

Spring 2005 Undergraduate Courses

HUM 2937-03	Humanities Sem.: Theories of Human Nature	TR 11:00-12:15, WMS 120
Ref: 06281	Instructor: Prof. Eddy Nahmias	(HONORS ONLY)

Philosophers and scientists have developed various theories of human nature. These theories have implications for what it means to lead a good life, for the way we should treat each other, for the way we should govern our societies, and for how much freedom and responsibility we have. We will examine several theories of human nature, from the ancient (Confucius, Plato) to the enlightenment (Hobbes, Kant) to the modern (Sartre, Freud, Skinner, Darwin). We will try to determine which, if any, of these theories are most accurate and what they mean for our conception of ourselves. We will even try to develop our own theory of human nature.

PHI 2010-01	Introduction to Philosophy	MWF 1:25-2:15, MCH 201
Ref: 03109	Instructor: Mr. Peter Hanowell	(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

In this introductory course we will look at some fundamental philosophical questions. The course will begin with a brief introduction to basic philosophical concepts, to understanding the nature of arguments, and to developing analytical skills. We will then investigate the following philosophical questions: What can I know? What is the nature of human consciousness? Does God exist? Are my actions free? What makes an action morally right or wrong? We will analyze and evaluate responses to these questions, and in light of our evaluations students will also begin to form responses of their own.

PHI 2010-02	Introduction to Philosophy	TR 12:30-1:45, WMS 121B
Ref: 04438	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 2010-03	Introduction to Philosophy	MWF 12:20-1:10, DHA 103
Ref: 04439	Instructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins	(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 are: What makes for good reasoning? Does God really exist? When and how do we truly have knowledge? What makes an action morally right or wrong? After a survey of previously suggested answers by various philosophers, students will be encouraged to come up with their own conclusions regarding such questions.

PHI 2100-01	Reasoning & Critical Thinking	MWF 2:30-3:20, MCH 201
Ref: 03110	Instructor: Mr. Bobby Robinson	(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 emphasized acquisition of the skills necessary to draft clear, persuasive arguments and is particularly useful for those planning further studies in fields such as Law and Business.

PHI 2100-02 Ref: 04440	Reasoning & Critical Thinking Instructor: Mr. Jason Zinser	TR 5:15-6:30, DHA 103 (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)
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We are forced to make decisions every day about the world around us: What car should I buy? Does God exist? What's the right thing to do? Furthermore, we usually base the decisions that we make on arguments –reasons why I should do something versus something else. How does one go about making good decisions? In this class we will acquire the technical tools allowing us to evaluate arguments, identify fallacies, and critically reflect on choices that confront us. Along with learning the technical information associated with critical thinking, we will reconstruct and evaluate many arguments from the history of philosophy and from contemporary sources.

PHM 2121-01 Ref: 06975	Race, Class & Gender [Cawthon] Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales	TR 12:30-1:45, DHA 103 (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. Y)
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Concentration on contemporary philosophical discussions of race, class, and gender. Topics include the analysis of key institutions (e.g., work, the economy, family, education) and social issues (e.g., identity, sexuality, violence, social change).

PHM 2300-01 Ref: 08087	Intro. to Political Philosophy Instructor: Mr. Charles Hermes	MW 5:15-6:30, SAN 108 (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X)
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While people often disagree about political and social issues, it is usually difficult to resolve these disagreements. In this class students will develop the necessary skills for identifying, evaluating, and creating more effective arguments while learning about different historical and contemporary positions in politics. Topics covered will include: What is human nature? What are potential problems with democratic/capitalistic societies? And what are viable alternatives to democratic capitalistic societies?

PHI 2630-01 Ref: 03111	Ethical Issues & Life Choices Instructor: Ms. Eli Kanon	MWF 10:10-11:00, WMS 121B (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)
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The objective of this course is to introduce students to the most commonly cited moral theories and their applications. Students will consider the basic moral frameworks of Contractualism, Deontology, Egoism, and Utilitarianism, and will apply these theories to current ethical concerns. Issues to be considered include: abortion, euthanasia, environmental practices, war theory and allocation of scarce resources. Completion of this course will enable students to form their own reasoned opinions regarding these and other important topics.

PHI 2630-02 Ref: 04441	Ethical Issues & Life Choices Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard	TR 11:00-12:15, DHA 103 (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)
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This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to ethical theory and various ethical issues that are surrounded with disagreement. The course will begin with an explanation of the significance of language, an introduction to some basic philosophical concepts, and to understanding the nature of arguments. Subsequently, the course will be divided into two main parts: a survey of (1) the important historical sources of ethical theory, and (2) an analysis of a number of ethical issues such as free speech, sexual morality, war and terrorism, abortion, environmentalism, famine relief, and others.

PHI 2630-03
Ref: 05989

Ethical Issues & Life Choices
Instructor: Prof. David McNaughton

TR 11:00-12:15, BRY 303
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

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.

PHM 3123-01
Ref: 04443

Philosophy of Feminism
Instructor: Ms. Melissa Lammey

MW 3:35-4:50, SAN 108
(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.

PHI 3130-01
Ref: 03113

Intro. to Symbolic Logic
Instructor: Prof. Cei Maslen

TR 2:00-3:15, LSB 002
(Liberal Studies – Mathematics)

What makes some arguments valid and others invalid? How can you tell the difference? 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.

PHH 3140-01
Ref: 06131

Aristotle to Augustine
Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Kirby

MWF 2:30-3:20, LSB 002
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of ancient philosophy as it develops from Aristotle on. The first half of the semester will be devoted to Aristotle: his methods, his ideas on metaphysics, on nature, on the soul, and on ethics. During the second half, we'll turn to the Hellenistic "schools": skepticism, Epicureanism, and stoicism; it was in the conflict between these thinkers that some of the most important philosophical problems began to take the shape in which we know them, e.g., the problem of the external world, and free will vs. determinism. We'll also have a look at the revival of Platonism in Plotinus, a mystic of the 3rd century A.D., and at the turn this takes in the hands of a Christian, St. Augustine.

PHI 3320-01
Ref: 03115

Philosophy of Mind
Instructor: Prof. John Roberts

TR 12:30-1:45, LSB 002

As in any philosophy course, the objective is to help you develop a skill rather than acquire a body of knowledge. Philosophical skills are critical thinking skills. In this particular course we will be honoring our critical thinking skills by focusing on one the most famous of philosophical topics, *mind*. Ultimately the questions we are interested in are questions such as what is a mind? Are minds distinct sorts of things from bodies? What sort of things can have minds and what sort of things cannot. Philosophers have developed a variety of different positions on these questions and this course will survey some of the more prominent views. Our goal, however, is not simply to familiarize ourselves with these various philosophical positions but to learn how to evaluate them as well. Only when one begins evaluating philosophical positions is one doing philosophy rather than just studying philosophy.

PHM 3331-01 Ref: 03142	Modern Political Thought Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales	TR 9:30-10:45, WJB 231
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Major political ideas of the modern world emphasized through a study of selected political theorists such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hume, Burke, Hegel, Marx, Engels, Bentham, Mill, Jefferson, Madison, Lenin, and Mussolini.

PHH 3400-01 Ref: 03106	Modern Philosophy Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton	MWF 1:25-2:15, LSB 002 (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)
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This course will study European philosophy from early in the 17th century (starting with Bacon and Descartes) through the end of the 18th century (concluding with Kant). The focus will be on philosophy's 'inward turn' –toward the mind, by investigating its nature, capacities and limits. Most of the issues will be metaphysical (e.g., Is the mind a unique spiritual substance?) and epistemological (e.g., Can we know anything more than what we perceive?). There will be occasional discussions, however, of ethical and religious topics.

PHI 3400-01 Ref: 03116	Philosophy of Science Instructor: Prof. Zachary Ernst	MW 3:35-4:50, LSB 002
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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.

PHI 3670-01 Ref: 03117	Ethical Theory Instructor: Mr. Steve Morris	TR 5:15-6:30, LSB 002
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A study of the nature of morality and moral reasoning through critical analyses of the writings of classical and contemporary ethical theorists directed to answering the questions, "What is good?" and "What ought I to do?"

PHI 3700-01/02 Ref: 03118	Philosophy of Religion Instructor: Prof. Donald Crosby	MWF 11:15-12:05, BEL 208
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The course will investigate, compare, and contrast three religious visions: those that assert the ultimacy of *God*, *Brahman*, and *Nature*. We will be especially interested in examining the role of philosophical argumentation in structuring a critical dialogue among these three types of religious outlook. Different views of God will first be considered before we turn our attention to Brahman and Nature, conceived as alternative religious ultimates. As part of our investigation, we will address such issues as religion and evil; the relations of religious experience to religious claims; roles of paradox in religious discourse; criteria of truth for religious claims; ways of responding to the diversity of religious traditions; and religious approaches to the nature of nature and our place as humans within the! natural order. There will be short tests on the readings, two essay examinations during the semester, and a final essay examination.

PHP 3786-01 Ref: 05981	Existentialism Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton	MWF 10:10-11:00, DIF 310
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This course will focus on the most well-known and controversial philosophical movement of the 20th century – existentialism. We will look at its 19th century predecessors, who include Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Dostoevsky. But most of the course will be concerned with the leading ideas of 20th century existentialism –individuality, humanity, existence and essence, freedom, anxiety and despair. We will read a number of authors, though we will emphasize Heidegger and Sartre.

PHI 4134-01
Ref: 03119

Modern Logic I
Instructor: Prof. Piers Rawling

TR 12:30-1:45, DOD 181

This course examines the metatheory of modern symbolic logic. As a prerequisite, you will have learned how to evaluate arguments in predicate logic both semantically and syntactically – i.e., using interpretations (which are simply truth-tables in the case of sentential logic) and doing derivations. In this course, we shall first prove the completeness theorem for predicate logic – a theorem to the effect that the semantic and syntactic methods of evaluation coincide. We shall then move on to look at such matters as Gödel’s first incompleteness theorem: can all arithmetic truths be proven from the axioms of arithmetic, or are there unprovable arithmetic truths? Meets with PHI 5135-01. PREREQUISITE: PHI 3130, equivalent, or permission of instructor.

PHM 4340-01
Ref: 03143

Contemporary Political Thought
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

TR 3:35-4:50, LSB 002

An exploration of a set of issues, a trend, or a school of thought in contemporary political philosophy.

PHI 4500-01
Ref: 05980

Metaphysics
Instructor: Prof. Thomas Crisp

TR 12:30-1:45, DIF 310

The main objective of this course is to introduce you to *metaphysics*, that branch of philosophy concerned with questions about the ultimate nature and structure of reality. We’ll be looking at questions like: Are there many things in the world or just one *really big* thing? Is reality exhausted by material things (quarks, muons and the like) or are there non-material, *abstract* things as well (e.g., the number 2, the color red)? Is there a mind-independent realm of things or is the world a figment of our imagination (to get a handle on this question, think about *The Matrix*)? There are many different perspectives about the world. Could one of them be right? That is, is there a fact of the matter about how the world is or are there just competing perspectives?

PHI 4938-01
Ref: 03124

Seminar for Majors: Paradoxes
Instructor: Prof. Cei Maslen

TR 11:00-12:15, DOD 181

A paradox is a seemingly absurd or impossible conclusion reached from seemingly acceptable premises and reasoning. During this course, we will investigate at least ten well-know paradoxes including Zeno’s Paradoxes (Achilles and the Tortoise), The Heap, The Surprise Examination, The Liar, Newcomb’s Problem, The Raven, and the Toxin Puzzle. There is still controversy on the correct resolution of each of these.
Text: R.M. Sainsbury, *Paradoxes* (Cambridge University Press, 1995).

Spring 2005 Graduate Courses

PHI 5135-01	Modern Logic I (Prof. Piers Rawling)	Course ref.# 03126 TR 12:30-1:45, DOD 181
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This course examines the metatheory of modern symbolic logic. As a prerequisite, you will have learned how to evaluate arguments in predicate logic both semantically and syntactically – i.e., using interpretations (which are simply truth-tables in the case of sentential logic) and doing derivations. In this course, we shall first prove the completeness theorem for predicate logic – a theorem to the effect that the semantic and syntactic methods of evaluation coincide. We shall then move on to look at such matters as Gödel’s first incompleteness theorem: can all arithmetic truths be proven from the axioms of arithmetic, or are there unprovable arithmetic truths?

Meets with PHI 4134-01. PREREQUISITE: PHI 3130, equivalent, or permission of instructor.

PHI 5555-01	Metaphysics & Epistemology Core (Prof. Thomas Crisp)	Course ref.# 05978 R 2:00-5:00, DOD 181
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This is a survey of contemporary analytic metaphysics and epistemology. 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.

PHH 6009-01 (H)*	Socrates & the Good Life (Prof. David McNaughton)	Course ref.# 05984 T 2:00-5:00, DOD 181
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In this course, we will look at Socrates’ ethical views, as they are presented through the medium of some of Plato’s early dialogues. Socrates was particularly concerned with what it was to live a good life, and appears, from those dialogues, to have held the following, rather striking, views:

- 1) Virtue is knowledge
- 2) No-one does wrong willingly
- 3) It is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong

We shall examine his views, and discussions of many of the virtues, through the medium of some of Plato’s early dialogues, with a view to understanding why he held the views he did and whether they are true.

PHI 6325-01 (M&E)*	Philosophy of Mind (Prof. Eddy Nahmias)	Course ref.# 05987 W 2:30-5:30, DOD 181
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This course will examine recent philosophical debates about (1) the nature of consciousness and (2) the problem of mental causation, including some discussion of psychological research on agency. Students will write one-page responses for most classes, a term paper, and a “referee report” on another student’s paper.

PHI 6457-01	Selected Topics in Biology (Prof. Zachary Ernst)	Course ref.# 05982 F 12:20-3:20, DOD 181
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A study of advanced topics in philosophy of biology, including game-theoretic explanations in biology, the units of selection problem, reductionism in biology, systematics, and socio-biology and the is/ought gap.

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

PHI 6607-01
(V)*

Ethics: Punishment
(Prof. Josh Gert)

Course ref.# 05983
M 2:30-5:30, DOD 181

Punishment has close conceptual ties with morality: if something is morally wrong, it seems to deserve punishment, even if in many cases there are reasons why it would be better not to punish. Also, punishment itself seems only to be possible for transgressions: otherwise it is just abuse. This seminar will examine the connections between punishment and morality, and will also consider some independent 'topics in punishment', including, perhaps, capital punishment, retributivist vs. consequentialist justifications of punishment, and self-inflicted punishment.

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