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. Pitt

CRN: 14400 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F

CRN: 14401 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a F

CRN: 14402 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a F

CRN: 14404 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F

CRN: 14405 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F

CRN: 14406 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p F

CRN: 14407 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F

CRN: 14408 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F

CRN: 14409 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a F

CRN: 14410 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F

CRN: 14411 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 2:30p-3:20p F

CRN: 14412 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p M W
Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p F

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

This course is an introduction to some metaphysical and epistemological issues in philosophy. We will focus on such questions as: What is the nature of reality and the self? What is knowledge? How do I know what is real and what is misleading appearance, error or illusion? What is the meaning of life? We will discuss what some important historical and contemporary philosophers have said about these issues.

Instructor: I. Guajardo

CRN: 14398 Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p T Th
CRN: 14413 Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a T Th

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: M. Rea

CRN: 14399 Lecture: 9:05a-9:55a MWF

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

This course is a comprehensive introduction to moral philosophy. We will combine a survey of some classic works (by Plato, Aristotle, Kant and Bentham) with an examination of the treatment of issues in ethical theory and applied ethics by several leading contemporary philosophers. Some questions we'll explore: What should our ultimate goal in life be? Is living morally most conducive to true happiness? How morally good should we strive to be? What in general makes something right or wrong? What basic political principles can be morally justified? Is it always possible for a good enough end to justify bad means, or do considerations of justice sometimes stand in the way of 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"? Can good or bad luck affect your ultimate 'moral record'? Some more particular problems: 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? Do non-human animals have moral rights? Is it morally acceptable, for example, to cause harm to them in biomedical research or to factory farm them, or do such practices violate their rights?

Instructor: S. Daskal

CRN: 14414 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p MW
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F

Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F

Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a F

Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F

CRN: 14418 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p MW
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F

Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a F

Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p F

Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F

CRN: 14423 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p MW
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F

Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a F

Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p F

Recitation: 2:30p-3:20p F

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

This course is a critical survey of theories concerning the good, the right, human nature or lack thereof, the meaningful life, and the moral evaluation of actions, persons, and institutions ... in partial historical context. One of the difficult things about philosophy in general, and ethics in particular, is that it (ethics!) often fails to present students with an answer. While one may feel free to posit that this is an indictment of philosophers rather than philosophy, I suspect that this is due at least in part to the very old idea that philosophy is a process as well as—or perhaps rather than—a product.

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This can lead to the conclusion that philosophy never "gets anywhere." I'm not quite naïve enough to believe that the assertion that "the journey itself is the thing!" will impress itself upon you through the vehicle of syllabi or course descriptions, but my intuition that this is so has practical ramifications for how this class will be administered. To wit:

**Students must read.** I expect all students to have read the day's assignment before class. I further consider students responsible for the entire reading; whether we have time to discuss each item and article or not.

**Students must attend class.** Every absence, for whatever reason, results in a lowering of your participation grade ... because I'm pretty sure that you weren't participating if you weren't there. On that topic ...

**Students must participate.** Participation means asking and answering questions in class, and contributing to the discussion. Sitting in a class is not participating. It is sitting. What I am after, in this course, is a conversation about the good, the bad, the ugly and how we tell these things apart.

**Instructor:** M. Rea

**CRN:** 14425  
**Lecture:** 2:00p-3:15p  
**CRN:** 16327  
**Lecture:** 11:00a-12:15p  
**T Th**

**Philosophy 1504: Language and Logic**

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:** J. Miller

**CRN:** 14428  
**Lecture:** 2:00p-3:15p  
**T Th**

**Philosophy 2116: Ancient/Medieval Philosophy**

The Middle Ages is one of the richest and most complex periods in the development of Western culture. Philosophically, it was a time of synthesis between the thought of ancient Greece, its Arab and Jewish interpreters, and Christian thinkers, resulting in multiple solutions that tried to make sense of the world. Indeed, many of the philosophic problems about which we worry today, as well as the vocabulary we use to express them, were first formulated during that time period. The aim of the course is to explore the way medievals approached the many problems associated with integrating secular learning with revealed doctrine, the issues at stake, and the solutions they proposed. Some of the most important concerns they had were the problem of how we know, the relation between theology and metaphysics, and the problem of universals. We will begin with the necessary historical and conceptual background before continuing with the different movements of the period, such as Augustinianism, Aristotelianism, realism, nominalism, and others.

**Instructor:** R. Mayorga

**CRN:** 14429  
**Lecture:** 12:30p-1:45p  
**T Th**

**Philosophy 2126: History of Late Modern Philosophy**

Although it may seem a bit strange, the "modern era" actually refers to 17th and 18th century European philosophy. This course will focus on the 18th century by examining three of its most important philosophical figures: George Berkeley, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant. We will trace the development of metaphysical and epistemological themes throughout the 18th century through a careful study of these philosophers' major works.

**Instructor:** W. Ott

**CRN:** 14430  
**Lecture:** 9:30a-10:45a  
**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 toward future generations.

**Instructor:** A. Garnar

**CRN:** 14431  
**Lecture:** 12:20p-1:10p  
**MWF**

**CRN:** 14432  
**Lecture:** 10:10a-11:00a  
**MWF**

**Philosophy 2605: Reason and Revolution in Science**

Study of philosophical approaches to understanding and justifying modes of human reasoning both in science and everyday life. Focus of this semester is on the nature of theory confirmation and falsification.

**Instructor:** D. Parker

**CRN:** 16706  
**Lecture:** 10:10a-11:00a  
**MWF**

**Philosophy 3015: Political Theory**

The course will examine the evolution of political thought from Greek antiquity to the medieval period, but particular attention will be paid to the political ideas that accompanied the rise and fall of democracy in classical Athens.

**Instructor:** B. Koch

**CRN:** 15984  
**Lecture:** 11:15a-12:05p  
**MWF**  
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3015 – CRN 14683)

**Philosophy 3016: Political Theory**

Analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory. Late 17th century to the present.

**Instructor:** D. Wittkower

**CRN:** 14439  
**Lecture:** 1:25p-2:15p  
**MWF**  
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 14686)

**CRN:** 14440  
**Lecture:** 2:30p-3:20p  
**MWF**  
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 14685)

**Instructor:** B. Koch

**CRN:** 15986*  
**Lecture:** 1:25p-2:15p  
**MWF**  
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 14415*)

*Students will be dropped for not attending first and/or second class.

**Philosophy 3454: Philosophy of Religion**

This is an introductory course in the philosophy of religion. It is a philosophy course, not a religion course. Philosophy involves the rigorous examination of concepts and assumptions. It is characteristic of philosophy to ask what reasons we might have for holding the beliefs we do, and to ask us to consider the possibility that we might be wrong in some of our most fundamental beliefs. That means that in this course we will focusing on fundamental questions about religion, for example: what reasons do we have to believe that there is a God? What reasons do we have to reject belief in God? What does it mean to say that God exists? But since philosophical inquiry is also self-reflective, we will considering questions like: is it necessary to have good reasons for our beliefs? Is there something wrong about believing something without having evidence for that belief (or in spite of having evidence against it)? We will be looking at the answers proposed by philosophers from ancient times as well as more modern solutions.

The goal of this course is to get you to think philosophically about religious belief. To do this well will require you to think critically about some of the beliefs you hold most dear. Whether you are a theist or an atheist, you will be expected to subject your belief about God to philosophical scrutiny. Although it is a difficult process, it can also be an enlightening and ultimately rewarding one.

**Instructor:** P. Olson

**CRN:** 16459  
**Lecture:** 2:00p-3:15p  
**T Th**

**Philosophy 3506: Modern Logic & Its Development**

Logic and logical theory and the history of its development. Metalogic and the history and philosophy of modern logical theory. Decidability and undecidability, completeness and incompleteness of formal systems. Developments from Cantor to Goedel.

**Instructor:** D. Parker

**CRN:** 14442  
**Lecture:** 12:30p-1:45p  
**T Th**

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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

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