

Fall 1999 Undergraduate Courses

LIBERAL STUDIES (GORDON RULE) COURSES:

Introduction to Philosophy	Section 01: MWF 11:15-12:05, BEL 229	Ref: 04865
Instructor: <u>Prof. Peter Dalton</u>	Section 02: MWF 1:25-2:15, MCH 303	Ref: 04866
PHI 2010	Section 04: MWF 1:25-2:15, MCH 303	Ref: 07035
	(Section 04, HONORS ONLY)	

This course will study some of the problems that have concerned philosophers, as well as the methods and standards they have used in trying to solve those problems. The emphasis will be on ideas that have strongly influenced our highly individualistic and materialistic society. Those ideas will concern religion, politics, liberty and toleration, scientific knowledge, and the conflict between objectivity and subjectivity. Students may take a few quizzes, but all other required work will consist of four take-home assignments that will be a mix of essays and short answers. The readings will be from Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise*, Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*, Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Mill's *On Liberty*, and Nagel's *The Last Word*.

Introduction to Philosophy	TR 11:00-12:15, DIF 201	PHI 2010-03
Instructor: <u>Mr. Justin Barnard</u>		Ref: 04867

The purpose of this course is to study a sampling of significant philosophical problems from two vantage points, the first historical, the second thematic. First, we will survey some key figures from the Modern Period: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. We will examine their inquiry into such philosophical questions as: What do we really know? How do we know it? What is the nature of the Self? Second, we will wrestle with questions in ethics both theoretical and practical. We will seek to understand and evaluate historical responses to these problems from important philosophers in the Western tradition, and begin to form responses of our own.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking	MW 5:15-6:30, FLH 255	PHI 2100-01
Instructor: <u>Mr. Adam Sipos</u>		Ref: 04868

"All whales are mammals, and Socrates is a mammal; so, Socrates is a whale." This is clearly a poor argument, but deciding whether someone's reasoning is strong or weak is not always this straightforward, and determining why it is strong or weak can be even more challenging. In this course, we shall develop resources for handling these sorts of problems. We begin by investigating certain general features of language and its use. We then apply these results to the more specific tasks of analyzing and evaluating arguments. By developing these techniques, the student will be acquiring analytical skills that should prove useful in any field in which clear-headed thinking is a virtue.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking
Instructor: Mr. Greg Smith

TR 9:30-10:45, DIF 201

PHI 2100-02
Ref: 04869

In everyday life we reason about our decisions and conclusions. But how do we know whether our reasoning is good? In this course, we will study this question using the methods of informal logic to analyze and evaluate arguments drawn mainly from ordinary life. This course is particularly useful for students in the humanities as well as for those preparing for careers in law or business or studying for the LSAT or GRE.

Ethical Issues and Life Choices
Instructor: Dr. Russell Swanson
PHI 2630

Section 01: MWF 12:20-1:10, LSB 006
Section 03: MWF 12:20;1:10, LSB 006
(Section 03, HONORS ONLY)

Ref: 04870
Ref: 07036

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of philosophical ethics. We will first look at some of the most famous and influential figures in the history of ethical theory. In the rest of the course we will use these maps of moral experience to explore some of the most important ethical issues for the new millennium, such as war and violence, our treatment of the planet and its other inhabitants, interpersonal relationships, and economic justice.

Ethical Issues and Life Choices
Instructor: Dr. Barbara LaBossiere

TR 12:30-1:45, DHA 103

PHI 2630-02
Ref: 04871

This course will introduce students to contemporary ethical controversies and the philosophical tools necessary for critically evaluating them. After an introduction to the traditional philosophical methods used for argument construction and criticism, we will take a brief look at the classic philosophical approaches to moral problems and their solutions. The majority of the course, however, is devoted to evaluating the moral controversies presented by contemporary theorists. Topics include sexual morality, pornography, abortion, euthanasia, and animal rights.

Plato and His Predecessors
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

MWF 10:10-11:00, DIF 310

PHH 3130-01
Ref: 04861

This course is a survey of Ancient Greek philosophy from its beginnings up to Plato, who became one of the most important figures in the Western philosophical tradition. After an overview of philosophers before Socrates (particularly Heraclitus and Parmenides) we will move on to Plato's early dialogues (including the Apology, Euthyphro, and Meno), which discuss such topics as what makes a life worth living, the nature of piety, and questions about knowledge. We will then consider work from Plato's middle period (e.g., the Phaedo, Republic, and Symposium), and late period (e.g., the Phaedrus and Parmenides). In these mature dialogues Socrates becomes the mouthpiece for Plato's own views, which developed in fascinating and challenging ways throughout his life.