

# Spring 2001 Undergraduate Courses

## LIBERAL STUDIES (GORDON RULE) COURSES:

**Introduction to Philosophy** MWF 11:15-12:05, 143 BEL PHI 2010-01  
Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard Ref: 03001

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to some of the fundamental questions of philosophy. We will begin with a brief introduction to some basic philosophical concepts, and to understanding the nature of arguments. The remainder of the course will be devoted to a thorough examination of the following questions: What makes an action morally right or wrong? What can I know? What is a person? Does God exist?

**Introduction to Philosophy** TR 2:00-3:15, 201 DIF PHI 2010-02  
Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos Ref: 05120

Is there a world that is external to our minds? If so, how can we know anything about it? How should we live? Do we have absolute duties to ourselves and to others or are our actions to be appraised solely with respect to their consequences? Does God exist? Are minds distinct from bodies? If so, what is the relationship between them? These are just a few of the questions that have exercised the greatest minds of the Western philosophical tradition. We will engage some of these minds by taking a close look at the answers they have given to these, and related, questions. After developing some basic analytical skills, we will put them to use in assessing the various answers and the arguments offered for them.

**Reasoning & Critical Thinking** MWF 1:25-2:15, 103 DHA PHI 2100-01  
Instructor: Mr. Jonathan Caro Ref: 03002

We are bombarded every day with the claims of activists, advertisers, politicians, and others. What reasons do they give for their claims? Do these claims follow from their reasons? In this class, we will develop and apply the general (and practical!) skills for answering these questions, by taking up the study of arguments. We will learn the criteria for the evaluation of sound arguments, talk about common fallacies, and along the way learn to become better reasoners ourselves.

**Reasoning & Critical Thinking** TR 9:30-10:45, 006 LSB PHI 2100-02  
Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes Ref: 05124

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 clearheaded 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.

**Introduction to Political Philosophy**Instructor: Dr. Russell SwansonTR 5:15-6:30, 103 DHA  
(MULTICULT. "X")PHM 2300-01  
Ref: 03028

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.

**Ethical Issues and Life Choices**Instructor: Mr. G. T. Smith

TR 3:35-4:50, 103 DHA

PHI 2630-01  
Ref: 03003

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.

**Ethical Issues and Life Choices**Instructor: Mr. Stephen Morris

MWF 1:25-2:15, 218 HTL

PHI 2630-02  
Ref: 07250

Questions about ethics are central to many important issues facing our society today. Discussions about abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and our responsibility to those living in poverty turn on what we take the boundaries of our moral obligations to be. We will begin our attempt to respond to such issues by surveying some of the predominant ethical theories. The remainder of the course will be spent examining some responses that have been addressed to these controversial topics. During the course of the semester, we will attempt to construct some original responses of our own.

**Aristotle to Augustine**Instructor: Prof. Alfred Mele

MW 2:30-3:45, 002 LSB

PHH 3140-01  
Ref: 02996

An introduction to the philosophy of Aristotle and Augustine. The comprehensive survey of Aristotle will include his moral philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of mind. The more concentrated survey of Augustine will focus on connections among his moral philosophy, his theology, and his position on free will.

**Philosophy of Science**  
Instructor: Prof. Jack Lyons

TR 3:35-4:50, 002 LSB

PHI 3400-01  
Ref: 03005

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 the truth? (iii) does science really progress toward the truth? In an effort to answer these and other questions, we will examine certain key events in the history of science and a recent debate concerning "scientific creationism."

**OTHER COURSES (ALL OPEN TO NON-MAJORS):**

**Modern Political Thought**  
Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton

MWF 12:20-1:10, 227 BEL

PHM 3331-01  
Ref: 05129

We will read selections from the work of most of the leading political thinkers of the Modern era: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Hegel, Mill, Marx, and a few others. We'll put special emphasis on how a government both helps and restrains individuals through the rights it gives them. Much of this material will be of contemporary relevance, often because it shows how far we've drifted from democratic ideals.

**Philosophy of Mind**  
Instructor: Prof. Jack Lyons

TR 12:30-1:45, 002 LSB

PHI 3320-01  
Ref: 03004

Humans and other animals are capable of thought, emotion, consciousness, and understanding. Galaxies, trees, rocks, and chairs are not. Why is this? Is it merely that we are more complicated, or that we are made out of a different kind of material? Or is it that we are not entirely material at all? That is, what does it mean to say that something has a mind? In this course, we will focus on the mind-body problem, the question of how the mind is related to the body, but we will also address a number of related questions: Can computers think? How is it that our thoughts manage to be *about* other things? What is the nature of consciousness? What do psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence have to tell us about the fundamental nature of the mind?

**Ethical Theory**  
Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton

MWF 10:10-11:00, 310 DIF

PHI 3670-01  
Ref: 03006

This course will be an introduction to ethical theory that will focus on a wide range of topics and problems: relativism, egoism, subjectivism, justice, and others. We will also review the basic points of the best known ethical theories: theological, virtue (character), deontological (Kantian), utilitarian, and contract theories. The overall goal of the course will be to improve the way students think about morality. The one required text is Louis Pojman's anthology *Ethical Theory: Classical and Contemporary Readings*.

**Philosophy of Religion**  
Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard

TR 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB

PHI 3700-01  
Ref: 05131

According to Anthony Kenny, "If there is no God, then God is incalculably the greatest single creation of the human imagination." Unfortunately, an immediately obvious answer to the question "Is there a God?" does not seem likely. However, the prospects for an answer to a different but equally important question are more promising. In particular, "Is it rational to believe that God exists?" This question will form the basis for our inquiry into some traditional problems in the philosophy of religion. We will discuss, among other things, classical "theistic proofs," the problem of evil, problems involving divine attributes, and the role of reason in religious belief.

**Philosophy of Music**  
Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy

TR 11:00-12:15, 214 LSB

PHI 3880-01  
Ref: 03008

In this 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.

**Metaphysics**  
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

MWF 1:25-2:15, 002 LSB

PHI 4500-01  
Ref: 05130

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.

**Contemporary Philosophy**  
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

MW 5:15-6:30, 002 LSB

PHH 4600-01  
Ref: 02998

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.

## RESTRICTED CLASSES:

**Introduction to Philosophy**  
Instructor: Prof. Dana Nelkin

TR 11:00-12:15, 303 BRY  
(BRYAN HALL ONLY)

PHI 2010-03  
Ref: 05126

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.

**Honors Seminar: Science and Religion**  
Instructor: Prof. Michael Ruse

T 9:30-12:15, 181 DOD  
(HONORS ONLY)

HUM 2937-06  
Ref: 02863

This is a course on the relationship between science and religion in the West since the Scientific Revolution (sixteenth century). It will show that the relationship is far more complex and interesting than the usual story of warfare between the two. Particular emphasis will be put on the Copernican and Darwinian revolutions, although some time will be spent on other topics including Freud and sexuality. Several films on the science/religion interface will be shown (including "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and "Inherit the Wind"). Students will be evaluated through tests, class presentations, and movie critiques. The emphasis is on continual assessment and evaluation rather than one heavy-duty exam at the end. No scientific background is presupposed, and there is no religious agenda. This is a course that both religious believers (Christians, Jews, or others) or non-believers (agnostics, atheists) should find interesting. Texts: D.C. Lindberg and R.L. Numbers, eds., *God and Nature: Historical Essays on the Encounter between Christianity and Science*; and M. Ruse, ed., *But is it Science? The Philosophical Question in the Creation/Evolution Controversy*.

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

T 2:00-4:45, 181 DOD  
(MAJORS ONLY)

PHI 4938-01  
Ref: 03012

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 2001 Graduate Courses

**Aristotle, *De anima***

Fri 12:30-3:15 PM, DOD PHH 5105-01 (03)  
181

Instructors: Prof. Russell Dancy

(H)\*

Ref. 02999

We'll read Aristotle's *De anima (On the Soul)* with great care. Aristotle's conception of the soul is that of the set of capacities by which an organism maintains itself. So, although the question of immortality is one with which he deals, it is a comparatively minor one; he spends much more time discussing nutrition, sense-perception, thought, imagination, and animal motion. We'll deal with all these issues, and with questions that pertain to Aristotle's metaphysical views as well.

**Greek Reading: *De anima***

TBA, DOD 181

PHI 5998-01 (01-03)

Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy

Ref. # 03019

We'll be translating passages from Aristotle's *De anima*. Open to any who have had enough Greek to make out the words on the page; translating in class is voluntary. For credit over one hour, an arrangement to do some written work is necessary. Class will meet for (approx.) one hour weekly at a time to suit all registered students.

**Wittgenstein**

Mon 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD PHI 6225-01 (03)  
181

Instructor: Prof. Gordon Lyon

(M&E)\*

Ref. # 05127

No twentieth-century philosopher has gripped the public imagination in recent years as much as Ludwig Wittgenstein. His views on meaning, definition, rule-following, and private language are often regarded as having transformed our picture of language and the mind. His views on the true nature of philosophy itself are less often applauded. This course aims to dispel the myths about Wittgenstein's philosophy, and to attain an accurate understanding of his early and late views on language, by a close analysis of his two greatest works, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and *Philosophical Investigations* (to sect. 315).

**Reason, Freedom, and Responsibility: Kantian Arguments**

Thur 2:00-5:00 PM, DOD PHI 6325-01 (03)  
181

Instructor: Prof. Dana Nelkin

(V)\*

Ref. # 03020

Drawing inspiration from Kant are a number of interestingly different contemporary responses to traditional skeptical challenges to freedom and responsibility. In this course, we will critically examine a variety of such Kantian responses, including: Wallace's appeal to a Kantian conception of moral agency and an emphasis on the moral emotions, Korsgaard's identification of two standpoints from which rational agents must view themselves, and views, like my own, that make use of the Kantian idea that rational agents must see themselves as free and responsible. Readings include selections from Wallace's *Responsibility and the Moral Sentiments*, Korsgaard's *The Sources of Normativity*, and my work in progress, *Rational Deliberation and the Sense of Freedom*.

**The Problem of Material Constitution**Wed 2:30-5:30 PM, DOD PHI 6505-01 (03)  
181Instructor: Prof. Sam Rickless

(M&amp;E)\*

Ref. # 05128

If a lump of clay is molded into a statue, we can say that the lump constitutes the statue. But what is the relation of con-stitution? Is it, as some think, merely identity, or is it, as others have suggested, something else entirely? If it isn't identity, is it, as some think, irreflexive, asymmetric, and transitive? Does the proper analysis of the constitution relation help us to solve the puzzle of the Ship of Theseus, the growing paradox, or the famous case of Tibbles the cat? Can it also help us to understand the relation between persons and their bodies? Among the answers to these questions, we will consider those provided by Lynne Rudder Baker, Michael Burke, Peter Geach, Allan Gibbard, Mark Heller, Kathrin Koslicki, Trenton Merricks, Eric Olson, Ted Sider, Judith Jarvis Thomson, Peter van Inwagen, David Wiggins, and others.

\*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: Ethics (Prof. Peter Dalton); hours TBA; ref. # 05333