

Philosophy Courses

Fall 2024

PHIL 001 Introduction to Philosophy (4) HU
PHIL 001-010 Prof. Barry Hulsizer (MWF, 10:45-11:35am)
PHIL 001-011 Prof. Ricki Bliss (TR, 9:20-10:35am)
PHIL 001-012 Prof. Filippo Casati (MW, 9:20-10:35am)

Philosophy is a broad discipline which critically addresses many different branches of human experience. Aesthetics, politics, ethics, religion and even the structure of the world have all represented great sources of philosophical discussion in both eastern and western traditions. Study of historical and contemporary texts will introduce students to this vast philosophical universe and provide the skills necessary to benefit from its further exploration. Course not open to seniors.

PHIL/MATH 014-010 Symbolic Logic (4) MA
Prof. Aladdin Yaqub (TR, 3:00-4:15pm)

This course is an introduction to logical theory. Our primary goal is to study the notions of logical consequence and provability. The central question that we will try to answer is this: What exactly does it mean to say that some conclusion is a logical consequence of or is provable from a certain collection of premises? To answer this question as clearly and rigorously as possible, we will develop three symbolic logical systems: Term Logic, Sentence Logic, and Predicate Logic.

PHIL 090-010 Big Questions Seminar (4) FY Students ONLY
"How ought we live with AI?"
Prof. Nathan Schmidt (TR, 15:00-16:15)

AI is becoming ubiquitous in our lives and culture. This course seeks to examine the normative implications of AI. How ought we live with AI with its disruptions and enhancements? What laws should be applied to AI? What moral restrictions should we place on the use of AI? What implications of AI are there for minds in general?

PHIL 090-012 Big Questions Seminar (4) FY Students ONLY
"What is Nationalism?"
Prof. Chad Kautzer (MW, 1:35-2:50pm)

Nationalism is on the rise in the United States and beyond. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are publicly promoting Christian nationalism and a reinvigorated white ethnonationalism has moved from the margins to the center of U.S. politics. In this course we take up several questions about nationalism: How do we define it? What are its origins? What forms can it take? What purposes might it serve? What harms might it cause? We will explore these questions through scholarly texts as well as poetry, film, and music, paying special attention to U.S. history and contemporary politics.

PHIL 102-010 Philosophical Thinking (4) HU
Prof. Ricki Bliss (TR, 10:45am-12pm)

We can think philosophically about almost any topic: mathematics, ethics, ordinary objects, explanations, race, even philosophy itself. But if philosophy has no special subject matter, what exactly is it? Philosophy is a distinctive kind of activity - an activity that involves certain ways of thinking and certain kinds of conceptual tools. This class will familiarize students both with the tools philosophers take for granted and with philosophical patterns of reasoning and argumentative strategies that go beyond basic critical thinking.

- PHIL/ETH/HMS/REL 116-010** **Bioethics (4)** **HU**
Prof. Nathan Schmidt (TR, 1:35-2:50pm)
- 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.
- PHIL 131-010** **Ancient Philosophy (4)** **HU**
Prof. Nathan Schmidt (MW, 10:45am-12pm)
- 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.
- PHIL 139-010** **Contemporary Philosophy (4)** **HU**
Prof. Filippo Casati (MW, 10:45am-12pm)
- 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.
- PHIL 228-010** **Philosophy of Biology (4)** **HU**
Prof. Aladdin Yaqub (TR, 7:15-8:30pm)
- Evolutionary biology has given rise to many important philosophical questions. We may classify these questions into three categories. The first category concerns methodological issues, such as invoking the notions of fitness, adaptation, and teleology to explain the evolution of biological traits. The second concerns conceptual issues, such as the nature of species and the status of scientific reduction. The third concerns possible implications for other areas and disciplines, such as ethics, psychology, and sociology. We shall deal with a representative sample of each category. We will read classical essays written by philosophers and biologists. The emphasis is on arriving at a thorough and deep understanding of the issues covered
- PHIL 260-010** **Philosophy of Language (4)** **HU**
Prof. Mark Bickhard (MW, 3:00-4:15pm) **WRIT**
- A survey of some of the most central philosophical issues that relate to the structure and use of ordinary, as well as some logically ideal, languages. Issues such as the relation between linguistic expressions and reality, whether actual or hypothetical; between the meaning of expressions and thoughts; and between linguistic representations and truth. We will discuss such issues as understood in historically influential philosophical theories of language. Students must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
- PHIL/EVST 301-011** **Philosophical-Policy & Legal Design:**
EVST 401-011 **Methods & Applications (4)**
Prof. John Martin Gillroy (TR, 3:00-4:15pm)
- A basic class on the idea of policy design, as opposed to standard economic analysis of public policy and its application to various domestic and international areas of law, including environmental law. The course will introduce Philosophical-Policy Methods, or the protocol employing integrated philosophical systems to justify specific policy-legal design arguments, through the use of a variety of distinct policy paradigms. In-person course with remote elements