

SPRING 2007

PHILOSOPHY ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

Philosophy 4214: Metaphysics

Metaphysics is the study of the nature of reality — of what there is and how things are — in the most general sense. This will lead naturally to questions about what the most fundamental things are, whether there are mental things as well as physical things, whether the world is in any way dependent on the human mind, and why there is anything at all. This course will be a survey of historical as well as contemporary metaphysics, covering such topics as realism and idealism, universals and particulars, necessity and contingency, causation, space and time, identity, mind and body, and freewill and determinism. In exploring these and related issues, we will read the work of many classic and contemporary philosophers, including Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Berkeley, Leibniz, Peirce, Quine, Kripke, Lewis, Parfit, Armstrong, Dummett, van Inwagen, McTaggart, and others.

Instructor: R. Mayorga CRN: 15700
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p T Th

Philosophy 4304: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Contemporary Theories of Justice

The course examines contemporary philosophical approaches to social justice. Must equality and liberty always be at odds? Can the welfare of some be sacrificed for the greater good of others? Is taxation like slavery? Is the traditional family the basis of a good society or an unjust and oppressive institution? Does a just society protect minority cultures even if that means limiting the rights of its citizens? Do we even want the ideal society to be just? Particular approaches to be discussed include utilitarianism, liberal egalitarianism, libertarianism, communitarianism, multiculturalism, and feminism. Authors include John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Michael Walzer, Susan Okin, and Will Kymlicka.

Instructor: S. May CRN: 14444
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a T Th

Philosophy 4334: Jurisprudence: The Authority of the Law

The course is premised on the question: what is the law supposed to be, such that we are supposed to obey it? Topics to be discussed include civil disobedience and conscientious objection; competing theories of the nature of the law and its normative content; the enforcement of morality; the nature of rights and their importance; constitutionalism and different approaches to constitutional interpretation; equality before the law; and majoritarianism and the question of judicial review of legislation. Authors to be studied include H.L.A. Hart, Lon Fuller, Ronald Dworkin, Jules Coleman, Joel Feinberg, Joseph Raz, and Jeremy Waldron.

Instructor: S. May CRN: 14446
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p T Th

Philosophy 4604: Philosophy of Biology

We will examine a number of theoretical and conceptual issues arising from biologists' efforts to understand and explain living systems. Among the issues covered will be the roles of theories (e.g. of evolution and genetics) in biology, the way "reductionist" explanations work in molecular biology ("a gene's eye view of the organism"), and the interactions among theory, experiment, and biotechnologies in understanding the properties of organisms. We will analyze a number of key concepts employed in evolutionary and molecular biology, for example, the concepts of adaptation, altruism, epigenesis, function, gene, and species. We will also explore some philosophical issues raised by work in biology, such as the question of the "emergence" of new sorts of entities (organisms, thinking

beings, societies) with increasing complexity) and the distinctiveness (?) of human beings.

This course may be used as a writing intensive course within the major for both Biology and Philosophy majors. It is not necessary (though it is desirable) for students with one of these majors to have had a course in the other field. Students will be guided through the writing process in a natural way as part of the ongoing work in the course. Some short papers (probably three) and a term paper will be required for this course. The main textbook will be Kim Sterelny and Paul E. Griffiths, *Sex and Death: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Biology* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1999). There will be supplemental readings, most of which will be available on the web. This course is also available for graduate credit. If there is sufficient graduate student attendance, there will be an extra hour of class most weeks, covering some more advanced assignments.

Instructor: R. Burian CRN: 15709
Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p MWF

Philosophy 5204: Topics in the History of Philosophy: Heidegger

Martin Heidegger was one of the most important philosophers of the 20th Century, but certainly not one of the most accessible. In this course, we will read large portions of his most famous work, *Being and Time*, the work often called his second major work, known as the *Beiträge*, and portions of his later writing especially relevant to his study of science and technology. In this way, we'll provide a solid grounding in Heidegger's most well known work, and also find a pathway into his later thought, which is often very difficult to approach. A working knowledge of basic German will most certainly help, but will not be assumed.

Instructor: D. Wittkower CRN: 14449
Lecture: 10:00a-12:45p W

(Course will also be taught as STS 5424 Topics in Science Technology Studies; CRN TBA)

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

This course is an introductory graduate course, designed to help students become familiar with three major topics prominent in recent philosophy of science and technology and to develop skill in making and evaluating arguments about these and related topics. The topics are:

- (1) Can the history of science offer shed light on fundamental issues in philosophy of science and technology? Among the issues covered will be the goals of science, the nature of progress in science and technology, various ways in which contextual factors affect scientific and technological change, and the interrelations among theory, experiment, and available technologies.
- (2) What is the relationship between technological and scientific change? This question contains many hidden assumptions. Yet variants of this question are critical for understanding science as scientific advances ("advances"?) have come to depend increasingly on experimental technologies, as technological advances ("advances"?) have come to depend increasingly on science, and as "scientific" technologies have come to play an ever-more central role in the dominant culture.
- (3) Incorporating both the above, can we tease out a useful account of the relationship between the direction of scientific research and the health of the surrounding society?

We will employ an 'historical' approach to these topics and we will address the use of case studies in dealing with these topics. There will be short written assignments approximately every other week and a term paper. Students will have some opportunity to influence the readings employed and the issues addressed in the course.

Instructor: R. Burian CRN: 14450
Lecture: 9:05a-11:50a M
(Crosslisted with CRN 15014 – STS 5306)

Philosophy 5506: Symbolic Logic

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

Instructor: D. Parker CRN: 14452
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p NOR 211 T Th

Philosophy 6204: Advanced Topics in the History of Philosophy Locke and Berkeley

This course will look at the metaphysics and epistemology of these two figures, with an emphasis on intentionality and meaning, and how these figure in arguments for and against material substance. Depending on the interests of the class, we can also look briefly at some of Locke's key precursors (esp. Glanvill) and critics (esp. John Sergeant, who anticipates many of Berkeley's criticisms).

Instructor: W. Ott CRN: 16771
Lecture: 2:30p-5:15p M

Philosophy 6314: History of the Philosophy of Science Hume and the Human Sciences

In this course we will examine Hume's attempt to build a "science of man". It is my contention that this is the only way to understand the *Treatise* as a whole. This is a nonstandard reading of the *Treatise* - but it is the only correct one!

Instructor: J. Pitt CRN 14458
Lecture: 3:30p-6:15p W
(Crosslisted with STS 6314: CRN 15021)

Philosophy 6324: Advanced Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy:

Metaethics

A systematic examination of central topics in metaethics. The focus will be on some of the most influential work by leading contemporary moral philosophers (e.g., Harman, Sturgeon, Railton, Boyd, Gibbard, Blackburn, McDowell, Wiggins, Rawls, Korsgaard, Nussbaum, Nagel, Parfit, Williams, Foot, Darwall, Shafer-Landau). Some typical questions to be addressed: What kind of meaning do ethical terms have, and what is the nature of ethical judgment? In what sense can ethical judgments be said to be true or false, and what makes them so? (Divine commands? Facts about human nature? The hypothetical emotional responses of an 'ideal observer'? The sheer logic of agency?) Are ethical properties such as goodness or rightness objective features of the world, i.e. real properties of people or actions? If so, how are they related to the natural properties investigated by the sciences, and how do we perceive them? If not, should they be understood as rooted instead in contingent human emotions or commitments, or perhaps as necessary constructions of human reason? What is it for there to be genuine reason for someone to do something, and can it be argued that there is always reason to act ethically? Can reason itself motivate us, independently of the operation of prior desires? Are ethical reasons always overriding, trumping other kinds of reasons a person might have for acting differently? To what extent are ethical values universal, and to what extent are they historically or socially dependent?

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN 15714
Lecture: 3:00p-5:45p T

Philosophy 6324: Advanced Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy: Democracy

Instructors: Wolfgang Natter (PSCI, Director of ASPECT), Barbara Ellen Smith (IDST/Women's Studies), Wayne Moore (Political Science), Marian Mollin (History), and Steve Daskal (Philosophy)

(Please note: capacity set at 15; priority will be given to students in the ASPECT program.)

Description forthcoming.

CRN 16773
Lecture: 2:00p-5:00p T
(An ASPECT course)