

Fall and Summer 2005 Philosophy Courses

www.philosophy.umd.edu

Fall 2005

PHIL 100.01: Introduction to Philosophy

TuTh 11-11:50 a.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 150

SHM 2102

Instructor Heidi Tiedke

(htiedke@hfx.eastlink.ca)

CORE Humanities (HO)

This course will serve as an introduction to both the methods and central problems of philosophy. Recurring questions concerning the existence of God, the nature of knowledge and reality, freedom of the will, the nature of the mind, and our ethical obligations will be discussed. Readings will be drawn from both classical and contemporary sources.

PHIL 100.02: Introduction to Philosophy

MW 12-12:50 p.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 225

ARM 0135

Professor S. Jack Odell

(so2@umail.umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

An introduction to the principles, concepts, methods, questions, theories, applications, and subdivisions of philosophy – metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics, and aesthetics. We will learn how to determine whether or not an argument is valid. We will look at what various philosophers have said about: ethical obligation; God's existence; the existence of ourselves, other persons, and physical objects; whether or not human existence is absurd, and about various contemporary issues, for example, whether or not abortion is ethically permissible, and whether or not human intelligence is reducible to or identical with what a computer does, when it implements a program? Among the philosophers we will cover are Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, St. Anselm, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Bertrand Russell, Bernard Williams, A.J. Ayer, J.L. Austin, L. Wittgenstein, John Searle, Judith Jarvis Thomson, and Thomas Nagel.

PHIL 140.01: Contemporary Moral Issues

TuTh 12:30-1:20 p.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 225

SHM 2102

Professor Samuel Kerstein

(kerstein@wam.umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

This course explores currently debated issues concerning life and death. It introduces you to philosophical reasoning on controversial topics such as abortion, euthanasia, and stem cell research. The course aims to help you to develop your ability to understand, evaluate, and construct arguments in the realm of applied ethics.

PHIL 140.02: Contemporary Moral Issues

MW 10-10:50 a.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 225

SHM 2102

Instructor Jennifer Runnels

(jrunnels@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

In this course we will learn to use philosophical reasoning on controversial and important matters, including punishment and the death penalty, animal rights, abortion, world hunger, and at least one other issue of particular student interest.

Several good things ought to happen as we do this: we should become acquainted with some important philosophical theories and, more generally, with philosophical styles of thought; we should improve our skills in thinking, writing, and arguing, and we should even make some progress toward finding (at least personal) answers to important public questions.

PHIL 170: Introduction to Logic

MW 12-12:50 p.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 225

SHM 2102

Professor Allen Stairs

(stairs@umd.edu)

CORE Mathematics/Formal Reasoning (MS)

Satisfies Philosophy major Logic requirement

This course will be a toolbox for reasoners. We'll cover a variety of topics in the basics of good reasoning, some formal and some informal. By the end of the course, you should have sharpened your skills at detecting bad reasoning in ordinary English, understand what it is for arguments to be valid or invalid, and know how to use such techniques as truth tables, syllogisms and counterexamples to test arguments. You'll also have a basic grasp of the ins and outs of reasoning with probability and an increased awareness of some of the psychological factors that get in the way of good reasoning.

PHIL 209A: Asian Philosophy

TuTh 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Maximum Size 32

TYD 1132

Instructor Michael Cifone

(cifonemc@wam.umd.edu)

CORE Diversity (D)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

An introduction to the major philosophico-religious traditions of Asia: Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Confucianism. The primary emphasis will be on certain long-standing philosophical questions, questions common to both the Western and Asian philosophical traditions: What is the nature of reality? What is the nature of knowledge? Does life have (ultimate) purpose? Is there a soul and if so, what is its nature? What is death? What life should I live and why? The approach of this course will be to shy away from extraneous historical detail so that the student may engage the philosophical problems themselves; however, the issues will be placed in their proper historical contexts. Many classic texts will be studied, including (but not limited to): the Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, Dhammapada, Tao-te ching, and the Analects. The course will also use media other than texts (i.e. film) to convey the philosophical messages in these ancient traditions, messages which sometimes find better expression in art.

PHIL 233: Philosophy in Literature

TuTh 2-3:15 p.m.
Maximum Size 32
SKN 1112

Instructor Elizabeth Stoll

(elizabethstoll@comcast.net)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

PHIL 245: Political and Social Philosophy I

MW 10-10:50 a.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 75

ARM 0112

Professor Mark Schroeder

(mschroed@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

This course is an introduction to the big questions of social and political philosophy through a look at some of the major historical contributions to our thinking about them: including Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, and Rawls. Chief among the questions we'll consider are: What are governments for? What powers do they have over citizens and what rights do citizens have against them? What makes a social arrangement just or unjust? What is so great about democracy? At each point in the course we'll try to connect the philosophical ideas we discuss with contemporary political issues.

PHIL 250: Philosophy of Science I

MWF 11-11:50 a.m.

Maximum Size 32

SKN 0104

Instructor Chris Stevens

(stevens1@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

In this course we will examine some of the central issues in the philosophy of science. The emphasis of this course is on philosophy. That is, we will be asking some general philosophical questions about science and will pay only relatively little attention to the specific content of particular scientific theories. Thus, in-depth knowledge of a particular science is not a prerequisite for the course. Some of the topics and questions we will be discussing are:

- 1) What, if anything, distinguishes good science from pseudo-science? Is creationism, for example, equally as scientific as evolutionary biology? If not, why not?
- 2) Is there a rational scientific method which dictates how science develops? What is the relation between theory and observation? What is the role of scientific revolutions?
- 3) How do social factors and values influence scientific theory choice? Are feminist critics justified who claim that there is a sexist bias in science?
- 4) Do the sciences aim to provide us with literally true accounts of the world or only with useful calculational devices? We cannot, for example, directly observe quarks or genes; what evidence, then, do we have that they really exist? Should we perhaps think of quarks and genes only as useful fictions that help us to predict and control our environment?

PHIL 256: Philosophy of Biology I

TuTh 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Maximum Size 37

SKN 1115

Professor Lindley Darden

(darden@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

The course examines philosophical issues in the biological sciences. Topics include conceptual issues in evolutionary theory, ecology, genetics, and in the discovery of the Watson-Crick model of the double helix structure of DNA. Ethical issues include questions about genetic testing and cloning. An additional aim of the course is for the student to learn to do and to practice critical thinking and writing. The course is a combination of lecture, discussion, debate, and group projects.

PHIL 282: Action and Responsibility

TuTh 11-12:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 37

SKN 1115

Professor Patricia Greenspan

(pg@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of department.

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

This course deals with problems in ethics and philosophy of mind concerning such topics as personal agency, moral motivation, guilt, free will, and responsibility.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or consent of instructor. For the sake of ensuring student readiness for the demands of the course, the prerequisite is enforced strictly; students who think they have a case for making an exception should email the instructor with details.

The current version of the course focuses particularly on the understanding and assessment of emotions and other attitudes of personal and moral significance, including blame, gratitude, shame, forgiveness, trust, respect, and integrity.

Our main required readings will be chosen from:

John Deigh (ed.), *Ethics and Personality* (Chicago).

James Rachels, *Elements of Ethics*, 4th ed. (McGraw Hill).

Robert Frank, *Passions Within Reason* (Norton).

The course's written requirements will include two expository quizzes (under a page in length) two short papers (from three to five pages) and a longer paper (eight to ten pages) substituting for the final exam. The quizzes each will count 10% of the student's grade, the short papers 20%, and the final paper 40%; grades may be adjusted (up to one full grade) to reflect class participation, improvement, oral reports, and any optional assignments.

PHIL 310: Ancient Philosophy

TuTh 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Maximum Size 49

TYD 1118

Professor James Leshner

(jlesher@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: six credits in philosophy or classics.

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement

This course explores the nature of Greek philosophical thought from the late 6th century BCE down to the end of the classical period. The major figures studied are the Presocratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The goal of the course is to acquaint students with the main elements of ancient Greek philosophical thought and the main ways in which ancient ideas and theories influenced the philosophy, science, art, and literature of later centuries. There

will be two hour-exams, three 'Instant Essays' (averaged together to count as one grade), and the final exam (review questions for all exams will be handed out well in advance). Format: lecture and discussion.

PHIL 320: Modern Philosophy

MW 1-1:50 p.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 75

TYD 1102

Professor Charles Manekin

(cm8@umail.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: six credits in philosophy.

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement

A study in the major philosophical issues of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries through an examination of portions of the works of Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant, with special emphasis on the relationship between philosophical thought and the development of science.

PHIL 328L: The Afterlife of Plato's *Symposium* in Western Art and Literature

Th 2-4:30 p.m.

Maximum Size 20

SQH 2123

Professor James Leshner

(jlesher@umd.edu)

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement

The aim of this course is to gain a detailed understanding of a philosophical classic and the ways in which it influenced the work of later philosophers, writers, and artists. We will read and discuss Plato's literary and philosophical masterpiece, the *Symposium*, and explore its impact on later art and literature. The first third of the course will be devoted to gaining an understanding of the *Symposium* and its place in Plato's philosophy. In the middle third of the course we will explore the way in which the *Symposium* influenced artists and writers during the Renaissance as a consequence of the publication of Marsilio Ficino's *Commentary on the Symposium on Love*. In the final third of the course we will explore the importance of Plato's view of love and beauty for modern writers such as Hölderlin, Keats, Shelley, Sigmund Freud, Thomas Mann, T.S. Eliot, and Virginia Woolf. There will be three graded activities: a test on the *Symposium*, a class report (of 6-8 pages), and a final exam (covering the entire semester). The course grade will be determined by averaging together these three grades. Format: seminar.

PHIL 347: Philosophy of Law

MW 12-12:50 p.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 75

ARM 0112

Instructor Joshua Kassner

(kassnoue@mindspring.com)

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL347 or PHIL447. Formerly PHIL 447.

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

Under what circumstances may the law tell people what they can do, cannot do, must do? Everyone agrees that it is appropriate for the law to prohibit murder and theft. What about prohibiting sodomy? Requiring the use of seatbelts? Prohibiting "hate speech"? Forcing people

to be “Good Samaritans”? The law by its nature limits people’s liberty. But how far may it go? We will spend a good part of the course examining this question.

Philosophy has an important role to play in understanding some concepts that are fundamental to the law. We will look at the question of constitutional interpretation, which arises out of our discussion of privacy and freedom of expression. For example, how should we understand and interpret the First Amendment (“Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press”) or the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits “cruel and unusual punishment”? We will also examine the concept of responsibility as it arises in both civil and criminal law. Among the topics covered are the justification of class action suits, laws requiring people to come to the aid of others, and the insanity defense.

PHIL 362: Theory of Knowledge

TuTh 11-12:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 37

SKN 1112

Professor Georges Rey

(georey@carnap.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL462. Formerly PHIL 462.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

This course will provide an introduction to some of the main problems about the nature of knowledge and whether we actually have any. We will begin by considering some of the traditional skeptical worries that gave rise to rationalist efforts to ground knowledge in reason and empiricist ones to ground it in experience. After noting the problems with these “foundationalist” efforts, we’ll turn to the supposed alternatives provided by the recent “coherentist,” “externalist” and “reliabilist” proposals associated with the work of Quine and Alvin Goldman. We’ll also consider whether these latter proposals undermine traditional rationalist claims about supposed a priori knowledge in the way that Quine supposes, but which would seem to be supported by the work of Noam Chomsky.

PHIL 366: Philosophy of Mind

TuTh 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Maximum Size 32

SKN 1112

Instructor Daniel Parker

(parkerdn@wam.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Six hours in philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL380.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

This course is an introduction to the core issues in the philosophy of mind, focusing especially on the basic metaphysical question: do we have non-physical minds or souls, as well as physical bodies and brains? The course will also cover the problem of our knowledge of other minds; personal identity and the possibility of an after-life; and the question of how we conceptualize the mental states of ourselves and others. In addition, the course will provide a pointer towards more advance issues having to do with intentionality and consciousness. By the end of the course, students should have a secure understanding of the basic theoretical options and arguments in the philosophy of mind, and they will have further developed their capacity to think and reason clearly, and to express those thoughts effectively in writing.

PHIL 408C/688C: Presocratic Philosophy

MWF 10-10:50 a.m.

Maximum Size 40

SKN 1112

Professor Lars Svenonius
(larss@umd5.umd.edu)
Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement

PHIL 408T/688T: Skepticism

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Professor S. Jack Odell

(so2@umail.umd.edu)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

We will examine the origins of this topic in ancient philosophy, through the work of Sextus Empiricus, trace its course through the middle ages, detail its path through modern philosophy, especially as regards Descartes and Hume, and concentrate upon the direction it has taken throughout the twentieth century, in the works of Bertrand Russell, G. E. Moore, A. J. Ayer, Ludwig Wittgenstein, J. L. Austin, and W. V. O. Quine. Moreover, I will provide an account and assessment of the most recent works on this topic, including the work of Peter Unger, Hilary Putnam, and Robert Nozick. I will summarize what has been accomplished and offer my own views regarding the nature of certainty and the failure of all philosophical skeptics to make their position coherent.

Requirements: 2 examinations (100 pts. each), a 10-15 page paper (100 pts.), and a final (200 pts.).

Readings: *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*, Sextus Empiricus; *Our Knowledge of the External World*, Bertrand Russell; *Philosophical Papers*, G. E. Moore; *The Problem of Knowledge*, A. J. Ayer; *On Certainty*, Ludwig Wittgenstein; *Sense and Sensibilia*, J. L. Austin; and ["Epistemology Naturalized," W.V.O. Quine, "A Defense of Skepticism," Peter Unger, "Knowledge and Skepticism," Robert Nozick, and "Brains in a Vat," Hilary Putnam. These last four works are included in *Knowledge: Readings in Contemporary Epistemology*, Edited by Sven Bernecker and Fred Dretske].

PHIL 416/688M: Medieval Philosophy

MWF 1-1:50 p.m.

Maximum Size 40

SKN 1112

Professor Lars Svenonius

(larss@umd5.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: six credits in philosophy.

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement

The aim of the course is to make the student familiar with the thinking of some of the main figures in the Western philosophical tradition in the middle ages, from Augustine to Ockham. ("Western" here will admit non-European Arabic and Jewish authors.) Some attention will also be given to the ancient roots of medieval thinking (Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, and Neoplatonists). In the course, we will study the chosen authors largely through reading their own works, and keep the reliance on secondary sources to a minimum.

PHIL 428M/688K: Hume

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

LEF 1201

Professor Mark Schroeder

(mschroed@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: 6 Credits in PHIL or Permission from Department.

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement

An in-depth look at David Hume, focusing primarily on the *Treatise of Human Nature*.

PHIL 445/668N: Contemporary Political Philosophy

TuTh 5-6:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Professor Christopher Morris

(cwmorris@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: three credits in philosophy or political theory or permission of department.

Sophomore standing.

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

PHIL 478/688Q: Philosophical Logic: Frege's Theorem

TuTh 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Professor Paul Pietroski

(pietro@umd.edu)

Prerequisites: two courses in philosophy, at least one of which must be PHIL271 or equivalent

Satisfies Philosophy major Logic requirement

Course Description (more details at www.wam.umd.edu/~pietro/currentsyllabi.html):

How is arithmetic related to logic? Many arithmetic claims are provable, and necessarily true, yet somehow more substantive than logical truths--which are often said to be trivial or tautologous. But how can there be necessary truths that somehow "go beyond" logic, while still following from axioms that seem undeniable? We will address these questions in the context of work by Gottlob Frege, who revolutionized the study of logic in 1879. Frege then tried, unsuccessfully, to reduce arithmetic to logic. But he did show that given certain definitions for key notions like 'number', the axioms for arithmetic can be reduced to a single principle: if some things (say, the dogs) correspond one-to-one with some other things (say, the cats), then the number of the former is also the number of latter. We will work through this result in detail, discuss its significance, and think about the status of the principle in question. Is it a logical truth? If not, how do we know it is true? Time permitting, we may consider the potential relevance of some recent work in cognitive science, with regard to "estimating equinumerosity" and detecting relations of one-to-one correspondence.

PHIL 482/688R: Subjectivity

TuTh 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Professor Georges Rey

(georey@carnap.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy; one of which must be PHIL280 or PHIL366.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

PHIL 484/688W: Reason, Self, and Will

TuTh 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Professor Patricia Greenspan

(pg@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two philosophy courses, at least one 300-level or above; or permission of department.

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

This course deals with issues in philosophy of mind, ethics, and neighboring areas of psychology and related fields concerning such topics as: autonomy, freedom of action, free will; self-control, weakness of will and practical reasoning; the nature of the self or person; the sources of moral motivation.

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy, at least one of them 300 level or above; or permission of the department. For the sake of ensuring student readiness for the demands of the course, the prerequisite is enforced strictly; students who think they have a case for making an exception should email the instructor with details.

The current version of the course focuses on responsibility issues (free will, weakness of will, and similar topics).

Readings will be drawn mainly from:

Gary Watson, *Agency and Answerability* (Oxford)

along with some articles by other authors, to be supplied by the instructor.

The course's written requirements will center on the production of a 20-page term paper on a critical question relevant to our discussions and readings to be formulated by the student and approved by the instructor. We shall also try to schedule time in class for group discussion of students' plans for papers. The course grade will be based on the term paper, as modified (up to one full grade) by class participation and any optional assignments.

PHIL 651: Philosophy of Science

Tu 3:30-6 p.m.

Maximum Size 15

SKN 1116

Professor Lindley Darden

(darden@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Graduate status in philosophy or permission of department.

This course surveys twentieth century philosophy of science, including some of the main philosophers (Karl Popper, Thomas Kuhn) and main themes: falsification, models of scientific change, causal mechanistic vs. unificationist accounts of explanation, debates about a logic of scientific discovery. Additional possible topics, depending on the interests of the students, include scientific realism, unity of science, scientific models and analogies, philosophical issues in the special sciences (physics, chemistry, biology, cognitive science). Several written and oral requirements for the course include developing a syllabus for teaching introductory philosophy of science (or a related course, such as philosophy of biology or bioethics) and surveying the more recent literature to write a review of an on-going topic in the field. The following texts will be supplemented with recent journal articles:

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press; 3rd edition (December 15, 1996) ISBN: 0226458083 (pbk)

Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery* (Routledge Classics), New York: Routledge; New Ed edition (March 29, 2002) ISBN: 0415278449 (pbk)

Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*, Chicago: University of Chicago (August 1, 2003) ISBN: 0226300633 (pbk)

PHIL 660: Metaphysics, Mind, and Language

M 5-7:30 p.m.

Maximum Size 15

SKN 1116

Professor Michael Morreau

(mimo@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Graduate status in philosophy or permission of department.

PHIL 688P: Proseminar in Politics, Philosophy, and Public Policy

W 1-3:45 p.m.

Maximum Size 15

VMH 1107

Professors Samuel Kerstein, Joseph Oppenheimer, and David Crocker

(kerstein@wam.umd.edu)

This is the first semester of a two-semester course designed to introduce students to basic concepts required to evaluate public policy choices and the institutional arrangements within which those choices are made. Certain themes will be woven through the course. We examine several conceptions of politics, e.g., politics as strategic interaction, as technical calculation, and as deliberation; debates about democracy, e.g. popular sovereignty as giving people what they want, democracy as a search for the public good; and competing conceptions of political values, e.g. utility maximization, justice and individual rights, and community participation.

PHIL 848: Global Justice and Order

W 6:30-9 p.m.

Maximum Size 15

SKN 1116

Professor Christopher Morris

(cwmorris@umd.edu)

PHIL 868: Laws

Th 6:30-9 p.m.

Maximum Size 15

Professor Michael Morreau

(mimo@umd.edu)

PHIL 879C: Architecture of Mind

Th 3:30-6 p.m.

Maximum Size 15

SKN 1116

Professor Peter Carruthers

(pcarruth@umd.edu)

The topic of this seminar is the overall architecture of human cognition. The basic question to be explored is: to what extent is it possible (and reasonable) to see the mind as constructed out of modular components? The course will examine the arguments and evidence supporting the claim that the human mind is massively modular in its organization, while also analyzing what 'modular' should mean, in this context. And it will also examine the case against modular architectures. Philosophical opponents of evolutionary psychology have claimed that enough is already known about human cognition – from the possibility of science, and from creative thinking more generally – for us to conclude that our central cognitive processes are radically a-modular, or holistic, in character. The central challenge for the thesis of massive modularity, then, is to show how one can get non-domain-specific creative thinking out of the interactions of a set of modular components.

Grading for the course will be based on a long term paper, draft copies of which will need to be submitted in advance for critical comment.

The main week-by-week reading for the course will be a draft monograph being written by the instructor:

- Carruthers, P. (forthcoming). *The Architecture of the Mind: massive modularity and the flexibility of thought*.

Other materials will need to be studied when preparing the term paper.

For those new to the area, any or all of the following would make good introductory reading:

- Barrett, L., Dunbar, R., and Lycett, J. (2002) *Human Evolutionary Psychology*. Princeton University Press.
- Boyd, R. and Silk, J. (1997). *How Humans Evolved*. Norton.
- Buss, D. (1999). *Evolutionary Psychology*. Allyn and Bacon.
- Pinker, S. (1997). *How the Mind Works*. Norton.

PHIL 879R: Consciousness and Qualia

Tu 6:30-9 p.m.

Maximum Size 15

SKN 1116

Professor Georges Rey

(georey@carnap.umd.edu)

Summer 2005

PHIL 100.0301: Introduction to Philosophy

M-F 10-12:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Meets 5/31-6/17

Instructor Daniel Parker

(parkerdn@wam.umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

PHIL 100.0401: Introduction to Philosophy

M-F 10-12:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Meets 7/11-7/29

Instructor Joel Gibson

(joel_gibson11@hotmail.com)

CORE Humanities (HO)

In this course, we will ask some of the BIG QUESTIONS. These include: the existence of God; the nature of knowledge, reality, and mind; and what, if anything, morality consists in. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring concepts and tools that will allow us to critically assess both the answers that philosophers have proposed to these questions and the arguments with which they have sought to defend them. With any luck, the exercise should help foster in us the habit of taking a more critical stance towards our society's—and our own—unchallenged assumptions about the world and our place in it.

PHIL 140.0301: Contemporary Moral Issues

M-F 9:30-12:10 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115
Meets 5/31-6/17
Instructor V. Bryan Baltzly
(vbaltzly@umd.edu)
CORE Humanities (HO)

In this class we will investigate the moral status of the actions that stand at the center of many contemporary moral debates (abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, etc.), *as well as* the moral status of various laws and public policies that concern these actions. One of our primary goals in this course is to develop the sort of 'bird's-eye-view' perspective and clear-headed-ness that enables one to recognize distinct questions *as* distinct questions, and to avoid the muddled thinking and argumentative quagmire that result from failure to make such distinctions. So, for example, by term's end students should be able to articulate positions such as the following: "I believe active voluntary euthanasia is morally permissible; *however*, I believe policies (like the Oregon Assisted Suicide Law) that permit such cases of euthanasia are undesirable, insofar as they have the consequence that many elderly sick people will feel pressured into relieving their families of the burden to care for them." (I'm not saying students should adopt that particular view – just that we should be able to distinguish between, e.g., the morality of actions and the morality of policies in precisely this way.) With your newfound wisdom and analytic abilities, you'll be able to straighten people out when they're engaged in these sorts of debates but in the grips of these sorts of confusions; you'll be able to impress your friends and family; but most importantly, you'll be able to attain at least *some* degree of clarity as to your position on many important debates of our time.

Along the way, we should also develop some argumentative and writing skills, acquire a familiarity with some of the major philosophical theories of morality that stand in the background of these debates, and acquire a familiarity with the style and method of philosophical thinking generally.

PHIL 140.04YS: Contemporary Moral Issues

M-F 9:30-12:30 p.m.

Maximum Size 12

SKN 1116

Meets 7/11-7/29

Instructor Jennifer Runnels

(jrunnels@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Section 04YS is a Young Scholars Program course. Enrollment is by permission only. Please contact summer@umd.edu for further information.

In this course we will learn to use philosophical reasoning on controversial and important matters, including punishment and the death penalty, animal rights, abortion, world hunger, and at least one other issue of particular student interest.

Several good things ought to happen as we do this: we should be come acquainted with some important philosophical theories and, more generally, with philosophical styles of thought; we should improve our skills in thinking, writing, and arguing, and we should even make some progress toward finding (at least personal) answers to important public questions.

PHIL 140.0501: Contemporary Moral Issues

M-F 10-12:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Meets 6/20-7/08

Instructor Craig Derksen

(cderksen@wam.umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

An introduction to philosophical methods and historical and current topics in ethics. Includes both moral theory and applied ethics. Topics covered vary, but may include: abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, property rights, poverty, environmentalism, homosexuality, promiscuity, drug use, and satanic messages in heavy metal music.

PHIL 170.0301: Introduction to Logic

M-F 1-3:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Meets 5/31-6/17

Instructor Benedict Chan

(bschan@umd.edu)

CORE Mathematics/Formal Reasoning (MS)

Satisfies Philosophy major Logic requirement

This course will be a toolbox for reasoners. We'll cover a variety of topics in the basics of good reasoning, some formal and some informal. By the end of the course, you should have sharpened your skills at detecting bad reasoning in ordinary English, understand what it is for arguments to be valid or invalid, and know how to use such techniques as truth tables, syllogisms and counterexamples to test arguments. You'll also have a basic grasp of the ins and outs of reasoning with probability and an increased awareness of some of the psychological factors that get in the way of good reasoning.

PHIL 170.0401: Introduction to Logic

M-F 10-12:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Meets 7/11-7/29

Instructor Zac Myers

(zdmyers@wam.umd.edu)

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Satisfies Philosophy major Logic requirement

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PHIL 236.0501: Philosophy of Religion

M-F 10-12:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Meets 6/20-7/08

Professor Allen Stairs

(stairs@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

This course is open to believers and non-believers of all stripes. The only prerequisite is a willingness to think seriously and to take seriously the possibility that – whatever your religious or irreligious view – you might be wrong. A good bit of the course will cover familiar territory: we will look at the standard arguments for and against belief in God. We will also explore the topics of miracles, religious experience, and religious diversity. On this latter topic, we will spend some time thinking about several of the world's major religions, and guest speakers will help us gain insight into their meaning and doctrines. We will also think about the connection between religion and the meaning of life. Our texts will include philosophical works, and Houston Smith's *The World's Religions*. There will be a \$5 fee to help defer the costs of guest speakers and extra materials.

PHIL 308C.0501: Philosophy of Film

M-F 1-3:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

PLS 1130

Meets 6/20-7/08

Instructor Elizabeth Stoll

(elizabethstoll@comcast.net)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

In this course, we will analyze some of the philosophical questions that arise when considering film. How is film different from other art forms? Is there anything that film is especially suited to communicate? How is it that films can evoke such a wide range of emotions in an audience? Is there a correct or incorrect way to interpret a film? We will read what contemporary and traditional philosophers and film theorists have had to say about such topics as the connection between film and reality, authorship, intention, interpretation, emotions, character identification, and imagination. We will also be looking at several films and film clips for illustrative examples.

PHIL 308D.05Z1: Asian Philosophy Through Film

M-F 1-4:20 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SGII 2062

Meets 6/20-7/08

Instructor Michael Cifone

(cifonemc@wam.umd.edu)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement

Film is like a mirror held up to reality: in it we find those burning questions of man, world and state that shape our own reality and which fuel the fire of our own lives. This course focuses on the profoundest questions of human existence: What came before existence? What is the ultimate nature of the universe? What is the self? Which life should we lead: the ascetic's or the hedonist's (or something in between)? These questions, of central concern for us even in the modern world, consumed the teachings and works of Asia's greatest philosophical thinkers, and shaped Asian thought for millennia. We find that such universal and perennial questions shapes the world's greatest film literature too. Through the dynamic medium of the motion picture, we will explore such questions as: the nature of suffering and the self as the Buddha teaches, the Taoist view of the simplicity of life rooted in the unity of self and nature, Confucius' teachings on virtue for self and state, the Indian view of the unity of all things and the Jainist's view of the many-sidedness of reality. This course not only hopes to survey the Asian philosophical landscape (limiting itself to India, China and Japan), but it also hopes to survey the film literature from both the East and the West, and present an interesting array of film styles (from "Hollywood" to "Art").

PHIL 308F.0401: The Aesthetics of Comics

M-F 1-3:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 0104

Meets 7/11-7/29

Instructor Darren Hick

(darrenhick@hotmail.com)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

What is a comic? And does The Far Side count? We'll begin the course by discussing the nature of the form, and its relation to other art types, deciding what does and doesn't qualify as a comic. This will be followed with a close examination of the features and nature of comics and the philosophical quandaries they give rise to. We will investigate some of the major traditional and contemporary theories of aesthetics and their relevance to comics, including issues of representation, identification, metaphysics, and the aesthetic experience. Throughout the course, we will look at a wide array of comics, from the nineteenth century to the present, closely examining a few that are particularly rife with philosophical potential.

PHIL 347.0401: Philosophy of Law

M-F 1-3:40 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Meets 7/11-7/29

Instructor Joshua Kassner

(kassnoue@mindspring.com)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL347 or PHIL447. Formerly PHIL 447.

Under what circumstances may the law tell people what they can do, cannot do, must do? Everyone agrees that it is appropriate for the law to prohibit murder and theft. What about prohibiting sodomy? Requiring the use of seatbelts? Prohibiting "hate speech"? Forcing people to be "Good Samaritans"? The law by its nature limits people's liberty. But how far may it go? We will spend a good part of the course examining this question.

Philosophy has an important role to play in understanding some concepts that are fundamental to the law. We will look at the question of constitutional interpretation, which arises out of our discussion of privacy and freedom of expression. For example, how should we understand and interpret the First Amendment ("Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press") or the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment"? We will also examine the concept of responsibility as it arises in both civil and criminal law. Among the topics covered are the justification of class action suits, laws requiring people to come to the aid of others, and the insanity defense.