

Spring 2000 Undergraduate Courses

LIBERAL STUDIES (GORDON RULE) COURSES:

Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Prof. Dana Nelkin
PHI 2010

Sect. 01: MWF 11:15-12:05, MCH 301 Ref: 05108

Sect. 02: MWF 1:25-2:15, MCH 303 Ref: 05109

Sect. 04: MWF 11:15-12:05, MCH 301 Ref: 05111

(Section 04, HONORS ONLY)

In this course, we will confront the following fundamental questions: Can we know that there is a world outside of our minds? Does God exist? Do we have free will? What is the relationship between our minds and bodies? Are actions right and wrong absolutely or only relative to certain social practices? What is the meaning of life? Philosophers have offered a number of answers to each of these questions and have provided challenging arguments for their views. After learning a variety of analytic skills, we will put them to use in assessing these arguments and judging the merits of the various answers.

Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Mr. Brad Hadaway

TR 2:00-3:15, DIF 201

PHI 2010-03

Ref: 05110

This course will serve to introduce students to a broad range of philosophical problems and to the methods of investigation by which they can make progress in solving those problems. The three philosophical questions which will captivate the majority of our time are: (1) Is there a God? (2) What can I know, and how can I know it? and (3) What is the morally right thing to do? We'll begin the class with an introduction to philosophical methods, so that students will develop the skills necessary to critically address the issues at hand. Then we'll read the classic Western responses to our three questions (authors will include Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume, Locke, Descartes, etc.), and these historical sources will be supplemented by relevant contemporary readings. We will seek to understand and evaluate the philosophers' positions, and we will also learn to develop our own philosophical thought about these issues.

Reasoning & Critical Thinking

Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos

MWF 12:20-1:10, CAR 101

PHI 2100-01

Ref: 05112

"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 5:15-6:30, LOV 101

PHI 2100-02

Instructor: Mr. Greg Smith

Ref: 05113

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

TR 3:35-4:50, LSB 006

PHI 2630-01

Instructor: Prof. Gordon Lyon

Ref: 05114

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of ethics. In the first five weeks, we shall consider ethical theories, including Utilitarian, Kantian, Aristotelian, and feminist approaches to morality. In the following ten weeks, we shall consider how such theories are applied to contemporary moral issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, our treatment of animals and the environment, sexuality, and pornography.

Ethical Issues and Life Choices

MWF 10:10-11:00, MCH 201

PHI 2630-02

Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard

Ref: 05115

Invariably, people will face decisions of moral import in life. Should I get a divorce? Do I have a moral obligation to take care of my parents? Are there any circumstances in which I am justified in terminating my own (or someone else's) life? Am I under a moral obligation to give to the poor? Answering such questions often requires careful moral deliberation. In this course we will survey methods of moral reasoning and examine a sampling of responses to vital moral questions such as these. In light of our examination we will also begin to form responses of our own.

Introduction to Political Philosophy

MW 3:35-4:50, LSB 006

PHM 2300-01

Instructor: Dr. Barbara LaBossiere

MULTICULT. "X"

Ref: 05139

This class will explore some of the most influential theories in the history of political philosophy. We will begin with the classic arguments for various kinds of political governments, which include discussions of human nature, the political state, economics, political authority, and punishment. We will then examine contemporary approaches to problems such as civil disobedience, rights, and revolution.

HONORS Intro. to Political Philosophy

MWF 12:20-1:10, DIF 310

PHM 2300-02

Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

(MULTICULT. "X")

Ref: 05140

An introductory course on some of the most important issues in political philosophy throughout the world. Our readings will include selections from Western, Asian, and African philosophers, as well as examples of feminist criticism of Western political philosophy. Issues to be discussed include the nature of government, the justification of political authority, and the relationship between citizens and the state. Schools we will become familiar with include communitarianism, liberalism, libertarianism, and socialism.

Aristotle to Augustine
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

MW 2:30-3:45, LSB 002

PHH 3140-01
Ref: 05103

A survey of Ancient Greek philosophy from Aristotle to the Hellenistic schools-Epicureanism, Stoicism, and Skepticism-which developed in response to Aristotle and earlier Greek thought. Our comprehensive survey of Aristotle will include the development of his metaphysical ideas from the *Categories* to the *Metaphysics*, his psychological and physical theories in *De Anima* and the *Physics*, and his influential ethical and political views in the *Nicomachean Ethics* and the *Politics*. When we survey the Hellenistic schools, we will reflect on how philosophical positions can shape particular ways of life. Our discussions of these philosophers will support the view that philosophy is not, as many believe, divorced from central questions about human life in its various dimensions.

Modern Philosophy
Instructor: Dr. Mike Barker

MWF 10:10-11:00, BEL 222

PHH 3400-01
Ref: 05104

An introduction to the leading European philosophers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, such as 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 on how they tried to solve them.

History and Philosophy of Science
Instructor: Prof. Jack Lyons

MWF 11:15-12:05, DIF 310

PHI 3400-01
Ref: 05117

In this course, we will examine the basic nature of the scientific enterprise, asking such questions as: (i) what exactly is science? (ii) does science provide our best (and only) means to truth? (iii) does science really progress toward truth? (iv) what is the nature of scientific explanation? To this end, we will look at some of the history of science (though students will not have to learn any dates) and at the contemporary debate concerning "scientific creationism."

Philosophy of Art
Instructor: Prof. Pat Matthews

MW 5:15-6:30, DIF 230

PHI 3800-01
Ref: 05119

In this course we will study fundamental philosophical questions about beauty and art. In the first part, we will discuss the nature of beauty: What makes an object beautiful? Is beauty in the eye of the beholder? Can the use of an object contribute to its beauty? In the second part, we will consider historical and contemporary theories of art: In virtue of what is something a work of art? Is it possible that there is nothing at all that all works of art have in common? In the third part, we will address a series of more particular questions, including the following: Can we appreciate the beauty of art like we appreciate the beauty of nature? Can buildings say anything to us? How is it possible for a two-dimensional painting to look like the world? How does photography differ from painting? What is the role of public art?

OTHER COURSES (ALL OPEN TO NON-MAJORS EXCEPT PHI 4938):

Philosophy of Mind

MWF 1:25-2:15, LSB 002

PHI 3320-01

Instructor: Prof. Jack Lyons

Ref: 05116

Is it possible to have a science of the mind? Can we really solve the mind-body problem? Currently, the most promising approach is that embodied by contemporary cognitive science: an interdisciplinary effort including psychology, neuroscience, computer science, and philosophy. In this course, we will examine the foundations of cognitive science: How do we bridge the gap between the physical (the brain) and the mental (the mind)? Is the brain really just an organic computer, and the mind just the software that runs on it (if so, what kind of computer, and what does this really mean)? Would such a claim help to explain how a physical thing is capable of thinking, feeling, understanding, and experiencing? In trying to answer these questions, we will look at contemporary discussions in some of the relevant empirical disciplines as well as in philosophy.

Philosophy of Law

MW 5:15-6:30, BEL 120

PHM 3400-01

Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

Ref: 05141

This course is a comprehensive introduction to some of the most important issues in philosophy of law. We will focus on theories of law-that is, 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.

Ethical Theory

MWF 12:20-1:10, BEL 049

PHI 3670-01

Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton

Ref: 05118

An introduction to some of the best work in recent ethical theory through a careful study of three books. In his *After Virtue*, Alasdair MacIntyre argues that no contemporary ethical theory can succeed, and that our only recourse is an actual return to a traditional virtuous way of life. We will discuss a number of handouts (e.g., on G.E. Moore, on emotivism) to help students understand the context of MacIntyre's. Next will be Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*, which, by an almost universal consensus, is the greatest work in twentieth-century ethics. We will spend a lot of time on this book, trying to grasp its organization and main arguments. I will also say a few things about his later book, *Political Liberalism*. Finally, we will study Peter Singer's *Practical Ethics*, the most widely read (at least going by book sales) work in "applied ethics."

Philosophy of Music
Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy

TR 12:30-1:45, DOD 118

PHI 3880-01
Ref: 05120

This is not a musical appreciation course. We will consider questions such as: What is music? Why do we listen to it? What does *understanding* it consist in? What is the relationship between the composer or performer's *intentions* and our understanding of it? What, if anything, does it *mean*? What, if anything, does it have to do with *emotions*? We won't arrive at any definitive answers to these questions, but we'll come away with a deeper understanding of them, and perhaps with a deeper understanding of music itself.

Modern Logic I
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

TR 12:30-1:45, DIF 310

PHI 4134-01
Ref: 05121

An examination of the fundamentals of modern symbolic logic: logical paraphrase, schemata and interpretation (syntax and semantics), validity and satisfiability, logical truth, truth-functional logic, monadic quantification theory, polyadic quantification theory, normal forms, expressive completeness, proof procedures, axiomatization, metalogical laws, the logic of identity and the analysis of definite descriptions, soundness and completeness, decidability, and elements of the theory of classes. Meets with PHI 5135-01. PREREQUISITE: PHI 3130, equivalent, or permission of instructor.

Contemporary Political Thought
Instructor: Prof. Donald Hodges

TR 9:30-10:45, DIF 310

PHM 4340-01
Ref: 05142

"What is happening in the world?" is the subtitle of James Burnham's 1941 political bestseller, *The Managerial Revolution*. However, filtered through the works of other contemporary political thinkers, the revolutions of the 20th century have often been misrepresented—as if liberal democracy were "the natural political order" and a classless society were "the end of history"! In a study of the political thought of the makers of the Russian, Mexican, Cuban, and Nicaraguan revolutions, we shall try to determine what actually happened.

Contemporary Philosophy
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

TR 3:35-4:50, LSB 002

PHH 4600-01
Ref: 05105

We shall examine the work of some of the major figures of 20th-century "analytic" philosophy: the early analytic philosopher Bertrand Russell and (derivatively) his student Ludwig Wittgenstein; the logical positivists A.J. Ayer and W.V.O. Quine; the ordinary language philosopher J.L. Austin; and the contemporary philosopher Saul A. Kripke. We shall focus on the modern way in which these figures have formulated traditional philosophical problems, and the analytic and logical methods that they have introduced into the discussion of these problems.

Studies in Major Philosophers: Kant
Instructor: Prof. Pat Matthews

MW 3:35-4:50, DOD 155

PHP 4930-01
Ref: 05144

Kant is considered the most important figure in the history of 17th, 18th, and 19th century philosophy: He provides crucial criticisms of the empiricist and rationalist traditions and attempts to solve those difficulties, and he serves as a springboard for 19th century German Idealism. His views on perception, ethics, and aesthetics (to name only a few areas) remain influential today. In this course, we'll look at a range of Kant's views in epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and aesthetics. Readings will be drawn from *The Critique of Pure Reason*, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and *The Critique of Judgment*. Prerequisites: some coursework in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

**Seminar for Majors: The Limits of
Beneficence**
Instructor: Prof. Sam Rickless

TR 11:00-12:15, DOD 181

PHI 4938-01
Ref: 05124

Majors Only

The aim of this course is to determine what, if anything, we ought to do to assist those who are malnourished, starving, or threatened by fatal illness. Assuming that there are some things we should do to help the needy, are these obligations of ours grounded in the fact that these people have the *right* to our assistance? Or is this kind of assistance merely a form of charity? We will begin by considering Peter Singer's famous argument that the duty of beneficence is both stringent and demanding. We will also examine Peter Unger's elaborate defense of Singer's conclusion in *Living High and Letting Die*. Are there any successful replies to the ethical challenge offered by Singer and Unger?

Spring 2000 Graduate Courses

Greek Philosophy: Heraclitus & Parmenides

Instructors: Prof. Russell Dancy

Mon 6:45-9:45 PM, DOD 181 Ref. 05106

(H)*

PHH 5105-01 (03)

We'll study the complete extant remains of these incredible philosophers. (That amounts to about 19 printed pages, but we won't run short of things to read.) NO GREEK REQUIRED; philological details will be explained in English. Heraclitus has been billed as advocating incessant change ("war is father of all and king of all"), Parmenides as advocating eternal stasis ("nothing either is or will be except what is, since fate bound it to be whole and unchanging"). We'll see.

Contemp. Phil.: Nationalism and Revolution

Instructor: Prof. Don Hodges

Wed 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD 181 (V)*

PHH 5609-01 (03)

Ref. # 05107

A close study of Machiavelli's *Prince* and *Discourse on Livy*, followed by an effort to define Machiavellism in terms of its principal intellectual components, notably national liberation, national unification, political liberalization, democratic reform, religious rebirth, "killing all gentlemen," "keeping the citizens poor and the state rich," and "imperialism"-by every conceivable means. This will position us to disentangle the Machiavellian legacy in modern and especially contemporary political thought under the twin headings of nationalism and revolution and their principal incarnations, as in Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Mussolini, Hitler, Castro, Guevara, and Machel. As an anticlimax, we'll discuss Pat Buchanan's new book, *A Republic, not an Empire*, to see how his formula for the national interest squares with Machiavelli's.

Modern Logic I

Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

Tues/Thur 12:30-1:45 PM, DIF PHI 5135-01 (03)
310

Ref. # 05125

An examination of the fundamentals of modern symbolic logic: logical paraphrase, schemata and interpretation (syntax and semantics), validity and satisfiability, logical truth, truth-functional logic, monadic quantification theory, polyadic quantification theory, normal forms, expressive completeness, proof procedures, axiomatization, metalogical laws, the logic of identity and the analysis of definite descriptions, soundness and completeness, decidability, and elements of the theory of classes. Meets with PHI 4134-01. PREREQUISITE: PHI 3130, equivalent, or permission of instructor.

Philosophy of Mind: Free WillInstructor: Prof. Dana Nelkin

Thur 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD 181

(M&E)*

PHI 6325-01 (03)

Ref. # 05131

We will begin by considering a set of skeptical arguments meant to undermine one of our most basic assumptions, that we act freely in a sense required for moral responsibility. We will then examine and evaluate some traditional responses to these arguments and the analyses of free action on which they rest. Finally, we will assess the prospects for a Kantian-style anti-skeptical argument that begins with the assumption that we, together with all rational deliberators, must believe ourselves to be free. Readings include selections from Wolf's *Freedom Within Reason* and Mele's *Autonomous Agents*.

Kant's EthicsInstructor: Prof. Sam Rickless

Tues 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD 181

(V)*

PHI 6607-01 (03)

Ref. # 05132

The aim of this course is to reconstruct the positions Kant defends in the first two sections of the *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and his development of these ideas in the *Metaphysics of Morals*. We will focus on the following questions: (1) How are we to understand Kant's claim that actions have moral worth only if they are done from duty? Is this claim defensible? (2) What is the *categorical imperative*? How, exactly, does Kant argue for it? (3) Having produced three formulations of the categorical imperative, is Kant right to claim that these formulae are just different representations of the very same law? (4) Is Kant's discussion of the duties of virtue in the *Metaphysics of Morals* (e.g., the duty not to lie; the duty of beneficence) consistent with his account of these duties in the *Groundwork*? To help answer these questions, we will consider the views of commentators, including Guyer, Herman, Hill, Korsgaard, O'Neill, Potter, Rawls, and Wood.

*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: Metaphysics (Prof. Darryl Jung); hours/room TBA; ref. # 05133