semester 2024

Class meetings: Tuesdays 10:15-12:45.

University of Copenhagen, South Campus, Room 7C-1-05.

Course instructor: Jakob Due Lorentzen, PhD

Email: jdl@teol.ku.dk (<mailto:jdl@teol.ku.dk>)

Live stream: <https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/5260397601?pwd=TytjeitHZ2FFYjVHUUY5WmhnYk9xdz09> ➞ <https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/5260397601?pwd=TytjeitHZ2FFYjVHUUY5WmhnYk9xdz09>

Course content: It is hard to deny that love takes center stage in the great human drama. This ever-present, gripping, yet elusive force shapes our lives, ourselves, our pursuits, and, of course, our relations with others. Love even finds its way into our anxieties, our delusions, our hopes, and our greatest efforts at self-improvement. This course uncovers a European history about love that continues to shape the present in various ways.

As we follow love on various historical stages – from ancient Greece through the Middle Ages, the romantic era, the post-romantic period, and into the present – we pay close attention to the stories we have told ourselves about love. Our love stories reveal that we conceive of the human condition as desiring, striving, and longing, but also as avoiding reality and the concrete commitments that tie us to finitude. We read responses to this escapism in the form of a moral call to respond to the other, also when this means respecting difference and the other's independence. Throughout, we gain tools for thinking seriously about love today.

Learning Objectives: Together, we will be aiming to: (1) gain an overview of the elaborate discussions on love in the European philosophical and literary traditions; (2) acquire academic skills in navigating and interpreting philosophical works and novels; (3) develop abilities in nuancing and articulating our own views and positions in dialogue with those of others; and (4) relate particular lived experiences of love to universal philosophical concepts that elucidate the human condition.

Language of instruction and discussion: English. (Papers, however, may also be written in Danish, Swedish, Norwegian).

Requirements for DIS-students

For undergraduate students (bachelor students)

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). DIS must be notified, if you are absent two times or more. The syllabus volume and content are determined by the teacher, and three papers are to be submitted to the teacher of each 9,600-12,000 characters, i.e. 4-5 pages (1.5 line spacing), as well as a final major assignment, which has a size of 19,200-24,000 characters, i.e. 8-10 pages (1.5 line spacing), and based on 400-500 pages of literature. For DIS students, the due date is Thursday, 9 May.

Requirements for KU-students (both Danish students and Exchange students)

For undergraduate students (bachelor students)

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol).

A final major assignment, which has a size of 24.000-28.800 characters, i.e. 10-12 pages (1.5 line spacing), and based on 600-800 pages literature in agreement with the teacher. The teacher must approve the subject and literature. The assignments is assessed by the teacher and a grade is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. For KU students, the due date is at Thursday, 30 May, at noon.

For graduate students (kandidat/master students)

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol).

A final paper of 36.000-48.000 characters, i.e. 15-20 pages (1.5 line spacing), and based on 800-1000 pages of literature in agreement with the teacher. The teacher must approve the subject and literature. The assignment is assessed by the teacher, and a grade is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. For KU students, the due date is at Thursday, 30 May, at noon.

Discussion board posts: Students are expected to write short posts (no more than ½ page) on the Absalon discussion board. Posts are part of the participation grade and are due before the beginning of each class.

Readings: Completion of reading assignments as scheduled is required and is a prerequisite for participating in class discussions.

Lectures and discussion: In general, class will be a combination of lecture, group work and class discussion. Class participation includes attendance, student presentations, and contributions that students make on discussion posts and in class.

Plagiarism: Any student who plagiarizes will fail the course.

Grading breakdown (DIS students):

Research paper: 45%

First short paper: 15%

Second short paper: 15%

Third short paper: 15%

Attendance: 10%

Course texts:

These books should be purchased:

- Plato. *Symposium*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-19-954019-8 (other versions are also fine).
- Bédier, Jospeh. *The Romance of Tristan & Iseult*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2013. ISBN 978-1-60384-900-5

Other class readings will be available in electronic form either on Absalon or through links to the royal library (access through KUnet). Class readings include selections from the following:

- Carson, Anne. *If Not, Winther. Fragments of Sappho*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002.
- De Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. New York: Vintage Books, 2010.
- De Rougemont, Denis. *Love in the Western World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983.
- Goethe, J.W. *The Sufferings of Young Werther*. London: W.W. Norton, 2012.
- hooks, bell. *All About Love: New Visions*. New York: William Morrow, 2010.
- Illouz, Eva. *Consuming The Romantic Utopia*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997.
- Illouz, Eva. *Cold Intimacies: The Making of Emotional Capitalism*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007.
- Kierkegaard, Søren. *Either/Or, I and II*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987.
- Kierkegaard, Søren. *The Concept of Irony*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1968.
- Kierkegaard, Søren. *Works of Love*. London and New York: Harper Perennial, 2009.
- Levinas, Emmanuel. *Totality and Infinity*. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1969.
- Løgstrup, The Ethical Demand. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1997.
- Oliver, Kelly. "The Look of Love". *Hypatia*, Vol. 16, No. 3, Summer, 2001, pp 56-78.
- Puig de la Bellacasa, María. *Matters of Care*. Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2017.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Being and Nothingness*. New York: Routledge, 2020.
- Stendhal. *On Love*. London: Hesperus Press, 2009.

[Kierkegaard's writings online in English translation](https://teol.ku.dk/bibliotek/sk_princeton/)

(https://teol.ku.dk/bibliotek/sk_princeton/)(Princeton version) is available through the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre KU webpage (KUnet access needed). Danish readers should of course read Kierkegaard and Løgstrup in the original Danish.


For DIS students:

DIS students should pick up their texts at the DIS Library, Vestergade 23.

Please make sure to read the "Academic Regulations" on the DIS website. There you will find regulations on:

- Course Enrollment and Grading
- Attendance
- Coursework, Exams, and Final Grade Reports

Oversigt over fag:

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	Forfaldet
tirs den 23. Jan 2024	 Lyrics of Longing - Introduction to the course https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137376&include_contexts=course_71539	10.15 til 12.45
tirs den 30. Jan 2024	 Origins of Love https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137369&include_contexts=course_71539	10.15 til 12.45
tirs den 6. Feb 2024	 No class, DIS academic tours https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137377&include_contexts=course_71539	0:00
tirs den 13. Feb 2024	 The Platonic Love Affair https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137368&include_contexts=course_71539	10.15 til 12.45
søn den 18. Feb 2024	 Short paper 1 (DIS only) https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/71539/assignments/200816	forfaldet 23.59
tirs den 20. Feb 2024	 Fatal Love https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137370&include_contexts=course_71539	10.15 til 12.45
tirs den 27. Feb 2024	 Romantic Love https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137371&include_contexts=course_71539	10.15 til 12.45
tirs den 5. Mar 2024	 No class, DIS academic tours https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137374&include_contexts=course_71539	0:00
tirs den 12. Mar 2024	 Commitment and Control https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137375&include_contexts=course_71539	10.15 til 12.45

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	Forfaldet
søn den 17. Mar 2024	 Short paper 2 (DIS only) (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/71539/assignments/200817)	forfaldet 23.59
tirs den 19. Mar 2024	 The Look of Love (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137378&include_contexts=course_71539)	10.15 til 12.45
tirs den 26. Mar 2024	 The Look of the Other (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137379&include_contexts=course_71539)	10.15 til 12.45
tirs den 2. Apr 2024	 Care and World (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137380&include_contexts=course_71539)	10.15 til 12.45
søn den 7. Apr 2024	 Short paper 3 (DIS only) (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/71539/assignments/200818)	forfaldet 23.59
tirs den 9. Apr 2024	 Meeting the Other: Instructions on Final Paper (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137373&include_contexts=course_71539)	10.15 til 12.45
tirs den 16. Apr 2024	 No class, DIS academic tours (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137372&include_contexts=course_71539)	0:00
tirs den 23. Apr 2024	 All About Love (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=137367&include_contexts=course_71539)	10.15 til 12.45
tors den 9. Maj 2024	 Final paper (DIS) (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/71539/assignments/200814)	forfaldet 23.59
tors den 30. Maj 2024	 Final paper (KU) (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/71539/assignments/200815)	forfaldet 12:00
	 Attendance (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/71539/assignments/200813)	