

**Philosophy of Attachment**  
**PHIL 285: Seminar on Special Topics**  
**Fall Term 2018**

**Professor Info:**

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 11am-noon (and by appointment)

**Course Description**

In this seminar, we will explore various ways in which we might be emotionally connected to others and how those relations bear on philosophical treatments of agency and emotion. In particular, we will focus on the roles that attachment plays in structuring human agency, constituting and informing certain emotions and emotional processes, and helping us to lead flourishing lives. In examining these issues, we will engage with philosophical literature (and some psychological research) on attachment and related forms of emotional connectedness, including some relevant work on caring, love, and grief.

**General Information**

Readings will be available to you on TritonEd. Note that readings labeled “Further Reading” are entirely optional. Your course grade will be determined by participation (20%) and a final ~15 page paper due 12/13 (80%). Your participation score will depend upon attendance, participation in class discussion, and weekly short response papers. Every week, except for the first class, you should prepare a short response paper (not more than 1 pg.) addressing something that you found interesting, objectionable, confusing, etc. about the readings. These should be sent to me by Tuesday night, so that I can incorporate them into the seminar’s opening discussion points. They will not be graded, but failure to turn them in will lower your participation score. You may miss one class and 2 response papers with no penalty.

**Schedule of Readings**

*(Tentative list – readings may be removed or added)*

**Unit 1: Attachment, Caring, and Valuing**

10/3:

Mario Mikulincer and Phillip Shaver. 2016. “The Attachment Behavioral System: Basic Concepts and Principles.” In their *Attachment in Adulthood*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Guilford, pp. 3-26. [Start on p. 6].

Piyajatika Sutta, in *Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha*. Bhikkhu Nanamoli and Bhikkhu Bodhi (trans.), pp. 718-722.

Salla Sutta (Dart of Death), in *Sutta Nipata*. Laurence Khantipalo Mills (trans.), pp. 175-177.

Monique Wonderly. 2016. "On Being Attached." *Philosophical Studies* 173(1): 223-242.

Further Reading

Mary D. Salter Ainsworth and John Bowlby. 1991. “An ethological approach to personality development,” *American Psychologist*, 46: 333-341.

Inge Bretherton. 1992. “The Origins of Attachment Theory: John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth.” *Developmental Psychology* 28(5): 759-775.

10/10:

Agnieszka Jaworska. 2007. "Caring and Full Moral Standing," *Ethics* 117 173(1): 529-568.

Samuel Scheffler. 2011. "Valuing." In *Reason and Recognition: Essays on the Philosophy of T.M. Scanlon*, R. Jay Wallace, P. R. Kumar, and S. Freeman (eds). Oxford University Press, 23-42.

Ainsworth, M. (1988) "On Security," from the Proceedings of the State University of New York, Stony Brook Conference on Attachment. [**Required Reading pp. 1-4 only**].

Further Reading

Jeffrey Seidman, 2008. "Caring and the Boundary-Driven Structure of Practical Deliberation," *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 3(1): 1-36.

10/17:

David Shoemaker. 2003. "Caring, Identification, and Agency." *Ethics* 114(1): 88-118.

Agnieszka Jaworska. 2007. "Caring and Internality," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 173(1): 223-242.

David J. Wallin. 2007. "The Multiple Dimensions of the Self," in his *Attachment in Psychotherapy*. New York: Guilford Press, 61-83. [**Required Reading pp. 61-68 only**]

Further Reading

Jeffrey Seidman. 2009. "Valuing and Caring," *Theoria* 75:272-303.

**Unit 2: Attachment, Love, and Grief**

10/24:

Robert Nozick. 1991. "Love's Bond." In *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*. R. Solomon and K. Higgins (eds). Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1991. 417-432.

Harry Frankfurt. 2004. *Reasons of Love*, chapter 2. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 35-68.

Bennett Helm. 2009. "Love, Identification, and the Emotions," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 46(1): 39-59

Further Reading

Harry Frankfurt. 1999a. "Autonomy, Necessity, and Love", in *Necessity, Volition, and Love*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 129-41.

10/31:

Phillip Shaver and Mario Mikulincer. 2014. "Attachment Bonds in Romantic Relationships," in *Mechanisms of Social Connection: From Brain to Group*, M. Mikulincer and P. R. Shaver (eds). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 273-290.

Edward Harcourt. 2017. "Attachment, Autonomy, and the Evaluative Variety of Love." In *Love, Reason and Morality*, E. Engels Kroeker and K. Schaubroeck (eds). New York: Routledge, 39-56.

Monique Wonderly. 2017. "Love and Attachment," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 54(3): 235-250

#### Further Reading

Neil Delaney. 1996. "Romantic Love and Loving Commitment: Articulating a Modern Ideal," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 33: 375-405.

#### 11/7:

Michael Cholbi. 2017. "Grief's Rationality, Backward and Forward," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* XCIV(2): 255-272.

Michael Cholbi. 2017. "Finding the Good in Grief: What Augustine Knew that Meursault Could Not," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, pp. 91-105.

Chris Fraley and Phillip Shaver. 2016. "Attachment, Loss, and Grief." In *Handbook of Attachment*, J. Cassidy and P. Shaver (eds). New York: Guilford Press, 40-62.

#### Further Reading

John Bowlby. 1980. *Loss: Sadness and Depression* (v. 3 of *Attachment and Loss*), Chps. 1 & 6.

D. Gustafson, 1989. "Grief." *Nous* 23(4): 457-479.

#### 11/14:

Dan Moller. 2007. "Love and Death," *Journal of Philosophy* 104(6): 301-316.

Ryan Preston-Roedder and Erica Preston-Roedder. 2018. "Grief and Recovery." In *The Moral Psychology of Sadness*, A. Gotlib (ed.). London: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 93-116.

D.B. Wong, 2006. "The Meaning of Detachment in Daoism, Buddhism, and Stoicism." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 5(2): 207-19.

#### Further Reading

Dan Moller. 2017. "Love and the Rationality of Grief." In *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Love*, C. Grau and A. Smuts. (eds.). Oxford University Press.

### **Unit 3: Attachment, Agency, and Morality**

#### 11/21:

Bernard Williams. 1981. "Persons, character, and morality." In his *Moral Luck*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-19.

Hugh LaFollette. 1993. "Morality and Personal Relationships." In his *Personal Relationships: Love, Identity, and Morality*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 194-211.

Phillip Shaver and Mario Mikulincer. 2012. "An Attachment Perspective on Morality," in *The Social Psychology of Morality: Exploring the Causes of Good and Evil*. APA Press, 257-274.

### Further Reading

Mario Mikulincer and Phillip Shaver (2007). Attachment, Caregiving, and Altruism. *Psychological Inquiry*, 18, 139-156.

11/28:

Joseph Raz. 2004. *Value, Respect, and Attachment*. Cambridge University Press, chapter 1, pp. 10-40.

Joseph Raz. 2011. "Attachments and Associated Reasons." Columbia Public Law Research Paper No. 11-287 ; Oxford Legal Studies Research Paper No. 59/2011. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1956026>

### Further Reading

Barbara Herman. 1991. "Agency, Attachment, and Difference." *Ethics* 101(4): 775-797.

12/5:

Owen Flanagan. 2011. "What is it like to be an addict?" In J. Poland and G. Graham (eds.), *Addiction and Responsibility*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 269-292.

Monique Wonderly. "Attachment, Addiction, and Vices of Valuing." Unpublished Manuscript.

### Further Reading

Gary Watson. 2004. "Disordered Appetites: Addiction, Compulsion, and Dependence." In his *Agency and Answerability: Selected Essays*. Oxford University Press, pp. 59-87

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to conduct themselves with academic integrity. For more information, go to: <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>

## **Student Accommodations**

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.

[858.534.4382](tel:858.534.4382) (phone) | [osd@ucsd.edu](mailto:osd@ucsd.edu) (email) | <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website)