

Spring 2025

PHIL 12: “Human Nature & The Meaning of Life”

Section 02: TR 10:30-11:45 in DMH 149B

Instructor: **Nathan Osborne**; Email: Nathan.osborne@sjsu.edu



Philosophy 12 concerns the origins, development, and maturation of the self. One of the greatest ways to explore this is through an experience that has seduced the imagination of humanity for millennia – **“Love.”**

Love is a unique and intimate experience that acts as a mirror to the self, and through our investigation we will gain a greater insight to the potential transcendence we can gain from the bittersweet experience of Love (and loss).

In the course we shall explore: an origin of our (Western) conception of love, look at love through the lustful eyes of the seducer as well as through the eyes of the hopeless romantic, discover the difference between “Authentic” and “Inauthentic” love, and finally we shall focus on the type of love that truly permeates our entire society – material love (we shall do this by examining the role capitalism plays in shaping how we view love, sex, and desire).

Throughout the course we shall look at the politics behind love, tackling both questions of gender and the issues it elicits as well as our role in combatting those issues.

Prerequisites: completion of GE A2 or Writing Enrollment Category I/II/III
GE area E