Philosophy Courses
Fall 2019

PHIL 004   BELIEF, KNOWLEDGE, AND ACTION: AN INTRODUCTION TO
PHILOSOPHY (4)
PROF. B HULSIZER
MWF 10:45 – 11:35 AM

Through reading selected texts in philosophy, from the ancient period to the modern Enlightenment and Romantic reaction, we shall introduce ourselves to some of the central epistemological, ontological, ethical, and socio-political positions developed in relation to their historical and material contexts. A unifying theme will thus be the emergence and evolution of rational thought and its relation to belief, knowledge, and action. (HU)

PHIL 006   CONDUCT AND CHARACTER: AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (4)
PROF. C KAUTZER
MW 12:10 – 1:25 PM

How should we live our lives? How should we act? What kinds of persons should we be? What should we care about? These are among the central questions of philosophy because they are among the central questions of human existence. This course explores answers that have been proposed by thinkers throughout history and across cultures. (HU)

PHIL 023   ARTISTS ON ART AND LIFE (4)
PROF. G. BEARN
MW 3:00 – 4:15 PM

One of the peculiarities of the philosophical study of art, Aesthetics, is that philosophers ignore the writings of artists on art. This introduction to philosophy does not. Aestheticians spend much of their time writing about what art is. Artists are more interested in what art does and how art does it, and those questions, and artists and their works, will be the focus of this course. Course not open to seniors. (HU)

PHIL 090-010   FREE WILL, RESPONSIBILITY, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (4)
PROF. R WEISS
TR 9:20 – 10:35 AM

An investigation into the relationship between human freedom, responsibility for actions, and the ways in which the criminal justice system deals with illicit behavior. Questions to be considered include: are human beings free agents—and if so, to what extent? Is there any sense to holding people responsible (fully or partially) if they are less than fully free? What are the ramifications for the justness of punishment if human beings are less than fully free? Given what we know about the brain and its mechanisms, is our criminal justice system hopelessly outdated? Is punishment ever justified? How should we regard cases of diminished responsibility, diminished capacity, and mental or moral deficiency? (HU)

PHIL 090-011   HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS (4)
PROF. P. CONNOLLY
MW 3:00 – 4:15 PM

This course will explore, from a philosophical perspective, the relationships that humans have with other animals. We will investigate whether and why various non-human animals have moral status and what this might mean for our lives. Resources drawn from moral theory will be central to this investigation but we will also consider important findings from cognitive science. This will provide a background from which students will be able to critically assess and understand a number of common practices involving non-human animals.(HU)

PHIL/REL/HMS 090-013 BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS (4)
PROF. D. DAVIS
MW 1:35 – 2:50 PM

This class is driven by student interest. Each week, students vote on which bioethics-related news stories they want to pursue. There are short writing assignments, but class participation is crucial. Topics in previous years have included vaccination refusal, "smart" toilets, "Body Worlds," and therapeutic memory erasure. (HU)

PHIL/REL 095-011   IS GOD DEAD? PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE (1-4)
PROF. C. DRISCOLL
MW 9:20 – 10:35 AM

Is God dead? Some people think so. Do you? Come decide for yourself. This course looks at the idea of god in Western philosophy and theology, with particular attention to death of god movement(s), and the changing shape of these movements in light of culture wars and identity politics. The course surveys key thinkers to ask questions about the origins, function, and future of god and gods in the contemporary world. Posed as an ongoing question-Is god dead? -the course is for anyone interested in the idea of god past, present, future. (HU)

PHIL 105   ETHICS (4)
PROF. R. DILLON
MW 12:10 – 1:25 PM

Examination of right and wrong, good and bad, from classic sources such as Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Mill and Nietzsche. (HU)

PHIL/MATH 114   SYMBOLIC LOGIC (4)
PROF. F. CASATI
TR 12:10 – 1:25 PM

A first course in logical theory, introducing the notions of logical consequence and proof, as well as related concepts such as consistency and contingency. Formal systems taught may include: term logic, sentence logic, and predicate logic. (MA)

PHIL/REL/HMS 116   BIOETHICS (4)
PROF. P. CONNOLLY
MW 1:35 – 2:50 PM

Moral issues that arise in the context of health care and related biomedical fields in the United States today, examined in the light of the nature and foundation of moral rights and obligations. (HU)

PHIL 120   PHILOSOPHY AND FILM (4)
PROF. R. BLISS
TR 3:00 – 4:15 PM

This seminar course will explore a variety of themes, genres, and movements within cinema from a philosophical perspective. Regular screenings of films from silent era to present. Content may vary depending upon instructor. (HU)

PHIL 125   SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (Writing Intensive) (4)
PROF. C. KAUTZER
MW 3:00 – 4:15 PM

Examination of visions of good social life and values that should shape society so that people are able to live good lives together. Issues covered may include the nature of freedom, how the facts of gender, race, class, ethnic, and cultural differences should be taken into account in social and political relations, the limits of religious tolerance, war, world hunger. (HU)

PHIL 127   **EXISTENTIALISM (4)**
                             PROF. G. BEARN
                             MW 10:45 – 12:00 PM

Investigation of the historical development of existentialism from its origins in the 19th century (Kierkegaard, Nietzsche) through its marriage to phenomenology in the early 20th (Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty), and out the other side as a vigorous dimension of much literary, psychological, and artistic work produced in the last 50 years. (HU)

PHIL/CLSS 131   **ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY (4)**
                             PROF. R WEISS
                             TR 10:45 – 12:00 PM

Historical survey of selected texts and issues in the classical world, from the pre-Socratics through Aristotle, with emphasis on the origins of the western philosophical traditions in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology. (HU)

PHIL 221   **REFLECTING ON REALITY (4)**
                             PROF. R BLISS
                             TR 10:45 – 12:00 PM

Metaphysics, the study of the basic structure of reality, seeks both to determine at a fundamental level what exists and what it means for something to be real, and to understand the nature of what exists, for example, whether what exists is mind-independent or depends on human thought, and whether different concepts, categories, or perspectives used to describe reality generate different realities. Topics might include social constructionism, universals and properties, identity and individuation, causation, necessity and possibility, realism and antirealism. (HU)

PHIL 239   **FIGURES & THEMES IN CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY (4)**
                             PROF. F. CASATI
                             TR 3:00 – 4:15 PM

This seminar course will involve in-depth focus upon a major contemporary thinker (e.g. Russell, Whitehead, Husserl, Heidegger, Wittgenstein, Quine, Habermas, Rawls, Rorty, Derrida, Davidson, Foucault, Deleuze, Irigaray, etc.) or the contemporary treatment of a particular theme (e.g. logical positivism, naturalism, non-foundationalism, existential phenomenology, return to virtue, neopragmatism, hermeneutics, post-structuralism, postmodernism, neokantian political theory, the politics of identity, etc.). Content varies. Must have completed one HU-designated course in Philosophy at 100-level or higher. (HU)

PHIL/ES 301   **PHILOSOPHICAL-POLICY & LEGAL DESIGN: METHODS & APPLICATIONS (4)**
                             PROF. J GILLROY
                             M 4:25 – 7:05 PM

A basic course that combines research methods, the skills of writing policy-legal argument, and the idea of policy design as opposed to standard economic analysis of public affairs. The course will introduce Philosophical-Policy Methods, a protocol employing integrated philosophical systems, transformed into distinct policy paradigms for the evaluation and justification of both existing law and arguments for policy change. (HU)