

Spring 2000 Undergraduate Courses

LIBERAL STUDIES (GORDON RULE) COURSES:

Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Prof. Dana Nelkin
PHI 2010

Sect. 01: MWF 11:15-12:05, MCH 301 Ref: 05108

Sect. 02: MWF 1:25-2:15, MCH 303 Ref: 05109

Sect. 04: MWF 11:15-12:05, MCH 301 Ref: 05111

(Section 04, HONORS ONLY)

In this course, we will confront the following fundamental questions: Can we know that there is a world outside of our minds? Does God exist? Do we have free will? What is the relationship between our minds and bodies? Are actions right and wrong absolutely or only relative to certain social practices? What is the meaning of life? Philosophers have offered a number of answers to each of these questions and have provided challenging arguments for their views. After learning a variety of analytic skills, we will put them to use in assessing these arguments and judging the merits of the various answers.

Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Mr. Brad Hadaway

TR 2:00-3:15, DIF 201

PHI 2010-03

Ref: 05110

This course will serve to introduce students to a broad range of philosophical problems and to the methods of investigation by which they can make progress in solving those problems. The three philosophical questions which will captivate the majority of our time are: (1) Is there a God? (2) What can I know, and how can I know it? and (3) What is the morally right thing to do? We'll begin the class with an introduction to philosophical methods, so that students will develop the skills necessary to critically address the issues at hand. Then we'll read the classic Western responses to our three questions (authors will include Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume, Locke, Descartes, etc.), and these historical sources will be supplemented by relevant contemporary readings. We will seek to understand and evaluate the philosophers' positions, and we will also learn to develop our own philosophical thought about these issues.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking

Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos

MWF 12:20-1:10, CAR 101

PHI 2100-01

Ref: 05112

"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

TR 5:15-6:30, LOV 101

PHI 2100-02

Instructor: Mr. Greg Smith

Ref: 05113

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

TR 3:35-4:50, LSB 006

PHI 2630-01

Instructor: Prof. Gordon Lyon

Ref: 05114

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of ethics. In the first five weeks, we shall consider ethical theories, including Utilitarian, Kantian, Aristotelian, and feminist approaches to morality. In the following ten weeks, we shall consider how such theories are applied to contemporary moral issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, our treatment of animals and the environment, sexuality, and pornography.

Ethical Issues and Life Choices

MWF 10:10-11:00, MCH 201

PHI 2630-02

Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard

Ref: 05115

Invariably, people will face decisions of moral import in life. Should I get a divorce? Do I have a moral obligation to take care of my parents? Are there any circumstances in which I am justified in terminating my own (or someone else's) life? Am I under a moral obligation to give to the poor? Answering such questions often requires careful moral deliberation. In this course we will survey methods of moral reasoning and examine a sampling of responses to vital moral questions such as these. In light of our examination we will also begin to form responses of our own.

Introduction to Political Philosophy

MW 3:35-4:50, LSB 006

PHM 2300-01

Instructor: Dr. Barbara LaBossiere

MULTICULT. "X"

Ref: 05139

This class will explore some of the most influential theories in the history of political philosophy. We will begin with the classic arguments for various kinds of political governments, which include discussions of human nature, the political state, economics, political authority, and punishment. We will then examine contemporary approaches to problems such as civil disobedience, rights, and revolution.

HONORS Intro. to Political Philosophy

MWF 12:20-1:10, DIF 310

PHM 2300-02

Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

(MULTICULT. "X")

Ref: 05140

An introductory course on some of the most important issues in political philosophy throughout the world. Our readings will include selections from Western, Asian, and African philosophers, as well as examples of feminist criticism of Western political philosophy. Issues to be discussed include the nature of government, the justification of political authority, and the relationship between citizens and the state. Schools we will become familiar with include communitarianism, liberalism, libertarianism, and socialism.