

Philosophy Courses

Spring 2021

PHIL 002 **Philosophical Questions (4)**
Prof. Nathan Schmidt
Remote Asynchronous

One way of understanding philosophy is as the rational attempt to formulate, understand, and answer fundamental questions. This course explores basic philosophical questions such as: What is the meaning of life? What is it to be a human person? Is human nature fundamentally good or evil? How should we live our lives? What makes a society just? Is knowledge possible? What is really real? Is there a God? Do we have free will? Course not open to seniors. (HU)

PHIL 004 **Belief, Knowledge, and Action: An Introduction to Philosophy (4)**
Prof. Barry Hulsizer
Remote 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. Course not open to seniors. (HU)

PHIL/ETH/HMS/REL 096 **Bioethics and COVID-19 (4)**
Prof. Dena Davis
Remote MW 10:45-12:00 PM

This unprecedented epidemic raises many serious ethical problems. What can we expect of healthcare workers? How can we make difficult decisions when more people need ventilators than we have ventilators to go around? How can we balance the pain of a wounded economy with the pain of a health crisis? What are the responsibilities of ordinary citizens to attempt to stay healthy? This class will look at these and other questions while also investigating the underlying ethical theories of justice and fairness. Class evaluation will depend on papers and class participation.

PHIL/POLS/GS 100 **Intro to Political Thought (4)**
Prof. Richard Matthews
Remote TR 9:20-10:35 PM

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

PHIL/MATH 114

Symbolic Logic (4)
Prof. Aladdin Yaqub
On Campus TR 3:00-4:15 PM

Symbolic Logic is an introduction to logical theory. Our primary goal is to study the notions of logical consequence and provability as well as related concepts such as consistency and contingency. Thus, 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? In order to answer this question (and related ones) as clearly and rigorously as possible, we will develop three symbolic logical systems: Term Logic, Sentence Logic, and Predicate Logic. No college training in philosophy or mathematics is presupposed. Attendance is required (a student with perfect attendance earns 10 points). There will be five take-home assignments and a final examination. The final exam consists of two parts: one part is take-home and the other is in-class (the second part is cumulative, open-book, and multiple-choice). The final grades are calculated out of 100 points. There will be 10 extra-credit points. These extra-credit points are not assigned to additional extra-credit problems. Rather, they are built into the weights of the regular problems of the assignments. They are, in effect, sort of a curve: every student benefits from them regardless of the student's actual grades on the assignments. (MA)

PHIL/AAS 117

Race, Racism, and Philosophy (4)
Prof. Chad Kautzer
Remote MW 12:10-1:25 PM

We take up several important questions in this course: What is race? What is racism? What is the difference between individual, institutional, and systemic racism? How does race intersect with other identities and social relations? The goal of the course is for you to acquire the philosophical and historical knowledge necessary to critically engage contemporary debates about race and racism. (HU)

PHIL/CLSS 131

Ancient Philosophy (4)
Prof. Filippo Casati
Remote TR 3:00-4:15 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 135

Modern Philosophy (4)
Prof. Ricki Bliss
Remote TR 1:35-2:50 PM

Historical survey of selected texts and issues in 17th and 18th century European philosophy with particular emphasis on developments in epistemology and metaphysics. Attention will be given to the relation of the "modern period" to developments in late medieval philosophy and the rise of the experimental sciences. Figures may include Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, and Kant. (HU)

PHIL 137

Nineteenth Century Philosophy (4)
Prof Chad Kautzer
Remote MW 1:35-2:50 PM

The 19th century was a period of explosive philosophical developments, which placed contradiction, conflict, and struggle at the center of social and political theory. These theories influenced revolutionary, abolitionist, suffragist, and Black freedom movements throughout the 19th century and continue to inform social and political movements in our time. Among the authors we engage are G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Marx, Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, T. Thomas Fortune, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. (HU)

PHIL/ASIA 140

Eastern Philosophy (4)
Prof. Ricki Bliss
Remote TR 10:45-12:00 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. Aladdin Yaqub
On Campus TR 7:15-8:30 PM

The medieval era was the golden age of Islamic civilization. Science, mathematics, theology, philosophy, logic, jurisprudence, and many other disciplines flourished during that time. Islamic scientific and philosophical thoughts were greatly influenced by the Greek intellectual tradition, and in turn, the Islamic intellectual tradition influenced European thoughts during the Middle Ages and beyond. The course is an introduction to medieval Islamic philosophy. There is no indigenous Islamic philosophy other than medieval Islamic philosophy and theology, and commentaries on and interpretations of medieval Islamic philosophical and theological texts. We will read selections from the writings of al-Kindī, al-Rāzī, al-Fārābī, Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna), al-Ghazālī, Ibn Ṭufayl, and Ibn Rushd (Averroes). Some of the readings are expositions of philosophical doctrines and arguments and others are critiques of philosophical doctrines and arguments. Our goal is to attain a thorough understanding of the texts we read instead of covering a large number of treatises. Attendance is required. There will be three papers with three tutorials. The first two tutorials are post-submission and the third tutorial is pre-submission. A tutorial is a meeting between a single student and the instructor. Whether it is a post-submission or a pre-submission tutorial, it always involves an oral examination on the essays that constitute the units covered by that tutorial. In addition to the oral examination, in a post-submission tutorial the student will be asked to read his or her paper and answer questions about it, and in a pre-submission tutorial the student is expected to submit and discuss a 1-page outline of the term paper. A tutorial grade is assigned solely on the basis of the quality of the student's performance during the oral examination. The part of a post-submission tutorial that consists of the reading and discussing of the submitted paper will, together with the quality of the writing, determine the grade of the paper.

PHIL 171

Independent Study (1-4)
Various Philosophy Faculty

Individual philosophical investigation of an author, book, or topic, designed in collaboration with a philosophy professor. Tutorial meetings, substantial written work. Consent of faculty instructor required. (HU)

PHIL 198

**The Hidden God (4)
Prof. Filippo Casati
Remote TR 1:35-2:50 PM**

God is certainly not part of our everyday world. According to all the major monotheistic religions, He does not appear to be an animal, a mountain, a chair and a golden calf. On the contrary, God is often characterized as purely transcendent and, for this reason, many important thinkers argue that God escapes both our ways of thinking and speaking. He is ineffable. But, if so, what do we do when we pray to Him? What happens when we read the Holy Scriptures? How is it possible to do theology, if we cannot talk about God? And what about all the endless philosophical debates about the Divine? In this course, we will try to answer these questions with the help of Saint Thomas, Immanuel Kant, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Martin Heidegger and, among the contemporary philosophers, Cora Diamond, James Conant, Adrian Moore and Stephen Mulhall.

PHIL 220

**Ways of Knowing (4)
Prof. Gordon Bearn
Remote TR 9:20-10:35 AM**

This course takes its lead from those aspects of knowing which involve knowing how words are brought together with things: that is a positron, that is an early Christian Dior, here is one hand and here is another. In ordinary situations, it is easy feel that there is no space, although space can't be the right word, no space between the word "hand" and your hands. Words and things seem as tightly closed in on themselves as a clam. In order to feel this space between words and things, in order to pry open the clam, we need to leave the domain of the ordinary. We will look at two realms. First science in the making, not the embalmed science of textbooks, but the fluid becoming of living scientific research. Second, we will look in on poetic language. If experimental science is, in one of its aspects, an effort to surprise us with arrangements of things we don't normally see, so poetry is, in one of its aspects, an effort to surprise us with arrangements of words that jolt something new into our linguistic life, numbed by familiarity.

Most of our waking life we are asleep or sleep walking, this course is an attempt to wake us up to beautiful words and things which are there already, in front of our very eyes. This course begins with knowledge, but it stretches beyond knowledge towards becoming music, exciting life.

We will be reading the psychologist Wolfgang Kohler, the philosopher of science N.R. Hanson, the philosophers Wittgenstein, Foucault, and Deleuze, and the painters and poets René Magritte, Raymond Roussel, and Gertrude Stein.

PHIL 221

**Reflecting on Reality (4)
Prof. Mark Bickhard
Remote MW 3:00-4:15 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 271

Independent Study (1-4)
Various Philosophy Faculty

Individual philosophical investigation of an author, book, or topic designed in collaboration with a philosophy professor. Tutorial meetings; substantial written work. Must have completed one HU- designated course in philosophy. Consent of faculty instructor required.

PHIL 292

Philosophical Methods (2)
Prof. Gordon Bearn
Remote Meetings TBD

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/ES 301
ES 401

Philosophical Policy & Legal Design (3 or 4)
Prof. John M. Gillroy
Remote MW 4:25-5:40 PM

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.

PHIL 371

Advanced Independent Study (1-4)
Various Philosophy Faculty

Individual philosophical investigation of an author, book, or topic designed in collaboration with a philosophy professor. Tutorial meetings; substantial written work. Must have completed one HU designated philosophy course at 200-level or higher, and have consent of instructor. (ND)

PHIL 390

Senior Thesis I (2)
Various Philosophy Faculty

The first part of two semesters of intensive research and writing supervised by the philosophy faculty thesis advisor in anticipation of completing a senior thesis in philosophy. Individual tutorials; substantial written work. Senior standing as a philosophy major and permission of the philosophy faculty thesis advisor required. (HU)