

**PHILOSOPHY ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS
SPRING 2005**

**Philosophy 4016: Special Topics in Philosophy
Philosophy and Literature in Classical Greece**

This course will examine the nature of philosophy and literature as these two forms of human expression manifested themselves in the classical age of Greece. We will be reading literary works in various genres (esp. epic, dramatic, and didactic poetry) as well as philosophical works by Plato and Aristotle. We will focus our attention on the famous "battle between poetry and philosophy" for cultural supremacy that was underway at this time. Our ultimate aim will be to try to understand the views of champions and challengers on each side of this cultural clash and then come to some assessment of the respective merits and deficiencies of literature and philosophy as rival forms of human communication.

Instructor: M. Gifford CRN: 15775
Lecture: 5:00p-6:15p MAJWM 434 T Th

Philosophy 4214: Metaphysics

We will examine three main approaches to metaphysics in 20th Century philosophy: (1) Metaphysics through the analysis of language. We will read the English philosopher Bertrand Russell's 1918 lectures on "The Philosophy of Logical Atomism." This approach tends to be dismissive of traditional metaphysical issues, and leads to some surprising conclusions. (2) Metaphysics through reflection on human experience. We will study extensive selections from the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre's *Being and Nothingness* (1943). This approach is immersed in traditional metaphysical issues. (3) Metaphysics through the historical-analytic approach of Bernard Williams (1929-2003). Williams defends the notion of "truth" against a number of recent attacks.

Students will write weekly reaction papers, and submit three substantial papers along with drafts and revisions. (This is a writing-intensive course.)

Available for graduate credit.

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 15903
Lecture: 4:00p-5:15p MCB 219 M W

**Philosophy 5306: Main Themes in the Philosophy of Modern
Science & Technology**

The general theme of this course is theory change. Beginning in the 1960s the topic was dominated by discussions of and follow-ups to or rejections of the work of the historian of science, Thomas Kuhn, specifically his *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. We will begin with a recap of that work and very briefly consider some alternative philosophically based accounts before proceeding to two contemporary views on the subject that go beyond narrow disciplinary perspectives and which invoke the full range of STS considerations. One significant objective of our work will be to see why such a large topic as theory change cannot be adequately handled by anything less than a full blown interdisciplinary approach.

The class will be run as a seminar. Student presentations will dominate – there will be little lecturing by the professor.

Instructor: J. Pitt CRN: 13989
Lecture: 2:30p-5:15p LANE 132 M
(Crosslisted with STS 5306 – CRN 14558)

Philosophy 5344: History of Ethics - Kant's Ethics

This seminar in the history of ethics offers an in depth study of Kant's theory of virtue.

Instructor: A. Baxley CRN: 15815
Lecture: 9:05a-11:50a MAJWM 225 W

**Philosophy 5984 Special Study: Philosophical Foundations
of Statistical Inference and Inductive Methodology**

Instructor: D. Mayo CRN: 16422
Lecture: 5:00p-7:50p PAM 2028 T
(Crosslisted with ECON 5984 – CRN 16387)

**Philosophy 6014: Special Topics in Philosophy
Pragmatism**

This course is an overview of Pragmatism, America's distinctive philosophical tradition. Pragmatism had great intellectual and social impact in the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, launching an international, cross-disciplinary intellectual movement, influencing philosophers such as Edmund Husserl, Alfred North Whitehead, and Ludwig Wittgenstein. In recent years, American Pragmatism has enjoyed a renewed interest among contemporary philosophers. We will study the works of classical American pragmatists such as Charles Peirce, William James, and John Dewey, as well as the contemporary pragmatist Richard Rorty. We will explore the answers they have given to questions on epistemology (conceptions of truth and belief) on metaphysics (universal realism and the existence of God), and on philosophy in general (the relationship between philosophy and science).

Instructor: R. Mayorga CRN 15902
Lecture: 1:15 p-3:50p MAJWM 225 W

**Philosophy 6014: Special Topics in Philosophy
The Construction of Social Reality**

Is there such a thing as race? Is gender a biological category, or is it something we imagine and just project on the world? For that matter, are pencils and desks, or dollar bills and banking systems, or clarinet notes and musical genres, natural features of the world? Or are they categories we define, or are they something else? In this seminar, we will consider the metaphysics of social kinds and the semantics of social kind terms, gathering together a wide range of approaches and literatures. Significant attention will be paid to works in the philosophy of language, pertaining to natural, theoretical, and nominal kind terms. Additional selections will come from social constructivists and naturalization projects. Readings from Locke, Quine, Lewis, Putnam, Burge, Millikan, Searle, Foucault, Appiah, and others.

Instructor: B. Epstein CRN: 16220
Lecture: 2:30p-5:15p MAJWM 225 Th

**Philosophy 6014: Special Topics in Philosophy
Contemporary Kantian-Inspired Approaches to Metaphysics**

Kant famously held that there is a set of concepts – the Categories – that play a special role in our capacity to experience and understand the world. He thought that the possibility of both theoretical science and metaphysics depended on the Categories playing this special role. Using Euclidean geometry and Newtonian Mechanics as

paradigm cases (of contentful necessary truths, like those to which metaphysics aspires) Kant thought he could show that it is the fact that our experience of the world must necessarily conform to these concepts that underwrites our capability to discover necessary and contentful truths about the world. Kant's attempt to explain why our experience is necessarily subject to the Categories and therefore why both metaphysics and theoretical science are possible led him to the doctrine of Transcendental Idealism, which has typically been regarded as an incomprehensible, or otherwise unacceptable, doctrine by contemporary analytic philosophers. Furthermore, the sciences that Kant thought demanded this doctrine (Newtonian Mechanics and Euclidean Geometry) are no longer understood to be the unimpeachable truths that Kant took them to be. As a result, many contemporary philosophers have worked to try to preserve Kant's insights into the special role played by some of our concepts in facilitating, or grounding, our experiences and/or scientific understanding of the world while distancing themselves from Kant's Transcendental Idealism, and the static conception of science and mathematics on which it is based.

In this course, we will study (at least) two such attempts to preserve the Kantian idea that there are certain concepts that play a special role in our experience and/or understanding of the world without invoking the more objectionable aspects of Kant's philosophy. The first philosopher we will study is P.F. Strawson, who developed his own approach to 'descriptive' metaphysics based on Kantian inspired 'transcendental arguments' that purport to show that the possession of certain conceptual capacities is a necessary condition for our experience of (certain aspects of) the world. There is an enormous philosophical literature devoted to understanding and assessing the relevance of such transcendental arguments to issues in contemporary philosophy. We will read parts of Strawson's Bounds of Sense and Individuals, and then sample this literature. The second philosopher we will study is Michael Friedman who has written a recent book called The Dynamics of Reason in which he argues that a relativized version of the Categories might allow philosophers of science to accommodate radical scientific change (Kuhnian paradigm shifts) while preserving the idea that scientific progress is rational.

Instructor: M. Goodwin CRN: 16219
Lecture: 11:00a-1:45p MAJWM 225 Th

Philosophy 6204: Advanced Topics in the History of Philosophy The Republic

This course will be a detailed examination of Plato's most important and most influential dialogue. We will examine the *Republic* in all of its numerous and complementary philosophical facets, from its idealist metaphysics to its (apparently) philistine aesthetics, but will devote special attention to its central ethical and epistemological theories. In attempting to reach a historically faithful yet critical understanding of the work we will periodically advert to several other dialogues also thought to belong to Plato's "middle" period, including the *Phaedo*, the *Symposium*, the *Phaedrus*, and the *Parmenides*.

Instructor: M. Gifford CRN 13997
Lecture: 6:05p-8:50p MAJWM 225 M

Philosophy 6314: History of the Philosophy of Science Darwin and Darwinism: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives

This course will combine historical study of Darwin and Darwinism with a conceptual-philosophical examination of "Darwinian" theories and movements. The material studied will include biological, historical, and philosophical sources. Students with primary training in the biological sciences are encouraged to take this course; much of the material covered is useful for working biologists interested in evolution. For those taking the course for credit in philosophy, a philosophical term paper will be required; other participants may write on any course-appropriate topic.

The course will begin with about four weeks on Darwin; it will also cover several differing Darwinian traditions and temporal changes in the content of Darwinian theories, with coverage to at least 1950, perhaps to the present. *The precise content of the course will be adjusted to address the interests of participants.* There will be three or four short papers, intended to help participants in the course understand each others' perspectives and to help students build up to a significant term paper. Grading will depend about 50% on class participation (including the short papers and informal writing or reports) and about 50% on the term paper.

Instructor: R. Burian CRN 15782
Lecture: 2:30p-5:15p MAJWM 532 W
(Crosslisted with STS 6314-CRN 16023)