

Philosophy Courses

Spring 2022

PHIL 001 **Introduction to Philosophy (4)**
Prof. Barry Hulsizer **OR** **Prof. Nathan Schmidt**
MWF 10:45-11:35 AM **TR 12:10-1:35 PM**

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. (HU)

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

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

PHIL/ETH 105 **Ethics (4)**
Prof. Ken Burak
MW 9:20-10:35 AM

Examination of right and wrong, good and bad, from classic sources such as Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Mill and Nietzsche.

PHIL/REL/ETH/HMS 106 **Bioethics and the Law (4)**
Prof. Dena Davis
MW 10:45-12:00 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 a 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/ETH/REL/HMS 116 **Bioethics (4)**
Prof. Nathan Schmidt
TR 3:00-4:15 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/FILM 120 **Philosophy and Film (4)**
Prof. Ken Burak
MW 10:45-12:00 PM

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 124 **Philosophy of Religion (4)**
Prof. Patrick Connolly
MW 12:10-1:35 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 135 **Modern Philosophy (4)**
Prof. Patrick Connolly
MW 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 139 **Contemporary Philosophy (4)**
Prof. Gordon Bearn
MW 3:00-4:15 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/WGSS 146 **Philosophy of Sex and Gender (4)**
Prof. Cynthia Rogan de Ramirez
MWF 1:35-2:25 PM

An examination of concepts, values, and assumptions relevant to gender and sex(uality) in our diverse society, investigating how they affect our lives in both concrete and symbolic ways. Intersections among gender, sex(uality), race, class, religion, ethnicity, etc., will be explored. Special attention will be paid to how gendered assumptions color our understandings of experiences of embodiment and emotion, reasoning and decision-making, knowledge production, and public and private relationships and activities. (HU)

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/MATH 197

Metalogic (4)
Prof. Aladdin Yaqub
TR 3:00-4:15 PM

This is a course on the metatheory of First-Order Predicate Logic. It offers expositions of some of the most important results of this metatheory, such as the Soundness and Completeness Theorems, Gödel's first and second Incompleteness Theorems, Tarski's Indefinability Theorem, and Church's Undecidability Theorem. It also offers introductory expositions of set theory, computability theory, and Second-Order Predicate Logic. The course is structured to serve the needs of a mixed audience and is aimed at developing conceptual and technical understanding of the results and notions covered. (MA)

PHIL 221

Metaphysics (4)
Prof. Aladdin Yaqub
TR 7:15-8:30 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/REL 224

Topics in Philosophy of Religion: Gabriel Marcel (4)
Prof. Michael Raposa
MW 3:00-4:15 PM

Selected problems and issues in the philosophy of religion. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level. The course topic for Spring 2022 will be the life and writings of the French Catholic existentialist philosopher and religious thinker Gabriel Marcel. (HU)

PHIL/COGS 251

Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science (4)
Prof. Mark Bickhard
MW 3:00-4:15 PM

Cognitive Science is the study of aspects of natural and artificial minds: perception, cognition, reasoning, action, and language. Several fields intersect here: artificial intelligence, linguistics, cognitive psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience. Central issues include: the nature of representation, the boundaries of cognitive science, and consciousness. We will survey the foundational philosophical aspects of these issues within Cognitive Science. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level, or major in Cognitive Science.(HU)

