

Summer 2003 Undergraduate Courses

"B" Session (May 12 - June 20)

PHI 2010-01 **Introduction to Philosophy** **MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 339 SAN**
Ref: 02435 **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 2100-01 **Reasoning & Critical Thinking** **MTWRF 9:30-10:45, 118 DOD**
Ref: 02437 **Instructor: Mr. Sean Millard** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

"I can conceive of the body being divided; I can't conceive of the mind being divided; so, the mind and body are not the same." Is this a good argument? In this particular case it isn't obvious that there are any mistakes in reasoning, but the conclusion seems very strong given the kinds of reasons offered to believe it. This course begins by investigating some general features of language and its use in argument. Students then learn skills that allow them to identify arguments in text. Then the course focuses on different kinds of arguments, and the standards by which they are evaluated as good or bad, strong or weak. The remainder of the course is devoted to examining the gamut of fallacies of reasoning (one of which is present in the argument given in the opening sentence of this paragraph!). The skills that students learn in this course will be useful in any field in which clear-headed thinking is valued.

PHM 2300-01 **Introduction to Political Philosophy** **MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 116 BEL**
Ref: 02451 **Instructor: Mr. Charles Hermes** **(Lib. Stud./Gordon Rule/Multicult. X)**

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

Our everyday life choices and views on specific moral issues often presuppose more fundamental assumptions about what is right and what is wrong. We are not always aware, however, of the driving assumptions behind our moral views. In this course we will first consider the question of what makes something right or wrong in general. Then we will confront views about specific ethical issues such as punishment, distributive justice, environmental ethics, animal rights, homosexual marriage, and human cloning, and ask what implications our views on these specific issues have for the question of what makes something right or wrong in general.

PHM 3123-85
Ref: 02228

Philosophy of Feminism
Instructor: Ms. Melissa Lamme

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 002 LSB
(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. We will alternate between an author-approach and a topic-approach. Authors we will discuss include Marilyn Frye, Simone de Beauvoir, and bell hooks. We will discuss a wide variety of topics including sexual harassment and rape, marriage and motherhood, cosmetic surgery, and eating disorders. 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: 01779

Introduction to Symbolic Logic
Instructor: Prof. Piers Rawling

MTWR 2:00-3:35, 320 WMS

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.]

PHI 3320-01
Ref: 02229

Philosophy of Mind
Instructor: Prof. Eddy Nahmias

MTWR 9:10-10:45, 320 WMS

What does it mean to have a mind? Is it the same as having a soul or a brain? How do we know when other creatures are conscious? Could computers or robots have minds? Do animals have minds? What does it mean to "lose one's mind" or one's identity? Would we lose our minds if we were brains in a vat? What happens to our minds after we die? We will explore these cases at the margins of mentality to try to understand our conception of the mind and to examine the relationship between the mind and the brain. In the process we will study some of the traditional philosophical questions about the mind, including consciousness, self-awareness, free will, reason, intentionality, and language.

PHI 3400-01
Ref: 02230

Philosophy of Science
Instructor: Dr. Christopher Pynes

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 320 WMS
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

In this course, we will examine the basic nature of the scientific enterprise, evaluating answers to such questions as: (i) What exactly is science? (ii) Does science provide our best (and only) means to truth? (iii) Does science really progress toward truth? and (iv) What is the nature of scientific explanation? To this end, we will look at some of the history of science and at the contemporary debate concerning "scientific creationism."

"C" Session (June 23 - August 1)

PHI 2010-02
Ref: 02231

Introduction to Philosophy
Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Kirby

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

We survey, herein, aspects of the philosophical landscape, from a logical point of view. By considering the contours of an inherited tradition, we attempt to chart the boundaries and ramifications of our own intellectual commitments—commitments concerning, for example, what there is, what we can know, and the nature of change. And while to many the objects and relations of our intellectual commitments are nothing less than quotidian, the natures of these objects and relations resist precise articulation. Through exegesis and argument, we will attempt to add some element of precision to an area of thought that is still, for many, terra incognita.

PHI 2100-02
Ref: 02233

Reasoning & Critical Thinking
Instructor: Ms. Lisa Watkins

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 121B WMS
(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.

PHM 2300-02
Ref: 02234

Introduction to Political Philosophy
Instructor: Mr. Stephen Morris

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

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 focus 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.

PHI 2620-01
Ref: 02239

Environmental Ethics
Instructor: Mr. Peter Hanowell

MTWRF 9:30-10:45, 320 WMS

Environmental ethics concerns itself with the relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world. It is an attempt to determine what kinds of obligations we have, if any toward the environment, ecological systems, and the creatures that inhabit the earth. In this class, we will study a number of theories that have been proposed to address these kinds of obligations. We will also consider a variety of specific environmental problems, such as human population, and animal welfare. Our primary goals will be to better understand topics of concern in environmental philosophy and to evaluate reasons that can be given in support of environmental ethics.

PHI 2630-02
Ref: 02242

Ethical Issues and Life Choices
Instructor: Mr. Thomas Nadelhoffer

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 002 LSB
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

The course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to classical ethical theories and applied ethical issues. The course will be divided into three main parts: 1) a brief overview of basic reasoning and critical thinking skills, 2) a general introduction to important historical sources of ethical theory, and 3) an analysis of how the different ethical theories affect our answers to important, yet difficult applied ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, affirmative action, social justice, and terrorism. The goal of the course is to present students with a fair treatment of both sides of these ethical issues so that they will be in a better position to develop well-founded opinions of their own.

GRADUATE COURSE

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER 2003

PHI 6935-01

Special Topic: Philosophy of Science

Professor: Cei Maslen

Monday 2:00-5:00

181 Dodd

Ref: 02488

This course provides a broad survey of general issues in the philosophy of science. We will worry about the following kinds of questions: How is scientific knowledge different from other sorts of knowledge? How does science grow over time? Are electrons and quarks more or less real than tables and chairs? Should science aim for truth or for something more or less? What are laws of nature and what role do they play in science?

Text: Curd & Cover (eds) *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*, Norton, 1998.