

# Summer 1999 Undergraduate Courses

Session "B" (May 10 - June 18)

**Introduction to Philosophy**

Instructor: Prof. Peter Dalton

MTWRF 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB

(Liberal Studies/Writing course)

PHI 2010-01

Ref: 02279

This course will study some of the problems that have concerned philosophers, as well as the methods and standards they have used in trying to solve them. The emphasis will be on ideas that have strongly influenced our highly individualistic and materialistic society. Students will take in-class quizzes and one exam, and also write a few take-home essays. The readings will be from Spinoza's Theologico-Political Treatise (which is mostly on religion), Locke's Second Treatise of Government, John Stuart Mill's On Liberty, and Thomas Nagel's The Last Word.

**Reasoning & Critical Thinking**

Instructor: Mr. Tobin Foster

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 310 DIF

(Liberal Studies/Writing course)

PHI 2100-01

Ref: 02281

An introductory logic course intended to give students an understanding of and practice in using reason-ing to support conclusions and decisions. We will first study the characteristics of language as it is used in philosophical argument, then consider some basic arguments: How well do they work? What makes them good or bad? The course will help students acquire the skills necessary to draft clear, persuasive arguments and will be particularly useful for those planning studies in fields such as law or business.

**Ethical Issues and Life Choices**

Instructor: Ms. Kathy Cease

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 310 DIF

(Liberal Studies/Writing course)

PHI 2630-01

Ref: 02283

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of ethics. The course is built around three core areas: an introduction to ethical theory, development of reasoning and critical thinking and writing skills, and application of theory and reasoning skills to the following contemporary ethical issues: euthanasia, animal rights, genetic engineering, and a topic to be chosen by the students enrolled in the class.

**Modern Political Thought**

Instructor: Prof. Donald Hodges

MTWRF 9:30-10:45, 310 DIF

PHM 3331-01

Ref: 02296

An examination of the most consequential representatives of the four mainstream political ideologies of the modern world (Liberalism, Democracy, Socialism, Fascism), of the principal hybrids (Liberal Democracy, Democratic Socialism, Fascist Socialism), and, in stark contrast to these well-heeled ideologies, three Communist alternatives to mainstream politics. (Joint-listed in Dept. of Political Science: PHM 3331-02, course ref. #02297)

## Session "C" (June 28 - August 6)

### **Introduction to Philosophy**

Instructor: Mr. Justin Barnard

MTWRF 9:30-10:45, 310 DIF  
(Liberal Studies/Writing course)

PHI 2010-02  
Ref: 02280

The purpose of this course is to study a sampling of significant philosophical problems. We will wrestle with such philosophical questions as: Are there good reasons to believe that God exists? How do we know what we claim to know? Can we really know anything at all? What makes actions right or wrong? In discussing these issues we will seek to understand and evaluate historical responses from important philosophers in the Western tradition. In light of our evaluation we will also begin to form responses of our own.

### **Reasoning & Critical Thinking**

Instructor: Mr. Greg Smith

MTWRF 11:00-12:15, 310 DIF  
(Liberal Studies/Writing course)

PHI 2100-02  
Ref: 02282

In everyday life we reason about our decisions and conclusions. But how do we know whether our reasoning is good? In this course, we will study this question using the methods of informal logic to analyze and evaluate arguments drawn mainly from ordinary life. This course is particularly useful for students in the humanities as well as those preparing for careers in law or business or studying for the LSAT or GRE.

### **Ethical Issues and Life Choices**

Instructor: Mr. Brad Hadaway

MTWRF 12:30-1:45, 310 DIF  
(Liberal Studies/Writing course)

PHI 2630-02  
Ref: 02284

This course focuses upon the philosophical resources at our disposal to address contemporary moral issues. We'll begin with a brief introduction to ethical theory and moral reasoning, but the great majority of the class will be devoted to assessing the arguments of several philosophers who attempt to give answers to the controversial moral questions of our day. We'll focus upon six main questions: Is euthanasia morally permissible? Is a human fetus a person with a right to life, and if so, does that mean that abortion is morally impermissible? Is it morally permissible to kill, eat, and run tests on non-human animals? Do we have any obligations to help the starving? What is the correct moral stance on affirmative action? Is it morally permissible to produce and/or use pornography? We'll evaluate a variety of positions to find out if any offer compelling answers to these questions.

### **Introduction to Political Philosophy**

Instructor: Mr. John Farnum

MTWRF 2:00-3:15, 002 LSB  
(Lib. Stud./Writing/Multicult. "x")

PHM 2300-01  
Ref: 02295

In this course we will consider some of the most influential ideas in the history of political philosophy, beginning with ancient times and proceeding through the Medieval and Modern periods to the 20th century. We will look both at historical texts and recent criticisms of them. Readings will include Western, Asian, and African political philosophy, as well as examples of feminist criticisms, and it will be important for students to recognize and reflect on the similarities and differences between these approaches. Issues discussed will include the nature of political society, the justification of political authority, the importance of economic structures for political systems, and the relationship between citizens and the state.