

## Fall 2003 Undergraduate Courses

HUM 2937-01                      Humanities Seminar: Philosophy and Film                      T 9:30-12:15, 181 DOD  
Ref: 03000                      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 *The Searchers*, *Rear Window*, *8½*, *On the Waterfront*, *Jules et Jim*, *Some Like It Hot*, *Birth of a Nation*, *Taxi Driver*, *Ballad of a Soldier*, *The Seventh Seal*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, *Belle de Jour*, and others. There is no text and no final exam. All evaluation is based on classroom performance and the weekly written work.

PHI 2010-01                      Introduction to Philosophy                      MWF 1:25-2:15, 201 DIF  
Ref: 05305                      Instructor: Mr. Thomas Nadelhoffer                      (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to some of the perennial questions of philosophy. The course will begin with a brief overview of basic reasoning and critical thinking skills. Then, we will spend the rest of semester examining the following questions: Does God exist? What are the limits of knowledge? Do humans have free will? What is the nature of morality? What are the justifications for punishment? The goal of this course is to present the student with a fair treatment of both sides of these philosophical issues so that they will be in a better position to develop well-founded opinions of their own about some of the fundamental problems of philosophy.

PHI 2010-02                      Introduction to Philosophy                      TR 12:30-1:45, 103 DHA  
Ref: 00147                      Instructor: Prof. Eddy Nahmias                      (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

What is philosophy? In this course we will examine this question by doing philosophy-by considering philosophical questions, discussing them, and reading and writing about them. We will discuss questions such as: Can we know whether God exists? Why would a good God allow evil to exist? Do we have free will? Do we have souls? What is the nature of our minds? What is right and wrong? What is a good life?

PHI 2010-03                      Introduction to Philosophy                      TR 5:15-6:30, 103 DHA  
Ref: 00148                      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 and Critical Thinking                      TR 9:30-10:45, 180 BEL  
Ref: 05308                      Instructor: Mr. Jason Zinser                      (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Valid formulae and strong premises are essential tributaries to sound argumentation. Sound arguments are the head-waters 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                      MWF 11:15-12:05, 303 MCH  
Ref: 00149                      Instructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins                      (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

What makes an argument a good argument? Such analytic skills as identification and evaluation of arguments, as well as the ability to identify faulty reasoning and fallacious argumentation, will prove useful throughout life. In this course we will learn criteria that will allow us to determine the differences between various kinds of arguments, when a given argument is valid, invalid, weak or strong, and how to identify fallacies.

PHI 2100-03                      Reasoning and Critical Thinking                      MW 3:35-4:50, 231 WJB  
Ref: 04988                      Instructor: Mr. Charles Hermes                      (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

The general aim of this course is to provide students with the tools necessary to become more effective in their reasoning. Through examining patterns for effective thinking and some common mistakes that people make in their reasoning, students will become more capable of avoiding bad reasoning. By examining arguments, students will improve their skill in critically evaluating their own positions as well as those of others.

PHM 2121-01                      Philosophy of Race, Class, and Gender                      MWF 10:10-11:00, 105A BEL  
Ref: 04988                      Instructor: Dr. Russell Swanson                      (Liberal Studies/Multicult. Y)  
(Honors Only)

This course will introduce students to recent debates in the philosophy of race, class, and gender. Class time will be divided between lectures and discussions. Assigned readings will range from existential to analytical perspectives. Texts: Charles Mills, *Blackness Visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race*; Naomi Zack (ed.), *Race/Sex: Their Sameness, Difference, and Interplay*; bell hooks, *Where We Stand: Class Matters*. Students will be encouraged to be creative in discovering and presenting their own approach to these topics.

PHM 2300-01                      Intro. to Political Philosophy                      TR 3:35-4:50, 006 LSB  
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)

This course is designed as an introduction to applied ethics. We will first survey some of the predominant ethical theories. This will provide us with a foundation for reading and analyzing provocative contemporary articles on topics such as abortion, euthanasia, social justice, animal rights, and human cloning. We will consider proposed solutions to common ethical questions in these areas by critically examining a variety of arguments. Our goal will be not to resolve these difficult issues, but to better understand the complex moral dilemmas that we all face.

PHI 2630-02  
Ref: 00150

Ethical Issues and Life Choices  
Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard

TR 2:00-3:15, 103 DHA  
(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.

PHH 3130-01  
Ref: 05303

Plato and His Predecessors  
Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy

TR 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB  
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Western philosophy at its origin: from the poetry of Homer and Hesiod to the speculations of the 'monists' of Milesius, 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?

PHM 3123-85  
Ref: 00151

Philosophy of Feminism  
Instructors: Ms. Melissa Lammey  
Mr. Kermit Harrison

TR 11:00-12:15, 201 MCH  
(Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. Y)

This course is designed to introduce students to key aspects of feminist thought. We will discuss notions such as oppression, gender, sex, and sexism with a view to understanding the role that each plays in different feminist ideologies. Authors we will discuss include Marilyn Frye, Simone de Beauvoir, and bell hooks. We will discuss a wide variety of topics including sexual harassment and rape, marriage and motherhood, cosmetic surgery, and eating disorders. Perhaps most importantly, students enrolled in this course will develop a full understanding of academic integrity, or intellectual honesty. The ability to understand a viewpoint that may differ from one's own and evaluate it on its own merits is crucial to the successful completion of this course.

PHI 3130-01  
Ref: 05312

Introduction to Symbolic Logic  
Instructor: Prof. Piers Rawling

TR 11:00-12:15, 231 WJB

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  
Ref: 06443

Philosophy of Mind  
Instructor: Prof. John Roberts

TR 3:35-4:50, 002 LSB

Deeply embedded in our thinking is a distinction between mind and body. But what kind of difference does this distinction really mark? Are the mind and brain two completely different kinds of things? Is talk about "the mind" maybe just fanciful talk about behavior, or maybe a kind of shorthand for ways of talking about the activities of the brain? What sorts of things have minds? What sort of things don't? Do dogs have minds? How about fish? Snails? This course will take up these questions and study the ways that both contemporary and historical philosophers have pursued them.

PHM 3331-01  
Ref: 04796

Modern Political Thought  
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

TR 12:30-1:45, 204 DIF

The course will concentrate on selected classics in modern political thought. The views of the selected theorists will be critically assessed in terms of their responses to major problems in political philosophy. Topics to be considered may include sovereignty, rule of law, reasons of state, the state of nature, self-interest, human nature, social contract, natural law, utilitarianism, anarchy, representation, autonomy, liberty, freedom, equality, social distribution, constitutionalism, the Bill of Rights, morality and politics, religion and politics. Students will develop the ability to analyze works in political theory, and to explore the relevance of modern classical political ideas to ongoing political issues and political debate.

PHH 3400-01  
Ref: 03327

Modern Philosophy  
Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton

MWF 1:25-2:15, 002 LSB  
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

An introduction to most of the leading European philosophers, of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including Bacon, Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. The emphasis will be on the methodological, metaphysical, and epistemological problems these philosophers faced and how they tried to solve them. Some attention will also be given to religious and ethical issues.

PHI 3400-01  
Ref: 06657

Philosophy of Science  
Instructor: Prof. Zachary Ernst

MWF 12:20-1:10, 005 BEL  
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This will be a general survey of some of the most important and influential questions in the philosophy of science. Topics may include reductionism, the realism/antirealism debate, the relationships that hold between the special sciences, the nature of scientific explanation, and revolution in science.

PHM 3400-01  
Ref: 03284

Philosophy of Law  
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

TR 9:30-10:45, 002 LSB

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.

PHI 3670-01  
Ref: 03691

Ethical Theory  
Instructor: Prof. David McNaughton

TR 9:30-10:45, 008 LSB

We will study some of the main historical and contemporary ideas and arguments in both normative ethics and metaethics. Normative ethics seeks to discover the best moral theory. What makes actions right or wrong? Should we just be concerned with maximizing value, or do other considerations matter? Are there some kinds of action that are completely forbidden? What kinds of things are valuable? What makes a life go well? Metaethics addresses such issues as whether morality is objective and what, if any, are the reasons to be moral. Are there moral truths? Is morality relative-merely a 'matter of opinion'? Why be moral?

PHI 3882                      Philosophy in Literature  
Ref: 03687 (Section 01) Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton  
03340 (Section 02 - HONORS ONLY)

MWF 10:10-11:00, 116 BEL  
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule/Lit.)

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.

PHI 4500-01                      Metaphysics  
Ref: 06446                      Instructor: Prof. Cei Maslen

TR 12:30-1:45, 310 DIF

Metaphysics is the philosophical study of the structure of reality. We will cover a broad range of traditional topics (including free will, personal identity, the nature of objects, properties, causation and time) and finally consider some objections to the field as a whole.

PHI 4938-01                      Seminar for Majors: Game Theory and Morality    MW 3:35-4:50, 008 BEL  
Ref: 03693                      Instructor: Prof. Zachary Ernst

We will introduce the basic formalisms of game theory, and study how both philosophers and economists have attempted to use game theory to study issues concerning justice, fairness, cooperation, altruism, and rational coordination. We will pay special attention to the question of whether a purely formal and mathematical tool can shed light on conceptual and other philosophical problems from ethics and political philosophy. No background in game theory or any other mathematics will be assumed.

# Fall 2003 Graduate Classes

**PHI 5956-01 Introduction to Philosophical Methods** **Course ref. # 05327**  
**( Profs. Dalton, Maslen, Mele, Ruse)** **Thurs. 2:00-5:00 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, Hume, Popper, Kuhn, Hare, Stevenson, Moore, and contemporary writings. Emphasis will be placed on honing one's philosophical writing skills. PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR (DALTON) REQUIRED.

**PHI 5405-01 Modern Philosophy: Locke, Berkeley, Hume** **Course ref. # 07128**  
**(H)\* (Prof. John Roberts)** **Fri. 12:20-3:20 PM, DOD 181**

This course will be a study of the central works of Locke, Berkeley, and Hume with primary emphasis on their contributions to metaphysics and epistemology.

**PHI 5555-01 Metaphysics & Epistemology: Core Course** **Course ref. # 03253**  
**(Prof. Cei Maslen)** **Wed. 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD 181**

This is a broad survey course in contemporary metaphysics and epistemology requiring intensive study of works by such influential twentieth-century analytic philosophers as Quine and Kripke. A selection of the following topics will be covered: existence, identity, personal identity, modality, universals, causation, free will, truth, the mind-body problem, theories of justification and knowledge, skepticism, and naturalized epistemology. This course is reading-intensive, so a reading list will be made available to students well in advance, at the philosophy department office and website.

**PHI 5998-02 Teaching Philosophy** **Course ref. # 03249**  
**(Prof. Eddy Nahmias)** **Wed. 10:30 AM-12:00, DOD 181**

This course is intended to prepare philosophy graduate students to be more effective teaching assistants and instructors. We will: (1) discuss issues in the philosophy of teaching philosophy; (2) discuss practical questions and problems involved in teaching philosophy, including grading, leading discussions, and lecturing; and (3) develop various pedagogical techniques useful to teachers in any discipline. Students take the course pass/fail and will be expected to do assigned readings, actively participate in weekly classes, deliver a lecture, and prepare a sample syllabus. The course is mandatory for first and second year philosophy teaching assistants but is open to others.

**PHI 6325-01 Folk Concepts: Philosophical and  
(M&E)\* Psychological Perspectives  
(Prof. Al Mele)**

**Course ref. # 04755  
Mon. 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD 181**

This course explores four questions. What are philosophers trying to do when they offer analyses of such folk concepts as belief, knowledge, intention, and intentional action? What should they be trying to do when they offer analyses of such concepts? What is the potential bearing of empirical studies of folk concepts on efforts of philosophers to analyze those concepts? What is the potential bearing of attempted philosophical analyses of folk concepts on empirical studies of those concepts?

**PHI 6406-01 Biology, Philosophy, Religion  
(Profs. Ruse, Kelsay, Travis)**

**Course ref. # 03251  
Tues. 6:45-9:45 PM, DOD 181**

This is an interdisciplinary course, with faculty (Michael Ruse, Philosophy; John Kelsay, Religion; Joe Travis, Biology) and students from biology, philosophy, and religion. We shall be looking at some of the major issues in the life sciences, particularly evolution, but as interest and time allow such areas as molecular biology, technology (for instance, genetically modified foods), and ecology, seeing what issues are raised—for instance about reduction, about falsifiability, about implications for humankind and so forth. The aim throughout is to see what perspectives the three different disciplines throw on problems—for instance, is evolution just a theory to the scientist, and yet to the philosopher and the scholar of religion something much more interesting/threatening than other scientific theories, and if so why? What are the philosophical and theological implications of cloning, as opposed to the biological challenges? Is ecology a matter for anyone other than the scientist and why? The course will be part lecture, and part seminar. Students will be expected to give presentations, working with students from other disciplines. There will be a number of outside speakers.

**PHI 6607-01 Ethics  
(V)\* (Profs. David McNaughton and Piers  
Rawling)**

**Course ref. # 03698  
Tues. 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD 181**

Is the right act always the one with the best consequences? Deontologists deny this. But so do many consequentialists. What, then, is distinctive of consequentialism? And which is the more plausible moral theory, deontology or consequentialism? We shall explore various contemporary deontological and consequentialist positions (including direct and indirect act consequentialism and rule consequentialism), as well as contractualism. Authors to be discussed include: R. Adams, J. Dancy, Hooker, Kagan, Kamm, McDowell, Nagel, Parfit, Railton, Scanlon, Williams.

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