

Summer 2005 Undergraduate Courses

“B” Session (May 9 – June 17)

PHI 2010-01 **Introduction to Philosophy** **MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 320 WMS**
Ref: 01731 **Instructor: Thomas Nadelhoffer** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to some of the perennial questions of philosophy. The course will begin with a brief overview of basic reasoning and critical thinking skills. Then, we will spend the rest of the semester examining the following questions: Does God exist? What are the limits of knowledge? Do humans have free will? What is the nature of morality? What are the justifications for punishment? The goal of this course is to present the student with a fair treatment of both sides of these philosophical issues so that they will be in a better position to develop well-founded opinions of their own about some of the fundamental problems of philosophy.

PHI 2100-01 **Reasoning & Critical Thinking** **MTWRF 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB**
Ref: 01732 **Instructor: Peter Hanowell** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

The aim of this course is to aid the student in becoming adept in the art of reasoning and critical thinking. In order to attain this aim, we will be exercising analytical skills such as identification and evaluation of premises and arguments, and identification of faulty reasoning and fallacious argumentation. We will learn criteria that will allow us to determine the differences between various kinds of uses of language, arguments, and when an argument is valid, invalid, weak, strong, etc.

PHI 2630-01 **Ethical Issues & Life Choices** **MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 320 WMS**
Ref: 01733 **Instructor: Jeremy Kirby** **(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)**

Difficult moral and life choices can arise, which issue in situations that displace the force that past experience has, heretofore, invested in the development of our moral and conceptual understanding. Innovative thoughts, headwaters of progress, have for their source the tributaries of critical thinking. In this course, we will, therefore, think and write critically on a number of difficult issues, which affect the lives, directly or otherwise, of nearly every member of society. The subjects of inquiry will include the following: Euthanasia, Abortion, World Hunger, Discrimination, Environmental Ethics, and Liberty and Equality.

PHI 3300-01 **Knowledge & Belief** **MTWRF 9:10-10:45, 320 WMS**
Ref: 03173 **Instructor: Charles Hermes**

We all believe that we know many things, are justified in believing what we believe, or at the very least are morally permitted to believe as we do. Further, many of us believe that scientific reasoning provides good grounds for knowledge about our world. Nevertheless, through exploring many basic questions about knowledge and belief difficult challenges arise for these claims. In this class we shall explore the following issues: What is knowledge? Do we ever have knowledge? What is justification? Are our beliefs ever justified? Are we morally permitted to believe something merely on the basis of faith? Finally, do problems with the process of science ensure that beliefs held for scientific reasons cannot be justified?

PHI 3400-01
Ref: 01735

Philosophy of Science
Instructor: Jason Zinser

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 201 WMS
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Science has been extremely successful in explaining the natural world. Why is this? How does science progress? What distinguishes science from other methods of inquiry, such as astrology? Does science describe the objective world, or something less? These are some of the traditional questions in the philosophy of science that we will be dealing with in the first half of the course. In the second half, we will look at a particular science, biology, and the philosophical problems contained therein, including: evolution (particularly the process of natural selection), the units of selection problem and altruism, laws and constraints in biology, and others. We will be reading some of the classic papers from central philosophers in the philosophy of science and the philosophy of biology.

“C” Session (June 27 – August 5)

PHI 2010-02
Ref: 03178

Introduction to Philosophy
Instructor: Prof. Zach Ernst

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 004 MON
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

This course is about a few questions. Those questions include, "Does God exist?", "What is the nature of morality?", and "How can we know anything?". Some smart people have asked those questions, and we will acquaint ourselves with what those smart people have had to say. At the end of the semester, we will still not know how to answer those questions, or whether those smart people were right. But this stuff is very hard, so that's okay. We will still learn a lot. I promise.

PHI 2100-02
Ref: 03180

Reasoning & Critical Thinking
Instructor: Sean Millard

MTWR 2:00-3:35, 002 LSB
(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 sequence 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
Ref: 01753

Introduction to Political Philosophy
Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton

MTWRF 9:30-10:45, 320 WMS
(Lib. Studies/Gordon Rule/Multicult. X)

This will be an historic introduction to political thought, starting with some ancient Greek thinkers and concluding in the late nineteenth-century with Marx. The emphasis will be on ideas and philosophers' reasons for and against them. We will find that many of these ideas are as 'current' as today's headlines (e.g., equality, liberty, self-government).

PHI 2630-02
Ref: 03181

Ethical Issues & Life Choices
Instructor: Christina Huggins

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 005 BEL
(Liberal Studies/Gordon Rule)

Our culture and personal lives are laden with ethical issues and decisions, including hotly contested moral controversies like abortion, animal rights, welfare, the legal status of drugs and the moral status of homosexuality. This course will not only cover the traditional ethical theories of moral philosophy, but will also provide students with the necessary practical tools with which to tackle these contemporary debates. Students should walk away from this class with not only a deeper understanding of these complex moral issues, but also the skills needed to engage in moral reasoning for a lifetime.

PHM 3123-01
Ref: 03183

Philosophy of Feminism
Instructor: Melissa Lammey

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 004 MON
(Lib. Studies/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. Theories we will discuss include liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, existentialist feminism, and global and multicultural feminism. We will discuss a wide variety of topics including marriage and motherhood, cosmetic surgery, eating disorders, and pornography. 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: 03182

Introduction to Symbolic Logic
Instructor: Lisa Watkins

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 320 WMS
(Liberal Studies - Mathematics)

What is it that makes some arguments good (valid) and other arguments bad (invalid)? How can you tell the difference? In this course you will learn the answer to these questions through mastering the techniques of symbolizing arguments given in English and evaluating them with the rules of both a natural deduction and semantic method. Those who successfully acquire the skills and knowledge taught in this course will be rewarded with having the ability to distinguish between good and bad reasoning in the most rigorous way possible.
