

Philosophy Courses

Spring 2019

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 007 **EMERSON, THOREAU, AND BEYOND: AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. G BEARN
MW 2:35 – 3:50 PM

The literary power of Emerson and Thoreau, of Frederick Douglass, Margaret Fuller and Walt Whitman, is widely recognized, but their philosophical vocation is still repressed. This introduction to philosophy will be through the doors offered by these American authors and their impact on other prominent thinkers. Course not open to seniors. (HU)

PHIL 014 **REASONING AND CRITICAL THINKING (4)**
PROF. F CASATI
TR 2:35 – 3:50 PM

Most intellectual endeavors involve reasoning. Whether in everyday discussion 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, complex treatises, and intricate scientific theories, reasons are constantly invoked to support or criticize points of view. This course develops skills needed to reason well, to analyze and critique others' reasoning, to distinguish reasoning from mere rhetoric, and to become a savvy consumer of information.

PHIL 024 **GOD, GOOD, AND EVIL: AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. R BLISS
TR 10:45 – 12:00 PM

How is God related to good and evil? If the world is not perfectly good or is even evil, how can it be that God is both all-good (omnibenevolent) and all-powerful (omnipotent)? We can solve the problem of God and evil by saying that God is not all good or not all powerful. But what if we don't want to relinquish God's goodness or power? We'll explore what great philosophers and religious thinkers have proposed. Course not open to seniors. (HU)

PHIL/GS/POLS 100 **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT (4)**
PROF. R MATTHEWS
TR 10:45 – 12:00 PM

A critical examination of political ideologies: Liberalism, Marxism, Fascism, and Islamism. (ND)

PHIL/HMS/REL 116 BIOETHICS (4)
PROF. D DAVIS
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. Topics include: confidentiality, informed consent, euthanasia, medical research and experimentation, genetics, and the distribution of health care. (HU)

PHIL/AAS 117 RACE, RACISM, AND PHILOSOPHY (4)
PROF. C KAUTZER
MW 12:45 – 2:00 PM

An introduction to the philosophy born of struggle against racism and white supremacy. We will read the work of philosophers, mostly European, who quietly made modern racism possible by inventing the category of race, but we will concentrate on the work of philosophers, mostly of African descent, who for 200 years have struggled to force a philosophical critique of the category of race and the practice of white supremacy. (HU)

PHIL 122 PHILOSOPHY OF LAW (4)
PROF. R WEISS
TR 10:45 – 12:00 PM

Analysis of the conceptual foundations of our legal system. Special attention devoted to the nature of law and legal obligation, liberty and privacy in constitutional litigation, justice and contractual obligation, theories of punishment in criminal law, and the nature and scope of responsibility in criminal law. (HU)

PHIL 123 ART, BEAUTY, AND THE AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE (4)
PROF. G BEARN
MW 8:45 – 10:00 AM

Theories, classical and modern, of the nature of beauty and the aesthetic experience. Practical criticism of some works of art, and examination of analogies between arts, and between art and nature. (HU)

PHIL/REL 124 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (4)
PROF. R WEISS
TR 9:20 – 10:35 AM

Critical examination, from a philosophical perspective, of some fundamental problems of religion, the nature of religious experience and belief, reason and revelation, the existence and nature of God, the problem of evil, and religious truth. (HU)

PHIL 128 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (4)
PROF. F CASATI
TR 9:20 – 10:35 AM

Science obviously works, and newer theories surely are better than the theories they replace, but why does science work, how does it work, and in what sense is it progressive? Is science a revelation of reality, or an account of evolving human experience? Are scientists rational? Is scientific reasoning logical? This course surveys the wide range of 20th century responses to these surprisingly elusive, and surprisingly still open, questions. (HU/STS)

PHIL 133 **MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. P CONNOLLY
MW 11:10 – 12:25 PM

Historical survey of selected texts and issues in western philosophy from the fourth to 14th centuries. Attention will be given to the relation between developments in medieval philosophy and major currents in ancient and modern thought. Figures may include Augustine, Eriugena, Anselm, Aquinas, Ockham, and Nicholas of Autrecourt. (HU)

PHIL/ASIA 140 **EASTERN PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. R BLISS
TR 2:35 – 3:50 PM

Survey of selected texts and issues in the eastern philosophical traditions. Attention will be given to the development and interrelations of these traditions as well as a comparison of western and eastern treatments of selected issues. Areas of focus may include Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen Buddhism. (HU)

PHIL/REL 141 **ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY (4)**
PROF. P CONNOLLY
MW 2:35 – 3:50 PM

An introduction to medieval Islamic philosophy. The medieval era was the golden age of Islamic civilization, when science, mathematics, theology, philosophy, logic, jurisprudence, etc., flourished. Islamic scientific and philosophical thoughts were greatly influenced by the Greek intellectual tradition, and the Islamic intellectual tradition influenced European thoughts during the Middle Ages and beyond. Thinkers to be studied include al-Kindi, al-Rizi, al-Farabi, Ibn Sina (Avicenna), al-Ghazali, Ibn Tufayl, and Ibn Rush (Averroes). (HU)

PHIL 172 **PHILOSOPHY OF ECONOMICS (4)**
PROF. C KAUTZER
MW 11:10 – 12:25 PM

In this course, we examine capitalism from a philosophical perspective, identifying and critically evaluating the social norms that shape production, distribution, and consumption. We begin with influential philosophies of property, labor, class, and markets in the works of Aristotle, John Locke, Adam Smith, J.S. Mill, and Karl Marx. We then relate these readings to contemporary discussions of distributive justice; commodification; the economic dimensions of gender and racial identities; environmental sustainability; and the function of debt. Throughout the course, we apply what we learn to current events in both classroom discussions and written assignments.

PHIL 220 **WAYS OF KNOWING (4)**
PROF. M BICKHARD
MW 2:35 – 3:50 PM

Recent work in theories of knowledge. Questions addressed include: What is knowledge? How does it differ from mere opinion and belief? If you can't know whether you are dreaming, how can you know you have two hands? Can we know anything at all? Does knowledge require answers to all possible doubts or only reasonable doubts? How should we determine the horizon of the reasonable—psychologically or philosophically? Must have completed one HU-designated course in Philosophy at 100-level or higher. (HU)

PHIL 235 **FIGURES AND THEMES IN MODERN PHILOSOPHY: KANT'S ETHICS (4)**
PROF. R DILLON
MW 12:45 - 2:00 PM

The German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) stands with Plato and Aristotle as the towering figures in Western philosophy. Kant's moral theory, the preeminent exemplar of deontological ethics, remains an enormously powerful and important view of the moral life. Our ideas that "the ends don't justify the means" and that all human beings have a fundamental dignity and certain basic human rights are key Kantian ideas. The course will be a close examination of Kant's ethics as developed in three central ethical works. (HU)

PHIL 292 **PHILOSOPHICAL METHODS (2)**
PROF. R DILLON
TBA

Methods of and approaches to philosophical research, reasoning, and writing, as preparation for senior thesis. Open only to junior philosophy majors. Department permission required. (HU)

PHIL/EI 333/433 **INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & PHILOSOPHICAL-POLICY**
DESIGN (Writing Intensive) (4)
PROF. J GILLROY
M 4:10 – 7:00 PM

This course studies international law and the natural environment assuming that the superficial legal structure and policy dilemmas of globally regulating the natural world are the result of the more essential philosophical ideas and concepts that have created both the international legal system and humanity's evolving interrelationship with nature. Learning the current structure of the international-environmental legal system we shall comparatively apply theory to practice to both explain existing law and justifying policy change. (HU)

PHIL/POLS 367 **AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT (3 - 4)**
PROF. R MATTHEWS
W 4:10 – 7:00 PM

Critical examination of American political thought from the founding of the Republic to the present. Writings from Madison, Hamilton, and Jefferson to Emma Goldman, Mary Daly, Malcolm X, Henry Kariel, and others will be discussed. (SS)