

Summer 2001 Graduate and Undergraduate Courses

"A" SESSION (May 8 - August 3)

Philosophical Topics: Realism and Objectivity

M 2:30-5:00, 181 DOD

PHI 6935-01

Instructor: Prof. Russell Dancy

Ref# 03285

Barry Stroud's most recent book, *The Quest for Reality: Subjectivism and the Metaphysics of Color* (1999), deals with the question: are colors really out there? We'll consider that question, Stroud's way of answering it, and what many others have to say about it. There are a number of interesting ramifications: the distinction between primary and secondary qualities, the possibility of eliminativism in the philosophy of mind, realism about universals, and so on. Stroud's book will provide the focus.

"B" SESSION (May 8 - June 15)

Introduction to Philosophy

MTWR 2:00-3:35, 002 LSB

PHI 2010-01

Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard

(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Ref# 02435

This course will introduce students to some of the fundamental questions of philosophy. We will begin with a brief introduction to language, to some basic philosophical concepts, and to understanding the nature of arguments. We will then thoroughly examine the following questions: What makes an action morally right or wrong? Is morality relative? What can I know and how do I know it? Are my actions free or determined? What is the relation between particular things and (what seem to be) their general qualities? What is it that makes things the same through time? Does God exist?

Reasoning & Critical Thinking

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 310 DIF

PHI 2100-01

Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos

(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Ref# 02437

"Man is the only rational animal, and women are not men; so, women are not rational." 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.

Ethical Issues & Life Choices
Instructor: Mr. Peter Hanowell

MTWRF 9:30-10:45, LSB 008
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2630-01
Ref# 02439

This course is designed as an introduction to applied ethics. We will first survey some of the predominant ethical theories. This will provide us with a foundation for reading and analyzing provocative contemporary articles on topics such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, animal rights, and environmental ethics. We will consider proposed solutions to common ethical questions in these areas by critically examining a variety of arguments. Our goal will be not to resolve these difficult issues, but to better understand the complex moral dilemmas that we all face.

Modern Philosophy
Instructor: Prof. Patricia Matthews

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

PHH 3400-01
Ref# 01756

In this course we'll explore some of the major philosophical ideas of the 17th and 18th centuries. Central questions will include: What can I know? What is the world like? What sorts of things are in it? Does God exist? What are the essential properties of human beings? We will read selections from Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

Introduction to Symbolic Logic
Instructor: Prof. Darryl Jung

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 310 DIF

PHI 3130-01
Ref# 01779

In this course we shall examine the principal elements of classical deductive logic, the science of valid inference. The course is divided into two parts. In the first part we consider *truth-functional* or *propositional* logic, which has a relatively simple language. We give a precise definition of valid inference for the language and then look at clear and effective methods for testing such validity (truth-tables, semantic trees, and natural deduction). In the second part we move on to consider *predicate* or *relational* logic, whose language is much richer and is, thus, able to capture as valid many more inferences which we take to be intuitively correct. Here we extend the notions and methods of the first part and see that such an extension makes predicate logic fundamentally more complex than propositional logic.

"C" SESSION (June 25 - August 3)

Introduction to Philosophy
Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 310 DIF
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2010-02
Ref# 01782

In this introductory course we will look at some fundamental philosophical questions. We will begin with a brief introduction to the nature of language, logic, and conceptual analysis. We will then investigate the following philosophical questions: What can I know? Is my mind separate from my body? Does God exist? Are my actions free? What makes an action morally right or wrong? Students will have the opportunity to develop their own answers to these questions.

Reasoning and Critical ThinkingInstructor: Mr. Adam Sipos

MTWRF 9:30-10:45, 310 DIF

(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2100-02

Ref# 01785

"Man is the only rational animal, and women are not men; so, women are not rational." 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.

Ethical Issues and Life ChoicesInstructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 201 RBA

(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

PHI 2630-02

Ref# 01786

Many of the decisions we must make throughout our lives will involve issues of morality. In order to arrive at a clear, well-thought-out position on everyday ethical issues, and on issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment, it will prove helpful to develop one's understanding of moral theories and hone one's moral reasoning skills. In the first part of this course we will look at some of the different types of ethical theories. Then we will consider how such theories may be applied to various contemporary moral issues, and attempt to arrive at well-considered judgments of our own concerning these issues.

Introduction to Political PhilosophyInstructor: Mr. Stephen Morris

MTWR 2:00-3:35, 002 LSB

(Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X)

PHM 2300-01

Ref# 02451

This course will provide an overview of the most influential ideas in the history of political philosophy. We will begin by examining ancient political thought and work our way up to the ideas of some contemporary political thinkers. We will also consider some criticisms of the historical texts. Among the issues we will be focusing on are the justifications for political systems, the connection between human nature and the ideal political arrangement, and the influence economic factors have on political structures. In the course of our investigations we will become familiar with various schools of political thought including communitarianism, social contract theory, utilitarianism, socialism, and libertarianism.

Philosophy of Feminism
Instructor: Mr. Greg Smith

MTWR 9:10-10:45, 212 RBA PHM 3123-85
(Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. Y) Ref# 01787

We live our lives as *gendered* human beings. Being a woman or a man affects the most basic aspects of our lives-our personality, our sexuality, and our familial and social relations. Perhaps our gender even affects our thinking about learning, knowing, and living well. Further, being a woman in many times and places results in one's being accorded an inferior social role to that of a man. In this course, we will consider several feminist theories (liberal, socialist, Marxist, radical, and 'minority') of women's oppression. We will discuss recommendations for a better society made in light of these theories, including such topics as the family, sexuality, rape, pornography, domestic violence, and employment. We will also consider more generally the bases for the distinctions between sex and gender, woman and man. **Women's Studies core course.**