

## 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."