

HL 3012: THE DISCOURSE OF LOVE
Lecturer: Dr Wernmei Yong Ade
AY2016-2017, Semester 1

Learning Objective

This course aims to provide intermediate-to-advanced-level students with an introduction to one of the most represented topics in Western literature.

Content

We begin Plato's *Symposium*, and move on to recent theorizations and philosophies of love. More than simply addressing thematic concerns, this course will approach love as a philosophy and a discursive practice, as well as address the issues of subjectivity, the Self-Other relation and difference, all of which are central to love. Our final aim is to evaluate the potential for love to serve as a discourse of alterity. We will be covering a variety of discourses and texts: philosophy, psychoanalysis, feminism and literary theory; film and literary works by both male and female authors and poets.

Course Outline

Week	Topics
One	Plato's <i>Symposium</i> : The wisdom of love and introducing the problems of love.
Two	TS Eliot, selected poems
Three	John Donne, selected poems Edgar Allan Poe, selected short stories
Four	Women in Love I Adrienne Rich: Re-visioning Love
Five	Women in Love II Winterson <i>The Passion</i>
Six	The Myth of Eros and Psyche
Seven	Luce Irigaray: Love and Ethics
Eight	Recess Week
Nine	Love and the Postmodern Roland Barthes, selected readings

Ten	Wong Kar Wai <i>In the Mood for Love</i>
Eleven	Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
Twelve	Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
Thirteen	Kundera, <i>Immortality</i>
Fourteen	Overview

Student Assessment

Essay (3,300 - 3,500 words): 40%

Class Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 50%

Students need to obtain the following texts by themselves. The NTU bookstore will not bring these in:

Plato, *Symposium*, Penguin, 9780140449747

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*, Penguin, 9780241953242

Jeanette Winterson, *The Passion*, Vintage, 9780099734413

Milan Kundera, *Immortality*, Faber & Faber, 9780571144563

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*, Anchor, 9780385490818

Everything else will be provided for by the lecturer.

Suggested General Reading

Jennie Wang, *Novelistic Love in the Platonic Tradition*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc., 1997

Linnell Secomb, *Philosophy and Love*, Edinburgh University Press, 2007.