

# Fall 2001 Undergraduate Courses

## **Introduction to Philosophy**

Instructor: Professor Michael Ruse

MWF 1:25-2:15, 126 BEL

(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2010-01

Ref: 05305

This course will combine lectures (Monday and Wednesday) and discussion groups (Friday). Topics to be discussed include: What is philosophy? Is there a god, and if so what can we know about this god? Is this god the Christian god? What is the problem of evil and can it be solved? Can we ever be sure of the evidence of our senses? Is mathematical knowledge better than any other kind of knowledge? Do you have a mind? Does anybody have a mind? Can you know if anyone else has a mind? What should I do? Is it better to be happy, even though you are in the wrong? Can you be happy, if you are wrong? Does it matter how things turn out, so long as you are good intentioned?

In the discussion groups, students will be expected to prepare short papers and to discuss topics assigned by the group leader, on and around issues discussed in the lectures. The reading material for the course will cover both readings from traditional authors (Plato, Saint Augustine, Descartes, Hume, Bertrand Russell, and others) and from more contemporary sources.

## **Introduction to Philosophy**

Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos

TR 12:30-1:45, 108 SAN

(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2010-02

Ref: 01338

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 all of our actions completely determined, and if so, does this mean that we never act freely? 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**

Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard

TR 5:15-6:30, 180 BEL

(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2010-03

Ref: 01339

This course will introduce students to some of the fundamental questions of philosophy. We will begin with a brief introduction to language, to some basic philosophical concepts, and to understanding the nature of arguments. We will then thoroughly examine the following questions: What makes an action morally right or wrong? Is morality relative? What can I know and how do I know it? Are my actions free or determined? What is the relation between particular things and (what seem to be) their general qualities? What is it that makes things the same through time? Does God exist?