

FALL 2007**PHILOSOPHY ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS****Philosophy 4204: Philosophy of Mind**

This class will address broadly three questions related to the philosophical study of the mind: (1) What are our mental states about?; (2) Is the ontological basis of those states physical, either in whole or in part?; and (3) What is the nature of our acquaintance with our own mental states? We will study classical and contemporary approaches to each of these questions, paying attention to how debates surrounding these issues have evolved over time.

The text for this class will be McGlaughlin and Cohen (2007) Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Mind, and various supplementary essays.

Instructor: C. Haufe

CRN: 97360 Lecture: 1:25-2:15p MWF

Philosophy 4614: Philosophy of Science

The course will focus on the debate between scientific realism and anti-realism, endeavoring to explore two fundamental questions concerning science: 'What is science' and 'What should science do?' Naturally, these questions are interrelated. Does/Should science predict, explain, classify or increase our understanding of the physical world? What does one mean by each of these terms? How is scientific inquiry related to truth? Does science aim to discover "the way the world really is", or is it merely a useful way of organizing and coordinating known facts about the observable world?

Instructor: D. Parker

CRN: 94458 Lecture: 10:10a-11:00a MWF

Philosophy 5204: Topics in the History of Philosophy**TS: Kant's Critique of Pure Reason**

A systematic reading of Kant's central epistemological work, the "Critique of Pure Reason". By the end of the term, participants in the seminar will be able to evaluate Kant's epistemological position as outlined in the "Critique", and will be able to sketch the key arguments of the text. Participants in the seminar will analyze Kantian questions of enduring philosophical importance, primarily by reading the "Critique" itself.

Instructor: L. Patton

CRN: 97014 Lecture: 7:00p-9:45p T

Philosophy 5204:**TS: Deweyan Pragmatism & Educ.**

Pragmatism, especially Deweyan pragmatism, has undergone an extensive reawakening over the last thirty years and has become influential in many domains of contemporary thought. In his lifetime, Dewey was a renowned educator; today, he is still known internationally as the greatest educator to write in the English language. Dewey himself saw no fundamental difference between the fundamental questions of education and philosophy. For instance, if we had a rich theory of learning, we might not need a theory of knowledge. This course will approach Dewey's philosophy of education largely through more conventionally philosophical texts. We will open with a work on the philosophy of education, but then move on to an extensive study of Dewey's epistemology and philosophy of technology before concluding with contemporary feminist pragmatism, which launches from Dewey's emphasis on embodiment, affectivity, and the social nature of the mind and the

self. If you want to think about philosophy instead of philoepisteme, this may be a course for you.

Instructor: J. Garrison

CRN: 97038 Lecture: 4:00p-6:50p W
(also taught as EDCI 5784)

Philosophy 5305: Philosophy of Modern Science & Technology

This course will provide an overview of central issues in the history of philosophy of science. Beginning with Logical Positivism and examining later views such as those of Popper, Kuhn, van Fraassen and Hacking, we will examine the theoretical/observational distinction, problems of confirmation, scientific explanation, intertheoretic reduction and the importance of the history of science for philosophical accounts of scientific practice. The course is intended as an intensive introductory treatment of these problems, focusing on the underlying motivations and ways in which philosophers approach the study of science.

Instructor: D. Parker

CRN: 94462 Lecture: 3:30p-6:15p Th
(Cross listed with: STS 5305; CRN 65014)

Phil 5334: Normative Ethics

We will focus a major part of the seminar on working through Derek Parfit's forthcoming major work in normative ethics, *Rediscovering Reasons*. Chapters include: Reasons; Value-Based Theories; Desire-Based Theories; Rationality; Morality; Moral Concepts; Possible Consent; Merely as a Means; Respect and Value; The Greatest Good; Universal Laws; What if Everyone Did That?; Impartiality; Contractualism; Consequentialism; Conclusions. We will also read current articles that tie into this material--e.g., relevant work by Kantians to compare with his treatment of Kantian ethics, etc.

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick

CRN: 97159 Lecture: 3:30p-6:15p W

Philosophy 5505: Symbolic Logic

Modern deductive symbolic logic and its metatheory. Logical metatheory: consistency, completeness, and decidability of logical systems.

Instructor: B. Epstein

CRN: 94463 Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a T Th

Philosophy 6334: Advanced Topics Phil. of Science**TS: Technological Knowledge**

What is technological knowledge? How is it manifested? In what ways is it similar to or different from scientific knowledge? What is the relationship between technological knowledge and the technically sophisticated machines, instruments and system we create? How does the technical knowledge we use to operate advanced laboratory equipment and instruments interface with the scientific knowledge that is generated? These are some of the questions we will be exploring in the course of the semester. The issues surrounding the nature, role and relation of technological knowledge to other areas is of increasing importance as we become increasingly embedded in a

****This sheet was updated 7/11/2007. Information is subject to change.
Check the online university timetable for locations and current information.**

world of complicated artifacts and systems of artifacts. As we wrestle with some of these ideas, we hopefully will come to a better understanding of what it takes to create and manipulate artifacts in the modern world. (Note: **this is a VTEL course**)

Instructor: J. Pitt

Blacksburg campus:

CRN: 94469 Lecture: 7:00p-9:45p M
(Cross listed with STS 6334 CRN 97037)

Washington/Alexandria Arch.

CRN 97177 Lecture: 7:00-9:45p M
(Cross listed with STS 6334 CRN 97178)

Philosophy 6334: Advanced Topics Phil. of Science

(Description forthcoming.)

Instructor: C. Glymour and A. Spanos

CRN: 96673 Lecture: 7:00p-9:45p W