

Fall 1999 Undergraduate Courses

LIBERAL STUDIES (GORDON RULE) COURSES:

Introduction to Philosophy	Section 01: MWF 11:15-12:05, BEL 229	Ref: 04865
Instructor: <u>Prof. Peter Dalton</u>	Section 02: MWF 1:25-2:15, MCH 303	Ref: 04866
PHI 2010	Section 04: MWF 1:25-2:15, MCH 303	Ref: 07035
	(Section 04, HONORS ONLY)	

This course will study some of the problems that have concerned philosophers, as well as the methods and standards they have used in trying to solve those problems. The emphasis will be on ideas that have strongly influenced our highly individualistic and materialistic society. Those ideas will concern religion, politics, liberty and toleration, scientific knowledge, and the conflict between objectivity and subjectivity. Students may take a few quizzes, but all other required work will consist of four take-home assignments that will be a mix of essays and short answers. The readings will be from Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise*, Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*, Hume's *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Mill's *On Liberty*, and Nagel's *The Last Word*.

Introduction to Philosophy	TR 11:00-12:15, DIF 201	PHI 2010-03
Instructor: <u>Mr. Justin Barnard</u>		Ref: 04867

The purpose of this course is to study a sampling of significant philosophical problems from two vantage points, the first historical, the second thematic. First, we will survey some key figures from the Modern Period: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. We will examine their inquiry into such philosophical questions as: What do we really know? How do we know it? What is the nature of the Self? Second, we will wrestle with questions in ethics both theoretical and practical. We will seek to understand and evaluate historical responses to these problems from important philosophers in the Western tradition, and begin to form responses of our own.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking	MW 5:15-6:30, FLH 255	PHI 2100-01
Instructor: <u>Mr. Adam Sipos</u>		Ref: 04868

"All whales are mammals, and Socrates is a mammal; so, Socrates is a whale." This is clearly a poor argument, but deciding whether someone's reasoning is strong or weak is not always this straightforward, and determining why it is strong or weak can be even more challenging. In this course, we shall develop resources for handling these sorts of problems. We begin by investigating certain general features of language and its use. We then apply these results to the more specific tasks of analyzing and evaluating arguments. By developing these techniques, the student will be acquiring analytical skills that should prove useful in any field in which clear-headed thinking is a virtue.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking

TR 9:30-10:45, DIF 201

PHI 2100-02

Instructor: Mr. Greg Smith

Ref: 04869

In everyday life we reason about our decisions and conclusions. But how do we know whether our reasoning is good? In this course, we will study this question using the methods of informal logic to analyze and evaluate arguments drawn mainly from ordinary life. This course is particularly useful for students in the humanities as well as for those preparing for careers in law or business or studying for the LSAT or GRE.

Ethical Issues and Life Choices

Section 01: MWF 12:20-1:10, LSB 006

Ref: 04870

Instructor: Dr. Russell Swanson

Section 03: MWF 12:20;1:10, LSB 006

Ref: 07036

PHI 2630

(Section 03, HONORS ONLY)

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of philosophical ethics. We will first look at some of the most famous and influential figures in the history of ethical theory. In the rest of the course we will use these maps of moral experience to explore some of the most important ethical issues for the new millennium, such as war and violence, our treatment of the planet and its other inhabitants, interpersonal relationships, and economic justice.

Ethical Issues and Life Choices

TR 12:30-1:45, DHA 103

PHI 2630-02

Instructor: Dr. Barbara LaBossiere

Ref: 04871

This course will introduce students to contemporary ethical controversies and the philosophical tools necessary for critically evaluating them. After an introduction to the traditional philosophical methods used for argument construction and criticism, we will take a brief look at the classic philosophical approaches to moral problems and their solutions. The majority of the course, however, is devoted to evaluating the moral controversies presented by contemporary theorists. Topics include sexual morality, pornography, abortion, euthanasia, and animal rights.

Plato and His Predecessors

MWF 10:10-11:00, DIF 310

PHH 3130-01

Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

Ref: 04861

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 (e.g., the Phaedo, Republic, and Symposium), and late period (e.g., 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.

Introduction to Political Philosophy MWF 1:25-2:15, BEL 143 PHM 2300-01
Instructor: Mr. Brad Hadaway (MULTICULT. "X") Ref: 04895

In this course we will consider some of the most influential ideas in the history of political philosophy, beginning with ancient times and proceeding through the Medieval and Modern periods to the 20th century. We will look both at historical texts and recent criticisms of them. Readings will include Western, Asian, and African political philosophy, as well as examples of feminist criticisms, and it will be important for students to recognize and reflect on the similarities and differences between these approaches. Issues discussed will include the nature of political society, the justification of political authority, the importance of economic structures for political systems, and the relationship between citizens and the state.

Philosophy of Feminism TR 3:35-4:50, SAN 115 PHM 3123-85
Instructor: Ms. Rebecca Ford (MULTICULT. "Y") Ref: 04896

This course will cover several kinds of feminist political theories and the philosophical traditions from which they both emerge and differ. Each type of feminist philosophy includes a fundamentally different analysis of the sources of and solutions to the oppression of women. The course will also discuss the practical application of these theories and how they have brought about changes in society. **Women's Studies core course.**

OTHER COURSES (ALL OPEN TO NON-MAJORS):

The Medieval Philosophers TR 11:00-12:15, DOD 181 HUM 2937-05
Instructor: Dr. Mike Barker (HONORS ONLY) Ref: 07126

This course is designed for students new to philosophy. While the philosophers of the medieval era seem shrouded in the distant past, we shall see that many of their concerns are ours still today. Many of the issues they dealt with pertain to the philosophical foundations of the western religious tradition. For example: Can we prove that God exists? Are our lives parts of some greater plan? Do we have free will? Can the fact that bad things happen be reconciled with the existence of a beneficent, omnipotent God? We will use representative texts from Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Duns Scotus, and Ockham to frame the philosophical issues and motivate informal discussions not only of the philosophical thought of the medieval era, but also of those issues we find pertinent today.

19th Century Philosophy MWF 9:05-9:55, DIF 310 PHH 3500-01
Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton Ref: 04862

This course will be a survey of the main ideas of the leading European and American philosophers of the nineteenth century. This is an era of great theoretical systems that try to reveal all realities (including some you've never heard of) and solve all problems. The greatest emphasis in the course will be on Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Marx, and Nietzsche. Readings will be from an anthology entitled *Nineteenth-Century Philosophy*, Schopenhauer's *The World as Will and Representation*, and Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morals*.

Introduction to Symbolic Logic

TR 11:00-12:15, CON 222

PHI 3130-01

Instructor: Prof. Sam Rickless

Ref: 04872

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.

Knowledge and Belief

MWF 11:15-12:05, DIF 310

PHI 3300-01

Instructor: Prof. Jack Lyons

Ref: 04873

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, and reliabilism, and to how such theories explain what is reasonable about perceptual belief, probabilistic judgments, and beliefs about necessary truths.

Philosophy of Religion

TR, 11:00-12:15, HTL 104

PHI 3700-01

Instructor: Prof. David Kangas

Ref: 04875

A discussion of topics such as the rationality of religious belief, faith, religious experience, religious language, evil, and the relation between religion and morality. Offered this semester by the Department of Religion. Readings will be from Anselm, Maimonides, Hume, Dostoevsky, Wiesel, Freud, and Kierkegaard. Contact the Department of Religion (644-1020) for further information. (Meets with PHI 3700-02, listed by Dept. of Religion, ref. # 04876.)

Metaphysics

TR 3:35-4:50, LSB 002

PHI 4500-01

Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

Ref: 04877

Metaphysics is the traditional branch of philosophy that examines fundamental questions about the way of the world. Some of the questions to be covered in this course are the following: what is the nature of identity (when does something persist through change?); what is the nature of the self?, of causation?; which kinds of thing exist? (what's an object? a property? a relation? a class? a fact? a thought?); what's the difference between necessity and contingency?; do things have essences? We shall look at historical as well as contemporary readings.

Modern Political Thought
Instructor: Prof. Donald Hodges

TR 9:30-10:45, DIF 310

PHM 3331-01
Ref: 04897

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. (Joint-listed in Dept. of Political Science: PHM 3331-02, ref. # 04898.)

Introduction to Marxist Philosophy TR 2:00-3:15, CAR 100
Instructor: Prof. Donald Hodges

PHM 3350-01
Ref: 04899

An introduction to the principal dimensions of Marxist political theory: (1) political philosophy (goals and their justification); (2) political strategy (means and their implementation); (3) political history (classes and class struggle); (4) political sociology (who gets what, when, how, and why); and (5) political economy (competing modes of production).

Existentialism
Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy

TR 12:30-1:45, DIF 310

PHP 3786-01
Ref: 04900

We'll read and discuss selections from the four pillars of existentialism: Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Nietzsche (1844-1900), Heidegger (1889-1976), and Sartre (1905-1980). The term 'existentialism' was coined by Sartre, repudiated by Heidegger, and of course neither Kierkegaard nor Nietzsche had ever heard of it; so we'll have to consider whether the single label 'existentialist' really fits them all. Among the topics for discussion are: the meaning of life and death; freedom, responsibility, and choice; God; what it is to be human; rationality; negation, despair, and anxiety.

Fall 1999 Graduate Courses

Introduction to Philosophical Methods Thurs 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD Ref: 04883
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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.

Aristotle's Politics Wed 6:45-9:45 PM, DOD (H)*
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Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales PHH 5105-01/6009 Ref: 04863 / 04864

Scholarly interest in Aristotle's political thought has been on the rise in recent years, because of its prominent place in contemporary debates in political philosophy over the value of 'community' and the 'social' aspects of human life. Of course, Aristotle's political thought has had an enormous historical influence, not limited to this 'revival' in the late 20th century. Furthermore, it is of intrinsic interest to anyone seeking an understanding of Aristotle's conception of the practical sciences and of the human good, including morality. In this seminar we shall study in detail Aristotle's *Politics* and some of the most important critical work on it (both 'older' and 'newer'), including Fred Miller, *Nature, Justice, and Rights in Aristotle's Politics*.

Frege: Philosophies of Mathematics and Language Tues 6:45-9:45 PM, DOD PHI 6205-01 (03)
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Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung (M&E)* Ref: 04886

This seminar will examine the philosophical development of Gottlob Frege. This development may be divided into three distinct periods: (1) the early period (1879-1891) is characterized by the discovery of the 'new logic', its employment to understand and analyze language, the attempt to show that arithmetic is a part of it, the formulations of the 'context principle' and criterion of objecthood, and the attack against 'psychologism'; (2) the middle period (1891-1906) includes the introduction of the sense/reference distinction and truth-values as the referents of sentences, discussion of what can and cannot be said, and treatment of the problem of opacity; and (3) as a result the failure to solve Russell's paradox, the late period (1906-25) returns to a Kantian philosophy of mathematics and rejects parts of the new logic as illusory. Readings will include parts of *Foundations of Arithmetic*, parts of *Begriffsschrift*, 'Function and Concept', 'On Sense and Reference', 'On Concept and Object', 'What is a Function', 'Thoughts', 'Negation', 'Compound Thoughts', and relevant correspondence.

Philosophical Topics: Naturalized Epistemology

Instructor: Prof. Jack Lyons

Mon 6:45-9:45 PM, DOD

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(M&E)*

PHI 6935-01 (03)

Ref: 04889

The debate about naturalized epistemology is largely a debate about the epistemology of epistemology. The traditional view has it that epistemology (and philosophy more generally) is a purely a priori discipline and, in that respect, completely discontinuous with the natural sciences. Defenders of naturalized epistemology, however, insist that epistemology should be continuous with (or perhaps even replaced by) the empirical sciences, especially cognitive science. According to these authors, empirical findings should contribute to the formulation and testing of epistemological theories. This course focusses on questions about (a) the relevance of empirical scientific findings vis-à-vis the normative theories that are central to epistemological theorizing, (b) the consequences for philosophical methodology more generally, and (c) the nature and existence of a priori knowledge.

Philosophical Topics: Challenges to Theism

Instructor: Prof. Gordon Lyon

Tues 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD

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(M&E)*

PHI 6935-02 (03)

Ref: 08726

Several challenges to the rationality of belief in the existence of God arise from analysis of the attributes traditionally ascribed to God by classical theists. We shall focus on the Problem of Evil, which depends on the assumption that God is supremely good, and the Problem of Foreknowledge and Freedom, which arises from the attribute of omniscience. Along the way, we shall consider difficulties related to divine omnipotence and the question of whether there could be a timeless God who created, and intervenes in, the universe. The course will have a strong historical focus; we will study extracts from Augustine, Boethius, al-Kindi, Anselm, Maimonides, Aquinas, and Ockham, as well as modern readings in Adams and Adams (eds.), *The Problem of Evil*, recent monographs by William Hasker and Linda Trinkaus Zagzebski, and a debate about God and modern physics.

*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: Epistemology (Prof. Sam Rickless); hours/room TBA; ref. # 04890