

Tim Sisk

ENG 102—Inquiry into Friendship

Our friends give us a sense of community and identity. We are reflections of the company we keep, after all, but what are the other functions of friendship? Is friendship, by its nature, political? Can friendships be romantic? Is it possible for men and women to be “just friends”? This course tackles the topic of friendship in a few different ways: first, we will look to the past to see what such writers as Aristotle, Plato, and Montaigne have to say about the nature of friendship. Then, we will apply ethnographic research skills such as interviews and observations to develop our own theories of friendship based on history, media, personal experience, and popular culture. Finally, we will research specific topics under the rubric of friendship to broaden our awareness of the psychology, philosophy, and modern-day function of different types of friendships.