

Fall 2000 Undergraduate Courses

LIBERAL STUDIES (GORDON RULE) COURSES:

Introduction to Philosophy

MWF 11:15-12:05, DHA 103

PHI 2010-01

Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos

Ref: 05305

Is there a world that is external to our minds? If so, how can we know anything about it? How should we live? Do we have absolute duties to ourselves and to others or are our actions to be appraised solely with respect to their consequences? Does God exist? Are minds distinct from bodies? If so, what is the relationship between them? These are just a few of the questions that have exercised the greatest minds of the Western philosophical tradition. We will engage some of these minds by taking a close look at the answers they have given to these, and related, questions. After developing some basic analytical skills, we will put them to use in assessing the various answers and the arguments offered for them.

Introduction to Philosophy

Sect. 02: TR 2:00-3:15, MCH 303

Ref: 05306

Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard

Sect. 03: TR 5:15-6:30, DHA 103

Ref: 05307

PHI 2010

The purpose of this course is to study a sampling of significant philosophical problems regarding the world, the self, and the relationship between them. We will tackle such questions as: Are there good reasons for believing that God exists? Do we have free wills? What is the relationship between our minds and our bodies? Can we know anything at all? Along the way, we will evaluate responses to such questions from both classic and contemporary sources. In light of our evaluation, we will begin to form responses of our own.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking

MW 3:35-4:50, DIF 201

PHI 2100-01

Instructor: Mr. Jonathan Caro

Ref: 05308

We are bombarded every day with the claims of activists, advertisers, politicians, and others. What reasons do they give for these claims? Do their 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 and their evaluation, learning to distinguish sound arguments from fallacious ones.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking
Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes

TR 8:00-9:15, CAR 101

PHI 2100-02
Ref: 05309

What are the criteria for determining if a given argument is a good argument? Is everything an author provides relevant? Does the argument rely on some unstated but assumed reason? In this course, we will answer these questions. The course will begin with an investigation of some general features of natural language and how it is used. Then we will develop the essential skills for reconstructing, evaluating, and understanding many kinds of arguments found in natural language (including, for example, arguments about abortion and God's existence). The skills students will learn in this class will prove useful in any field where clear-headed thinking is a virtue. In addition, the skills acquired in this class will be particularly useful for those hoping for successful careers in law or business, or for higher scores on the LSAT or GRE.

Introduction to Political Philosophy
Instructor: Dr. Barbara LaBossiere

MWF 1:25-2:15, BEL 143
(MULTICULT. "X")

PHM 2300-01
Ref: 05339

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. Multicultural "X" course.

Ethical Issues and Life Choices
Instructor: Prof. Gordon Lyon
PHI 2630

Sect. 01: MWF 12:20-1:10, DHA 103
Sect. 02: TR 12:30-1:45, MCH 303

Ref: 05310
Ref: 05311

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.

Philosophy of Feminism
Instructor: Mr. Greg Smith

MWF 10:10-11:00, MCH 303
MULTICULT. "Y"

PHM 3123-85
Ref: 05340

We live our lives as gendered human beings. Being a woman or a man affects the most basic aspects of our lives—our personality, our sexuality, and our familial and social relations. Perhaps our gender even affects our thinking about learning, knowing, and living well. Further, being a woman in many times and places results in one's being accorded an inferior social role to that of a man. In this course, we will consider several feminist theories (liberal, socialist, Marxist, radical, and 'minority') of women's oppression. We will discuss recommendations for a better society made in light of these theories, including such topics as the family, sexuality, rape, pornography, domestic violence, and employment. We will also consider more generally the bases for the distinctions between sex and gender, woman and man. Multicultural "Y" course. Women's Studies core course.