*Professor:* Daniel Campos

*Office:*  3311 Boylan

*Virtual Office Hours:* W 1:00 - 2:00 PM or by appointment

*Email:* [dcampos@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:dcampos@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

*Course times:* W 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM,only on scheduled days

*Virtual classroom:* Zoom (link will be provided; attendance is optional)

*Course site: Blackboard through CUNY*

**Course Description:** Philosophy means the “love of wisdom.” In its ancient Greek conception, it is a form of love. But what is love?

In this course, we will read classical and contemporary philosophical works on the nature of love and its relevance for ethics, especially in interpersonal relations.

Our main text will be Plato’s *Symposium*, a classical Greek account of Eros. We will also read texts such as Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book VIII on friendship), Ralph Emerson’s essays “Love,” Charles Peirce’s essay “Evolutionary Love,” and Martha Nussbaum’s chapter on contemplative creativity in Plato from her book *Upheavals of Thought.* Thus, we will have classical Greek and American discussions of love at the core of our inquiry.

Methodologically, we will place special emphasis on reading, comprehending, analyzing, and criticizing philosophical texts. We will also learn how to work in stages to write a high-quality philosophical paper that engages classical texts and scholarly commentaries and criticisms.

**Learning Outcomes**

Throughout the course students will develop the following skills:

1. Analytic:

1. Ability to identify arguments and distinguish premises and conclusions
2. Ability to formulate an argument in support or in opposition to a claim
3. Ability to evaluate (by providing reasons) the validity and/or cogency of an argument
4. Ability to apply an argument to a practical case

2. Interpretive:

1. Ability to explain a selection from a philosophical text
2. Ability to analyze and evaluate a selection from a philosophical text
3. Ability to provide a reasoned response to a selection from a philosophical text, a philosophical theory, issue, or argument

**Texts and Materials**

This will be an Open Education Resource course, so all texts and audiovisual materials will be provided.

If you want to obtain a recent, inexpensive translation of our main text in print, I suggest the following edition, but it is not required: Plato, *Symposium* (Hackett; isbn 978-0872200760).

**Course requirements and grades**

The main requirement is the commitment to read, discuss, and write every week. The instructor will provide guiding philosophical questions for reflection and learning. Students must be committed to think about them, read our selected philosophers' investigation of these questions, and write and discuss their own, reasoned views.

Self-introduction — 3%

First essay — 20%

Second essay — 30%

Discussion board participation (7 entries) — 42%

Professional demeanor — 5%.

Discussion board posts and essays will respond to a question prompt provided by the instructor. They must be completed or submitted in Blackboard within the time frame allowed.

Discussion board posts will be short assignments, usually between 100 and 300 words.

Essays will be somewhat more involved assignments. They will require careful thinking about the topics we will be discussing. The second essay will build upon the first one. Specific instructions about content and length will be provided (I expect the final paper to be about 10 to 12 pages,12-point font, double-spaced, regular margins).

**The most important habit you need** to succeed in this course is to read, think, and write regularly, with discipline. Notice there are no very large assignments or exams. Rather, this course requires that you work regularly. The point is for you to learn to construct your own knowledge on a continuous, steady pace.

Instructions and rubrics for all assignments will be provided in Blackboard.For convenience, the grading rubric for essays, and the grading scale, is provided at the end of this document.

**Communication**

You can find more information about me, including the ways to contact me, by clicking on the **Contacts** tab on the left side menu. The best way to reach me is by email to [dcampos@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:dcampos@brooklyn.cuny.edu). Please include your name and course in the subject line. I respond within 36 hours on weekdays.

**Technology Needs**

You will need a computer or laptop with high-speed internet access and speakers. In addition- the computer needs to be able to play videos as I have assigned some video clips to watch. You will need a web browser (Mozilla, Chrome, etc.), Microsoft Word or a similar text editor, and a PDF reader such as Adobe Acrobat. If you do not have access to these – please contact me, and we can make alternate arrangements.

**Procedures**

The Blackboard course site will be main hub for our course. On the course menu you will find:

* **Announcements**
* **Contacts**
* **Syllabus** with the **Course Schedule**
* **Discussions** where you will submit your posts and reply to your classmates,
* **Assignments** where you will upload your essays. Files must be labeled with your first and last name and essay number; for example, DanielCampos1. No essays will be accepted by email or any other means.
* **Weekly Folders** inside which you will find a folder with the Activities, Materials, and Assignments for each week of the semester.
* **Blackboard Help** to find Q&A and assistance on technical matters related to the use of Blackboard.

Most of the course will be asynchronous. This means that you will mostly work at your chosen time and at your own pace. But note that there are weekly time frames and deadlines for Activities, so you must work at a steady pace every week.

Some of the course will be synchronous, but synchronous activities will be optional. This means that we will meet virtually, using Zoom, during a regular, weekly class time selected by the instructor. We will discuss central aspects of our philosophical questions and main readings for the week. You will find dates for meetings in the Course Schedule, so you can plan your calendar now. Attendance is not required but it will be helpful for you to understand the materials, prepare for the writing assignments, and interact with each other and with me. Class sessions will be recorded and posted on Blackboard. Watching the recordings each week is required, since the instructor’s explanations and student discussions will supplement class readings, audiovisuals, and other materials provided by the instructor.

If you need to speak with the instructor, you should request (via email) a time slot to attend office hours. Virtual office hours are meant for you to ask specific questions about class content, assignments, and so on.

**Advice**

The most important habit to succeed in his course will be to read and write every week. It will help you if you can establish a work routine.

**Class Netiquette**

Brooklyn College students are professionals in training. Attending live classes on Zoom is optional, but students should approach class sessions as professional meetings. Fully professional demeanor will be expected in the virtual classroom. This demeanor includes coming prepared to class sessions, arriving on time, staying until the end unless there is a compelling reason to leave, contributing to the intellectual objectives of the session, and so on. If there are reasons why you cannot attend virtual classes, including your schedule, communicate them to the instructor. Recordings of each session will be posted on Blackboard, and you are required to watch these class recordings at your chosen time each week. Make sure that you turn in all work on time. Evaluation of professional demeanor will be part of the grade.

Netiquette is etiquette on the internet. You can find Brooklyn College's Guide [here](https://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/centers/ctl/supporting-students/netiquette-for-remote-instruction.php).

Remember that the online classroom is still a classroom and it us to each of us to foster a positive learning environment for everyone. Treat others how you want to be treated. Be kind, be patient, have compassion. We are all adults who want to do our best. How a person behaves online reflects one’s willingness to learn, seriousness and motivation both as a student and as an individual

**Make-up policy**

All writing assignments must be completed on the scheduled date. No make-ups will be permitted. An exception will be made only in the case of a medical or personal emergency. In order to be granted an extension due to a valid excuse, the student must request it in advance and turn in a draft of the project on the due date.

**Academic Integrity**

“Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion, as provided herein.” — CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity, adopted by the Board of Trustees 6/28/2004. Please go to [http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies/](https://outlook.brooklyn.cuny.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies/#_blank) for further information about: CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity; BC Procedures for Implementing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity; Flow Chart of the BC Procedures for Implementing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity.

**Special Circumstances**

If you have any special circumstance such as a learning disability, religious, or military obligation that could affect your participation in this course at any time throughout this semester, it is your responsibility to bring it to your instructor’s attention and review the appropriate documentation and procedures for each circumstance.

**Additional Assistance**

You can find instructions to seek assistance at the following links:

1. [Learning Center](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/centers/learning.php)

2. [Center for Student Disability Services](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/offices/studentaffairs/student-support-services/disability.php)

3. [Health and Wellness](https://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/offices/studentaffairs/health-wellness.php)

The Center for Student Disability Services (CSDS) will be working remotely for the spring semester. In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with CSDS. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to schedule an interview by calling (718) 951-5538 or emailing [testingcsds@brooklyn.cuny.edu](https://mail.brooklyn.cuny.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=AYZ-YbrLNPDVGOwsAobsfrYwdchMyuqqamJjAqjWWphVXUchO0HYCA..&URL=mailto%3Atestingcsds@brooklyn.cuny.edu#_blank). If you have already registered with CSDS, email [Josephine.Patterson@brooklyn.cuny.edu](https://mail.brooklyn.cuny.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=EsWzKpsqukAUxv8rFIxzK7E1REtajY_6YixJvCaa1Y5VXUchO0HYCA..&URL=mailto%3AJosephine.Patterson@brooklyn.cuny.edu#_blank) or [testingcsds@brooklyn.cuny.edu](https://mail.brooklyn.cuny.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=AYZ-YbrLNPDVGOwsAobsfrYwdchMyuqqamJjAqjWWphVXUchO0HYCA..&URL=mailto%3Atestingcsds@brooklyn.cuny.edu#_blank) to ensure the accommodation email is sent to your professor.

**Code of Conduct**

Read [Brooklyn College Policies](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/offices/safety/policies.php)

**Grading Rubric for Essays**

Students will receive writing prompts and instructions for each of the assigned essays at least two weeks in advance of the due date.

All essays respond to direct question(s) given in the instructions. The main criteria for assessing philosophical essays﻿ will be:  
  
(1) The essay states a clear thesis that addresses the question or issue directly.  
  
(2) The essay presents a well-structured argument supporting the main thesis in such a way that:   
  
The premises to support the conclusion [thesis] are clearly stated.  
  
Good reasons are provided to support the premises.  
  
The premises do serve to support the thesis (conclusion) according to a well-organized logical pattern (e.g. deduction, induction, analogy).  
  
(3) The essay demonstrates a thoughtful command of the relevant readings from the course, and relevant interpretations of these readings serve to support the argument(s).  
  
(4) The essay demonstrates good writing style and correct grammar and spelling.

**Grading Scale**

A >94 [Outstanding]

A- 90 – 94 [Excellent]

B+ 88 - 90

B 83 – 88 [Very good]

B- 80 – 83

C+ 78 – 80 [Good]

C 73 – 88

C- 70 – 73 [Satisfactory]

D+ 68 - 70

D 63 – 68

D- 60 – 63 [Dissatisfactory]

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