FALL 2005  PHILOSOPHY ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

Phil. 4015: Special Topics in Philosophy: Origins of Analytic Philosophy
We will study the work of two philosophers instrumental in setting contemporary analytic philosophy on track: Gottlob Frege (1848 - 1925), a German mathematician and philosopher who worked on logic and the philosophy of language, and G.E. Moore (1873-1958), an English philosopher who worked on moral philosophy.
Instructor: J. Klages, CRN: 94184
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p  TTh MAJWM225

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 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 (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.
Instructor: R. Burian, CRN: 95770
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p  TTh SMYTH232

Philosophy 4614: Philosophy of Science
This course will address several central questions in philosophy of science: What is the difference between science and non-science? How are scientific theories confirmed? Are scientific theories literally true, or merely instrumentally effective means of organizing information?
Instructor: L. Perini, CRN: 96375
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p  MWF RAND 121

Philosophy 4984: Special Study
Philosophy of Science and Economics
This course will be a solid introduction to the central problems of the philosophy of science and their relationships with fundamental issues of methodology in economics and other social sciences. We will begin with a study of the central topics that form the backdrop for philosophical problems in economics: Hume and the problem of induction; logical positivism and empiricism, discovery/justification distinction; confirmation theory; Popper, testability and falsificationism; Lakatos and the methodology of scientific research programs; Kuhn and scientific revolutions; problems of underdetermination, theory-laden data, Duhem-Quine theses, and relativity of science to context and values (social, ethical, policy, and economic). Midway through (about), we will interweave, and increasingly turn our main attention to, key contemporary views on economic methodology that have arisen in reaction to the current “crisis in philosophy of science”. We will read several papers by economists and philosophers of economics on the special problems of testing, modeling, prediction, and experimentation in economics, and will end with a discussion of the “new experimentalism” in philosophy of science, and philosophy of experimental economics.
This course does not require any philosophical background - only the interest in acquiring one. It is intended to provide students sufficient philosophical and logical tools to (a) understand the relationship between problems in economics and those of philosophy of knowledge and philosophy of science; (b) critically evaluate work in interdisciplinary arenas of social science methodology, economic science, and foundations of scientific and statistical inference; and (c) bring a broad philosophical perspective to bear on more advanced research across the spectrum of empirical modeling and experimental methods.
Instructor: D. Mayo, CRN: 96975
Lecture: 5:00p-6:15p  TTh PAM2028
(Also taught as ECON 4984 and STS 4984)

Philosophy 5204: Topics in the History of Philosophy
An advanced course focusing on particular topics in the history of philosophy. Special emphasis will be placed on ideas and disputes which were historically influential and continue to be philosophically significant.
Instructor: W. Ott, CRN: 96369
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p  T MAJWM225

Philosophy 5305: Philosophy of Modern Science & Technology
This course offers an introduction to the main themes of contemporary philosophy of science and technology. Topics will include confirmation of hypotheses, scientific explanation, the debate over scientific realism, the relation between philosophy of science and philosophy of technology and the nature of technology.
Instructor: L. Perini, CRN: 94190
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45p  W MAJWM225
(Cross listed with STS 5305; CRN 94725)

Philosophy 5505: Symbolic Logic
Modern deductive symbolic logic and its metatheory. Logical metatheory: consistency, completeness, and decidability of logical systems.
Instructor: B. Epstein, CRN: 94192
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p  TTh MAJWM225

Philosophy 5984: Special Study
Philosophy of Science and Economics
This course will be a solid introduction to the central problems of the philosophy of science and their relationships with fundamental issues of methodology in economics and other social sciences. We will begin with a study of the central topics that form the backdrop for philosophical problems in economics: Hume and the problem of induction; logical positivism and empiricism, discovery/justification distinction; confirmation theory; Popper, testability and falsificationism; Lakatos and the methodology of scientific research programs; Kuhn and scientific revolutions; problems of underdetermination, theory-laden data, Duhem-Quine theses, and relativity of science to context and values (social, ethical, policy, and economic). Midway through (about), we will interweave, and increasingly turn our main attention to, key contemporary views on economic methodology that have arisen in reaction to the current

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"crisis in philosophy of science". We will read several papers by economists and philosophers of economics on the special problems of testing, modeling, prediction, and experimentation in economics, and will end with a discussion of the "new experimentalism" in philosophy of science, and philosophy of experimental economics. This course does not require any philosophical background-only the interest in acquiring one. It is intended to provide students sufficient philosophical and logical tools to (a) understand the relationship between problems in economics and those of philosophy of knowledge and philosophy of science; (b) critically evaluate work in interdisciplinary arenas of social science methodology, economic science, and foundations of scientific and statistical inference; and (c) bring a broad philosophical perspective to bear on more advanced research across the spectrum of empirical modeling and experimental methods.

Instructor: D. Mayo
Lecture: 5:00p-6:15p T Th
CRN: 96976
PAM 2028
(Also taught as ECON 5984 and STS 5984)

Philosophy 6014: Special Topics in Philosophy:
Origins of Analytic Philosophy

We will study the work of two philosophers instrumental in setting contemporary analytic philosophy on track: Gottlob Frege (1848 - 1925), a German mathematician and philosopher who worked on logic and the philosophy of language; and G. E. Moore (1873-1958), an English philosopher who worked on moral philosophy.

The graduate version of this class will meet for an extra hour each week, at a time to be determined, for additional readings and discussion.

Instructor: J. Klagge
Lecture: 1:10a-2:15p T, Th
CRN: 94196
MAJWM 225

Phil 6324: Advanced Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy:
Contemporary Normative Ethics

We will consider a number of different factors that are commonly appealed to in moral judgments about the rightness or wrongness of actions, as well as various attempts to formulate generalizations about their moral relevance. Particular attention will be paid to the distinctions (i) between killing and letting die, and (ii) between harm that is intended as a means to some good end and (iii) harm that is merely a foreseen but unintended side-effect of some means taken toward a good end. We will examine attempts to formulate and to justify non-consequentialist constraints based on these distinctions, as well as the more general problem of justifying any form of non-consequentialist constraint. Along the way, some time will also be spent on more applied topics, such as just war theory and physician assisted suicide. Pursuing the debate between consequentialists and non-consequentialists, we will go on to consider the problem of justifying non-consequentialist "prerogatives" or "options", which is connected to the general question of what limits there are to the demands morality makes on our lives. Finally, we will look at the debate between monistic and pluralistic theories of value, and the political implications of non-relativistic value pluralism. While the course is structured largely around the above distinctions, the discussions in the literature—particularly concerning the rationales behind various positions—quickly lead to more general issues of fundamental importance, such as the nature of moral personhood and the source of human rights. The articles we will read provide a broad and sophisticated background in normative ethical theory, which can then be applied to a wide variety of issues.

Instructor: W. Fitzpatrick
Lecture: 3:15p-6:00p W
CRN: 95771
MAJWM 225

Phil 6324: Advanced Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy:
Justice as Fairness

Instructor: S. May
Lecture: 3:15p-6:00p M
CRN: 95772
MAJWM 225

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