

Spring 2005 Philosophy Courses

www.philosophy.umd.edu

PHIL 100.01, Introduction to Philosophy
TuTh 11-11:50 a.m. plus Friday discussions
Maximum size: 150
SHM 2102
Professor Georges Rey
(georey@carnap.umd.edu)
CORE Humanities (HO)

An introduction to philosophical issues regarding reasoning, logic, religion, psychology and ethics as they are approached in contemporary analytic philosophy, a tradition that tries to apply the arguments and methods of science to these traditional issues, rather than relying on essentially literary or “mystical” insight (although we will discuss these, briefly). We will be concerned not with reaching final conclusions about some issue, although we will reach some pretty good tentative ones, but with examining good and bad reasons for adopting one conclusion rather than another. Not advised for those who would really rather not have their religious, ethical, or metaphysical views disturbed.

PHIL 100.02, Introduction to Philosophy
MW 11-11:50 a.m. plus Friday discussions
Maximum size: 225
HJP 0226
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 2-2:50 p.m. plus Friday discussions
Maximum size: 225
ARM 0135
Professor Christopher Morris
(cwmorris@umd.edu)
CORE Humanities (HO)

An introduction to *ethics* or *moral philosophy*. Our approach will be to think critically and systematically about several moral controversies. We shall concentrate on questions of life and death: in particular, euthanasia, abortion, capital punishment, the treatment of non-human animals, and killing in time of war. All of the controversies we shall study concern the taking of life. The questions we shall consider include: Why is it generally wrong to kill? What exactly is the harm of death? Who, or what, ought to be protected by norms against killing? May we ever kill ourselves? Is the difference between killing and letting die important? When do humans acquire moral standing? Might they ever lose it? May death be used as a form of punishment? When may we kill in war-time? Is it ever permissible to kill civilians in war? Students will also be introduced to a number of influential moral theories such as utilitarianism, contractarianism, natural law, and Kantianism.

Students will be asked to devote a great deal of effort to *reflecting* about the controversies that we shall be examining. The course does not presuppose a background in philosophy or critical reasoning. It does, however, presuppose a willingness to work hard and to think critically about some very difficult problems, and it will be hard to do well without a considerable investment of effort. The primary objectives of the course are (1) to acquaint students with contemporary philosophical discussions of some ethical problems and some influential moral theories, and (2) to assist students in developing certain skills: for instance, understanding a moral problem or controversy, presenting and evaluating the different sides of a debate, analyzing a moral argument, developing a position and defending it, detecting nonsense.

PHIL 140.02, Contemporary Moral Issues

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

Maximum size: 225

SHM 2102

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, Introduction to Logic

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

Maximum size: 225

SHM 2102

Professor Michael Morreau

(mimo@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 209H, Philosophy and Computers

TuTh 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 32

SKN 1112

Professor Christopher Cherniak

(cherniak@umd.edu)

CORE Mathematics/Formal Reasoning (MS)

During the past century, formal logic made its greatest progress since Aristotle. Its achievements are perhaps comparable to better-known ones of our era – for instance, of relativity theory or quantum mechanics. Paradoxically, the main results of mathematical logic are negative, demonstrating absolute as well as practical limits on all computing: simple, clear problems that an ideal machine the size of the universe could never solve.

This research on the abstract theory of computation lead directly to the engineering technology of real-world digital computers (principally in connection with weapon projects of WWII and the Cold War; practical large-scale computation was essential in the design of nuclear weapons). A more positive outcome of the emergence of real-world computing hardware has been research on machine intelligence. Indeed, the computer model of the human mind serves as a central unifying conceptual framework of the cognitive sciences.

This course proceeds from an introduction to computation theory, to some philosophy of mind – that is, from the unsolvability results of computation theory to questions regarding whether machines can (ever) think. The first half of the course is organized around the key concepts of computation theory, that of the algorithm or program-schematic. The second half focuses on the philosophical adequacy of computational psychology, the information-processing model of mind; more concretely, what are the possibilities, prospects, and limitations of artificial intelligence?

There will be homework problem assignments in connection with the first part of the course (some of them to be worked out using PC software developed for the course by the University of Maryland Philosophy Department). For the second half of the course, the main requirement will be three short papers on assigned, well-defined questions. This is not a programming course, nor does it require any programming background. Students not majoring in philosophy are welcome.

PHIL 230, Philosophy of the Arts

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

Maximum size: 75

TYD 2109

Professor Jerrold Levinson

(jl32@umail.umd.edu)

CORE History or Theory of Arts (HA)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement.

This course has the following aims: (1) To survey and critically examine some important theoretical perspectives on art from Plato to the present. (2) To frame general questions about the nature, function, value and limits of the arts, and to initiate reasoned answers to them. (3) To clarify some notions crucial to thinking about art intelligently, notions such as work of art, form, content, expression, representation, style, medium, interpretation, realism, creativity, aesthetic experience, and aesthetic value. (4) To identify distinctive features of the arts, especially the visual arts, in the 20th century, and to assess their impact on attempts to theorize about art. (5) Lastly and most importantly, to provide students with the intellectual background and analytic skills to refine their own philosophical ideas about the arts.

PHIL 234, Fundamental Concepts of Judaism

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 37

SKN 1112

Professor Charles Manekin

(cm8@umail.umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Also offered as JWST250. Not open to students who have completed JWST250. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL234 or JWST250.

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement.

A conceptual introduction to Judaism, analyzing its fundamental concepts from both analytical and historical perspectives. Discussion of “normative” Judaism as well as other conceptions of Judaism. Topics include: God, the Jewish people, authority, ethics, the sacred and the profane, particularism, and universalism.

PHIL 236, Philosophy of Religion

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

Maximum size: 75

LEF 2208

Professor Allen Stairs

(stairs@glue.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 245, Political and Social Philosophy I

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

Maximum size: 37

TWS 3238

Professor Mark Schroeder

(mschroed@umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement.

How would a just or ideal society be organized? What is the role of the state, and how is that role justified? How does this relate to the rights of individuals to own property and to lead their lives as they choose? What are the responsibilities of governments toward their citizens, and of citizens toward government? This course pursues the historical development of thinking about questions like these from Plato through Rawls.

PHIL 256, Philosophy of Biology I

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 30

HZF 0101

Instructor Bradley Rives

(rives@wam.umd.edu)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

This course will take you on a tour through some of the philosophical and theoretical issues related to the biological sciences. We'll begin by examining the basic principles of evolutionary theory, and the challenges it faces from 'Creation Science'. Regardless of where you ultimately come down on the matter, there's much to be learned – about what science is, and how it works – by studying this debate. We'll then consider a hotly debated issue internal to biology: the question of how best to understand the role of adaptationist reasoning in evolutionary theory. Getting a handle on the issues raised by this debate will be important as we go on to consider the controversial discipline known as 'Sociobiology', which applies adaptationist reasoning to human behavior. (We'll also briefly touch on sociobiology's modern counterpart, evolutionary psychology, which applies adaptationist reasoning to the psychological mechanisms that generate human behavior.) Then we'll have a look at what some of the proponents of sociobiology claim about its relevance to ethics and cultural evolution. We'll end by considering some practical issues that biology raises, in particular, some of the ethical/social issues related to the Human Genome Project and human cloning.

PHIL 271, Symbolic Logic I

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

Maximum size: 75

TYD 2106

Professor Jeffrey Bub

(jbub@carnap.umd.edu)

CORE Mathematics/Formal Reasoning (MS)

Formerly PHIL371

Satisfies Philosophy major Logic requirement.

This course is designed to familiarize students with a formal system of first-order logic, based on a simple and elegant truth-tree method for testing validity. There will be some discussion of metalogic concepts, and the system will be shown to be sound and complete.

PHIL 273, Logic for Philosophy

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

Maximum size: 32

SKN 1115

Instructor Lillian Lovich

(lillianlovich@yahoo.com)

CORE Humanities (HO)

Satisfies Philosophy major Logic requirement.

This course is not an Introduction to Formal Logic course. We will not be learning rules of inference or doing derivations. Instead, we will be investigating the philosophical side of logic. We will discuss question in logic regarding truth, logical consequence, conditionals, possible

worlds, reference, and paradoxes. During this discussion, we will see how these questions link logic to metaphysics and epistemology. Where appropriate, we will examine specific issues and examples in Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Mind, and Artificial Intelligence. The material will be presented in an accessible and non-technical way. Though previous coursework in formal logic is not required, it is helpful.

Required Text:

Stephen Read, *Thinking about Logic: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Logic*, Oxford University Press.

PHIL 280, Introduction to Cognitive Science

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

Maximum size: 32

TWS 3228

Instructor Scott James

(krabi@wam.umd.edu)

CORE Behavioral/Social Science (SB)

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

The role of representation and reasoning in cognition considered from the differing perspectives of the cognitive science disciplines: linguistics, philosophy, neuroscience, psychology, and computer science.

PHIL 308H, Philosophy of Humor

TuTh 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 37

SKN 1115

Professor Jerrold Levinson

(jl32@wam.umd.edu)

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement.

This is a course in the theory of humor. Through readings philosophical, psychological and sociological, and a broad range of examples of humor, we will attempt to deepen our understanding of what humor is, how it works, what it is for, and on what grounds it might be assessed.

The question 'What is humor?' can be taken in a number of ways, but perhaps the most basic is that of what the *concept* of humor amounts to, i.e. what does it *mean* to say something is humorous, and a fair amount of attention will be devoted initially to that; a related issue that will occupy us is the degree of *objectivity* of humor. A second question concerns what *makes* something humorous when it is, i.e. what are the *causes* and *conditions* of humor; and a good deal of attention will be devoted to that question as well. Next along is the issue of the *purpose* or *role* of humor in human life: what function does humor serve, how did it arise, and why is it perpetuated? Is humor essential to life? What would a world without humor look like? What is a sense of humor?

Finally, we will address a number of ineliminably *normative* questions about humor: Is humor of value, and if so, why? Is humor an aesthetic value, a cognitive value, both, or neither? Is humor at odds with morality, or simply tangential to morality? To what extent is humor properly subject to criticism on moral grounds? Can humor express insight or convey wisdom?

Throughout the course we will consider actual examples of humor--jokes, comics, drawings, stories, essays, plays--with which to assess the merits of the various theoretical proposals or

studies we encounter. Students will also be encouraged to keep a humor file, and to propose interesting examples for analysis in light of the questions about humor central to the course.

Readings will be drawn from canonical authors such as Schopenhauer, Bergson, Freud, Koestler, all of whom offered important theories of humor, contemporary philosophers such as Ted Cohen, Noel Carroll, Robert Solomon and John Morreal, and also from contemporary psychology, linguistics and sociology.

PHIL 310, Ancient Philosophy

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

Maximum size: 32

TYD 1114

Instructor Lori Keleher

(lorikeleher@aol.com)

Prerequisite: Six credits in Philosophy or Classics.

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.

This course surveys ancient Greek philosophical thought from the mid-6th century BCE down to the end of the classical period. The major figures in Presocratic philosophy, as well as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle are studied. The goal of the course is to gain some familiarity with the main elements of philosophical thought during its initial period and some ability to recognize its influence throughout history and contemporary thought.

Prerequisite: Six credits in Philosophy or Classics, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 324, Existentialism

TuTh 2-2:50 p.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum size: 75

ARM 0112

Professor Samuel Kerstein

(kerstein@wam.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Six credits in Philosophy.

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement.

This course will introduce you to philosophers sometimes known as “existentialists,” including Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Camus. We will explore their reflections on art, morality, freedom, suffering, and the meaning of human life. Readings will consist of works of fiction in addition to philosophical essays.

PHIL 328, Kant, Hegel, and Schopenhauer

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 32

COL 0102

Instructor Andrew Kania

(akania@hotmail.com)

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.

In this course, we will read closely the primary texts of the three greatest German Idealists of the nineteenth century. We begin with the *Critique of Pure Reason* by Immanuel Kant – generally considered one of the greatest philosophical works of all time. We then read G.W.F. Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*, which paints an optimistic picture of the history of the world as a slow progression towards the ideal state. We end with Arthur Schopenhauer’s *The World as Will and*

Representation which, in stark contrast to Hegel's *Phenomenology*, presents the world as an endless cycle of suffering and boredom.

Prerequisites: While the course presupposes no prior knowledge of the history of philosophy, it fits neatly between the department's courses on Modern philosophy (leading up to Kant) and those on phenomenology, existentialism, and analytic philosophy (all following German Idealism).

PHIL 354, Philosophy of Physics

TuTh 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 37

ARM 0110

Professor Jeffrey Bub

(jbub@carnap.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: PHYS260 or MATH220 or equivalent; or permission of the department.

Recommended: PHYS270, PHYS401. Not open to students who have completed PHYS452. Credit will only be granted for one of the following: PHIL354 or PHYS452.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

Implications of 20th century physics for such problems as operationalism, the structure and purpose of scientific theories, the meaning of "probability", the basis of geometrical knowledge, the nature of space and time, the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics, the nature and limits of measurements. Emphasis on the interaction between physics and philosophy.

PHIL 360, Philosophy of Language

MWF 10-10:50 a.m.

Maximum size: 37

PLS 1119

Professor Paul Pietroski

(pietro@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: PHIL170, PHIL173, or PHIL271.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

Speakers of a language, like English, understand the sentences of that language. Speakers know what sentences in their language mean. Speakers can also use language to talk about the environment, communicate information, make up stories, tell jokes, create metaphors, etc. But how do we understand sentences that we have never heard before? What is it for a sentence to have a meaning? And how are we able to do what we do with language? The course will focus on such questions, mainly as they have been addressed by philosophers working in a certain tradition. But part of the course will also be devoted to making connections between proposals offered by these philosophers, as part of an attempt to start explaining the facts mentioned above, and related works in linguistics.

PHIL 362, Theory of Knowledge

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 37

COL 0100

Professor Georges Rey

(georey@carnap.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two courses in Philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL462. Formerly PHIL462.

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 364, Metaphysics

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

Maximum size: 37

SKN 1115

Professor Mathias Frisch

(mfrisch@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Six hours in Philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL464. Formerly PHIL464.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

This course will focus on two central issues in metaphysics: laws of nature and causation, and related notions such as necessity and counterfactuals. That all massive bodies attract one another is, we want to say, a law of nature. By contrast, that all the students in my class happen to wear glasses is not a law. But what accounts for this difference? In what sense might the former claim be necessary? What is the relation between the notion of law and confirmation? Could there be laws that have exceptions? Are laws more than mere catalogues of existing regularities? Often laws are taken to govern causal relations in the world. But what is it for some event to be the cause of another? Do causes bring about their effects? What is the relation between the notions of law, cause, and counterfactual? Our aim will be to survey the main answers twentieth century philosophers have given to these and other questions.

Readings: Carroll (ed.), “Readings on Laws of Nature”
Sosa and Tooley (eds.), “Causation”
Course Packet

PHIL 417/688J, The Golden Age of Jewish Philosophy

Tu 3:30-6:00 p.m.

Maximum size: 35

SKN 1112

Professor Charles Manekin

(cm8@umail.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: 3 credits in Philosophy or permission of the instructor. Also offered as JWST452. Not open to students who have completed JWST452. Credit will only be granted for one of the following: PHIL417 or JWST452.

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.

Jewish philosophy from Maimonides in the 12th century to the expulsion of the Jews from Spain at the end of the 15th century. Topics include: the limitations of human knowledge, creation of the world, foreknowledge and free will, and the existence of God.

PHIL 426/688T, Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy

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

Maximum size: 25

LEF 1220

Professor Michael Morreau

(mimo@umd.edu)

CORE Capstone (CS)

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, senior standing. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL326 or PHIL426. Formerly PHIL326.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

At the beginning of the 20th century, impressive advances were made in physics, mathematics, and symbolic logic. However, the traditional problems in Western philosophy seemed far from solutions. What things exist? How is knowledge possible? What is the relation between the body and the mind? Then, philosophers and mathematicians began to approach these questions from a different angle. A rapidly growing group of analytic philosophers argued that the seemingly unsolvable problems of philosophy were not really problems at all, but rest on misunderstandings about language. This course will cover many theories advanced by this new generation of philosophers.

PHIL 427/688Z, Wittgenstein

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 30

SKN 1115

Professor S. Jack Odell

(so2@umail.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two courses in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

We will identify and expound upon various themes and presuppositions inherent in Wittgenstein's early philosophy (*Tractatus*). We will proceed with an in-depth analysis of Wittgenstein's critique of his early philosophy (*Philosophical Investigations*). We will then examine Wittgenstein's meta-philosophical perspective, which claims that traditional philosophy is a form of institutionalized misthinking. We will conclude with a critical exposition of the relevance of Wittgenstein's later philosophy to cognitive science.

PHIL 428E/688E, History of Ethics

TuTh 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Maximum size: 35

SKN 1115

Professor Samuel Kerstein

(kerstein@wam.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two courses in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.

Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement.

This course will focus on major figures in 18th century moral philosophy. We will engage in close readings of "moral sentimentalists," including David Hume and Adam Smith. Then we will turn our attention to Immanuel Kant's moral philosophy. Issues to be explored include the nature of virtue, the function and limits of practical reason, and the foundations of moral obligations.

PHIL 454/688S, Philosophy of Space and Time

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

Maximum size: 25

TYD 1118

Professor Mathias Frisch

(mfrisch@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two courses in Philosophy, senior standing, or permission of the instructor.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

What is space? Is space a thing, like a star? Is it a 'container' in which objects and events live? Or is space nothing but the relative distances we can measure between different objects? What is the geometry of space? How do we come to know it? How has Einstein's theory of relativity come to influence the answers we give to these questions? Similar questions can be asked about time.

But, in other ways, time is unlike space: We can move around in space in any direction we please, but move inexorably forward with the march of time. Does time 'flow'? What is the difference between past, present, and future? Do past and future exist in the same way as the present or is only the present real? Is time travel possible?

In this course we will examine philosophical questions such as these, concerning space and time, and their 20th century offspring, spacetime. Our approach will be quasi-historical, with readings ranging from Aristotle and St Augustine, to a debate between Newton and Leibniz, to twentieth century philosophers and physicists.

The format for this course will be a modified seminar format.

Readings: Huggett (ed.), "Space from Zeno to Einstein"
Geroch, "Relativity from A to B"
Course Packet

PHIL 458B/688B, History of Biology

Tu 4-6:30 p.m.

Maximum size: 22

SKN 1115

Professor Lindley Darden

(darden@umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Two courses in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

This is a combined history and philosophy of biology course. The philosophical issue to be discussed is the reasoning in constructing, evaluating, and revising biological theories. The historical cases to be examined are nineteenth and twentieth century evolutionary theory, Mendelian genetics and molecular biology. Readings include both primary and secondary historical sources including Darwin's (1859) *ORIGIN OF SPECIES*, Mendel's (1865) paper on pea hybrids, and James Watson's (1968) *THE DOUBLE HELIX*.

This course is appropriate for history, philosophy, and biological science majors, STS and Life Science Scholars, science journalists, biology teachers, and graduate students interested in the history and philosophy of biology. Graduate students may register for a 600 level course with permission of the instructor. The 400 level is especially appropriate to satisfy the CORE Advanced Studies requirement for science majors.

Required books:

Darwin, Charles ([1859] 1964), *ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES, A Facsimile of the First Edition*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Bowler, Peter J. (2003), *EVOLUTION: THE HISTORY OF AN IDEA*. 3rd. Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Mendel, Gregor ([1865] 1968), "Experiments on Plant Hybrids," Reprint by Harvard University Press.
Darden, Lindley (1991), *THEORY CHANGE IN SCIENCE: STRATEGIES FROM MENDELIAN GENETICS*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Watson, James (1980), *THE DOUBLE HELIX, A NORTON CRITICAL EDITION*. New York: W.W. Norton.
Morange, Michel (2000), *A HISTORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY*. Trans. from French by Matthew Cobb. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
Recommended:
Judson, Horace F. (1996), *THE EIGHTH DAY OF CREATION: THE MAKERS OF THE REVOLUTION IN BIOLOGY*. Expanded Edition. Cold Spring Harbor, New York: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

PHIL 481/688P, Representation

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

Maximum size: 35

WDS 0104

Professor Georges Rey

(georey@carnap.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: PHIL366 (formerly PHIL466), PHIL380, or permission of the instructor.
Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

Semantics and representations within a computational framework: intentionality, explicit vs. implicit representation, syntax vs. semantics of thought, connectionist approaches, images, classical vs. prototype theories of concepts.

PHIL 640, Value Theory

W 1-3:30 p.m.

Maximum size: 20

SKN 1116

Professor Patricia Greenspan

(pg20@umail.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Graduate status in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

This course emphasizes the part of philosophic ethics that attempts to understand what ethical and other forms of value amount to, rather than working from within an ethical framework to understand what we ought to do or be. Thus construed, the area is sometimes summed up as "metaethics," though the word can be interpreted too narrowly in light of the linguistic focus of 20th century philosophy. Besides the study of the meanings of ethical and other evaluative terms, the general topic covers such issues as the grounds for moral judgment (moral epistemology), the nature of moral motivation (moral psychology), and the nature and structure of moral theory and practical rationality. Besides the main contemporary metaethical theories (naturalism, intuitionism, emotivism, and more recent variants), the course will discuss the relation of the metaethical theories to standard approaches to normative ethics (utilitarianism, Kantianism, virtue ethics, and contractarianism), with the aim of introducing students to foundational concepts and views in the general area and refining their thinking on the subjects under debate.
Prerequisite: Graduate status in philosophy or consent of the instructor.

PHIL 688W, Proseminar in Politics, Philosophy, and Public Policy

Tu 2-4:45 p.m.

Maximum size: 15
TYD 2108
Professor Joe Oppenheimer

PHIL 828, Rousseau and his Legacy
Th 5-7:30 p.m.

Maximum size: 20
SKN 1116

Professor Andrew Levine
(alevine@earthlink.net)

Prerequisite: Graduate status in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was, among many other things, a magisterial political philosopher whose work merits scrupulous attention even – indeed, especially – today. In addition, his influence on Kant, Hegel and Marx, on German Romanticism, British idealism, American pragmatism and liberal democratic theory was incalculable. So too was his effect on artistic and other cultural phenomena, and on real world politics (revolutionary, liberal and conservative). For approximately half of the semester, this seminar will focus on intensive readings of some of Rousseau's most important political writings – including The Social Contract and The Discourse on the Origin of Inequality. In the second half of the semester, we will engage one small part of his legacy: recent work in the theory of “deliberative democracy.” Most deliberative democrats identify more closely with John Rawls's political philosophy than with Rousseau's. But, as will emerge, the aspects of Rawls's work that they draw on are connected conceptually and historically to Rousseauian themes.

PHIL 848, Practical Rationality

M 2:30-5 p.m.

Maximum size: 20
SKN 1116

Professor Patricia Greenspan
(pg20@umail.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Graduate status in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

This course will focus on contemporary readings on practical reasons and rationality in connection with some recent and ongoing work of the instructor advocating a “critical” conception of practical reasons as used to offer or answer criticism. Topics include normativity, satisficing, and the relation between reasons and the agent's choice (will, intentions); there will be some overlap in topics with the seminar given last year on “Reasons and Value,” but the readings will be distinct. Along with the instructor's recent work, we shall read selections from an anthology that connects some of the main views in the literature, Millgram (ed.), *Varieties of Practical Reasoning*, (Bradford Books/MIT Press). Further Xeroxed readings to be discussed in class will be provided by the instructor; these will probably include some of the papers submitted for the conference on practical rationality that is scheduled for late April. Also recommended for reading is Jonathan Dancy, *Ethics Without Principles*, (Oxford University Press).

PHIL 858, Belief Revision & Belief Fusion

Th 2-4:30 p.m.

Maximum size: 15
SKN 1116

Professor Jeff Horty
(horty@umiacs.umd.edu)

Prerequisite: Graduate status in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

This seminar focuses on the related problems of belief revision (revising beliefs with new, possibly conflicting information) and belief fusion (combining multiple, possibly conflicting bodies of information).

The course will be organized around three specific topics. (1) We begin by reviewing the standard AGM (Alchourron/Gärdenfors/Makinson) theory of belief revision as well as the related KM (Katsuno/Mendelzon) theory of belief update. Here we will touch on the epistemic semantics for conditionals, Gärdenfors's impossibility result, some responses to this result, and some connection between AGM belief revision and nonmonotonic reasoning. This is all basic material, which anyone with a course in the area should know. (2) After that, we will consider some recent work on combining, rather than just revising, belief sets. Much of this work has been done by computer scientists concerned with the problem of merging knowledge bases, but there are also relations to social choice theory, since combining sets of beliefs is somewhat like combining sets of preferences, and is subject to similar constraints. (3) Finally, we will look at a new problem in judgment aggregation, known as the "discursive dilemma," that has recently been attracting a good deal of attention among economists, legal theorists, and political theorists. The issue involves combining separate beliefs supported by reasons into a group belief that is also supposed to be supported by reasons. There are, as it turns out, a number of different, well-motivated ways of doing this, which lead to conflicting results; and there are also general impossibility theorems suggesting that desirable constraints on judgment aggregation cannot be satisfied. The plan is to look at the literature in this area, some of it very recent, and then to consider the problem also from new perspective of argument-based nonmonotonic reasoning.

The course is interdisciplinary: we will be reading papers by logicians, philosophers, computer scientists, economists, legal theorists, and political and social choice theorists.

Prerequisites: you should be completely comfortable with elementary metatheoretic reasoning about first-order logic; all additional material and techniques will be taught.

PHIL 868, Physicalism and Emergence

Tu 6:30-9 p.m.

Maximum size: 20

SKN 1116

Professor Michael Silberstein

(silbermd@etown.edu)

Prerequisite: Graduate status in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

The driving questions behind this course are: (a) whether or not physicalism is more probable than not given the best available evidence and (b) whether the natural sciences are more or less unified? The driving assumptions of the course are that these are questions that should not be considered in isolation and ought to be resolved empirically as much as is possible. This course is a hybrid or convergence between the following areas: (1) metaphysics (in particular the question of physicalism), (2) the theory of explanation in the philosophy of science, and (3) the question of the disunity of the natural sciences (the philosophy of physics). We will read philosophical works in all three of these respective fields. Authors to be read include myself, Paul Humphreys, Georges Rey, Lindley Darden, Andrew Melnyk, Barry Loewer, Don Howard, Carl Hoefer, Larry Sklar, Robert Batterman and others. The primary aim of the course will be to engage in empirically grounded metaphysics regarding the relative status of various forms of physicalism, reductionism and emergence. The focus of the course will be the natural sciences but some attention will be given to philosophy of biology and occasionally, philosophy of mind. Topics for the course will include: the disunity of science; the relationship between the quantum and classical domains; "fundamentalism", physicalism, mechanisms and causation, among others. Case studies for the

course will include: the “singular” asymptotic relationship between classical and quantum mechanics, quantum entanglement, molecular structure in classical versus quantum mechanics, the measurement problem, thermodynamics and the arrow or flow of time, “genes” as mechanisms in the developmental systems approach and its competitors, among others. Some mathematics and technicalities will be unavoidable in this course though I will do everything in my power to avoid their overemphasis and to make the course as user friendly as possible. I hope to attract a group of graduate students who are either empirically minded metaphysicians or metaphysically minded philosophers of physics.