

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.

Plato and His Predecessors
Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy

MWF 11:15-12:05, DIF 310

PHH 3130-01
Ref: 05303

Western philosophy at its origin: from the poetry of Homer and Hesiod to the speculations of the 'monists' of Miletus, the criticism of Homeric theology in Xenophanes, Heraclitus' claim that the universe is an everliving fire, the static universe of Parmenides, the atomism of Democritus, and, finally, the ethical inquiries of Socrates and their issue in the metaphysical 'Theory of Forms' of his student, Plato. This is the beginning of Western humanity's grappling with the perennial questions: What is the structure of reality? What can we know about it? How may we best comport ourselves towards it? And towards each other?

Modern Philosophy
Instructor: Prof. Pat Matthews

TR 12:30-1:45, DOD 118

PHH 3400-01
Ref: 05304

In this course we'll explore some of the major philosophical ideas of the 17th and 18th centuries. Central questions of the course will include: What can I know? What is the world like? What sorts of things are in it? Does God exist? What are the essential properties of human beings? Readings will include selections from Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

Philosophy in Literature
PHI 3882
Instructor: Dr. Peter Dalton

Sect. 01: MWF 10:10-11:00, DIF 310 Ref: 05317
Sect. 02: MWF 10:10-11:00, DIF 310 Ref: 05318
(Section 2: HONORS ONLY)

We will study a number of literary works with the aim of showing how philosophical thinking can help solve problems that arise in them. Some of the problems will be interpretive, but many will be of a deeper intellectual or practical nature (e.g., just what is unreal about the lives of the leading characters in *A Doll's House*? Might we be as blind to good and evil as some of the characters in O'Connor's stories?). We will read some plays by Ibsen, Camus' short novel *The Fall*, various stories by Flannery O'Connor, a number of the brief fantasies in Borges' *Ficciones*, and one or two other works (e.g., something by Kafka).

OTHER COURSES (ALL OPEN TO NON-MAJORS):

Descartes's Philosophical Legacy
Instructor: Prof. Samuel Rickless

TR 11:00-12:15, DOD 181
(HONORS ONLY)

HUM 2937-04
Ref: 09101

This course will approach some central philosophical issues through the work of René Descartes (1596-1650). The questions to be discussed include: (1) Can we know, without a doubt, that there is an external world of physical objects? If so, can we know what external objects are like? (2) Can we know, without a doubt, that God exists? If so, how? If not, why not? (3) Is the mind just another material substance, or is it immaterial and so "really distinct" from the body? Although Descartes's *Meditations on First Philosophy* will be our central text, we will also discuss the reactions of his (and our) contemporaries to his influential answers.

Introduction to Symbolic Logic
Instructor: Prof. Samuel Rickless

TR 2:00-3:15, LSB 008

PHI 3130-01
Ref: 05312

Why are some arguments good (valid) and others bad (invalid)? How can we tell whether an argument is valid or invalid? 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.

Introduction to Philosophy of Language MW 3:35-4:50, LSB 002
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

PHI 3220-01
Ref: 05313

We shall cover some of the central topics in the philosophy of language, viz., meaning/sense, denotation, naming, truth, linguistic/speech acts, and rule-following. We shall do so by working through some classic texts of 20th century analytic philosophy. These include works by Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell, P.F. Strawson, Keith Donnellan, W.V. Quine, Saul Kripke, J.L. Austin, and H.P. Grice.

Knowledge and Belief
Instructor: Prof. Jack Lyons

TR 11:00-12:15, DIF 310

PHI 3300-01
Ref: 05314

In this course, we will look at a number of competing contemporary answers to the central questions in epistemology: What, if anything, do we really know? What is the difference between knowledge and lucky guesses? Under what conditions is it reasonable, responsible, or justifiable to believe something? Special attention will be given to the major theories: foundationalism, coherentism, reliabilism, and to how such theories explain what is reasonable about perceptual belief, probabilistic judgments, and beliefs about necessary truths.

Philosophy of Law
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

TR 5:15-6:30, BEL 116

PHM 3400-01
Ref: 05341

This course is a comprehensive introduction to some of the most important issues in philosophy of law. We will focus on theories of law-accounts of the nature, origin, and justification of law-and theories of interpretation, particularly of the Constitution. We will illustrate our discussions with reference to famous legal cases in different areas of the law, which we will read and attempt to understand together. By the end of the course, students should have gained a solid understanding of different traditions in legal thought, as well as the tools to decipher legal opinions.

Philosophy of Religion
Instructor: Prof. David Kangas

TR 12:30-1:45, BEL 229

PHI 3700-01
Ref: 05315

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of religion from a philosophical point of view, with focus upon the Jewish and Christian traditions. By looking closely at primary texts, we will consider the question of the existence and nature of God, the character of religious language, the problem of 'natural religion', the nature of faith, the problem of evil, and the question of God's "gender." Main figures covered will include Plato, Anselm, Aquinas, Maimonides, Hume, Dostoevsky, Tillich, Primo Levi, and Sally McFague. (Meets with PHI 3700-02, listed by Department of Religion, ref. # 05316.)

Modern Logic II
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

WF 1:25-2:40, LSB 002

PHI 4137-01
Ref: 05319

An advanced course in modern symbolic logic. Topics to be covered include: the soundness and completeness of polyadic quantification theory; the compactness theorem; and the central limitative results about modern logic such as Gödel's theorems on the incompleteness of formal systems of arithmetic, Tarski's theorem on the indefinability of truth, and the Church-Turing theorem on the undecidability of polyadic quantification theory. Meets with PHI 5136. PREREQUISITE: PHI 4134, equivalent, or permission of instructor.

Contemporary Political Thought
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

TR 2:00-3:15, LSB 002

PHM 4340-01
Ref: 05342

This course will explore a range of issues in contemporary political thought. This exploration will be set in the context of systematic political thought and the history of major approaches to political theory in the modern period. We will develop the contemporary political spectrum and the various traditional positions on that spectrum such as liberalism, libertarianism, and conservatism. We will also attend to some of the new viewpoints such as communitarianism, feminism, and critical race theory. (Meets with PHM 4340-02, listed by Department of Political Science, ref. # 05343.)

Fall 2000 Graduate Courses

Introduction to Philosophical Methods Wed 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD Ref. 05327
181
Instructors: Profs. Dalton, Dancy, Morales, PHI 5956-01 (03)
Rickless

The purpose of this course is to learn and practice ways of analyzing and critically evaluating philosophical views. We will approach historical and contemporary works with the aim of identifying and judging philosophical arguments of various kinds. We will also discuss exegetical issues (such as the Principle of Charity and its proper application), and methodological issues (such as the reliability of philosophical intuitions and their relation to philosophical theories). Readings may include selections from Descartes, Locke, Kant, Frege, Moore, Heidegger, Rawls, Searle, and Kripke. Emphasis will be placed on honing one's philosophical writing skills. PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED.

Modern Logic II Wed/Fri 1:25-2:40 PM, LSB PHH 5136-01 (03)
002
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung Ref. # 05323

An advanced course in modern symbolic logic. Topics to be covered include: the soundness and completeness of polyadic quantification theory; the compactness theorem; and the central limitative results about modern logic such as Gödel's theorems on the incompleteness of formal systems of arithmetic, Tarski's theorem on the indefinability of truth, and the Church-Turing theorem on the undecidability of polyadic quantification theory. Meets with PHI 4137. **Prerequisite:** PHI 4134, PHI 5135, or equivalent.

Philosophy of Biology Tues 6:45-9:45 PM, DOD PHI 6406-02 (03)
181
Instructor: Prof. Michael Ruse (M&E)* Ref. # 08311

This is a course on the philosophy of biology, with particular emphasis on evolutionary biology. It will be partly lectures by the instructor and some occasional guests (to be given in the first half of term), and partly seminars by students (to be given in the second half of term). The lecture half of the course will approach the topic historically, looking in detail at the history of evolutionary theory (with particular emphasis on the contribution of Charles Darwin), and then coming down to the present-day scene and the philosophical issues which have engaged people. Some attention will be paid to the question of human biology and its implications for thinking about epistemology (theory of knowledge) and ethics (theory of morality). The second half of the course, student seminars, will be based on topics covered in Hull and Ruse (eds.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Biology* - natural selection, species, teleology, human nature, Creationism, and more.

Kant's "Critique of Aesthetic Judgment" Thurs 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD PHI 6805-01 (03)
181
Instructor: Prof. Pat Matthews (H)* Ref. # 05331

In this course we'll do a close study of Kant's "Critique of Aesthetic Judgment." This work is foundational for contemporary aesthetics, as well as playing a crucial role in Kant's overall philosophical thinking. Topics will include the nature of beauty, the nature of the sublime, the relationship between beauty and morality, the relationship between judgments of beauty and cognitive judgments, and the role of "feeling" as a mental capacity in Kant's system of the mind.

The Philosophy of Action Mon 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD PHI 6935-01 (03)
181
Instructor: Prof. Alfred Mele (M&E)* Ref. # 05332

The focus of this course is competing explanations of intentional human action. This topic lies at the intersection of the philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and ethics. Assigned readings are drawn from all three areas, concentrating on work published in the last fifteen years.

*Fulfills history (H), metaphysics and epistemology (M&E), or value theory (V) distribution requirement for Philosophy graduate students. Also available for Philosophy graduate students: PHI 6960-01 (03), Prelim Preparation: Ethics (Prof. Peter Dalton); hours TBA; ref. # 05333