

Phil 3305 Ethics and Personal Relations

Class Number 53987 **Section** TR2 **Tues, Thurs** 2:15 – 3:30pm

Instructor: Staff

Email:

Many of the moral issues we grapple with in our everyday lives have to do with our personal relationships: with our obligations to friends, lovers, parents, spouses and children, among others. Our ethical exploration of these relationships will bring us up against fundamental questions about partiality and impartiality, autonomy, altruism and self-respect. We will complement these more theoretical discussions with attention to some of the more important forms of human relationship—between friends, between spouses, and between parents and children—and the difficult moral questions connected with them, including: what is the moral value of marriage? what is forgiveness? why should one do more for a friend than one would for a stranger? what do grown children owe their parents? Readings will be drawn from both classical and contemporary sources. The format of the course will combine lecture and discussion, with an emphasis on discussion. No previous study of ethics is required.