# Homework to do

## Feb 4

* Reading: finished (in folder)
  + Christina: are we having sex now or what; 1992; freethoughtblogs.com/greta/2006/09/17/are\_we\_having\_s\_1/
    - finished, transcribed
  + Wittgenstein; philosophical investigations; 1953; part 1 (excerpts on family resemblances);
    - PDF in folder, didn’t finish, but read enough, transcribed
  + James; what is pragmatism; 1907
    - <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/james.htm>
    - Didn’t finish, but read enough, transcribed
* Questions:
  + How does she define sex?
  + Is her definition valid
  + Is the definition descriptive/stipulative
  + Why does she describe it the way she does

## Feb 11

* Reading: in folder
  + Nagel; sexual perversion; 1969

## Feb 18

* Reading: in folder
  + Plato, symposium

## Feb 25

* Reading: in folder
  + Diamond; why is sex fun

## Mar 4

* Reading: couldn’t find, downloaded something different
  + Vaughn; writing philosophy

## Mar 11

* Reading: in folder
  + Wasserstrom; is adultery immoral; 1975

## Mar 18

* Reading: in folder
  + Nussbaum; objectification; 1995

## Mar 25

* + Spring break

## Apr 1

* Reading: in folder
  + Shrage; should feminists oppose prostitution; 1989
  + Hume; of chastity and modesty; 1740

## Apr 8

* Reading
  + Finnis & Nussbaum; is homosexual conduct wrong? A philosophical exchange; 1993

## Apr 15

* Reading
  + Freud; civilization and its discontents

## Apr 22

* Reading
  + Freud; concluded

## Apr 29

* Reading
  + Blackburn; lust

## May 6

* Reading
  + Mac on; feminism, Marxism, method, and the state; 1982
  + Marx; estranged labor; 1844

## May 13

* Reading
  + Foucault; history of sexuality, vol. 2, the use of pleasure

## May 20

* Final exam; 7-9:45

# Homework done

# Syllabus

* Mid term 1-2 pages
* Final paper 5 pages
* In class writings about book readings
* No tests in this class

# Chapter 1

## Class notes

* Philosophy brings reason to questions
* Self awareness: know thyself
* In our intimate lives people use violence
  + In American culture violence is eroticized; a sexual turn on
* In American society, over the past 50 years we’ve made sex more private, less laws governing private intimate relations
* Sex is talked about more than before, especially to make money

## To Do

* Research how to write a philosophy paper
* Check the library/electronic library for reading materials or check online

# Christina’s Sex Article

* Christina is defining ‘having sex’ and not just ‘sex’
* Christina was trying to give the definition a platonic meaning; a meaning that embodies what the essence of ‘having sex’ indicates; i.e. to state the necessary and sufficient conditions for correctly defining ‘having sex’
* She starts with the necessary conditions ‘ penis and vagina intercourse’ but when she starts ‘having sex’ with women she realizes ‘penis’ is not a necessary condition
* She continues down the path of defining ‘having sex’ and then offering counter examles of the experiences that refutes the definition
* She would have sex and keep track of the # of different people because it was a source of pride/identity
* She thought every 4th person would be really good in bed
* She tried to determine what kind of person she was by how many people she had sex with
* She cared more about knowing how many people she had sex with, more than the people
* Her definition of sex: sex is the actual insertion of the penis into the vagina; ‘penile-vaginal intercourse’
* Her sex definition changed once she started having sex with woman because there was no penis
* As she started experimenting with sex, the distinction between sex and not sex was blurred
* Her next definition of sex: the conscious, consenting, mutually acknowledged pursuit of shared sexual pleasure
  + It has to be consensual, or it is not sex, e.g. rape is not sex because there was no consent/agreement

# James what is pragmatism

* A tree is between a man and squirrel, the man goes around the tree trying to take a glimpse of the squirrel but the squirrel moves with the man.
  + Question: does the man go around the squirrel?
  + Its conclusive that the man goes around the tree, but does he also go around the squirrel
  + Practically yes & no
    - Because the man is always in front of the squirrel, on the other side of the dispute
    - The man does go around the squirrel because the man goes round the north, east, west, and south of with the squirrel
    - It depends on what you practically mean by going round
* Pragmatic method: a method of settling metaphysical disputes by interpreting each notion by tracing its respective practical consequences
  + Finding a practical difference in disputes to choose the best answer; if no practical difference exists then the alternatives mean practically the same thing
  + In what respects would the world be different if the alternative would be true; if nothing, then the alternative makes no sense
  + Pragmatism is about racing a consequence to find out what difference it makes in a practical sense
  + Pragmatism is the opposite of abstraction, and fixed principles, closed systems, and pretended absolutes and origins
  + Pragmatisms all about facts, action, power, and nature, it is opposite of dogma, artificiality, and the pretense of finality in truth
* Beliefs: are rules for action

# Ludwig Wittgenstein article

* Individual words in a language name objects, sentences are combinations of such names
* Augustine: language serves as a communication between 2/more people; i.e. a system of communication
  + Augustines description of language is over simplified and doesn’t compensate for all of languages uses, applications and dimensions
* A script is letters used to stand for sounds, and also as a sign of emphasis and punctuation
* When children learn language its purpose is training; learning to associate words and sound with objects
* In the practice of the use of language one party calls out the words and the other acts on them
* Naming something is like attaching a label to it
* To imagine a language is to image a form of life

# Thomas Nagel: Sexual Perversion Article

* It isn’t sexual perversion if it’s a mutual reciprocity act
* Unadorned sexual intercourse between heterosexuals that are sexual perversions
* For it not to be sexual perversion, there needs to be sexual desire & reciprocity
* Its unnatural to be turned on by a show; if your sexual desire is directed at a show, that is sexual perversion
* Nagel says sexual perversion is about psychology, the psychology of a person’s desire has been perverted
* Nagel thinks the sexual desire of the voyeur is sexually perverse because there is no reciprocity
* Nagel doesn’t think all unusual sexual acts/desires are sexual perversions, e.g. gays
* Nagel’s thesis sexual perversion is connected to a sexual desire for a particular object, that is unnatural and psychotic
* Nagel thinks one person having sex with multiple people at the same time is sexual perversion because the mutual reciprocity loses balance
* Nagel says sexual perversion is not about statistical norms
* Nagel says adultery is not unnatural, and therefore not a sexual perversion
* Nagel says sadism is a sexual perversion because there is no reciprocity

# Plato and Aristotle

* Necessary and sufficient conditions for correctly applying the concept
* Wittgenstein; a lot of ordinary words wok like family resemblances work; i.e. there is no single necessary condition for a concept to be true
* Counting is part of the practice of social bullying
* Thomas negal; essay is an attempt to describe sexual perversion
* Erotic love is wanting to possess the good forever
* Dualist: a person has a body and soul
* Hierarchy that Dietema says the soul is climbing:
  + First rung: the first step is being attracted to a beautiful body. beauty and the attraction of the other person
    - Aristophenes is on the first rung; he thinks the way to get wisdom is to sleep with wise people
  + Second rung: Reproduction
    - There is reproduction of the body (kids)
    - And reproduction of the soul (fame & honor)
    - Plato is on the second rung
  + Third Rung: The highest object of love is an eternal idea: love that lasts forever is through Wisdom: Someone who is attracted to Wisdom and cant be seduced by a beautiful body, honor, or fame
    - Sacrates is on the third rung; sacrates rejected aristphanes seduction; ntt

# Jared Diamond: Evolution of human Sexuality, Why is Sex Fun?

* It is hard to say what is natural for a woman, i.e. a woman’s instinct or a mother’s instinct.
* Most things people think are instincts are really social constructs, principles/guidelines learned by growing up in a particular society/culture.
* This class discussion (3/18) is all about ‘what is an instinct’ what is a human instinct? Do humans have instincts?
* The author thinks that instincts are evolutionary biology
* Cyclone story:
  + There is a cyclone that wipes out everything, e.g. food
  + So they have to eat food that they don’t usually eat
  + Grandma knows the best thing to eat, because she learned it from their grandma
  + But it is not evolutionary biology, because the language grandma uses language, and language is culture
* Menopause example: why do humans get menopause but animals do not get menopause
* Human beings have effected their evolutionary biology by certain cultural acts
* In class work
  + Do the bodies of human females have sexual ornamentation with any evolutionary significance? (pages 139-140
  + What counts as sexual ornamentation on women?
    - What is its evolutionary significance in diamonds view?
    - Do you think he is right or not?
* The sexual ornamentation of women’s bodies could have any evolutionary significance.
* If and only if females compete intensively with other females for males attention, e.g., will tend to evolve sexual ornamentation in an ongoing evolutionary contest to be more attractive.
  + Females who do not have to compete on such a regular basis have less need of expensive body ornamentation
* Traditional objections
  + In traditional societies at least 95% of women marry, this suggests any woman can get a husband and have no need to compete
  + Men in traditional societies had no opportunity to choose their spouse, because their clan chose their spouse for them (Arranged marriages)

# Wasserstrom

* What reasons do we have for this generally held belief that adultery is immoral?
* Reasons:
  + 1. Adultery is immoral because it requires/involves breaking a **serious** promise; it is unfair; it shows indifference (i.e. one person doesn’t care about hurting someone else’s feelings; breaking this particular promise shows a disregard for a person’s emotions.
  + 2.Adultery involves deception: both active and passive deception
  + 3. Sexual intimacy is connected in some way to affectionate feelings; some people are sexually intimate with someone only if the feelings are those of “love”, and if its true that sex and love are appropriately connect then can there be multiple objects of erotic love
    - Diamon thinks that there can be multiple objects of erotic love
* Sex in our culture has a meaning/significance for us beyond the pleasure it gives; and that these feelings are exclusive, i.e. only one person at a time\

# Sexual objectification; Martha Nusstoaum

* Treating someone as an object is treating someone as a means to an end, and not the end
* She believes in all sex there is a dimension of objectification inherent in the sexual act
* She divides her theory of objectification in seven forms
  + Instrumentality: your using them as a tool
  + Inertness: the object is stagnant;
  + Ownership: the belief that you can own a person
  + Fugibility: the object is interchangeable with other objects
  + Denial of autonomy: you are denying the fact that the person has a will of their own: i.e. denial of freewill
  + Denial of subjectivity: your denying the persons point of view
  + Viability: you can break it; you can hurt the person
* Rape is morally wrong because there is no mutual consent
* Objectification: is about the relationship between two people
  + Subject & object (is bad)
  + Subject & subject (is good)

# Finnis and Nussbaum debate

* Finiss: in masturbating, being masturbated or sodomized, ones body is being treated as instrumental for the securing of the experiential satisfaction of the conscious self
  + I.e. you are using your own body as an instrument, but your body is not an instrument; thus using your body as an instrument, you are no longer treating yourself as a person but as an object; thus you are dehumanizing yourself; youre not behaving as a person entitled to or worthy of respect an dignity;
  + Marriage: is more than just procreating; it includes raising a child, making a person, making a responsible adult person; marriage also is about friendship; marriage = procreation & friendship
  + Homosexuality undermines the common good of marriage:
    - procreation (broadly constituted) friendship
    - if there aren’t kids/the possibility of kids you won’t be committed to your sexual partner

# Freud

* he paints a picture of people naturally hostile to society
* a society without rules is doomed
* he criticized a lot of Christian ideas about how people should treat each other; he thinks people need to be equipped to deal with bad people in a realistic way
* He was a jew living in central Europe; he was writing at a time the world is on the verge of the great depression; this explains why he is so pessimistic
* Sex was one of his escapes from suffering
* Sexuality starts in childhood, thus we are constantly sexual beings; he said childhood is a highly charged sexual period of life; that there isn’t such a thing as a non sexual phase of life; everything in our lives, in some way has a sexual dimension/aspect/context
  + He even considers breast feeding is a bit sexual; because the pleasure of breast feeding is an erotic pleasure for a child
* Sublimation: the hostility to civilization
* The structure of society is a reflection of our sexuality; i.e. there is part of society that keeps us from acting on our desires, from seeking immediate gratification, and by doing so it would weaken the structure of society
* Max Weber: defined the Protestant Ethic as the “save for tomorrow” mentality; the professor likens it to “Capital Accumulation” i.e. save don’t spend, defer your pleasures
* People are told they cannot act on their natural instinct to have sex; people use “sublimation” to not have sex and direct all that energy to be hostile towards society
* Natural instincts: pleasure & death
  + Civilization is based on denying us our instinctual desire for pleasure

# Black burn: Defense of lust

* Lust: The enthusiastic desire, the desire that infuses the body for sexual activity and its pleasures for their own sake; lust is seeking pleasure of the mind & body but without any apparent object
* Lust has been condemned as a SIN (one of the 7 deadly sins)
* What people think generally has a lot of weight
* What are the pleasures of sexual activity? Blackburn feels the pleasures of sex are more than just the pleasures of the body, but are more complicated, and also include the pleasures of the mind; this kind of pleasure is directed at the experience of another human being
  + Sensual pleasure delight of the mind: the pleasure experienced by the partner brings the other person pleasure; i.e. it is reciprocal, giving someone else pleasure also gives you pleasure
  + Sensual pleasure delight of the body: sensations of the body; the pleasures of touch (Aristotle)

# Mackinnon: feminism marxism

* Methodology and the state
* *Marx defines work as the value that the worker gives, but is usurped by the boss. And the boss only uses the worker for the value in which the worker can provide via their labor. The same way mackinnon defines feminism uses sex, and the value the women provides to the man, and the man is what decides the value of the sex, and by extension the women. Also, since this is a social construct, the idea of gender roles is not a natural or biological phenomenon, but is something that is shaped by what society constructed. Thus, women are defined artificially, and detrimental to their true being and never realizing their real worth outside of the gender-based male dominant landscape.*
* The fact that women can use their sexuality and beauty to her own benefit, does mean that all women have the same opportunity and does not liberate all of women, instead, it furthers the objectification of women
* It is males sexual desire that creates a women; women are created to be an object of a man’s sexual desire