

Spring 2007 Undergraduate Courses

PHI 2010 01-05 Introduction to Philosophy MWF 11:15-12:05, 201 DIF
Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

To enroll in this course, please register under the reference number corresponding to the appropriate discussion section (see below).

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|------------|-------------|---|-------------|---------|
| Ref: 03339 | PHI 2010 01 | F | 9:05-9:55 | 310 DIF |
| Ref: 06246 | PHI 2010 02 | F | 9:05-9:55 | 112 BEL |
| Ref: 08358 | PHI 2010 03 | F | 10:10-11:00 | 310 DIF |
| Ref: 08359 | PHI 2010 04 | F | 10:10-11:00 | 008 BEL |
| Ref: 08360 | PHI 2010 05 | F | 12:20-1:10 | 310 DIF |

This will be an introduction to the abstract, critical and sometimes strange but important ways in which Philosophers think. We will begin with five dialogues in which Plato depicts Socrates as he questions his fellow Athenians about their most basic beliefs (e.g., in the gods, in their loyalty to the state) in ways which perplexed and annoyed them but riveted his young followers. We will read a short book on ethics by a contemporary philosopher, Simon Blackburn, who tells us why we don't want to think about ethics, offers his views on some controversial issues (e.g., abortion, death) and then recounts how philosophers have deployed theoretical explanations of our ethical beliefs. We will then study the pragmatic approach to truth taken by the 19th century American philosopher William James, and see how he applied his pragmatism to religious beliefs and decisions about how to live. We will conclude with six lectures by a 20th century British philosopher, Isaiah Berlin, in which he shows us what freedom is by vividly outlining the views of six thinkers who didn't want us to be free.

PHI 2010 06-12 Introduction to Philosophy TR 11:00-12:15, 128 DIF
Instructor: Prof. Randy Clarke (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

To enroll in this course, please register under the reference number corresponding to the appropriate discussion section (see below).

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|------------|-------------|---|-------------|---------|
| Ref: 08361 | PHI 2010 06 | W | 9:05-9:55 | 310 DIF |
| Ref: 08362 | PHI 2010 03 | W | 10:10-11:00 | 310 DIF |
| Ref: 08363 | PHI 2010 04 | W | 11:15-12:05 | 310 DIF |
| Ref: 08364 | PHI 2010 05 | W | 11:15-12:05 | 112 BEL |
| Ref: 08365 | PHI 2010 06 | W | 12:20-1:10 | 112 BEL |
| Ref: 08366 | PHI 2010 07 | W | 12:20-1:10 | 310 DIF |
| Ref: 08367 | PHI 2010 12 | W | 1:25-2:15 | 002 LSB |

This course will be an introduction to some of the main issues of the Western philosophical tradition. We will examine questions such as whether there are good reasons to believe in God, what the relation between mind and body is, whether we have free will and are morally responsible for what we do, and what the basis of morality is.

PHI 2100 01 Reasoning and Critical Thinking MWF 10:10-11:00, 021 BEL
Ref: 03340 Instructor: Adam Feltz (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

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| PHI 2100 02 Ref: 06247 | Reasoning and Critical Thinking Instructor: Prof. Michael Bishop | TR 12:30-1:45, 006 LSB (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) |
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The typical student spends many hours thinking about important issues:

Political issues: What policies should I support? Whom should I vote for?

Social issues: Why did my boyfriend / girlfriend dump me? Should I marry Pat? Professional issues: Should I continue in my current job? Should I stick with my current strategy for solving problems at work?

Everyday decisions: Should I go to the party or study for the test? Where should I eat tonight?

Personal issues: What should I do to make my boss / my friend / my acquaintance like me?

Financial issues: How should I spend / invest my money?

But how much time do students devote to thinking about how to think about things? This course will introduce students to new (and hopefully better) ways to think about these (and other) sorts of issues. This class will introduce students to a set of tools that can help them to be more critical thinkers and more rational decision-makers.

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| PHM 2121 01 Ref: 03372 Y) | Race, Class & Gender Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales | TR 9:30-10:45, 215 HCB (Liberal Studies/Multicultural |
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| PHM 2300 01 Ref: 03373 | Intro. to Political Philosophy Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales | MWF 12:20-1:10, 103 DHA (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X) |
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TBA

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|---|---|---|
| PHM 2300 02 Ref: 09656 | Intro. to Political Philosophy Instructor: Prof. Marie Fleming | TR 9:30-10:45, 006 LSB (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X) |
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| PHI 2620 01 Ref: 03341 | Environmental Ethics Instructor: Prof. Robert Arp | MWF 10:10-11:00, 202 PSY (Liberal Studies) |
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| PHI 2630 01 Ref: 03342 | Ethical Issues and Life Choices Instructor: Prof. Justin Leiber | MWF 9:05-9:55, 006 LSB (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) |
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| PHI 2630 02 Ref: 06248 | Ethical Issues and Life Choices Instructor: Prof. Michael McKenna | TR 9:30-10:45, 103 HCB (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) |
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| PHI 2630 03 Ref: 06249 | Ethical Issues and Life Choices Instructor: Prof. David McNaughton (BRYAN HALL RESIDENTS ONLY) | TR 12:30-1:45, 303 BRY |
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The main goals of this course are: (a) to provide an introduction to ethical theory. Students are expected to acquire knowledge about ethical theories and to assess the adequacy of these theories to explain the phenomenon of morality and to serve as a guide for individual action and for social policy; (b) to apply ethical concepts to discuss ethical issues and life choices, identifying alternative positions and evaluating the arguments in support of them. Students will not be expected to learn the “right answers” to these questions, but to appreciate the arguments on different sides, so that they can think more clearly about them and give a fair hearing to people whose opinions differ from their own.

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| PHM 3123 01 Ref: 11844 | Philosophy of Feminism Instructor: Tracie Mahaffey | TR 11:00-12:15, 217 HCB (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. Y) |
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| PHI 3130 01 Ref: 03343 | Introduction to Symbolic Logic Instructor: Prof. Josh Gert | TR 12:30-1:45, 202 PSY (Liberal Studies – Mathematics) |
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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 arguments and 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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| PHH 3140 01 Ref: 03335 | Aristotle to Augustine Instructor: Prof. Russ Dancy | TR 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) |
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| PHI 3220 01 Ref: 06256 | Philosophy of Language Instructor: Prof. Justin Leiber | MWF 11:15-12:05, 202 PSY |
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| PHI 3300 01 Ref: 03344 | Knowledge & Belief Instructor: Prof. Michael Bishop | TR 3:35-4:50, 002 LSB |
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This course will introduce students to some fundamental problems, theories and perspectives in epistemology. The first two-thirds of the course will cover traditional topics such as skepticism, theories of knowledge and justification, and the nature of a priori knowledge. The last third of the course will be devoted to two relatively new approaches to epistemology that are, to some extent, critical of traditional epistemology (social epistemology and naturalized epistemology).

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| PHM 3331 01-02 | Modern Political Thought | TR 12:30-1:45, 021 BEL |
| Ref: 03375 (Section 1) | Instructor: Prof. Victoria Costa | |
| Ref: 06252 (Section 2) | | |

This course provides a survey of some of the central philosophical approaches and debates in political philosophy, from the 16th to the 19th century. We will discuss the theories and arguments that political philosophers have offered concerning topics such as the source of political authority and obligation, the legitimacy of government, the rights of citizens, and the ways in which political institutions ought to be designed in order to guarantee citizens' rights and prevent abuses of power.

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| PHH 3400 01 | Modern Philosophy | TR 11:00-12:15, 202 PSY |
| Ref: 03336 | Instructor: Prof. John Roberts | (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) |
| TBA | | |

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| PHI 3400 01 | Philosophy of Science | MWF 9:05-9:55, 202 PSY |
| Ref: 03346 | Instructor: Prof. Robert Arp | (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) |
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| PHI 3670 01 | Ethical Theory | TR 9:30-10:45, 202 PSY |
| Ref: 03347 | 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, 021 BEL |
| Ref: 03348 (Section 1) | Instructor: Prof. Al Mele | |
| Ref: 06250 (Section 2) | | |

This course is a general introduction to the philosophy of religion, especially as it has developed in the West. It is neither a course in the theology of any particular religion nor a course in comparative religions. The topics to be considered are the existence of God (arguments for and against), faith, God's attributes, free will, miracles, religious experience, morality, and human immortality.

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| PHI 3882 01-02 | Philosophy in Literature | MWF 10:10-11:00, 116 BEL |
| Ref: 03350 (Section 1) | Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton | (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule/Lit.) |
| Ref: 06251 (Section 2 – Honors Only) | | |

This course will study how philosophical ideas can be presented and defended in works of literature. We will focus on what I call ‘far-fetched fiction,’ which depicts people, actions and events that (so far as we know) can't exist or are at least extremely unusual. Among them are a rogue who seeks the most intense love by seducing virgins, a loser who wakes up one day to discover that he's a bug, a vicious criminal who wishes he could live for Jesus, and a spy who thinks he can go back in the past and make different choices than the ones he made. The puzzle is that the authors believe these works reveal something fundamental about human life. How can they do this?

PHI 4134 01
Ref: 03351

Modern Logic I
Instructor: Prof. Piers Rawling

TR 12:30-1:45, 181 DOD

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 some suitable set of axioms, or are there unprovable arithmetic truths? If there is time at the end of the semester, we shall also cover the rudiments of modal logic.

(Meets with PHI 5135 01. PREREQUISITE: PHI 3130, equivalent, or permission of instructor.)

PHI 4938 01
Ref: 03355

Seminar for Majors: Quine & Wittgenstein
Instructor: Prof. Russ Dancy

W 2:30-5:30, 181 DOD
(MAJORS ONLY)

TBA

Spring 2007 Graduate Courses

PHI 5135-01 Modern Logic I Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 PM, 181 DOD
(Prof. Piers Rawling)

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 some suitable set of axioms, or are there unprovable arithmetic truths? If there is time at the end of the semester, we shall also cover the rudiments of modal logic.

PHH 5405-01 Early Modern Philosophy Tuesday 2:00-5:00 PM, 181 DOD
(H)* (Prof. John Roberts)

TBA

PHI 5555-01 M&E Core Course Thursday 2:00-5:00 PM, 208 BEL
(Prof. Michael McKenna)

TBA

PHI 6325-01 Mental Agency Tuesday 5:30-8:30 PM, 181 DOD
(M&E)* (Prof. Randy Clarke)

The seminar will focus on debates about the kinds of agency that we exercise with respect to intending, believing, and desiring. We will start with a view according to which deciding-forming an intention-is an intentional action, and then examine some challenges to this view. We will then turn to an examination of voluntarist views of desire, and then to the debate over whether we can believe at will. Finally, we will focus on some views on responsibility for one's psychological attitudes.

PHI 6455-01 Basic Topics in Biology Monday 2:00-5:00 PM, 181 DOD
(Prof. Robert Arp)

TBA

PHI 6607-01 Moral Virtue Thursday 6:00-9:00 PM, 181 DOD
(V)* (Prof. Victoria Costa)

What kind of thing is a virtue? What role do virtues play in ethical theories? Do people really have virtues or can their patterns of behavior be reduced to standard responses to situations, as situationists claim? In this course we will examine these questions, considering both historical (Aristotle, Hume and Kant) as well as contemporary accounts of virtue. We will also assess the challenge posed by those who deny that appeals to virtue help explain or justify anything (Doris), and those who claim that virtue is irrelevant to the discussion of issues of applied ethics. The purpose of this course is to provide an in depth understanding of alternative accounts of virtue and their role in ethical theories.

PHI 6935-01
(V)*

Color & Value
(Prof. Josh Gert)

Wednesday 6:30-9:30 PM, 181 DOD

Historically it has been very attractive to draw an analogy between secondary properties such as redness and value properties such as goodness. However, it is generally those whose principle interest is in value who draw this analogy, and the views they hold regarding the nature of color properties tend to be rather naïve. For example, they often ignore the dramatic role that context plays in the apparent color of an object, and the sometime shockingly wide range of variability in color perception, even among those with normal vision. This course will provide a grounding in color science and philosophy of color, and will go on to examine and extend the analogy between color and value, using it to argue for various positions both in metaethics and in the philosophy of color.

HUM 6939-02

Nietzsche & Foucault
(Prof. Marie Fleming)

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 PM, 312 DIF

Nietzsche's influence in theory and philosophy has been extensive. Foucault, for example, was captivated by Nietzsche's concept of genealogy. This course examines writings by both authors. We will study Nietzsche's controversial ideas on the self, truth, art, power, and morality. We will then discuss a number of Foucault's contentious theses, on madness and civilization, power and knowledge, sexuality and the "disciplinary society." Should Foucault's genealogical method be viewed as an extension of Nietzsche's thought? Why does Foucault demonstrate an unrelenting pessimism whereas Nietzsche builds a strong case for optimism and "affirmation"?

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