

SPRING 2008 PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

We will read and discuss the work of some important historical and contemporary philosophers. We will focus on questions such as: What is the nature of reality and the self? What is the relationship between mind and body? How do I know what is real, and what is misleading appearance, error, or illusion? What is knowledge? Should we fear death? What is the meaning of life?

Instructor: J. Klagge

CRN:14482	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 2:30p-3:20p	M W F
CRN: 14483	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 1:25p- 2:15p	M W F
CRN: 14484	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a	M W F
CRN: 14485	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a	M W F
CRN: 14486	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p	M W F
CRN: 14487	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p	M W F
CRN: 14488	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p	M W F
CRN: 14489	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p	M W F
CRN: 14490	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a	M W F
CRN: 14491	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a	M W F
CRN: 14492	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a	M W F
CRN: 14496	Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p Recitation: 12:10p- 1:10	M W 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: M. Rea

CRN: 14493	Lecture: 9:05a-9:55a	M W F
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Instructor: E. Lewis

CRN: 17053	Lecture: 9:30a- 10:45a	T Th
CRN: 17055	Lecture: 8:00a- 9:15a	T Th

Instructor: M. Lowe

CRN: 14495	Lecture: 11:15a- 12:05p	M W F
CRN: 16787	Lecture: 8:00a- 8:50a	M W F

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 Mill) with an examination of prominent treatments of issues in ethical theory and applied ethics by leading contemporary philosophers. Some questions we'll explore: 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 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"? Does anyone ever really act from unselfish motives? Some more particular problems: Is it morally okay to use embryonic stem cells for research or tissue therapy? If so, is it right to deliberately create embryos just for the purpose of harvesting stem cells, as in the case of therapeutic cloning? 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 are such practices in violation of their rights?

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick

CRN: 14498	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 2:30p-3:20p	M W F
CRN: 14499	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p	M W F
CRN: 14501	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a	M W F
CRN: 14502	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a	M W F
CRN: 14503	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p	M W F
CRN: 14504	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p	M W F
CRN: 14505	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a	M W F
CRN: 14506	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p	M W F
CRN: 14507	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p	M W F
CRN: 14508	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a	M W F
CRN: 14509	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p	M W F
CRN: 14410	Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a	M W F

This course examines central themes in the tradition of Western political thought from the early modern period to the present. The emphasis will be on both the ideas of particular political thinkers as well as on concepts like citizenship, liberty, and democracy. We address these issues by reading and discussing excerpts from the original texts (in English translation).

Instructor: B. Koch

CRN: 15986 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p M W F
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 14791)

Philosophy: 3314 Ethical Theory

Although Philosophy 1304 ("Morality and Justice") is not a prerequisite for this course, some familiarity with fundamental ethical concepts and theories will be helpful, as we will study in greater depth many of the issues addressed in the introductory course. We will focus our attention on the ethical theories of Aristotle, Kant, and Mill, and on the ways in which their ethical theories have been taken up and developed by contemporary ethicists. We will also consider the roles of reason and emotion in our moral lives, as well as the limitations of ethical theory. The primary aim of this course is to help you appreciate more fully the value of philosophical reflection in a life well lived. Students taking this course will learn to think critically about fundamental ethical questions, and will become familiar with some of the central texts and themes in the history of philosophical ethics.

Instructor: P. Olson

CRN 16888 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p M W F

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 be 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 be 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: R. Mayorga

CRN: 14527 Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p T Th

Philosophy 4214: Metaphysics

Examination of some of the central problems of metaphysics. Topics may include: existence, necessary truth, the problem of universals, causation, the identity of the self through time, free will. Attention will be given both to the historical development of these problems and to contemporary philosophical responses to them.

Instructor: D. Parker

CRN: 17054 Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p T Th

Philosophy 4224: Epistemology

This course is designed to give the student a solid grounding in the main areas of debate in contemporary epistemology. Topics will likely include the analysis of justification and knowledge, externalism and internalism, naturalism, induction, skepticism, relativism, and anti-realism.

Instructor: W. Ott

CRN: 16457 Lecture: 2:30p-3:45p M W

Philosophy 4604: Philosophy of Biology

Philosophers are interested in biological science in large part because many issues in biology occupy a place of central importance in our lives -- such as whether race is a biological property, or whether our genes program us to behave in certain ways, what constitutes "human nature, and whether Darwin's theory of Natural Selection undermines our ability to rationally hold religious beliefs. In this class we will use the tools of philosophy to understand race, genes, human nature, religion, and life in general from the perspective of contemporary biology.

Instructor: C. Haufe

CRN: 14532 Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a T Th