

Summer 2000 Undergraduate Courses

"A" SESSION (May 8 - August 4)

Major Philosophers: Heidegger's M 2:00-5:00, 181 DOD PHP 4930-01

Being and Time

Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy Ref: 02456

On the one hand, we have Paul Edwards: Heidegger is engaged in "a grotesque pseudo-inquiry." He employs "obscure and barbarous jargon." He "is not wrong, but perverse." On the other, we have Hajime Tanabe: Heidegger's philosophy is a "unique and towering achievement" with which the achievements of other "contemporaries cannot even be compared"; and a view attributed to Heidegger himself: He is "the greatest philosopher since Heraclitus." Such remarks are not isolated. In this course, we'll form our own views by reading-critically but also sympathetically-as much of *Being and Time* as we can. Specifically, we'll try to get hold of Heidegger's analysis of temporality.

"B" SESSION (May 8 - June 16)

Introduction to Philosophy MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 310 DIF PHI 2010-01

Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) Ref: 02435

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to 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?

Reasoning & Critical Thinking MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 310 DIF PHI 2100-01

Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes (Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule) Ref: 02437

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 clear-headed 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.

Modern Political Thought
Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton

MTWR 2:00-3:35, 002 LSB

PHM 3331-01
Ref: 02453

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 Feminism
Instructor: Prof. Maria Morales

MTWR 9:10-10:45, 310 DIF
(Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. Y)

PHM 3123-85
Ref: 02452

This course is an introduction to feminist philosophy. We will focus on the analysis of key texts from the second half of the twentieth century, which will give students a good grounding in central issues within second- and third-wave feminist philosophy. Readings include Frye's *Politics of Reality*, Bartky's *Femininity and Domination*, Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time*, and selections from Spelman's *Inessential Woman*.

"C" SESSION (June 26 - August 4)

Introduction to Philosophy
Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 310 DIF
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2010-02
Ref: 02436

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 and Critical Thinking
Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard

MTWRF 9:30-10:45, 310 DIF
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2100-02
Ref: 02438

An essential activity in almost any career field or academic endeavor is the ability to express clearly and persuasively not merely what one believes, but why one believes it. Successfully expressing why you have a particular view is the essence of reasoning or argument. In this course, we will focus on the basics of arguments and develop skills for becoming better critical reasoners. In particular, we will ask such questions as: What is an argument? What makes an argument good or bad? What are common kinds of arguments and typical problems with arguments? Along the way, we will examine arguments from ordinary contexts on a variety of topics.

Ethical Issues and Life ChoicesInstructor: Mr. Greg SmithMTWRF 11:00-12:15, 310 DIF
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2630-01

Ref: 02439

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.

Introduction to Political PhilosophyInstructor: Mr. Brad HadawayMTWR 2:00-3:35, 002 LSB
(Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X)

PHM 2300-01

Ref: 02451

Can coercive political institutions and authority be justified? If so, what should be the nature and practice of those political institutions? What, if any, is the correct account of human nature, and how does it bear on the ideal political arrangements? What is the importance of economic structures for political systems? What are the fundamental ideals of a just political order? We'll consider answers to these questions chronologically, reconstructing and evaluating the political views of Western philosophers from the Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary periods. We'll encounter several schools of political thought, including communitarianism, social contract theory, utilitarianism, socialism, liberalism, and libertarianism. We'll also consider non-Western responses to the political views of these philosophers.