

Course Description: Topics in Ethics: Love and Friendship (Phil V3716)

We will consider several philosophical problems associated with love and friendship. What is love? What is friendship? Do the demands of friendship conflict with the demands of morality? Does love admit of rational justification? Does love have epistemic value? We will take up these and related questions in this course.

Our readings will be drawn primarily from contemporary sources (e.g., Harry Frankfurt, Bernard Williams, J. David Velleman, Susan Wolf, Niko Kolodny, Annette Baier), but we may also consider a few historical figures (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Kant) to set up the problems and provide some background.

At least one previous course in ethics is recommended. A complete syllabus will be uploaded to CourseWorks in the fall.