

Summer 2004 Undergraduate Courses

“B” Session (May 10 – June 18)

PHI 2010-01**Introduction to Philosophy****MTWRF 11:00-12:15, DIF 116****Ref: 01550****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 & Critical Thinking****MTWR 2:00-3:35, LSB 002****Ref: 01551****Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard****(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

“I can conceive of the body being divided; I can’t conceive of the mind being divided; so, the mind and body are not the same.” Is this a good argument? In this particular case it isn’t obvious that there are any mistakes in reasoning, but the conclusion seems very strong given the kinds of reasons offered to believe it. This course begins by investigating some general features of language and its use in argument. Students then learn skills that allow them to identify arguments in text. Then the course focuses on different kinds of arguments, and the standards by which they are evaluated as good or bad, strong or weak. The remainder of the course is devoted to examining the gamut of fallacies of reasoning (one of which is present in the argument given in the opening sentence of this paragraph!). The skills that students learn in this course will be useful in any field in which clear-headed thinking is valued.

PHM 2121-01**Philosophy of Class, Race, & Gender****MTWR 2:00-3:35, WMS 320****Ref: 03168****Instructor: Mr. Kermit Harrison****(Lib. Stud./Multicult. Y)**

Current scholarship theorizes that studying the relationships between socio-economic class, race, and gender is key to understanding the current dynamics of American society. Some contemporary authors hold that those specific relationships are oppressive and restrictive by their very nature. Others deny that the alleged relationships have any oppressive or restrictive values in and of themselves. The purpose of this course is to examine those relationships. This is to be accomplished through reading essays and writings that are devoted to understanding and sometimes changing the relationships in question.

PHI 2630-01 **Ethical Issues and Life Choices** **MTWRF 12:30-1:45, LSB 002**
Ref: 01553 **Instructor: Mr. Thomas Nadelhoffer** **(Liberal Stud./Gordon Rule)**

The course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to classical ethical theories and applied ethical issues. The course will be divided into three main parts: 1) a brief overview of basic reasoning and critical thinking skills, 2) a general introduction to important historical sources of ethical theory, and 3) an analysis of how the different ethical theories affect our answers to important, yet difficult, applied ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, animal rights, violence, war, and terrorism.

PHI 3130-01 **Introduction to Symbolic Logic** **MTWR 9:10-10:45, WMS 320**
Ref: 01554 **Instructor: Mr. Charles Hermes**

What makes some arguments valid and others invalid? How can you tell the difference? In this course, we will answer these questions by learning how to symbolize English arguments and how to use the rules of a natural deduction system, as well as semantic methods, to determine whether these arguments are valid. Those who acquire the knowledge and skills taught in this course will be able to distinguish between good and bad reasoning in the most rigorous way possible.

[Note: This course is a prerequisite for PHI 4134: Modern Logic I.]

PHI 3400-01 **Philosophy of Science** **MTWRF 11:00-12:15, WMS 320**
Ref: 01556 **Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Kirby** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

We will survey some of the central questions that occupy philosophers of science: the realism/anti-realism debate, reduction and emergence, the nature of scientific explanation, the context of discovery vs. the context of justification, as well as the nature of scientific change and scientific revolution.

PHI 3670-01 **Ethical Theory** **MTWRF 12:30-1:45, WMS 201**
Ref: 03171 **Instructor: Mr. Stephen Morris**

This course will begin by exploring key questions in some traditional areas of ethics such as metaethics (What is the good? Why should one be moral? Are there objective moral truths?) and how we ought to act and live (where we will consider virtue-based, duty-based, and consequence-based ethical theories). We will conclude by exploring a somewhat new and novel approach that emphasizes the importance of applying empirical analysis to the study of ethics.

“C” Session (June 28 – August 6)

PHI 2010-02 **Introduction to Philosophy** **MTWRF 11:00-12:15, WMS 320**
Ref: 03174 **Instructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins** **(LiberalStudies/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.
