Course Description

Love (and friendship) are such big parts of our lives, it is difficult to imagine a fulfilling life that lacks them. In this course, we will investigate the nature of love and friendship, particularly their relation to the good life and morality. We will seek to discover what love is, why we love others, what makes a good friend, whether friends and lovers are essential components of our happiness or mere means to it, and whether friendship and love hinder or promote the aims of morality.

Required Texts

*Keeping the Love You Find*, Harville Hendrix  
*Bridge to Terabithia*, Kathleen Paterson  
Various articles and book chapters will also be provided on reserve

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

a. compare, contrast, and evaluate the merits of the dominant psychological theories of love;  
b. articulate your own definition of love in the context of these dominant theories;  
c. solve common contemporary struggles in love life;  
d. articulate the role and relevance of love and friendship in the modern world;  
e. demonstrate citizenship skills required for participation in a university learning community;  
f. demonstrate the ability to effectively participate in a text-focused seminar discussion

Course Format and Your Role

This course is a reading and writing intensive seminar. What this means is that most of your time will be spent reading texts, writing about them, and talking about both the texts and your writing with others. I firmly believe that this format is the best way to learn. Each class will be structured around a reading. You will be required to read the text before coming to class.

Also, I ask that you turn your cellphones and other devices on vibrate before class starts. Unless required for group work or assignments, electronic devices should not be visible while class is going on. Also, coming in late for class and/or leaving early while class is going on is very distracting for both me and the other students, so I ask also that you come to class on time and leave when it’s over.
Grading and Criteria

Here is the breakdown of your grade out of 100 points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Love Statements</td>
<td>2.0 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (15)</td>
<td>15 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class exercises (8)</td>
<td>13.6 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always wondered assignment</td>
<td>4.25 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Phil analysis</td>
<td>7.65 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>12 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terabithia reflection</td>
<td>7.65 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgiveness plan</td>
<td>2.55 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading guided reflections (6)</td>
<td>11.4 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary problem project</td>
<td>7.65 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal growth plan</td>
<td>4.25 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>12 pts</td>
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Late work will be docked a letter grade for each 24 hours the work is late. I will only make exceptions on penalties for late work if you provide a documented (note from a doctor) medical emergency pertaining to yourself alone (not friends or family). I will not accept a note simply saying you had an appointment; the note needs to explicitly excuse you from class on the dates in question for medical reasons.

Plagiarism is when you take personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. You must clearly and accurately credit sources you use in written work for all class assignments. If you have been found to plagiarize, you will automatically fail the course and be reported to the administration for disciplinary action.

Please carefully review the following information at this link https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

If you miss your final exam, and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678) 839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency.” This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments.
This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.

**Special Needs**

If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation from me, please see me at the beginning of the semester.

**Course Schedule**

1/6  Introductions, goals of course, syllabus, philosophy of love statement, “I’ve always wondered why?” activity

1/7  **Upload Philosophy of Love statement #1 to courseden by 11:59 p.m. on 1/7/19**

1/8  Sternberg, *The Triangle of Love*, 34-48;

1/13 Sternberg, *The Triangle of Love*, 49-end; form Dr. Phil groups

1/15  **I’ve Always Wondered Why? presentations due**

1/22  ‘Dr. Phil’ groupwork

1/27  **Dr. Phil presentations/couple analysis & prescription**

1/29  Peck #1, *The Road Less Traveled*, pp. 81-115

2/3  Peck #2, *The Road Less Traveled*, pp. 116-151

2/5  Peck #3, *The Road Less Traveled*, pp. 152-182; upload **Philosophy of Love statement #2 to courseden by 11:59 p.m.**

2/10 Hendrix #1, *Keeping the Love You Find*, Chapters 4-7

2/12 Hendrix #2, *Keeping the Love You Find*, Chapters 1-3

2/17 Hendrix #3, *Keeping the Love You Find*, Chapters 12-16

2/19  **Hendrix project due** (couple analysis; self-analysis; growth/aliveness plan); upload **Philosophy of Love statement #3 to courseden by 11:59 p.m.**

2/24  **Midterm exam**

2/26  *Bridge to Terabithia* seminar and reflection due
3/2 Simon reading, *Forgiveness*, pp. 9-23

3/4 **Personal forgiveness plan due**

3/9 Gottman reading, *Why Marriages Succeed or Fail*, 68-102

3/11 Gottman reading, *7 Principles*, Chapter 1

3/23 Kickball outing


4/1 “Friendship & Moral Danger” article; **Friendship & Moral Danger guided reflection**

4/6 “Love as a Valuing Relationship”; **Valuing guided reflection**

4/8 Aelred, “Spiritual Friendship” reading, pp. 129-145; **Aelred guided reflection**

4/13 Kant, “Lecture on Friendship” reading, pp. 208-217; **Kant guided reflection**

4/15 Kierkegaard, “You Shall Love Your Neighbor” reading, pp. 233-247; **Kierkegaard guided reflection**

4/20 Contemporary problem project preparation

4/22 Personal growth area project preparation

4/27 Class presentations/Analyses: **Contemporary problem/Personal growth area projects due; Upload Philosophy of Love statement #4 to courseden by 11:59 p.m.**

5/4 **Final exam @ 11-1**