TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

UGS 303, What is Love? (Class # 69189)

Fall 2026

Class Meets: T Th 9:30-11:00
Classroom: GSB 3.128
Instructor: Prof. Jill Ingram
Office: UTA 6.326
Email: jpi@utexas.edu
Office hours: 11:30-1:00 T TH and by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is Love? How were the ideals of romantic love in Western Civilization created, and how did they develop? This multidisciplinary course considers the idea of love in Western civilization from Classical Greece to the twentieth century through the lenses of poetry, fiction, religion, art, and political tracts. We will examine how love in a pagan world shifted towards a mode of heroic virtue in late antiquity. The heroic ideal became inflected by Christianity in the Middle Ages, when courtly love made a co-ed game of knightly virtue. We will also examine love in families and in friendship. With modernity came expressions of companionate marriage, as well as disaffections with marriage and complications to the classical war between the sexes.

PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE COURSE

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify, describe, and explain the meanings of the literary and philosophical concept of love from the ancient world to the present day, using different approaches from across the humanities disciplines.
2. Analyze primary texts, situate them in historical and literary context, and develop critical interpretations of their significance to Western thought and literature.
3. Communicate orally and in writing the contribution of the literature of love to the development of Western civilization, and their significance today.

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TEACHING MODALITY INFORMATION

This is a fully in-person class (requires in-person attendance).

COMMUNICATION

The course Canvas site can be found at utexas.instructure.com. Please email me through Canvas. You are responsible for ensuring that the primary email address you have recorded with the university is the one you will check for course communications because that is the email address that Canvas uses.

ASKING FOR HELP

If you have course questions please email me and I will respond to your email within 24 hours. I also am available during office hours, in my office UTA 6.326.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

For a list of important university policies and helpful resources that you may need as you engage with and navigate your courses and the university, see the University Policies and Resources Students Canvas page. The page includes the language of the University Honor Code, Title IX legal requirements for Texas employees, and information about how to receive support through the office of Disability & Access.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Please find your required course packet at Jenn's Copy & Binding, 2518 Guadalupe St, where it is available for purchase for $25.17. All other required readings will be posted to Canvas and will be available for students to download. Students will not need laptops , tablets, or phones during class times, and you must bring your course packet to every class period, since we will be using it in class. Unless otherwise specified, computers, tablet devices, and phones are not permitted in the classroom (i.e. must be stowed away).

SHARING OF COURSE MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class without my explicit, my written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials may facilitate cheating. The University is aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in initiation of the student conduct process and include charge(s) for academic misconduct, potentially resulting in sanctions, including a grade impact.

REQUIRED DEVICES

None

GETTING HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

Students needing help with technology in this course should contact the UT Service Desk or [insert contact information for your local support unit(s) and for course materials, software, hardware, or other technology used in your course].

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Class attendance

i. 10% of your grade is based on attendance. On-time class attendance is required for this component of the course grade. You may have two unexcused absences without any penalty. Starting with the third unexcused absence, each unexcused absence reduces your attendance grade by 2/3: an A- becomes a B, and so on.
ii. Except for absence because of religious holiday observance, documentation is required for excused absences. Excessive unexcused absences (10 or more) will result in failure of the course. If you miss 10 or more classes (excused or not), you will miss material essential for successful completion of the course.

Class participation

i. 10% of your grade is based on discussion participation: an exemplar participant shows evidence of **having done the assigned reading before each class**, consistently offers thoughtful points and questions for discussion, and listens considerately to other discussants.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (or Large Language Models [LLMs]) such as CoPilot or ChatGPT in this class is strictly prohibited. This includes using AI to generate ideas, outline an approach, answer questions, solve problems, or create original language. All work in this course must be your own or created in group work, where allowed.

ASSIGNMENTS

The following table represents how you will demonstrate your learning and how we will assess the degree to which you have done so.

Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Total Grade
1. Reading Responses (4 all term): a. Written reading reflections will engage with the reading and other students' ideas. b. You will complete 4 reading response assignments, which are 300-wd postings to our Canvas discussion board, reflecting on the course readings for that week, quoting the text and offering analysis, and responding to other students' postings. See Canvas for grading rubric.	400	40%
2. Midterm Exam (A written, in-class exam) 2a. For the longer essay portion of the exam, you will be given feedback and asked to revise it within 2 weeks of the exam date. This revision will count as 5% of the 15% of your exam grade.	75	15%
3. Oral Presentation (choose 1 Reading Response and give an oral presentation on one of your answers, including reflections on other students' responses to the text in question: see Canvas for rubric).	25	5%
4. Final Exam (A written, in-class exam)	100	20%
5. Attendance and Participation	20	20%

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LATE WORK AND MAKING UP MISSED WORK

Late reading responses are accepted subject to a 2/3 grade reduction for every day late (after 5 pm on due date).-- an A– becomes a B, and so on. You may make up the midterm and/or final exam if you have an excused absence, within 48 hours, but I will create a new exam for you, and you will take it in my office.

ABSENCES (SEE CLASS ATTENDANCE, ABOVE)

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence for a religious holy day as far in advance as possible of the date of observance. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. For questions regarding religious accommodations, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students.

EQUITABLE ACCOMMODATION

You may make up a Reading Response assignment for any reason, but I will create a new assignment for you that corresponds to the reading that week. I ask that you complete this assignment within a week of the original assignment's due date. There will be no make-up option for the midterm or final exam unless you have an excused absence.

EXTRA CREDIT

There will be an opportunity for an extra credit assignment (an additional reading response) to replace your lowest reading response grade or to add 5% to your midterm grade

+/- GRADING POLICY

+/- Grades will be used for the final class grade.

GRADE BREAKS

Grade	Cutoff
A	94%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	84%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	74%

Grade	Cutoff
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	64%
D-	60%
F	<60%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY EXPECTATIONS

All allegations of academic misconduct will be referred by faculty to the Office of the Dean of Students. Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to the student conduct process. A student found responsible for academic misconduct may be assigned both a status sanction and a grade impact for the course. The grade impact could range from a zero on the assignment in question up to a failing grade in the course. A status sanction can include a written warning, probation, deferred suspension, suspension, or expulsion from the University. To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the overall conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct.

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COURSE OUTLINE

All instructions, assignments, readings, rubrics and essential information will be on the Canvas website at utexas.instructure.com. Check Canvas regularly. **Changes** to the schedule may be made at my discretion if circumstances require. I will announce any such changes in class and will also communicate them via a Canvas announcement. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced, and I will do my best to ensure that you are notified of changes with as much advance notice as possible.

Week	Date	Day	Class Topic	Out of Class Activities	Assignments Due
1.	8/25 8/27	T Th	Introduction to the Course: Eros in *The Old Testament*	Read *The Song of Solomon, The Old Testament*, pp. 1174–1187 **[Course Reader: 1-17]**	
2.	9/1 9/3	T Th	Agape (divine love) in *The New Testament*	Read *Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, The New Testament,* pp. 363-366 **[Rdr: 19-22]**	
3.	9/8 9/10	T Th	Plato's *Symposium*: the desire for beauty	Read Plato, *The Symposium (sel)* (14 pp.) **[Rdr: 23-37]**	Reading Response & 9 oral pres.
4.	9/15 9/17	T Th	Classical love poetry and its echoes	Read Ovid, *Amores, 9, 13*; John Donne, "The Sun Rising" (25 pp.) **[Rdr: 39-50]**	
5.	9/22 9/24	T Th	Love in Friendship	Read Montaigne, "Of Friendship" (9 pp.); Cicero, *De Amitia* (14-33); Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 8 **[Rdr: 51-112]**	
6.	9/29 10/1	T Th	Courtly Love	Read Capellanus, *The Art of Courtly Love*, sel. (10 pp.); Castiglione, *The Courtier,* sel. (16 pp.); "A Fine State of affiars" (Bk Review, *TLS*) **[Rdr: 113-147]**	Reading Response & 10 oral pres.
7.	10/6 10/8	T Th	Love in Shakespeare's *Sonnets*	Read Shakespeare, *Sonnets,* sel. (4 pp.) **[Rdr: 149-154]**	
8.	10/13 10/15	T Th	Love in the 18th Century: Mary Astell on Marriage; Hogarth's *Marriage-a-la-Mode* (print series)	Read Astell, "Some Reflections upon Marriage," (4 pp.); Daniel Degoe, *Roxana*, sel. (3 pp.) Hogarth, *Marriage A-la-Mode* (7 pp.) **[Rdr: 155-169]**	Midterm Exam (20% of course grade)
9.	10/20 10/22	T Th	View in class: Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* *Pride and Prejudice, Cont.*		

Week	Date	Day	Class Topic	Out of Class Activities	Assignments Due
10.	10/27 10/29	T Th	Modernist Love: Yeats; Hemingway	Yeats' Poems: "The Sorrow of Love"; When You Are Old"; "Adam's Curse"; Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" **[Rdr: 171-179]**	
11.	11/3 11/5	T Th	20th Century Fiction and philosophy: Jhumpa Lahiri's "A Temporary Matter"; C. S. Lewis, "Charity"	Read Lahiri, "A Temporary Matter," (22 pp.); C.S. Lewis, "Charity," *The Four Loves* (16 pp.) **[Rdr: 181-213]**	Reading Response & 9 oral pres.
12.	11/10 11/12	T Th	20th Century Poetry: Love in Families	Read Roethke, "My Papa's Waltz" **[On Canvas]**; Sharon Olds, "The Victims"; Elizabeth Bishop, "One Art" **[Rdr: 215-217]**	
13.	11/17 11/19	T Th	Review of Renaissance love poetry: Medieval or Modern?	Read Wyatt, "They Flee from Me" **[On Canvas]**	Reading Response & 10 oral pres.
14.	12/1 12/3	T Th	James Joyce on love	James Joyce, "The Dead" (50 pp.) **[Rdr: 219-243]**	
					Final Exam (20% of course grade)

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CARRYING OF HANDGUNS ON CAMPUS

Students in this class should be aware of the following university policies related to Texas' Open Carry Law:

- Students in this class who hold a license to carry are asked to review the university policy regarding campus carry.
- Individuals who hold a license to carry are eligible to carry a concealed handgun on campus, including in most outdoor areas, buildings and spaces that are accessible to the public, and in classrooms.
- It is the responsibility of concealed-carry license holders to carry their handguns on or about their person at all times while on campus. Open carry is NOT permitted, meaning that a license holder may not carry a partially or wholly visible handgun on campus premises or on any university driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.