

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS
FALL 2003

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

We will read and discuss some imaginative literature, brief philosophical classics, and short philosophical analyses, which deal with problems about the nature of human knowledge and the constitution of reality. For example we will ask: What do you know for certain? Does God exist? Is there a difference between humans and machines?

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93918
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 MCB 226 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93919
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 RAND 212 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93920
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 8:00-8:50 PAB 105 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93921
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 RAND 210 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93922
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 RAND 210 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93925
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 MCB 332 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93928
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 MCB 218 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93929
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 RAND 320 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93930
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 MCB 328 F

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

Examines the questions: What is the nature of reality? How do I know what is real and what is misleading appearance, error, or illusion? What is knowledge? How do I find out who I am and how I relate to the world around me?

Instructor: E. Lewis CRN: 93924
Lecture: 3:30-4:45 MAJWM 334 T Th

Instructor: E. Lewis CRN: 93926
Lecture: 2:00-3:15 SQUIR 116 T Th

Instructor: STAFF CRN: 93927
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 LITRV 1770 T Th

Instructor: M. Rea CRN: 93932
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 MCB 304 M W F

Instructor: S. Thomson CRN: 93933
Lecture: 9:05-9:55 MAJWM 434 M W F

Instructor: S. Thomson CRN: 93934
Lecture: 11:15-12:05 SQUIR 116 M W F

Instructor: M. Rea CRN: 93935
Lecture: 10:10-11:00 MAJWM 434 M W F

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

A critical survey of theories concerning human nature, the meaningful life

What should our ultimate goal in life be? Is living morally most conducive to true happiness? What in general makes something right or wrong? Is it always possible for a good enough end to justify bad means, or do considerations of justice sometimes preclude this? Does morality depend on the commands of God? Are there really objective facts about right or wrong, perhaps transcending differences across cultures and times, or is morality ultimately subjective and/or "relative"? Does anyone ever really act from unselfish motives? Some more particular problems: Is it morally justifiable to use human embryonic stem cells for research or tissue therapy? If so, is it right to deliberately create embryos for the purpose of harvesting stem cells (which destroys the embryos)? Can abortion ever be morally justified, and if so, how? In what cases might euthanasia be morally permissible? Is capital punishment morally justifiable in principle? In practice? How far does our duty to aid distant strangers extend? Is it morally acceptable to cause harm to non-human animals in biomedical research?

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93939
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 RAND 316 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93940
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 SQUIR 316 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93941
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 MCB 210 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93942
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 SHULT 109 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93943
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 SHULT 109 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93945
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 8:00-8:50 MAJWM 434 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93946
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 MCB 209 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93947
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 MCB 202 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93948
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 PAB 105 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93949
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 NORRIS 211 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93950
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 SHULT 109 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93951
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 SHULT 109 F

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

This is a synchronous multi-media distance (computer-based) course that uses a web-based platform. It is not a regular lecture course, but rather one that will be taught at a distance using a computer. We will have synchronous (live) classes using Centra Symposium software as well as pre-recorded sessions. Lectures will be over the computer, with a PowerPoint format. The Centra software allows for live two-way voice communication over headphones. There will be a classroom equipped with computers reserved for

Philosophy 1504: Language and Logic Distance Section

Basic concepts in logic and critical thinking: argument, validity, deduction and induction, logical form, formal and informal fallacies, introduction to the logic of truth functions and of categorical statements, and critical analysis of arguments in ordinary language.

Instructor: B. Kelley CRN: 93952
Lecture: 12:30-1:45 TORG 3100 T Th

Instructor: L. Perini CRN: 95648
Lecture: 9:30-10:45 WHIT 277 T Th

Philosophy 2115: Ancient/Medieval Philosophy

Western philosophical thought through the medieval period, ancient philosophy, including Presocratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Instructor: STAFF CRN: 93953
Lecture: 12:30-1:45 MCB 304 T Th

Instructor: STAFF CRN: 93954
Lecture: 3:30-4:45 MCB 318 T Th

Philosophy 2125: History of Modern Philosophy

This is a survey of the history of modern philosophy from Descartes to Locke. We will study the central themes in 17th century philosophy that shaped the development of modern philosophy. Concentrating on Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz, our topics will include: the status of metaphysics, scientific knowledge, and ordinary experience; the relation between mind and body; self-knowledge and personal identity; the connection between experience and knowledge; the existence of God; freedom and responsibility.

Instructor: R. Ariew CRN: 93955
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 WHIT 349 T Th

Instructor: R. Ariew CRN: 93956
Lecture: 9:30-10:45 GYM 126 T Th

Philosophy 2304: Global Ethics

Ethical issues in international context. Application of the principles of moral theory to such issues as the obligations of richer nation toward poorer ones, cultural and other forms of relativism, emigration and immigration, nationalism, war, deterrence, intervention, environmental degradation, preservation of natural diversity, and responsibilities.

Instructor: A. Garnar CRN: 95649
Lecture: 10:10-11:00 MAJWM 334 M W F

Instructor: A. Garnar CRN: 95650
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 MCB 202 M W F

Philosophy 2605: Reason and Revolution in Science

In this course we will study so-called scientific revolutions. We will examine some literature about the nature of scientific revolutions and some studies of episodes that usually count as scientific revolutions, including the Copernican and the Darwinian revolutions. We will learn about ways in which conflicts between scientific theories have been resolved and difficulties encountered in resolving fundamental disagreements in science. In the process we will examine the character of scientific theories, some of the ways evidence is brought to bear in theory choice, and the extent to which evidence is decisive in theory change.

Instructor: R. Burian CRN: 95651
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 MAJWM 434 T Th

Philosophy 3015: Political Theory

This is a historical introduction to Western political philosophy from ancient times through the Renaissance. We will focus on the views of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle (who are Ancient Greek philosophers); the Bible (Hebrew and Christian views); St. Thomas Aquinas (a Medieval Christian theologian), and Niccolò Machiavelli (Renaissance politician and political thinker). We will be studying philosophical texts, Biblical stories and texts, and plays by Sophocles, Aristophanes, Euripides, and Shakespeare. We will examine such topics as: the nature of justice, the beginnings of democracy, the obligation to obey the state, the relationship between religion and the state, the ideal society, the process of liberation, the role of women, the purpose of education.

Instructor: STAFF CRN: 93973
Lecture: 8:00-9:15 PAB 105 T Th
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94244)

Philosophy 3505: Modern Logic & Development

This will be a rigorous introduction to propositional and predicate logic up to and including polyadic quantified logic with identity. Students will obtain mastery of elementary and advanced proof strategies and techniques for translation from English into formal logical languages. Basic metalogical results will also be discussed.

Instructor: D. Mayo CRN: 93974
Lecture: 2:00-3:15 RAND 208 T Th

Philosophy 4224: Epistemology

Theory of knowledge. Is all knowledge based on experience? Does knowledge have a foundation? Can knowledge of the present and the nearby give us reasons for beliefs about the future, the past, or about events far away?

Instructor: L. Perini CRN: 95653
Lecture: 2:00-3:15 MCB 210 T Th

Philosophy 4334: Jurisprudence

An examination of the nature of law and legal systems with attention to traditional theories of law and to such topics as judicial decision and discretion, law, and morality, the justification of legal coercion.

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 95185
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 MCB 207 T Th

Philosophy 4604: Philosophy of Biology

The course will examine a number of conceptual problems arising from biologists' efforts to understand and explain living systems. Among the issues we will cover are 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 explore 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 with increasing complexity (organisms, thinking beings, societies) 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).

Instructor: R. Burian CRN: 95192
Lecture: 9:30-10:45 WHIT 349 T Th