

HL 3012: THE DISCOURSE OF LOVE
Lecturer: Dr Wernmei Yong Ade
AY2019-2020, Semester I
Thursdays 930-1230 HSS Seminar Room 9

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. Selection from <i>Phaedrus</i> , on memory
Two	John Donne, selected poems
Three	Edgar Allan Poe <i>Legeia</i> <i>Morella</i> <i>Berenice</i> <i>The Oval Portrait</i>
Four	TS Eliot <i>The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock</i> <i>Portrait of a Lady</i>
Five	Women in Love I Selected women's poetry: Sexton, Duffy, Leong Liew Geok
Six	Women in Love II Selected women's poetry: Sexton, Duffy, Leong Liew Geok

Seven	Love and Ethics <i>Eros and Psyche</i> Luce Irigaray, selected readings Jean Luc Marion, selected readings
Eight	Recess Week
Nine	Marguerite Duras, <i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i>
Ten	Roland Barthes <i>A Lover's Discourse</i> Wong Kar Wai <i>In the Mood for Love</i>
Eleven	Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
Twelve	Alain Badiou, <i>In Priase of Love</i> Jeanette Winterson, <i>The Passion</i>
Thirteen	Atwood, <i>Handmaid's Tale</i>

Student Assessment

Essay (3,000-3,500): 40%

Class Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 50%

Exam Date: 04 December 9am

Students need to obtain the following texts:

Plato, *Symposium*

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*

Jeanette Winterson, *The Passion*

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

Marguerite Duras, *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

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.