

Span. 239A
Gifts of Friendship

Tuesdays, 3:30-6:20 pm
HH344

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Office: HH 340G
Office Hours: Tu. 1:30-2:30 & Th 12:30-1:30 (or by appointment)
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Hervé Guibert, "L'ami" (1980)

"I know that the arms of friendship are long enough
to reach from the one end of the world to the other"
Michele de Montaigne

Description of the course

This course will focus on friendship as one of the tools by which bonds of solidarity can unite groups and sometimes cultures into political communities able to live alongside each other. At a time when concerns about security and immunity create distance and mistrust among nations and peoples, thinking on topics that involve friendship, community, trust, and gift-giving become more important. The course will begin by establishing the grounds for the anthropogenic need for sharing and living together. The topic of friendship will be introduced through new scientific evidence of the existence of friendship among non-human animals, in contrast to consolidated and long-standing views of animals as incapable of emotional complexities or leading a "poor" life (Heidegger). By establishing some of the main examples of biological and social benefits of friendship among animals (coupled with the anthropogenic need for protection and care), we can then reflect on the social functions of friendship in the context of human society as a whole. A number of authors (from classical times to our present day) will be read, from Aristotle, Cicero, Plutarch, to Derrida, Butler, Foucault, Agamben, and Esposito. The course will explore how friendship has a direct relation to other working keywords, such as community, generosity, vulnerability, and gift-giving. Another key component of the course will be the uses of language in the context of establishing long-lasting relations (the building of trust), or as a tool to deceive or even injure others (adulation, manipulation). The course will study examples of literary texts of the Spanish early modern period that emphasize what bonds people together in non-violent exchanges, along with some of its limitations.

Requirements

1. Attendance is crucial for your grade. If you miss a class, in actuality you will be missing 10% of the entire course. 2 absences are already 20% of the total amount of meetings. Please make sure that you come prepared for class discussion. It is expected that you participate actively and contribute with comments and questions. Students will also be asked to send questions or comments prior to class meetings. The seminar is intended as a place of exploration, a venue for asking questions, postulating hypothesis, thinking. It should serve you as a way of reflecting on problems in your own areas of research.

2. Students will be required to make one formal presentation on an assigned reading and a second oral presentation on the topic of the final paper. The oral report on the reading also should include a summary of the presentation of no more than 3 pages single space. Students must distribute a copy to the rest of the class. The summary of the reading must be well written and structured. The same should be done for article presentations. All oral reports should go beyond a simple summary: it is expected that you will bring critical comments, questions or doubts about the reading. Grade will be based on:

- a. Clarity of your oral delivery (no more than 10 minutes)
 - b. Clarity and organization of your written report
 - c. Critical commentary (especially expected of students at the Ph.D. level)
3. Research paper (14 pages long, with bibliography on critical and/or theoretical works).

The grade will be distributed as follows:

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| 1. 2 oral reports | 30% |
| 2. Attendance and participation | 25% |
| 3. Final Paper | 45% |

Date (Week)	Readings	Topics
Week 1 April 1	Introduction to the course Syllabus	
Week 2 April 8	<p>The Grounds of Friendship</p> <p>Friendship in Animals: http://science.jburroughs.org/mbahe/BioEthics/Articles/120 The Science of Animal Friendships Time 2012 copy.pdf http://news.discovery.com/animals/zoo-animals/animals-friendship-relationships-bats-110208.htm</p> <p>Vulnerability:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Judith Butler, “Violence, Mourning, Politics”. In <i>Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence</i>. London: Verso, 2004. (PDF) Erasmus, <i>Dulce bellum inexpertis</i> (PDF) Precarias a la Deriva, “Care” (PDF) 	<p>-Natural conception of friendship</p> <p>- Vulnerability</p> <p>- Ethics/politics</p>
Week 3 April 15	<p>Encounters with Vulnerability (an example)</p> <p>Giorgio Agamben, <i>The Sacrament of Language</i>.</p> <p>Anonymous, <i>Abencerraje</i>.</p> <p>Burshatin (Orientalist approach) PDF</p> <p>Barbara Fuchs (Politics of identity) PDF</p> <p>Avilés (Vulnerability) PDF</p>	<p>- Vulnerability</p> <p>-Language and control of life</p> <p>-Oaths, Promises</p> <p>-Exiled life</p>
Week 4 April 22	<p>Aristotle on Friendship</p> <p>-Fragment Nichomachean Ethics (PDF)</p> <p>-Cicerón, <i>La amistad</i> (PDF)</p> <p>Links: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/friendship/ http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/ - Fri</p>	<p>Classical approaches</p> <p>-Types of Friendship</p> <p>-Ethics and virtue</p>

<p>Week 5</p> <p>April 29</p>	<p>Performing Friendship</p> <p>-Plutarco, “Cómo distinguir a un adulator de un amigo”</p> <p>-Montaigne, “Sobre la amistad”</p> <p>Lope de Vega: <i>La prueba de los amigos</i> http://www.comedias.org/lope/prueam.html</p>	<p>Adulation Deception Deceptive uses of language</p>
<p>Week 6</p> <p>May 6</p>	<p>Foucault: Parrhesia</p> <p>“Friendship as a Way of Life” (interview Foucault) PDF</p> <p><i>Discourse and Truth (On Parrhesia)</i> PDF</p> <p>Tom Roach, “Introduction”, <i>Friendship as a Way of Life: Foucault, AIDS, and the Politics of Shared Estrangement</i> (PDF)</p> <p>Foucault, <i>Hermenéutica del sujeto</i> (Clase del 27 de enero, 1982) PDF</p> <p>Antonio Mira de Amezcuca, <i>La próspera fortuna de don Alvaro de Luna</i> PDF</p>	<p>-Parrhesia</p> <p>-Philosopher as friend</p> <p>-Shared Estrangement</p> <p>-The grounds of the subject</p>
<p>Week 7</p> <p>May 13</p>	<p>Políticas de la Amistad</p> <p>Derrida, <i>Políticas de la amistad</i></p>	
<p>Week 8</p> <p>May 20</p>	<p>Gift Giving</p> <p>Marcel Mauss, <i>The Gift</i></p> <p>Cervantes, “El curioso impertinente” http://cvc.cervantes.es/literatura/clasicos/quijote/edicion/parte1/cap33/default.htm</p>	<p>-Gift-giving -Exchange</p>
<p>May 27</p>	<p>Agamben, “El amigo” (PDF)</p> <p>Deleuze and Guattari, “Introduction: The Question Then...” (<i>What is Philosophy?</i> PDF)</p> <p>Roberto Esposito, <i>Communitas</i></p>	<p>Community Immunity</p>
<p>June 3</p>	<p>Oral Reports</p>	<p>Presentation of work in progress</p>