

Spring 2002 Undergraduate Courses

PHI 2010-01 **Introduction to Philosophy** **MWF 11:15-12:05, 103**
DHA

Ref: 03001 **Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to some of the fundamental questions of philosophy. The course will begin with a brief introduction to some basic philosophical concepts, and to understanding the nature of arguments. Subsequently, the course will be devoted to a thorough examination of the following questions: What makes an action morally right or wrong? Is morality relative: What can I know? Are we free? And, does God exist?

PHI 2010-02 **Introduction to Philosophy** **TR 12:30-1:45, 201**
DIF

Ref: 05706 **Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

In this introductory course we will look at some fundamental philosophical questions. We will begin with a brief introduction to the nature of language, logic, and conceptual analysis. We will then investigate the following philosophical questions: What can I know? Is my mind separate from my body? Does God exist? Are my actions free? What makes an action morally right or wrong? Students will have the opportunity to develop their own answers to these questions.

PHI 2010-03 **Introduction to Philosophy** **MW 5:15-6:30, 108 SAN**
Ref: 05707 **Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

The purpose of this course is to study a sampling of significant philosophical issues regarding the world, the self, and the relationship between them. We will explore these issues from an historical perspective through the lens of four major figures in the history of philosophy: Plato, Descartes, Mill, and Nietzsche. During our investigation we will encounter such questions as: Is something good because God wills it? What is virtue? Can we know anything at all? What is the relationship between our minds and our bodies? Are there good reasons for believing that God exists? How should we live? We will analyze and evaluate responses to such questions from our four main figures, and consider alternative viewpoints. In light of our evaluation we will also begin to form responses of our own.

PHI 2010-04 **Introduction to Philosophy** **TR 3:35-4:50, 303 BRY**
Ref: 06878 **Instructor: Prof. Eddy Nahmias** **(BRYAN HALL ONLY)**

What is Philosophy? In this course we will examine that question by doing philosophy – by considering philosophical questions, discussing them, and reading and writing about them. 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? How can we study our minds? What is right and wrong? What is a good life? This course will be run as a seminar, so participation will be important. Grades will also be based on quizzes, presentations, and three short papers.

PHI 2100-01 Reasoning & Critical Thinking TR 5:15-6:30, 201 DIF
Ref: 03002 Instructor: Mr. Jonathan Caro (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

We are bombarded every day with the claims of activists, advertisers, politicians, and others. What reasons do they give for their claims? Do these claims follow from their reasons? In this class, we will develop and apply the general (and practical!) skills for answering these questions, by taking up the study of arguments. We will learn the criteria for the evaluation of sound arguments, talk about common fallacies, and along the way learn to become better at reasoning ourselves.

PHI 2100-02 Reasoning & Critical Thinking MWF 9:05-9:55, 303 MCH
Ref: 05708 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.

PHM 2300-01 Introduction to Political Philosophy MWF 12:20-1:10, 103 DHA
Ref: 03028 Instructor: Mr. Steve 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 Ethical Issues and Life Choices MW 3:35-4:50, 201 DIF
Ref: 03003 (Sect. 01) Instructor: Dr. Russell Swanson (Lib. Studies/Gordon Rule)
07090 (Section 02, HONORS ONLY)

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of philosophical ethics. In the first segment we will briefly examine the highlights of the history of ethical theory. We will look at some of the most famous and influential of the "maps of moral experience." In the second segment of the course we will utilize these maps to explore important moral issues for the new millennium.