

Philosophy Courses

Spring 2020

PHIL/REL/ETH 003 **Global Religion, Global Ethics (4)**
Prof. Lloyd Steffen
TR 10:45-12:00 PM

Introduction to philosophical and religious modes of moral thinking, with attention given to ethical issues as they arise cross-culturally in and through religious traditions. The course will reference the United Nations Millennium Goals to consider family life and the role of women, social justice, the environment, and ethical ideals. Particular focus varies but may include one or more of the following: abortion and reproductive health, the death penalty, religiously motivated violence, and problems of personal disorder (heavy drinking, anorexia, vengeance). (BUG, HU)

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

PHIL 014 **Reasoning & Critical Thinking (4)**
Prof. Nathan Schmidt
MW 1:35-2:50 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. (HU)

PHIL 024 **God, Good, and Evil: An Introduction to Philosophy (4)**
Prof. Ricki Bliss
TR 3:00-4:15 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/POLS/GS 100 **Introduction to Political Thought (4)**
Prof. Richard Matthews
TR 9:20-10:35 PM

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

PHIL 124 **Philosophy of Religion (4)**
Prof. Patrick Connolly
MW 3:00-4:15 PM

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 125 **Social and Political Philosophy (4)**
Prof. Ken Burak
MW 10:45-12:00 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 128 **Philosophy of Science (4)**
Prof. Nathan Schmidt
MW 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 135 **Modern Philosophy (4)**
Prof. Patrick Connolly
MW 12:10-1:25 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 145 **Philosophy and Technology (4)**
Prof. Greg Reihman
TR 9:20-10:25 AM

This course is an exploration of questions of metaphysics and morality in the digital age. Are new technologies changing our views of metaphysics (what's real) and morality (what's right)? Can classical and contemporary philosophical theories help us think more clearly and make better choices when faced with new technologies? To help answer these questions, students will read a variety of philosophical works that invite critical reflection on a broad array of topics at the intersection of philosophy and technology. (HU)

PHIL 292 **Philosophical Methods (2)**
Staff
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/REL/AMST 347 **American Religious Thinkers (4)**
Prof. Michael Raposa
TR 3:00-4:15 PM

An examination of the writings of key figures in the history of American religious thought (such as Edwards, Emerson, Bushnell, Peirce, James, Royce, Dewey and the Niebuhrs). Attention will be directed both to the historical reception of these writings and to their contemporary significance.

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.

PHIL 391 **Senior Thesis II (1-4)**
Various Philosophy Faculty

Continuation and completion of PHIL 390 under the guidance of the thesis advisor. Consent of thesis advisor required. (HU)