

# PHIL 3010 PHILOSOPHIES OF LOVE AND DEATH

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 100275

**Coordinator** Charles Barbour ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Charles Barbour/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Charles%20Barbour/))

**Description** The Western experience of the fundamental questions of love and death will be examined. What is love? Is love between friends more important than romantic love? Is death always a bad thing? Is 'coming to terms with death' important for a meaningful life? Ancient Greek, Christian and medieval attitudes will be contrasted with romantic and contemporary views.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** Philosophy

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

**Restrictions** Successful completion of 60 credit points of study in currently enrolled program.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Describe Western philosophies of love and death
2. Read and critically analyse primary texts which deal with these questions
3. Apply these readings to current events

## Subject Content

1. Ancient Greek ideas about love, friendship and death. The distinction between eros, agape, and philia. Plato's Symposium, and Epicurus's view that death is not a bad thing.
2. Medieval and Christian ideas about love.
3. Romantic love and suicide: Goethe. Wollstonecraft's Enlightenment critique. Love as a component of wellbeing and necessary for a meaningful life.
4. Contemporary views about the nature of love: love as a feeling, distinctive attitude, or union?
5. Theories about the harm of death.
6. Theories about friendship and caring and the moral importance of each relationship.

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task
Major Essay	2,500 words	50	N	Individual
Minor Essay	1,500 words	25	N	Individual

Tutorial 10 minutes 25 N Individual  
 Presentation:  
 a critical  
 account of  
 set reading

Prescribed Texts

- The weekly readings are listed in the Teaching and Learning Activities section of this guide. These will be available on the subject vUWS site.

Teaching Periods