

# Summer 2002 Undergraduate Courses

## "B" Session (May 8 – June 14)

**PHI 2010-01**                      **Introduction to Philosophy**                      **MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 310 DIF**  
**Ref: 02435**                      **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? Is my mind separate from my body? 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 evaluation students will also begin to form responses of their own.

**PHI 2100-01**                      **Reasoning & Critical Thinking**                      **MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 310 DIF**  
**Ref: 02437**                      **Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Kirby**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

Valid formulae and strong premises are essential tributaries to sound argumentation. Sound arguments are the headwaters of progress. In this course, we will, therefore, concentrate our attention on criteria for evaluating premises and the decision procedures for evaluating the formulae in which they are presented. More specifically, the class will master the criteria for deciding whether arguments are deductive or inductive, valid or invalid, sound or fallacious. With an eye toward improving our thinking and writing skills, we will essay criticisms and rebuttals to arguments derived from various fields of inquiry.

**PHM 2300-01**                      **Intro. to Political Philosophy**                      **MTWR 9:10-10:45, 310 DIF**  
**Ref: 02451**                      **Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard (Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X)**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to some of the key themes in the history of political thought. We will examine key figures from the ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary periods such as: Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, Rawls, and MacIntyre. Along the way, we will consider the question of whether there is a defensible philosophical justification for the coercive power exercised by various social and political institutions. As part of our investigation, we will consider selected writings from various feminist and non-Western figures.

**PHI 2630-01**                      **Ethical Issues and Life Choices**                      **MTWR 2:00-3:35, 002 LSB**  
**Ref: 02439**                      **Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to ethical theory and ethical issues. The course will begin with a brief introduction to basic philosophical concepts and language, and to understanding the nature of arguments. Subsequently, the course will be divided into three parts: a survey of (1) the important historical sources of ethical theory, (2) some contemporary theoretical problems that are unique to ethics, and (3) a number of existing ethical issues that are surrounded with disagreement, such as free speech, homosexuality, and the environment.

**PHH 3400-01**                      **Modern Philosophy**                      **MTWR 2:00-3:35, 0060 BEL**  
**Ref: 01756**                      **Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

An introduction to most of the leading European philosophers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including Bacon, Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. The emphasis will be on the methodological, metaphysical, and epistemological problems these philosophers faced and how they tried to solve them. Some attention will also be given to religious and ethical issues.

**PHI 3130-01**                      **Introduction to Symbolic Logic**                      **MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 116 BEL**  
**Ref: 01779**                      **Instructor: Mr. Adam Sipos**

In this course we will learn how to determine, of any proposed argument that may be represented in first-order predicate logic, whether or not it is deductively valid. To this end, we will learn how to symbolize arguments formulated in English by learning how to symbolize the sentences that constitute the premises and conclusions of these arguments; we will learn the rules of a natural deduction system and learn how to apply those rules to determine the logical status of any argument symbolized in accordance with those rules; and we will also learn semantic methods for determining validity and invalidity. 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. [Note: This course is a prerequisite for PHI 4134: Modern Logic I.]

### **"C" Session (June 24 – August 2)**

**PHI 2010-02**                      **Introduction to Philosophy**                      **MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 002 LSB**  
**Ref: 02826**                      **Instructor: Mr. Stephen Morris**                      **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

This course offers an overview of the responses that have been given to some of the fundamental questions in western philosophy, such as: Does God exist? Do human beings have free will? What kind of lives should we lead? Beginning with an introduction to basic logic and reasoning, our survey will bring us from historical figures like Plato and Descartes to contemporary thinkers like Mackie and Strawson. In the course of analyzing various philosophical issues students will be encouraged to form some responses of their own.

**PHI 2100-02**  
**Ref: 02838**

**Reasoning & Critical Thinking**  
**Instructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins**

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

What makes an argument a good argument? Such analytic skills as identification and evaluation of arguments, as well as the ability to identify faulty reasoning and fallacious argumentation, will prove useful throughout life. In this course we will learn criteria that will allow us to determine the differences between various kinds of arguments, when a given argument is valid, invalid, weak or strong, and how to identify fallacies.

**PHI 2630-02**  
**Ref: 02840**

**Ethical Issues and Life Choices**  
**Instructor: Mr. Christopher Pynes**

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

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the complexity of a number of thorny ethical issues: abortion, animal rights, euthanasia, cloning, affirmative action, and the death penalty. Students will not be expected to learn the "right answers" to questions about these issues, but they will be expected to learn how to appreciate the arguments presented by different sides so they can think more clearly about the issues and give fair treatment to people whose beliefs differ from their own. For this reason, students will be expected to learn a certain amount of abstract moral theory. Understanding moral theories will allow students to understand better the reasons why people think an action or event is right or wrong. Finally, the students will have the opportunity to defend philosophical positions in writing.

**PHM 3123-85**  
**Ref: 02844**

**Philosophy of Feminism**  
**Instructor: Mr. G.T. Smith**

**MTWR 2:00-3:35, 002 LSB**  
**(Lib.Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. Y)**

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 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.**