

Fall 2002 Undergraduate Courses

PHI 2010-01 Introduction to Philosophy MWF 11:15-12:05, 108 SAN

Ref: 05305 Instructor: Ms. Christina Huggins (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course will introduce students to some of the fundamental questions of philosophy, including: What makes an action moral? What is knowledge? What is the nature of the mind, and is it distinct from the body? Are we free? In exploring these issues we will be looking at some central texts that address them, and through analyzing these texts, students will build valuable critical thinking skills applicable to all areas of life.

PHI 2010-02 Introduction to Philosophy TR 12:30-1:45, 103 DHA

Ref: 01040 Instructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course will serve as an introduction to the core areas of philosophy. Some of the central questions that will be addressed are: What makes for good reasoning? Does God really exist? When and how do we truly have knowledge? What makes an action morally right or wrong? After a survey of previously suggested answers by various philosophers, students will be encouraged to come up with their own conclusions regarding such questions.

PHI 2010-03 Introduction to Philosophy TR 5:15-6:30, 103 DHA

Ref: 01041 Instructor: Mr. Jason Lassiter (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some of the more important philosophical questions: What can I know? Are my actions free? Can we know whether God exists? What makes an action morally right or wrong? What is a good life? We will consider some of the ways in which philosophers have attempted to answer these questions, as well as try to develop answers of our own.

PHI 2100-01 Reasoning and Critical Thinking MWF 2:30-3:20, 108 SAN

Ref: 05308 Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Kirby (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Valid formulae and strong premises are essential tributaries to sound argumentation. Sound arguments are the headwaters of progress. In this course, we will, therefore, concentrate our attention on criteria for evaluating premises and the decision procedures for evaluating the formulae in which they are presented. More specifically, the class will master the criteria for deciding whether arguments are deductive or inductive, valid or invalid, sound or fallacious. With an eye toward improving our thinking and writing skills, we will essay criticisms and rebuttals to arguments derived from various fields of inquiry.

PHI 2100-02 Reasoning and Critical Thinking TR 9:30-10:45, 102 BEL

Ref: 01042 Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

What are the criteria for determining if a given argument is a *good* argument? Is everything an author provides relevant? Does the argument rely on some unstated but assumed reason? In this course, we will answer these questions. The course will begin with an investigation of some general features of natural language and how it is used. Then we will develop the essential skills for reconstructing, evaluating, and understanding many kinds of arguments found in natural language (including, for example, arguments about abortion and God's existence). The skills students will learn in this class will prove useful in any field where clear-headed thinking is a virtue. In addition, the skills acquired in this class will be particularly useful for those hoping for successful careers in law or business, or for higher scores on the LSAT or GRE.

PHM 2300-01 Intro. to Political Philosophy MWF 12:20-1:10, 303 MCH

Ref: 05339 Instructor: Mr. Stephen Morris (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X)

This course will provide an overview of the most influential ideas in the history of political philosophy. We will begin by examining ancient political thought and work our way up to the ideas of some contemporary political thinkers. We will also consider some criticisms of the historical texts. Among the issues we will focus on are the justifications for political systems, the connection between human nature and the ideal political arrangement, and the influence economic factors have on political structures. In the course of our investigations we will become familiar with various schools of political thought including communitarianism, social contract theory, utilitarianism, socialism, and libertarianism.

PHI 2630-01 Ethical Issues and Life Choices MW 5:15-6:30, 128 DIF

Ref: 05310 Instructor: Mr. Peter Hanowell (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Our everyday life choices and views on contemporary ethical issues often presuppose more fundamental assumptions about right and wrong, good and evil. Discussion of controversial topics brings these fundamental assumptions to light for critical evaluation. In our readings and class discussions, we will focus on the personal and social aspects of five topics: sexual morality, sexism and racism, abortion, capital punishment, and environmental ethics. Our goal will be not to resolve these difficult issues, but to reason better by critically reflecting on our own as well as others' reasoning.