

Philosophy Courses

Fall 2018

PHIL 004 **BELIEF, KNOWLEDGE, AND ACTION: AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. B HULSIZER
MWF 10:10 – 11:00 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
TR 10:45 – 12:00 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 014 **REASONING & CRITICAL THINKING (4)**
PROF. N SCHMIDT
MWF 12:10 – 1:00 PM

Most intellectual endeavors involve reasoning. Whether in everyday discussions about right and wrong, friendly political disagreements, ordinary explanations of natural phenomena, and short letters to editors, or in sophisticated legal debates, national political campaigns, and intricate scientific theories, reasons are constantly invoked to support or criticize claims and points of view. This course develops skills needed to reason well, to analyze and critique others' reasoning (or lack thereof), to distinguish reasoning from mere rhetoric, and to become a savvy consumer of information. (HU)

PHIL 090 **THE POLITICS OF SELF-RESPECT (4)**
PROF. R DILLON
MW 12:45 – 2:00 PM

Self-respect and secure sense of our worth as persons is something most of us need and want. But it is not something that everyone is assured of having. Most people think of the lack of self-respect in psychological terms, such as depression, and think that developing strong self-respect requires something like psychotherapy or Prozac. But there is an important social and political dimension to self-respect, which this course will be exploring. The experiences of American slaves, survivors of the German concentration camps, African Americans involved in the civil rights movement, women in contemporary sexist societies, and gays and lesbians in homophobic societies all testify that one effective means of oppressing or repressing classes of people is to destroy their sense of worth as persons and deny them the bases for developing respect for themselves. The struggle for liberation from oppressive, marginalizing, or exploitative political contexts thus also includes the struggle to reclaim self-respect.

The aims of this course will be to gain an understating of the connections between self-respect, dignity, and oppression, to explore the tactics subordinated peoples have used to liberate themselves by liberating their self-respect, and to improve our understanding of ourselves, our place in the moral world, and our responsibilities to ourselves and each other.

- PHIL 105** **ETHICS (4)**
PROF. P CONNOLLY
MW 11:10 – 12:25 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 9:20 – 10:35 AM
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 2:35 – 3:50 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. G BEARN
MW 2:35 – 3:50 PM
M 7:10 – 10:00 PM (Class Activity)
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/REL/JST 129** **JEWISH PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. R WEISS
WF 8:45 – 10:00 AM
Consideration of how major Jewish thinkers from the first to 20th centuries confronted questions at the intersection of religion and philosophy: the existence and nature of God, free will, evil, divine providence, miracles, creation, revelation, and religious obligation. (HU)
- PHIL/CLSS 131** **ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. R WEISS
WF 11:10 – 12:25 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 139** **CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. C KAUTZER
TR 2:35 – 3:50 PM
Philosophical thought from the late 19th century to the present; pragmatism, linguistic analysis, existentialism, and Marxism. Truth and knowledge, values and moral judgment, meaning, the place of the individual in the physical world and society, and the impact of the scientific method upon all of these. (HU)
- PHIL 195 - 010** **PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY (4)**
PROF. M BICKHARD
MW 1:10 – 2:35 PM
Contemporary evolutionary biology poses a number of urgent philosophical questions. For example: How does evolution work? Is evolution teleological? What are (the) major transitions in evolution, and why do they exist? What is life? What is a species? What is an individual? Does evolution depend on genes? How do function, representation, and other normative phenomena evolve? What about social behavior? We will address a selection of these, depending on interests. (HU)

PHIL/REL 195 - 011 BIOETHICS AND THE LAW (4)
PROF. D DAVIS
TR 2:35 – 3:50 PM

Students in this course will learn something about the foundations and (nontechnical) workings of the American system of justice, and will combine that understanding with focus on various topics in bioethics, from the “right to die” to gene-patenting. A key point will be the understanding that, as science and medicine continually move forward, there are always new challenges to existing legal understanding. How should the law respond to new questions, e.g. inheritance rights of posthumously conceived children? (HU)

PHIL/REL 196 GOD AND OTHER ULTIMATE EXPLANATIONS (4)
PROF. R BLISS
TR 9:20 – 10:35 AM

God solves a number of metaphysical problems: He explains why there is something rather than nothing, and why it is that the world is the way that it is, for example. But God also introduces a number of metaphysical problems: does God need explaining? what must God be like to be able to explain why there is something rather than nothing? God is what is known as an ‘ultimate explainer’. And many different traditions, both East and West are similar to Christianity in perceiving the need to posit such an ultimate explainer(s). In this class, we will explore some of the problems faced by ultimate explainers. (HU)

PHIL 197 ETHICS, CULTURE, & SOCIAL JUSTICE: NON-WESTERN
PERSPECTIVES (4)
PROF. W MOSAAD
TR 1:10 – 2:25 PM

Moral philosophers have devoted much attention to the issues of right and wrong, good and evil, and their implications for individuals and communities. The inherent inequalities in society present a challenge to ethical theorists in how best to address these inequalities in a manner that both individuals and communities can thrive and flourish. We will explore ethical theories from diverse cultures in their contexts, both ancient and modern, from different cultural milieus, including Islamic, African, and East Asian perspectives. (HU)

PHIL 221 REFLECTING ON REALITY (4)
PROF. R BLISS
TR 2:35 – 3:50

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/CLSS 232 FIGURES/THEMES IN HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY (4)
PROF. G BEARN
MW 12:45 – 2:00 PM

This seminar course will involve an in-depth focus upon a major movement in Hellenistic Philosophy (roughly 4th century B.C.E. to the 2nd Century C.E.) such as Epicureanism, Stoicism, Ancient Scepticism, or Neoplatonism, or the Hellenistic treatment of a particular theme (e.g. freedom from anxiety, the nature of the Cosmos and our place within it, or human nature). Content varies. Must have completed one HU-designated course in Philosophy at 100-level or higher. (HU)

PHIL/COGS 250 PHILOSOPHY OF MIND (4)
PROF. F CASATI
TR 10:45 – 12:00 PM

An exploration of the mind-body problem. Are the body and mind distinct substances (dualism); or is there only body (materialism); or only mind (idealism)? Other views to be considered include behaviorism (the view that behavior can be explained without recourse to mental states), and the view that the mind is a complex computer. Must have completed one HU-designated course in Philosophy at 100-level or higher. (HU)

PHIL/ES 301

**PHILOSOPHICAL-POLICY & LEGAL DESIGN: METHODS &
APPLICATIONS (Writing Intensive) (4)**

PROF. J GILLROY

M 4:10 – 7:00 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)