COURSE TITLE: Philosophy of Love

COURSE NUMBER: PHI 301

RATIONALE:

Love is one of the most powerful and least understood motivators of human behavior. It has been the subject of philosophical and psychological analyses throughout the history of human thought. Superficial examination of the concept usually results in misunderstanding and self deception. This complex topic warrants thorough investigation. Americans tend to develop skewed notions of right and wrong, good and bad, and love and hate based on their idiosyncratic experience. A rational exploration of the notion of love should enable most people to function at a higher cognitive level, with fewer emotional blinders so that they can work out for themselves their own ideas of love, friendship, community, family, eroticism, trust, care, concern, and selflessness. Bonding, especially of same sex individuals will also be presented.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will learn to:

1. Develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values
2. Learn to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
3. Distinguish the different types of love.
4. Develop a personal philosophy of love.
5. Support that personal position with the philosophical writing of western and oriental philosophers.

Demonstrate effective mastery of these objectives through proficient written and oral expression of ideas through tests, projects, papers, and/or presentations.