

Fall 2002 Undergraduate Courses

PHI 2010-01 Introduction to Philosophy MWF 11:15-12:05, 108 SAN

Ref: 05305 Instructor: Ms. Christina 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? Are we free? 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 2010-02 Introduction to Philosophy TR 12:30-1:45, 103 DHA

Ref: 01040 Instructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins (Liberal Studies/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.

PHI 2010-03 Introduction to Philosophy TR 5:15-6:30, 103 DHA

Ref: 01041 Instructor: Mr. Jason Lassiter (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some of the more important philosophical questions: What can I know? Are my actions free? Can we know whether God exists? What makes an action morally right or wrong? What is a good life? We will consider some of the ways in which philosophers have attempted to answer these questions, as well as try to develop answers of our own.

PHI 2100-01 Reasoning and Critical Thinking MWF 2:30-3:20, 108 SAN

Ref: 05308 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.

PHI 2100-02 Reasoning and Critical Thinking TR 9:30-10:45, 102 BEL

Ref: 01042 Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

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.

PHM 2300-01 Intro. to Political Philosophy MWF 12:20-1:10, 303 MCH

Ref: 05339 Instructor: Mr. Stephen 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 2630-01 Ethical Issues and Life Choices MW 5:15-6:30, 128 DIF

Ref: 05310 Instructor: Mr. Peter Hanowell (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Our everyday life choices and views on contemporary ethical issues often presuppose more fundamental assumptions about right and wrong, good and evil. Discussion of controversial topics brings these fundamental assumptions to light for critical evaluation. In our readings and class discussions, we will focus on the personal and social aspects of five topics: sexual morality, sexism and racism, abortion, capital punishment, and environmental ethics. Our goal will be not to resolve these difficult issues, but to reason better by critically reflecting on our own as well as others' reasoning.

PHI 2630-02 Ethical Issues and Life Choices TR 2:00-3:15, 201 DIF

Ref: 01043 Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to ethical theory and ethical issues. We will begin with a brief introduction to basic philosophical concepts and language, and to understanding the nature of arguments. The rest of the course will survey (1) the important historical sources of ethical theory, (2) some contemporary theoretical problems that are unique to ethics, and (3) a number of existing ethical issues that are surrounded with disagreement such as free speech, homosexuality, and the environment.

PHI 2630-03 Ethical Issues and Life Choices (HONORS) TR 2:00-3:15, 320 WMS

Ref: 03695 Instructor: Prof. Eddy Nahmias (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Most of us have views about what is right and wrong when it comes to *specific* issues, such as abortion or the death penalty. But we do not always have views about what is right and wrong *in general*. That is, we may not have a consistent theory of morality. In this course, we will first discuss what a theory of morality is and examine several such theories, e.g., utilitarianism and Kantian ethics. Then, we will discuss some specific ethical issues in light of these theories and confront our own views about them. These issues may include euthanasia, capital punishment, pornography and censorship, world hunger, animal rights, and environmental ethics.

HUM 2937-02 Humanities Seminar: Philosophy and Film T 9:30-12:15, 181 DOD

Ref: 03640 Instructor: Prof. Michael Ruse (HONORS ONLY)

This course will be based on some fifteen great films of the twentieth century, using them as a vehicle to explore important philosophical questions about the nature of reality, the meaning of life, the right moral course of action, the roots of great art, and much more. Each week we will look at one film, followed by discussion, and then every student will be expected to write a short (500 word) essay on the film and its philosophical implications and importance. A tentative list of the films includes *Shane*, *Vertigo*, *Some Like It Hot*, *Triumph of the Will*, *Birth of a Nation*, *Taxi Driver*, *Ballad of a Soldier*, *The Seventh Seal*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, *Belle de Jour*, *Four Hundred Blows*, *Citizen Kane*, and others. There is no text and no final exam. All evaluation is based on classroom performance and the weekly written work.

PHM 3123-85 Philosophy of Feminism MWF 1:25-2:15, 103 DHA

Ref: 01044 Instructor: TBA (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. Y)

This course typically considers various feminist theories (Liberal, socialist, Marxist, radical, "minority") of women's oppression and discusses recommendations for a better society made in light of these theories. Topics may include the family, sexuality, rape, pornography, domestic violence, and employment. **Women's Studies core course.**

PHH 3130-01 Plato and His Predecessors TR 9:30-10:45, 002 LSB

Ref: 05303 Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course is a survey of Ancient Greek philosophy from its beginnings up to Plato, who became one of the most important figures in the Western philosophical tradition. After an overview of philosophers before Socrates (particularly Heraclitus and Parmenides) we will move on to Plato's early dialogues (including the *Apology*, *Euthyphro*, and *Meno*), which discuss such topics as what makes a life worth living, the nature of piety, and questions about knowledge. We will then consider work from Plato's middle period (including the *Phaedo*, *Republic*, and *Symposium*), and late period (including the *Phaedrus* and *Parmenides*). In these mature dialogues Socrates becomes the mouthpiece for Plato's own views, which developed in fascinating and challenging ways throughout his life.

PHI 3130-01 Introduction to Symbolic Logic MWF 1:25-2:15, 002 LSB

Ref: 05312 Instructor: Prof. Josh Gert

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.

PHI 3320-01 Philosophy of Mind TR 11:00-12:15, 002 LSB

Ref: 06443 Instructor: Prof. Eddy Nahmias

What does it mean to have a mind? How do we know when other creatures are conscious? Could computers or robots have minds? Do animals have minds? What does it mean to "lose one's mind"? Would we lose our minds if we were brains in a vat? What happens to our minds after we die? We will explore these cases at the margins of mentality to try to understand our conception of the mind and to examine the relationship between the mind and the brain. In the process we will study some of the traditional philosophical questions about the mind, including consciousness, self-awareness, free will, reason, intentionality, and language.

PHM 3331 Modern Political Thought TR 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB

Ref: 04796 (Section 01), 03686 (Section 02) Instructor: Prof. Donald Hodges

An examination of the five most consequential political ideologies of the modern world (Liberalism, Democracy, Communism, Socialism, Fascism). The emphasis will be on their political rather than civic content, on their historical succession rather than normative rankings, on their informal as well as formal significance, on their mutations and hybrids, on their changing positions within the Right-Center-Left political spectrum, and on their competitive struggle for world domination.

PHI 3400-01 History & Philosophy of Science T 6:45-9:30, 180 BEL

Ref: 01047 Instructor: Prof. Michael Ruse (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course, which meets once a week for a three-hour session, will have two components, one of which will be presented in the first half of each session and the other of which will come in the second half of each session. The first component will be a general survey of important issues in the philosophy of science—theories, explanation, prediction, testing, and so forth, including more social issues such as the possible male bias of science in theory and practice. The second component will be a general history of evolutionary theory, showing how the philosophical elements introduced in the first component play out in the real world. Assessment will be through two or three short essays, possibly a mid-term test, and certainly a final exam. Texts: Jennifer McErlean, *Philosophies of Science*; Michael Ruse, *The Evolution Wars*.

PHI 3670-01 Ethical Theory MW 3:35-4:50, 002 LSB

Ref: 03691 Instructor: Prof. Josh Gert

Consequentialism has been and continues to be very attractive to philosophers. How could an action be morally bad, for example, if it didn't increase the risk of someone's suffering any sort of harm at all? And yet, our intuitions in particular cases are often very difficult to explain in terms of a coherent consequentialist theory. This course begins by re-examining two classic consequentialist and non-consequentialist views: those of Mill and Kant. We then follow the contemporary debate between these two types of view, which will lead us to examine a number of other types of ethical theory.

PHI 3700-01 Philosophy of Religion MWF 12:20-1:10, 244 BEL

Ref: 04764 (Section 01), 09836 (Section 02) Instructor: Prof. Donald Crosby

The course will investigate, compare, and contrast three different religious visions: those that assert the religious ultimacy of God, Brahman, or Nature. We will be especially interested in examining the role of philosophical argumentation in structuring a critical dialogue among these three types of religious outlook. Different views of God will first be considered before we turn to Brahman and Nature, considered as alternative religious ultimates. As part of our investigation, we will address such issues as religion and evil; the relations of religious experience to religious claims; ways of responding to the diversity of religious traditions; and religious approaches to the nature of nature and our place as humans within the natural order. Texts: Donald A. Crosby, *A Religion of Nature*; Eliot Deutsch, *Advaita Vedanta: A Philosophical Reconstruction*; Tyron Inbody, *The Transforming God*; Sallie McFague, *The Body Of God*; Richard Swinburne, *Is There A God?*

PHI 3882 Philosophy in Literature MWF 11:15-12:05, 231 WJB

Ref: 03687 (Section 01) Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Ref: 03688 (Section 02 – HONORS ONLY)

We will study several works of literature with the main purpose of solving problems that arise in them. To do this, students will have to grasp philosophical ideas or ways of thinking that either have been inserted into a work of literature by the author (e.g., Sartre's 'being' and 'perfect moments') or that there are good reasons to use in interpreting such a work(e.g., 'individualism' in Ibsen). We will be reading some plays by Ibsen, some stories by Kafka, Sartre's novel *Nausea* (which should have retained its original title, *Melancholia*), some stories by Flannery O'Connor, and Camus's long story *The Fall*.

PHM 4340-01 Contemporary Political Thought MWF 2:30-3:20, 114 BEL

Ref: 09293 Instructor: Ms. Victoria Costa

This course provides an introduction to central approaches and debates in contemporary political philosophy. It presents liberal, utilitarian, communitarian, republican, and feminist approaches to issues of social justice, both at the level of particular societies and at the international level. The course is intended to develop students' abilities to analyze philosophical texts, build persuasive arguments, and assess the relevance of philosophical theories to real social problems.

PHI 4500-01 Metaphysics TR 3:35-4:50, 002 LSB

Ref: 06446 Instructor: Prof. Thomas Crisp

This course will introduce students to metaphysics, that branch of philosophy concerned with questions about the nature and structure of reality. We'll be looking at questions like: What kinds of things exist? Is reality exhausted by the physical, or are there non-physical things like properties and numbers? What is time? Is there such a thing? What is change? Does anything really change? What is causation? Does anything really cause anything else to happen? What about free will? What is it? Do we have it? What is the relationship of the mind to the body? Do we have a mind? Philosophy is a communal enterprise, best done in conversation. In-class discussion will be an integral part of the class.

PHI 4938-01 Seminar for Majors TR 12:30-1:45, 181 DOD

Ref: 03693 Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales (MAJORS ONLY)

In this seminar we will examine questions pertaining to the role of the emotions in the mental life and their impact on generating behavior. We will discuss what emotions are (and in this context talk about different theories of the emotions), the connection between emotion and reason, the place of emotion in the formation and maintenance of the self, and the question whether, or to what degree, emotions are "up to us." We will also discuss how culture/society interacts with emotional phenomena, especially as regards the question whether our concept of the person, or the "healthy" person, varies within our culture and cross-culturally. Course materials will include selections from Amelie Rorty (ed.), *Explaining Emotions*; Ferdinand Schoeman (ed.), *Responsibility, Character, and the Emotions*; Martha Nussbaum, *Upheavals of Thought: The Intelligence of Emotions*; and Shweder and LeVine (eds.), *Culture Theory: Essays on Mind, Self, and Emotion*.

Fall 2002 Graduate Classes

PHI 5956-01 Introduction to Philosophical Methods Course ref. # 05327

(Profs. Dalton, Dancy, Mele, Ruse) Fri. 12:20-3:20 PM, DOD 181

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, Popper, Kuhn, Hare, Stevenson Moore, and contemporary writings. Emphasis will be placed on honing one's philosophical writing skills.

PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED.

PHH 5105-01 Greek Philosophy: Socratic Definitions Course ref. # 05170

(H)* (Prof. Russell Dancy) Thurs. 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD 181

We'll be studying the Socratic dialogues that focus on definitions and attempting to answer questions of the following kinds: What does Socrates think a correct definition would accomplish? Would it, in fact, accomplish that thing or those things? What conditions does he think an adequate definition will satisfy? Are those conditions appropriate? Do they fit together? Why does Socrates never actually get to an adequate definition? Answers to these questions provide a point of entry for the theory that dominates Plato's thought in the 'middle' dialogues: the 'Theory of Forms', which will be the subject of a seminar in the Spring semester.

PHI 6325-01 Philosophy of Mind: Irrationality Course ref. # 04755

(M&E)* (Prof. Al Mele) Mon. 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD 181

This course will explore human irrationality in two broad spheres – action and belief. The (apparent) phenomena that receive primary attention in the philosophical literature on irrationality are (1) action that manifests weakness of will (*akrasia*) and (2) self-deception. Accordingly, these topics are the primary ones in this course. Some of the assigned reading is recent literature in social psychology.

PHI 6506-01 Metaphysics Course ref. # 03699

(M&E)* (Prof. Thomas Crisp) Wed. 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD 181

This seminar will introduce students to some main topics and seminal papers of contemporary analytic metaphysics. Topics to be covered include: universals and particulars, propositions, facts, events, modality, identity, persistence, composition, and the realism/anti-realism debate. Readings in Russell, Kripke, Quine, Lewis, Bergmann, Black, Ayer, Armstrong, Robert Adams, Plantinga, van Inwagen, Chisholm, Prior, Kim, Davidson, Parfit, Perry, Dummett, Geach, and others.

PHI 6607-01 Ethics Course ref. # 03698

(V)* (Prof. Peter Dalton) Tues. 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD 181

The primary question of this seminar will be, What are moral philosophers to do if there is no truth in moral beliefs? We will reflect on this question by reading three authors who were acutely aware of it. We will study the key themes of Nietzsche's *The Genealogy of Morals*, though we will pay the most attention to its ultimate claim that because scientists and philosophers of the nineteenth century were unable to solve its crisis of values, they resigned themselves to pursuing a neutral objective truth. We will then look at some writings by Durkheim (mainly in his *Elementary Forms of Religious Belief* and *The Division of Labor in Society*) in which he argues that if we study how moral beliefs function in a society, we will find that, while they are not true or false, they do represent something real. Lastly, we will study some writings by Habermas in which he argues that worries about the truth of moral beliefs reflects 'scientism' (a false view of the supremacy of science); the crucial issue, instead, is whether moral beliefs are supported by good reasons.

*Fulfills history (H), value theory (V), or metaphysics and epistemology (M&E) distribution requirement for Philosophy graduate students.