

## Fall 2005 Undergraduate Courses

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**PHI 2010-01** Introduction to Philosophy MWF 11:15-12:05, 231 WJB  
**Ref: 03278** Instructor: Prof. Sara Chant (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

An introduction to some of the central problems in philosophy. Students will also learn how to construct and criticize arguments, and develop their own philosophical problems.

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**PHI 2010-02** Introduction to Philosophy MWF 12:20-1:10, 103 DHA  
**Ref: 06161** Instructor: Josh Cline (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 as we work our way through these core areas are: What are the principles of good reasoning? Does God exist? When and how do we truly have knowledge? What makes an action morally right or wrong? What is the nature of our minds, and what is the mind's relationship to the body? After a survey of previously suggested answers given by various philosophers, students will be encouraged to come up with their own conclusions regarding such questions.

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**PHI 2010-03** Introduction to Philosophy TR 5:15-6:30, 103 DHA  
**Ref: 06162** Instructor: Prof. 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 the 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 students 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.

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**PHI 2010-04** HONS Introduction to Philosophy MWF 1:25-2:15, 116 DIF  
**Ref: 07449** Instructor: Prof. Zach Ernst (HONORS ONLY)

An introduction to some of the central problems in philosophy. Students will also learn how to construct and criticize arguments, and develop their own philosophical problems.

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**PHI 2100-01/03** Reasoning and Critical Thinking MWF 9:05-9:55, 006 LSB  
**Ref: 03279** Instructor: Joe Olechnowicz (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

An introductory logic course intended to provide students with an understanding of and practice in using reasoning to support conclusions and decisions. The course emphasizes acquisition of the skills necessary to draft clear, persuasive arguments and is particularly useful for those planning further studies in fields such as Law or Business.

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**PHI 2100-02/04** Reasoning and Critical Thinking TR 9:30-10:45, 103 DHA  
**Ref: 06163** Instructor: Prof. Thomas Nadelhoffer (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

What is a good argument? How do arguments work? What makes some arguments better than others? What is the practical relevance of logical thought? What is the relationship between logic and the law? The purpose of this course is to equip students with the basic reasoning skills that are necessary for recognizing and analyzing argumentation as it occurs in a variety of contexts such as editorials, discussions, speeches, argumentative essays, philosophical texts, and legal cases. To accomplish this, we will study the components of good arguments, different types of arguments, common ways that arguments can go wrong, and techniques for criticizing and constructing arguments.

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**PHI 2620-01**                      **Environmental Ethics**                      **MWF 12:20-1:10, 320 WMS**  
**Ref: 07452**                      **Instructor: Jason Zinser**

This course will look at the ethical issues in biology in general, and environmental issues in particular. We will begin with a general overview of the philosophical foundations of ethics before we narrow our focus to the natural world. Topics that will be covered in the course include: deep ecology, animal rights, sustaining the environment, environmental activism, what counts as “natural”, genetically modified foods, and others.

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**PHI 2630-01/04**                      **Ethical Issues and Life Choices**                      **TR 2:00-3:15, 303 MCH**  
**Ref: 03280**                      **Instructor: Tina Huggins**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

Our culture and personal lives are laden with ethical issues and decisions, including hotly contested moral controversies like abortion, animal rights, welfare, the legal status of drugs and the moral status of homosexuality. This course will not only cover the traditional ethical theories of moral philosophy, but will also provide students with the necessary practical tools with which to tackle these contemporary debates. Students should walk away from this class with not only a deeper understanding of these complex moral issues, but also the skills needed to engage in moral reasoning for a lifetime.

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**PHI 2630-02/05**                      **Ethical Issues and Life Choices**                      **MWF 2:30-3:20, 201 DIF**  
**Ref: 06164**                      **Instructor: Bobby Robinson**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

A course that will draw on ethical theories to explore the major ethical issues that one faces as one makes decisions about the kinds of activities to engage in and the kind of life to lead. Issues such as those involving life and death (e.g. abortion, euthanasia, animal rights) and social justice (e.g. discrimination, responsibility to future generations) will be examined.

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**PHI 2630-03**                      **HONS Ethical Issues and Life Choices**                      **TR 11:00-12:15, 118 BEL**  
**Ref: 07451**                      **Instructor: Prof. David McNaughton**                      **(HONORS ONLY)**

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 coherent theory of what is morally relevant and why. And so our views run the risk of being mere prejudices. In this course, we will first examine a number of moral theories, e.g., utilitarianism and Kantian ethics. Then we will discuss some specific ethical issues in light of these theories to see how well our views stand up to critical scrutiny. These issues may include euthanasia, capital punishment, pornography and censorship, world hunger, animal rights, and environmental ethics.

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**PHM 3123-01**                      **Philosophy of Feminism**                      **TR 11:00-12:15, 103 DHA**  
**Ref: 03308**                      **Instructor: Melissa Lammey**                      **(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. Theories we will discuss include liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, existentialist feminism, and global and multicultural feminism. We will discuss a wide variety of topics including marriage and motherhood, cosmetic surgery, eating disorders, and pornography. 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.

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**PHH 3130-01**                      **Plato and his Predecessors**                      **MWF 2:30-3:20, 002 LSB**  
**Ref: 03275**                      **Instructor: Jeremy Kirby**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

Western philosophy at its source: from the speculations of the monists of Miletus, and the critical theology of Xenophanes, to Heraclitean flux and Eleatic monism. From the first Socratic to the first Platonist. We’ll consider the views of Plato and his predecessors, with an eye to better understanding the structure of reality and our relation to it.

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<b>PHI 3130-01</b>	<b>Introduction to Symbolic Logic</b>	<b>TR 12:30-1:45, 121B WMS</b>
<b>Ref: 03281</b>	<b>Instructor: Prof. Piers Rawling</b>	<b>(Liberal Studies – Mathematics)</b>

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.

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<b>PHI 3220-01</b>	<b>Introduction to Philosophy of Language</b>	<b>MW 5:15-6:30, 002 LSB</b>
<b>Ref: 03282</b>	<b>Instructor: Prof. Joshua Gert</b>	

The topic of this course is the relation between language and the world: how do sentences say things about objects? What is it for a sound or a printed symbol to have meaning? The primary focus will be on Saul Kripke's extremely influential book, *Naming and Necessity*, which offers a comprehensive theory about how names manage to refer to the things they name, about differences between certain kinds of referring expressions, and about the relationship between how we come to know certain truths, and the modal status of those truths (that is, whether those truths are necessary or contingent). We will begin by reading some of the philosophers who Kripke criticized (Frege and Russell), and then, after reading Kripke, we will read some of the things philosophers have said about Kripke.

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<b>HI 3320-01</b>	<b>Philosophy of Mind</b>	<b>MW 3:35-4:50, 005 MON</b>
<b>Ref: 03284</b>	<b>Instructor: Prof. Thomas Nadelhoffer</b>	

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to some of the perennial questions in the philosophy of mind—including, what does it mean to have a mind? What is the “mark of mentality?” What is the relationship between the mind and the body? What is the relationship between my “inner” mental states and my “outward” behavior? Can machines think? What do our beliefs refer to? What is the nature of consciousness? Is common-sense folk psychology threatened by the scientific study of mental states and processes? In attempting to answer these questions, we will examine classics in the philosophy of mind by Rene Descartes, Gilbert Harman, Jerry Fodor, Daniel Dennett, Hilary Putnam, David Armstrong, J.J.C. Smart, Jaegwon Kim, Carl Hempel, Paul Churchland, Alan Turing, John Searle, Lynne Rudder Baker, and others.

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<b>PHM 3331-01/02</b>	<b>Modern Political Thought</b>	<b>TR 3:35-4:50, 108 SAN</b>
<b>Ref: 03309</b>	<b>Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton</b>	

This will be a survey of the leading political thinkers of this era, with an emphasis on individuality and democracy. We will begin with Machiavelli, and progress through Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, two conservatives (Hume and Burke), the U.S. Constitution, Tocqueville (on the dangers of equality), Mill (on liberty) and Marx and Engels (on their criticism of individual rights and free markets). [Meets with PHM 3331-02, Department of Political Science, ref. no. 07469].

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<b>PHH 3400-01</b>	<b>Modern Philosophy</b>	<b>TR 9:30-10:45, 002 LSB</b>
<b>Ref: 03276</b>	<b>Instructor: Prof. John Roberts</b>	<b>(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)</b>

In 1633 Galileo was condemned by the Inquisition and his masterpiece defending the Copernican conception of the solar system, the *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World-Systems*, was placed on the list of prohibited books. Almost immediately, philosophy began in a new key. Rene Descartes boldly undertook the project of providing a coherent account of the legitimacy of scientific practice while at the same time circumscribing the extent of its authority over our knowledge of the nature and structure of reality. His work was deeply influential, but the project he undertook remains unfinished, even to this day. In this course we will limit ourselves to a study of the philosophical developments of the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe and Britain. We will begin with Descartes' great contribution, his *Meditations on First Philosophy*, and move on to criticisms, developments, and occasionally, revolutionary breakthroughs initiated by later thinkers, including Nicolas Malebranche, John Locke, Bishop Berkeley, and David Hume.

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**PHI 3400-01**                      **Philosophy of Science**                      **MW 3:35-4:50, 002 LSB**  
**Ref: 07453**                      **Instructor: Prof. Zach Ernst**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

A close look at some of the crucial philosophical problems of the sciences as they have developed throughout history, from Aristotle to Galileo, Pasteur, and Einstein, including what methods count as scientific, along with a consideration of how science has changed the world and the role of values.

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**PHM 3400-01**                      **Philosophy of Law**                      **TR 9:30-10:45, LSB 002**  
**Ref: 03127**                      **Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales**

What is law? What, if any, is the relationship between law and morality, esp. justice? How does our legal system work? On what grounds do judges (and other legal professionals) justify their opinions and practices? These questions are among those we will try to elucidate in this course. We will discuss some classics of Anglo-American jurisprudence, representative of the main philosophical schools of legal thought (natural law, legal positivism, and legal realism). We will also study theories of statutory and Constitutional interpretation and apply them to the analysis of legal cases. Much of the material in this course is abstract and difficult, so you should be warned that you need to do the readings ahead of time and come to class prepared to concentrate on argument analysis and discussion.

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**PHH 3500-01**                      **19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy**                      **TR 12:30-1:45, 002 LSB**  
**Ref: 07455**                      **Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton**

This is an era of grand theories, covering everything from metaphysics to epistemology, ethics and religion. The philosophers of this era offer a complete world view, including a broad guide for how humans should live. We focus on the five most influential ones: Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Marx, and Nietzsche.

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**PHI 3670-01**                      **Ethical Theory**                      **TR 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB**  
**Ref: 03285**                      **Instructor: Prof. David McNaughton**

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’?

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**PHI 3700-01/02**                      **Philosophy of Religion**                      **TR 11:00-12:15, 006 LSB**  
**Ref: 05966**                      **Instructor: Prof. Matthew Day (REL)**

This course introduces students to classic philosophical reflections on such questions as: Can religious claims about the nature of the world and human existence be proved? Can they be disproved? Are there ever good reasons for accepting a religious belief as true? Or, do the dictates of reason demand that we reject all such beliefs as nonsensical? Typical figures discussed include Augustine, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Pascal. [Meets with PHI 3700-02, Department of Religion, ref. no. 07470].

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**PHM 4340-01/02**                      **Contemporary Political Thought**                      **TR 11:00-12:15, 002 LSB**  
**Ref: 07456**                      **Instructor: Prof. Victoria Costa**

This course provides a survey of some of the central approaches, methods and debates in contemporary political philosophy. We will discuss issues of social justice from the theoretical perspectives of liberalism, utilitarianism, libertarianism, socialism, feminism, and communitarianism. One of the problems we will discuss is: How should social goods be distributed for their distribution to be fair? Is the free market an adequate mechanism to guarantee just distributions, or should we look at the level of satisfaction of people’s needs or preferences? What should be done if the current situation is in part the result of serious past injustices? 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. [Meets with PHM 4340-02, Department of Political Science, ref. no. 07471].

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**PHI 4500-01**

**Ref: 07458**

**Metaphysics**

**Instructor: Prof. Sara Chant**

**MWF 1:25-2:15, 002 LSB**

Critical consideration of recent philosophical work from a variety of points of view on the question of what exists, for example: matter, mind, time, space, universal properties, causes, and essences.

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**PHI 4938-01**

**Ref: 03291**

**Seminar for Majors: Rationality**

**Instructor: Prof. Joshua Gert**

**TR 11:00-12:15, 181 DOD  
(SENIOR MAJORS ONLY)**

The notion of rationality is a normative notion, like the notion of morality: if an action is irrational it follows that one shouldn't do it. Despite the greater amount philosophical attention that morality gets, the notion of rationality is in some sense more basic. For example, most moral philosophers, in presenting their arguments for why we should behave morally, rely on some prior normative notion. And usually that notion is either the notion of a reason for action, or the notion of rational action. And yet there is much less consensus about the nature of practical rationality. In this class, we will examine various theories of practical rationality and reasons, and various debates about the conditions that an adequate theory of rationality needs to meet. Should it be taken as given that it is always rationally required to be moral? That it is always rationally permissible?

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## Fall 2005 Graduate Courses

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**PHH 5405-01**                      **Central Topics in Early Modern Philosophy**                      **Course ref. # 07459**  
**(H)\***                                      **(Prof. John Roberts)**                                      **Tuesday 2:00-5:00 PM, 181 DOD**

This seminar will cover topics in metaphysics and epistemology central to 17th and 18th century Continental and British philosophy. Readings will be drawn from Descartes, Malebranche, Leibniz, Bayle, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Reid, as well as from contemporary secondary sources.

**PHH 5609-01**                      **Contemporary Political Philosophy: Rawls**                      **Course ref. # 07461**  
**(V)\***                                      **(Prof. Victoria Costa)**                                      **Thursday 2:00-5:00 PM, 181 DOD**

This course will focus on the evolution of John Rawls' theory of social justice. This theory has made a substantial contribution to the understanding of what the justice of a scheme of social institutions might consist in, as something that can be measured in terms of two principles of justice. Although Rawls' approach has received innumerable criticisms, it has, nevertheless, been one of basic sources of the theoretical debate about social justice for the last three decades. During this course we will examine the early version of the theory of justice as fairness, as presented in *A Theory of Justice* (1971), and we will discuss some of the main criticisms that Rawls has received. Finally, we will analyze the changes in the justification of the principles of justice introduced by Rawls to address his critics in his later writings, in particular in *Political Liberalism* (1993).

**PHM 6205-01**                      **Philosophy of Gender and Race**                      **Course ref. # 03311**  
**(V)\***                                      **(Prof. Maria Morales)**                                      **Wednesday 2:30-5:30 PM, 181 DOD**

Gender and race theory have become established areas of philosophical inquiry. In this course we will investigate some recent work on the social construction of gender and race from a philosophical perspective. Our goal will be twofold. First, we will analyze the notion of social construction, including the question whether and how social constructivism in race and gender theory differs from other forms of constructivism in social philosophy. We will examine different theoretical accounts of the concepts of gender and race and ask whether (and why) some might be sounder than others and which analytical tools are most useful in the examination of gender and race as social and political phenomena. Finally, we will be asking under what conditions "social kinds" might be oppressive. The second goal of the course is to explore questions of identity as they relate to debates about the "reality" of gender and race, notably how the constructs of gender and race affect the formation of a sense of self. Other critical questions we will ask are whether we should give up gender and racial identification and whether the constructs of gender and race have any use in nonsexist and nonracist theory.

**PHI 6325-01**                      **Mind and Action**                      **Course ref. # 07464**  
**(M&E)\***                                      **(Prof. Al Mele)**                                      **Monday 2:30-5:30 PM, 181 DOD**

This seminar will explore central issues in the philosophy of action that fall squarely into the philosophy of mind: for example, the role of mental states in the production of actions and the place of consciousness in human agency.

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**PHI 6406-01**

**Philosophy of Science, Biology & Religion**  
**(Profs. Ruse, Travis, and Kelsay)**

**Course ref. # 07468**  
**Tuesday 6:30-9:30 PM, 207 DOD**

This is an interdisciplinary course, with faculty (Michael Ruse, Philosophy; Joe Travis, Biology; John Kelsay, Religion) and students from philosophy, biology, 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.

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