

Fall 2003 Undergraduate Courses

HUM 2937-01 Humanities Seminar: Philosophy and Film T 9:30-12:15, 181 DOD
Ref: 03000 Instructor: Prof. Michael Ruse (HONORS ONLY)

This course will be based on some fifteen great films of the twentieth century, using them as a vehicle to explore important philosophical questions about the nature of reality, the meaning of life, the right moral course of action, the roots of great art, and much more. Each week we will look at one film, followed by discussion, and then every student will be expected to write a short (500 word) essay on the film and its philosophical implications and importance. A tentative list of the films includes *The Searchers*, *Rear Window*, *8½*, *On the Waterfront*, *Jules et Jim*, *Some Like It Hot*, *Birth of a Nation*, *Taxi Driver*, *Ballad of a Soldier*, *The Seventh Seal*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, *Belle de Jour*, and others. There is no text and no final exam. All evaluation is based on classroom performance and the weekly written work.

PHI 2010-01 Introduction to Philosophy MWF 1:25-2:15, 201 DIF
Ref: 05305 Instructor: Mr. Thomas Nadelhoffer (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to some of the perennial questions of philosophy. The course will begin with a brief overview of basic reasoning and critical thinking skills. Then, we will spend the rest of semester examining the following questions: Does God exist? What are the limits of knowledge? Do humans have free will? What is the nature of morality? What are the justifications for punishment? The goal of this course is to present the student with a fair treatment of both sides of these philosophical issues so that they will be in a better position to develop well-founded opinions of their own about some of the fundamental problems of philosophy.

PHI 2010-02 Introduction to Philosophy TR 12:30-1:45, 103 DHA
Ref: 00147 Instructor: Prof. Eddy Nahmias (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

What is philosophy? In this course we will examine this question by doing philosophy-by considering philosophical questions, discussing them, and reading and writing about them. We will discuss questions such as: Can we know whether God exists? Why would a good God allow evil to exist? Do we have free will? Do we have souls? What is the nature of our minds? What is right and wrong? What is a good life?

PHI 2010-03 Introduction to Philosophy TR 5:15-6:30, 103 DHA
Ref: 00148 Instructor: Ms. Tina 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? 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 2100-01 Reasoning and Critical Thinking TR 9:30-10:45, 180 BEL
Ref: 05308 Instructor: Mr. Jason Zinser (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Valid formulae and strong premises are essential tributaries to sound argumentation. Sound arguments are the head-waters 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.