For courses that have a Practical Learning Requirement [PRL], students have to do their own independent research to fulfill this requirement. This can be done in a number of ways, or combination of ways, which are described below. After the general instructions below, you will find detailed instruction about your course’s PLR. The rationale for the PLR is to have students take philosophy out of the classroom and into the world in which they live. It is to get students to develop—and hopefully practice on a regular basis—the skill of experiencing and evaluating life in a reflective fashion. This requirement is important and so should not be taken lightly. Students should be thinking about, and working on their PLR project throughout the semester. The self-directed nature of this requirement is meant to foster personal responsibility as well as creativity, but not passing this requirement can result in a 10% reduction of your grade.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS for the PLR Project

On the cover page of your PLR paper, state the name of your project, your name and the course and semester the PLR is for. Also give a general ‘table of contents’ that states which option, or combination of options, you used to fulfill this requirement, as well as what activities you did and how much time you spent doing them.

An essay discussing the philosophical significance you found connected with your practical learning experience will follow the cover page. The essay must involve conceptual analysis and critical evaluation of the material you chose for this project. That is, you must both explain and evaluate the material studied in a way that brings out what you see to be its philosophical (e.g., ethical) significance. This PLR paper will be due by midnight, the last day of finals week (May 15) and should be approximately 5 pages, double-spaced and typed (not including pictures or cover). The class Moodle page is loaded with sources and examples, but for more, see me.

PHIL 304: Philosophy of Sex and Love

For any of the following options, or combination thereof, you will write an essay discussing the philosophical relevance you found to be connected with your practical learning. Your essay is to be approximately 5 pages, double-spaced and typed (not including cover page and pictures), due anytime during finals week (by midnight of the last day, Friday, May 15 at the latest). See me for sources and examples, if needed. Your PLR research and paper evaluating that experience can include a variety of options, not necessarily sticking with one option or theme. Do not forget to clearly explain the philosophical relevance of your study, including why it is relevant and what you think overall.

1. **Media Option:** at least 5 hours of contact with outside media sources, e.g., documentaries, movies or TV shows, Internet sites, podcasts, newspaper, magazine, or scholarly articles, books, outside lectures or talks, etc. that have philosophical (e.g., ethical) significance with respect to the broad topics of ‘sex’ and ‘love’. The viewing of pornography is discouraged.
for a variety of reasons, such as it tends to have superficial content and/or lend itself to superficial analysis. Visit my Moodle page!

Note about movies relevant to the topic of ‘sex’ and ‘love’: movies that pertain to the topics relevant to this course can be found in the library, at the video stores in the area, on Netflix or Hulu, on the Internet (YouTube), and sometimes at the theatre. I have a limited list of movies on our Moodle page but you are not limited to only these—you may choose your own.

2. **Community Involvement Option:** participating in at least 5 hours of community service, activities or events, including outside lectures or talks, that you think relate to this course. University activities and events that are relevant are counted in this category. For example, you could participate in ACT TO END SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE or THE CONSENT PROJECT (courses or action components offered through WS and/or CRGS). You could participate in any activity that educates about matters such as: sexual abuse or violence, the importance of creating and maintaining a functional family, how dysfunctional parenting creates problems for children and society, how emotional health is vital to human wellbeing, and there are many, many more.