HUMANITIES 401 – INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES:  
SEX AND LOVE IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY 

University of New Hampshire, Humanities Program, Spring 2013 
Lectures: TR, 9:40-11:00 in Hamilton Smith Hall, room 216 
Instructor: Catherine Peebles (catherine.peebles@unh.edu, 862.3638) 
Office hours: TR, 1:00-2:30 p.m., and by appointment, Huddleston 104 

Humanities 401 takes as its subject this semester: Sex and Love in Literature and Philosophy. What is sex, and what is love? Are they related, and if so, how? In what way do our understandings of these phenomena define what it means to be human? Artists and thinkers from Sophocles in ancient Greece to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts have given different, sometimes conflicting, answers to such questions, and we will be examining the ways in which responses define a culture, an age, a gender, an individual. 

Required Texts 
With the exception of the Blackboard materials and the film, all works are available at the Durham Book Exchange, on Main Street. Students should print out the Blackboard materials, and bring them to class on the scheduled days. It is not sufficient to read the texts on-screen. 

Simone de Beauvoir, from The Second Sex. New York: Knopf, 1953. (On Blackboard) 
Sigmund Freud, “‘Civilized’ Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness” (On Blackboard) 
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling, November 18, 2003. Hillary Goodridge & others vs. Department of Public Health & another. (On Blackboard) 
Steven Soderbergh, Sex, Lies, and Videotape. Miramax Pictures, 1989. (Screened in class, and available at the library)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Coming to class prepared, having done the assigned reading and made extensive notes on it, and having carefully reviewed lecture notes. Students are expected and required to devote a minimum of six to eight hours per week to class preparation. Preparing for this class involves reading and rereading the assigned work carefully, underlining important passages, making notes in the margins, and making notes in your notebook. Your own notes should range from copying significant sections of a text and definitions of new vocabulary words, to writing down specific questions you have, to formulating critical responses and interpretations. You are required to look up vocabulary words with which you are unfamiliar (the Oxford English Dictionary, which is available through the “Databases” link at the Diamond Library website, is the best source). Remember: reading well at the university level takes a significant amount of time, and you should budget your time accordingly.

Attendance is required. Exam questions will be based on lectures. If a student misses a lecture, she or he is responsible for getting notes and any other relevant information from two fellow students. (In case you do end up having to miss a class, be sure to write down two or three classmates’ names, e-mails, and phone numbers during the first weeks of class, so that you may contact them later if necessary.)

Note-taking. It is your responsibility to take good, thorough notes during lectures. Lecture notes will not be posted on Blackboard, since taking adequate notes is, in fact, one of the important skills students need to hone in this course. If you do not understand something during lecture, be sure to ask for clarification during the question period at the end of each class session. As noted above: exam questions will be based on the lectures.

EXAMINATIONS, ORAL QUESTIONS, BLACKBOARD QUIZZES

There will be two examinations and three quizzes. All will be in multiple choice format. Each exam will be preceded by a comprehensive review session. The first exam counts for 30% of your final grade, and the second exam counts for 40%. The second exam will be comprehensive, but will be weighted toward the readings from the second half of the semester.

There are no make-up exams in this course. If you know you will need to travel on one of the exam dates, do not enroll in this course.

In addition to the exams and quizzes, students will also be expected to answer questions during class. I will call on several students by name during each class session, asking “know-it-or-you-don’t” kinds of questions to make sure that we are all keeping pace with the reading. Students receive a “plus,” “check,” or “minus” in my grade book based on their response to these questions (“plus” for an excellent answer, “check” for an adequate answer, and “minus” for an inadequate answer, or absence). If a student has a “minus” average by the end of the semester, his/her final grade will decrease by one percentage point; a “check” means no change in the final grade; and a “plus” means an increase of two percentage points in the final grade. (Thus, for example, someone who had a “minus,” because of either incorrect answers or absences, and whose raw percentage average at the end of the semester was 80%, would end up with a final grade of 79% – a C+ instead of a B-. Conversely, someone who had a “plus,” and a raw final average of 89%, would wind up with a final grade of 91% – or an A- instead of a B+.)
Finally, students are also required to take three quizzes on Blackboard during the semester. The first quiz, lasting 10 minutes, will include five basic questions and will be available on Blackboard from 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 5 until 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6. The second Blackboard quiz (also five questions, with a 10 minute limit) will be available on Blackboard from Tuesday, March 5 at 11:00 a.m. until Wednesday, March 6 at 11:00 p.m. The third Blackboard quiz (10 questions, with a 20 minute limit) will be available on Blackboard from Thursday, April 18 at 11:00 a.m. until Friday, April 19 at 11:00 p.m. The Blackboard quizzes are worth 5, 10, and 15 percent of your final grade, respectively, and will draw on materials presented in the lectures as well as in the readings. If a student fails for any reason to take one of the Blackboard quizzes, then the student receives a grade of “zero” for that quiz. There is no second chance to take a Blackboard quiz.

There are no make-up quizzes in this course. If you know you will need to be away from Blackboard during any of the three Blackboard quiz times (Feb. 5-6; March 5-6; or April 18-19), do not enroll in this course.

**Final grade breakdown, by percentage:**

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<tr>
<td>Exam #1 (in class)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bb quiz #2 (Bb)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2 (in class)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bb quiz #3 (Bb)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bb quiz #1 (Bb)</td>
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In-class oral questions: plus two or minus one percentage point after final grade calculated.

- + = plus two percentage points
- √ = no percentage change
- - = minus one percentage point

Please note: Assignments, dates, and other details in this syllabus may change, depending on our progress as a group.

**Documented Disabilities:** The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). Contact DSS at (603) 862-2607 or disability.office@unh.edu. If you have received Accommodation Letters for this course from DSS, please provide your section leader (Richman or Peebles) with that information privately in our office so that we can review those accommodations with you.

**Academic Honesty.** I take the UNH Academic Honesty policy seriously, since trust is essential to any intellectual community, whether a whole college, a large lecture course, or a small seminar group. Cheating results in a failing grade for the course. I refer any instance of academic dishonesty to the student’s college dean and recommend dismissal from the university as the most appropriate penalty.
Course Reading Schedule.
Readings should be completed by the first day they are listed.

T Jan. 22 Course introduction.
R Jan. 24 Sophocles, “Oedipus the King”

T Jan. 29 Sophocles, “Oedipus the King”
R Jan. 31 Plato, Symposium

T Feb. 5 NO CLASS: Take Blackboard quiz #1 any time between 11:00 p.m. today and 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday
R Feb. 7 Plato, Symposium

T Feb. 12 Plato, Symposium
R Feb. 14 William Shakespeare, The Taming of the Shrew

T Feb. 18 William Shakespeare, The Taming of the Shrew
R Feb. 21 Immanuel Kant, “Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse” (Bb)

T Feb. 26 Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice
R Feb. 28 Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

T Mar. 5 Recapitulation and review. Take Blackboard quiz #2 any time between 11:00 p.m. today and 11:00 p.m. Wednesday.
R Mar. 7 Exam #1 – in class

T Mar. 12 Spring Break
R Mar. 14 Spring Break

T Mar. 19 Prosper Mérimée, Carmen
R Mar. 21 Prosper Mérimée, Carmen

T Mar. 26 Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary (Part I) (Bb)
R Mar. 28 Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary (Part I) (Bb)
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<th>Day</th>
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<td>T</td>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>Sigmund Freud, “‘Civilized’ Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness” (Bb)</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Sigmund Freud, “‘Civilized’ Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness” (Bb)</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>Apr. 9</td>
<td>Simone de Beauvoir, from <em>The Second Sex</em> (on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>Apr. 11</td>
<td>Simone de Beauvoir, from <em>The Second Sex</em> (on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>Apr. 16</td>
<td>Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling: Hillary Goodridge &amp; others vs. Department of Public Health &amp; another</td>
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| R   | Apr. 18| Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling: Hillary Goodridge & others vs. Department of Public Health & another  
|     |        | *Take Blackboard quiz #3 any time between 11:00 a.m. today and 11:00 p.m. Friday.* |
| T   | Apr. 23| Recapitulation and review                                            |
| R   | Apr. 25| **Exam #2**                                                          |
| T   | Apr. 30| Film screening: Steven Soderberg’s “Sex, Lies, and Videotape”          |
| R   | May 2  | Finishing film screening, oral questions, and discussion of Soderberg’s film in the context of the course |