

Course Outline

KULIS

Course title	Character Education and the Educational Value of Friendships at University
Date/duration	October 3 (online) 4-5pm; October 19, 9-4; October 20, 9-4
Lecturer	Professor Kristján Kristjánsson, University of Birmingham, UK
Teaching language	English
ECTS	2 CP – 60 units
Contents	
<p>October 3 (online) 4-5pm: Introduction to the seminar</p> <p>October 19</p> <p>9-10: Kristjánsson's introductory lecture about character education</p> <p>10-11: Discussion about the lecture and reading A, based on the questions students have prepared</p> <p>11-12: Kristjánsson's introductory lecture about practical wisdom (phronesis) and questions about the lecture.</p> <p>1-2: Workshop based on student draft essays.</p> <p>2-3: Workshop based on student draft essays.</p> <p>3-4: Discussion about a moral dilemma.</p> <p>October 20</p> <p>9-10: Kristjánsson's introductory lecture about friendship</p> <p>10-11: Discussion about the lecture and reading B, based on the questions students have prepared</p> <p>11-12: Workshop based on student draft essays.</p> <p>1-2: Workshop based on student draft essays.</p> <p>2-3: Workshop based on student draft essays.</p> <p>3-4: Discussion about a moral dilemma.</p>	
Learning outcomes	
<p>To have gained a deep understanding of the main concepts and ideas within character education and how those relate to the educational value of character friendships, esp. at university</p>	
Teaching and learning methods	

Lectures, workshops, discussion

Course preparation

READINGS (circulated beforehand)

A:

Watts, P. & Kristjánsson, K. (2022). "Character Education" in *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Education*, ed. Randall Curren (New York/London: Routledge).

B:

Kristjánsson, K. (2020). "Aristotelian Character Friendship as a Method of Moral Education", *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 39 (4).

- 1) Read texts A and B and prepare two questions from each text. These questions can be about some clarifications of concepts or ideas, or about some topics related to the text that you find interesting.
- 2) Write a draft essay, 1000 words long max. Title: "My ideas about the value of friendships at university". You can use text B as a reference and any other academic source that you find useful, but this is to be an argument from you (about your view), not just a summary of the background literature. In this essay, please answer questions like:
 - What is the nature of good peer friendships at university? That is, what does a good friend do?
 - Does the friend always affirm and support your choices or also offer critical comments and advice?
 - Are good friends always honest to one another or may they sometimes use "white lies"?
 - Do friends help you grow and mature or are they mainly for sharing enjoyments with?
 - Do you expect your professors to be your friends/mentors also, or are they mostly there to convey their knowledge to you?

You can also use examples of good or bad friendships in your essay, based on your own experience or on films you have seen or novels you have read.

In the workshops, students will read out their draft essays and those will be discussed.

Additional literature

N.a.

Assessment (%)

(methods of examination, requirements for awarding credit points)

100%: A final revised version of the essay from 2) above, maximum length 1200 words, sent as an email attachment to k.kristjansson@bham.ac.uk not later than January 15th.

Contact details (lecturer)
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