

# Spring 2006 Philosophy Courses

[www.philosophy.umd.edu](http://www.philosophy.umd.edu)

## **PHIL 100.01: Introduction to Philosophy**

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

Maximum Size 150

SHM 2102

Instructor Heidi Tiedke

[htiedke1@umd.edu](mailto:htiedke1@umd.edu)

**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

HJP 0226

Professor S. Jack Odell

[sjodell@umd.edu](mailto:sjodell@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 2:00-2:50 p.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 225

ARM 0135

Professor Peter Carruthers

[pcarruth@umd.edu](mailto:pcarruth@umd.edu)

**CORE Humanities (HO)**

The goals of this course are two-fold. First, it aims to help students think critically and constructively about a range of practical moral issues and dilemmas. (These include: death and the value of life, suicide, euthanasia, abortion, punishment and capital punishment, the rights of animals, famine, and population policy). Second, it aims to help students gain an understanding of the way in which moral theories can be used to illuminate those issues. We will look at arguments advanced by moral philosophers on each of the topics, and the ways in which those arguments depend upon background moral theories. Students will be encouraged to think seriously about the writers' views, and to develop and defend their own views. The course will be approached from a secular perspective.

The text for the course will be: Peter Singer (ed.) *Applied Ethics* (Oxford), together with on-line materials provided by the instructor.

## **PHIL 140.02: Contemporary Moral Issues**

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

Maximum Size 225

SHM 2102

Instructor Lori Keleher

[lorikeleher@gmail.com](mailto:lorikeleher@gmail.com)

**CORE Humanities (HO)**

The uses of philosophical analysis in thinking clearly about such widely debated moral issues as abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, pornography, reverse discrimination, the death penalty, business ethics, sexual equality, and economic justice.

**PHIL 170: Introduction to Logic**

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

Maximum Size 300

SKN 0200

Instructor Bernard Molyneux

[molyneux@umd.edu](mailto:molyneux@umd.edu)

**CORE Mathematics or Formal Reasoning (MS) Course**

Development of analytical reasoning skills through study of formal logics, reasoning systems, and fallacious inference patterns.

**PHIL 209N: Philosophy of the Environment**

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

Maximum Size 75

TYD 1102

Professor Lindley Darden

[darden@umd.edu](mailto:darden@umd.edu)

**CORE Distributive Studies, Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues [IE]**

Why should the natural environment be preserved? What should be preserved--local populations, species, ecosystems, Gaia? What kinds of arguments have been given and can be given in answer to these questions? Human centered or non-anthropocentric? Pragmatic or based on fundamental ethical values? Factual/scientific or value/ethical? Secular or religious? Individualistic vs. planetary? Personal, social, legal? Health vs. disease? Conservation vs. preservation? Management vs. wilderness? Pro-technological fix or back-to-nature? Recreational or business-centered? Aesthetic or economic?

Scientific, philosophical, feminist, literary, and public policy issues in environmentalism are explored.

**PHIL 230: Philosophy of the Arts**

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

Maximum Size 75

TYD 2109

Professor John Brown

[jhbrown@umd.edu](mailto:jhbrown@umd.edu)

**CORE History or Theory of Arts (HA) Course**

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

KEY 0103

Professor Charles Manekin

[manekinc@umd.edu](mailto:manekinc@umd.edu)

**CORE Humanities (HO) Course**

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**

TuTh 9:30-10:20 a.m. plus Friday discussions

Maximum Size 75

TYD 2106

Professor Allen Stairs

[stairs@umd.edu](mailto:stairs@umd.edu)

**CORE Humanities (HO) Course**

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 271: Symbolic Logic**

TuTh 11-12:15 a.m.

Maximum Size 32

SKN 1112

Professor Michael Morreau

[mimo@umd.edu](mailto:mimo@umd.edu)

**USP Distributive Studies Area B: Natural Sciences and Mathematics Course**

Prerequisite: PHIL170 or CMSC250; or permission of department. Formerly PHIL 371

Satisfies Philosophy major Logic requirement.

In this course in symbolic deductive logic, we introduce a symbolic language for sentential logic (the branch of logic that takes sentences as the fundamental units of logical analysis), and for predicate logic (the branch of logic that takes subsentence units - predicates and individual terms - as the fundamental units of logical analysis). In terms of this symbolic language - first-order logic with identity - we develop formal techniques for assessing the logical relations among sentences and groups of sentences in a wide range of arguments.

**PHIL 280: Introduction to Cognitive Science Philosophy and Cognitive Science: Mind from Computation?**

TuTh 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 37

SKN 1112

Professor Christopher Cherniak

[cherniak@umd.edu](mailto:cherniak@umd.edu)

**CORE Interdisciplinary & Emerging Issues (IE) Course**

Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement.

The computer model of the human mind serves as a central unifying conceptual framework for the cognitive sciences, which lie at the intersection of philosophy, psychology, computer science, and brain science. This course proceeds from an introduction to computation theory, to some philosophy of mind -- in particular, from the major unsolvability results of computation theory to questions regarding whether machines can (ever) think. The first half of the course is organized around the key concept 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?

Assignments include homework problems and short papers. This is not a programming course, nor does it require any programming background. Students not majoring in philosophy are welcome.

**PHIL 308G: Studies in Contemporary  
Philosophy: God and Morality**

TuTh 11-12:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 37

SKN 1115

Professor Mark Schroeder

[mschroed@umd.edu](mailto:mschroed@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory  
requirement.**

What, if anything, does God have to do with morality? Do all, or some, moral requirements *come* from God? Is religion the only, or even a good, source of moral *knowledge*? Does "getting religion" always or ever help *motivate* people to behave morally? And do the answers to these questions leave room for a role for religion in politics? In this course we'll try to use philosophical tools to address these questions from meta-ethics and political philosophy.

**PHIL 308L: Studies in Contemporary  
Philosophy: The Meaning of Life**

MW 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum size 37

SKN 1115

Professor S. Jack Odell

[sjodell@umd.edu](mailto:sjodell@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory  
requirement**

**PHIL 310: Ancient Philosophy**

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

Maximum Size 47

TYD 1114

Professor James Leshner

[jlesher@umd.edu](mailto:jlesher@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major History  
requirement.**

Prerequisite: six credits in philosophy or classics.

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 and the final exam (review questions for all exams will be handed out well in advance). Format: lecture and discussion.

**PHIL 324: Existentialism**

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

Maximum Size 75

ARM 0120

Professor Samuel Kerstein

[kerstien@umd.edu](mailto:kerstien@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory  
requirement.**

Prerequisite: Six credits in philosophy.

This course could just as well have the title: "Introduction to Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Camus." Its main aim is to help you to understand and evaluate some central ideas of these four philosophers. We will explore their reflections on morality, freedom, suffering, and the meaning of human life. Readings will include philosophical essays as well as works of fiction. Each of the four philosophers is sometimes classified as an "existentialist," but we will not focus on the origins or merits of this classification.

**PHIL 341: Ethical Theory**

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

Maximum Size 75

TYD1102

Professor Patricia Greenspan

[pg@umd.edu](mailto:pg@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory  
requirement**

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy. Junior standing.

Selections from major texts in the history of philosophy exhibiting key contrasts within theoretical ethics: Mill's utilitarianism versus Kant's duty-based approach to understanding what makes an act is right or wrong; Aristotele's emphasis on rationality versus Hume's focus on the passions as determining what makes certain character traits virtues or vices; and the connection drawn by Rawls between social contract theory and moral psychology.

Required readings will be drawn from:

Mill, *Utilitarianism* (Hackett)  
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Hackett)  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Oxford)  
Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (Oxford)  
Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Harvard)

Written requirements of the course include midterm and final exams plus three short papers

### **PHIL 354: Philosophy of Physics**

TuTh 2-3:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 37

MMH 0108

Professor Allen Stairs

[stairs@umd.edu](mailto:stairs@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement.**

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

Recommended: PHYS270, PHYS401. Not open to students who have completed PHIL452. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL354 or PHIL452.

This course will deal especially with the peculiarities of the quantum world. The aim is to provide students with the conceptual tools needed to understand why quantum mechanics continues to be philosophically perplexing almost 100 years after its first appearance. We will discuss the measurement problem, the problem of Schrödinger's

cat, Einstein's critique of quantum theory, Bohr's concept of complementarity, nonlocality, entanglement, and recent ideas such as quantum teleportation. We will also, as appropriate, make connections between puzzles about quantum theory and other questions in physics and in philosophy.

### **PHIL 360: Philosophy of Language**

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

Maximum Size 37

SKN 1112

Professor Paul Pietroski

[pietro@umd.edu](mailto:pietro@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major**

**Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.**

Prerequisite: PHIL170, PHIL173, or PHIL271

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 364: Metaphysics**

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

Maximum Size 37

TYD 1108

Instructor Daniel Parker

[dparker1@umd.edu](mailto:dparker1@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major**

**Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement**

Prerequisite: Six hours in philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL 464.

Formerly PHIL 464

The study of some central metaphysical concepts and issues including the nature and validity of metaphysical thinking, universals, identity, substance, time, God, and reality.

**PHIL 407: Gay and Lesbian Philosophy**

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

Maximum size 32

WDS 0104

Instructor Michael Cifone

[cifonemc@umd.edu](mailto:cifonemc@umd.edu)

**CORE Diversity (D) Course**

In recent years, homosexuality has become an issue in the public sphere. Such issues as gay marriage and equal rights for all sexual minorities are now being debated in many countries, especially here in the US. But what is "homosexuality" and is it essentially different than "heterosexuality"? What is the "coming out" experience, and is there such an experience for heterosexuals too? Have there been gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people throughout history? Is homosexuality "socially constructed" in a way in which other aspects of human beings are not (like our genetic makeup)? Is homosexuality "immoral"? By working through these and other difficult issues with the analytic tools of the philosopher, we will try to clarify the nature of homosexuality, its existence through time and across socio-cultural borders, and arm ourselves with the concepts needed to navigate the contemporary social, political, and moral issues now facing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Film will also be incorporated into the course, so that the sometimes dry philosophical analysis can be brought to life.

**PHIL 412/688P: Philosophy of Plato**

Th 2-4:30 p.m.

Maximum Size 25

SKN 1115

Professor James Lesher

[jlesher@umd.edu](mailto:jlesher@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.**

Prerequisite: six credits in philosophy.

A critical study of Plato's philosophy focusing on selected 'Socratic' dialogues; the *Meno*, *Phaedo*, *Republic*, and *Symposium*; and the 'later' dialogues *Parmenides*, *Theaetetus*, and *Sophist*. The course grade will be based on the grades received on the mid-term exam, a paper to be presented in class, and the final exam. Format: lecture, presentation of student papers, and discussion.

**PHIL 424/688Z: Philosophy of Spinoza**

Tu 3:30-6 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Professor Charles Manekin

[manekinc@umd.edu](mailto:manekinc@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.**

Prerequisite: six credits in philosophy or permission of department.

Also offered as JWST453. Not open to students who have completed JWST453. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL424 or JWST453

An investigation of the metaphysical, ethical and political thought of the 17th century philosopher Benedict Spinoza. We will read carefully *The Theological-Political Treatise* and *The Ethics*. Among topics to be discussed: Spinoza's monism, dual-aspect theory, determinism, biblical theory, and political philosophy.

**PHIL 426/688T: Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy**

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

Maximum Size 30

SKN 1115

Professor Michael Morreau

[mimo@umd.edu](mailto:mimo@umd.edu)

**CORE Capstone (CS)**

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, senior standing. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL 326 or PHIL 426.

Formerly PHIL 326. Satisfies Philosophy major Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 428G/688G: Topics in the History of Philosophy: Aristotelianism to Galileo**

MWF 10-10:50 a.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Professor Lars Svenonius

[lars@umd.edu](mailto:lars@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.**

**PHIL 428Q/688Q: Topics in the History of Philosophy: Theories of History**

W 1-:30 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1112

Professor Andrew Levine

[alevine@earthlink.net](mailto:alevine@earthlink.net)

**Satisfies Philosophy major History requirement.**

History is a non-theoretical discipline. It proceeds on the assumption that anything that has already happened can be an object of historical explanation, and that any way of making sense of an historical event that is consistent with known facts can count as an historical explanation. Every historical event, no matter how it is identified, is in

principle explainable. But history itself has no explanation. Co-existing with this working assumption (and not necessarily at odds with it) is a tradition of thought according to which history can indeed be explained, and in which its real natural kind divisions (its structure) and also its directionality stand revealed. This tradition began around the time that Christianity transformed itself into a world religion. St. Augustine was arguably its initiator. Hegel was its last great exponent. For all their obvious differences, these thinkers' philosophies of history have a common core, based on a notion of causality (and explanation) foreign to modern (but not Aristotelian or medieval) science. In a word, theirs are teleological theories. "Historical materialism," Karl Marx's theory of history, owes much to this tradition, especially its Hegelian version. But it is not a teleological theory. Rather, its notion of causality (and explanation) is of a piece with modern science and therefore with the best explanatory traditions of contemporary historical and social theory. But it nevertheless provides an account of history's structure (its real epochal divisions) and direction; one that can greatly benefit historiography and social science. This course will examine teleological philosophies of history and historical materialism. Since Marx's theory of history was central to his entire theoretical (and political) project, and since the reconstruction and defense of that theory was of crucial moment in the development of so-called "analytical Marxism," this focus provides access to other aspects of Marxist theory as well. This will be a lecture course with discussion encouraged. Readings will be drawn from historically important and contemporary (mainly analytic) sources. There will be a mid-term and final, and one (approximately 10 page) paper.

**PHIL 446/688L: Law, Morality, and War**

TuTh 2 – 3:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

BPS 1228

Professor Christopher Morris

[mailto:cwmorris@umd.edu](mailto:mailto:cwmorris@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major Value Theory requirement.**

Prerequisite: GVPT 300, GVPT 401, PHIL 341, or permission of department. Also offered as GVPT 403. An exploration of fundamental moral and legal issues concerning war.

What wars, if any, are just? What are we forbidden from doing when prosecuting a war? We shall examine traditional doctrines of just war and contemporary discussions of war. Readings will draw from classical works as well as contemporary writings about the two Iraq wars. We shall also discuss terrorism. The principal text will be *The Morality of War: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, ed. by Larry May, Eric Rovie, and Steve Viner (Prentice Hall, 2006, ISBN: 0-13-148770-1).

**PHIL 454/688S: Philosophy of Space and Time**

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

Maximum Size 35

TYD 1118

Professor Mathias Frisch

[mfrisch@umd.edu](mailto:mfrisch@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major**

**Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement**

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy. Senior standing.

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, to a debate between Newton and Leibniz, to twentieth century philosophers and physicists.

**PHIL 458B/688B: Topics in the Philosophy of Science: History of Biology**

Tu 4-6:30 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

SKN 1115

Professor Lindley Darden

[darden@umd.edu](mailto:darden@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major**

**Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement.**

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy or permission of the department.

This is a combined history and philosophy of modern 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. The course is especially appropriate to satisfy the CORE Advanced Studies requirement for science majors.

**PHIL 458I/688I: Topics in the Philosophy of Science: Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence**

MW 2 – 3:15 p.m.

Maximum Size 35

COL 3112

Instructor Bernard Molyneux

[molyneux@umd.edu](mailto:molyneux@umd.edu)

**Satisfies Philosophy major**

**Metaphysics/Epistemology requirement**

The broad theme will be what computers (allegedly) cannot do, and more specifically what certain kinds of computers cannot do - e.g. neural networks, different kinds of automata etc. We will be interested in what the consequences are for our understanding of human mentation. We will also look at arguments for why machines (supposedly) could never exhibit understanding or consciousness, including the Chinese Room argument, arguments based upon redundant counterfactuals, and arguments premised on Godel's theorem.

### **PHIL 640: Value Theory**

M 4-6:30 p.m.

Maximum 15

SKN 1116

Professor Patricia Greenspan

[pg@umd.edu](mailto:pg@umd.edu)

*Prerequisite:* Graduate status in philosophy or consent of the instructor

An introduction to ethics by way of metaethics, or 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. 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 and practical rationality (moral psychology), and the nature and structure of moral theory. The bulk of the course will focus on the main contemporary metaethical theories (naturalism, intuitionism, emotivism, and some more recent variants, error theory, expressivism, and constructivism). The readings will also provide examples of some of the standard approaches to normative ethics (utilitarianism, Kantianism, virtue ethics, and contractualism). Toward the end of the course students will be asked to lead discussion of some readings on moral psychology. Course discussion will have the aim of introducing students to foundational concepts and views in the general area and refining their thinking on the subjects under debate.

Required readings will be selected from:

S. Darwall, A. Gibbard, and P. Railton (eds.), *Moral Discourse & Practice* (Oxford).

Written requirements of the course include take-home midterm and final exams.

### **PHIL 688W: Selected Problems in Philosophy: Proseminar in Politics, Philosophy and Public Policy**

Also offered as GVPT859B and PUA698J

Tu 12:30-3:15 pm.m

Maximum size 15

MMH 3418

Professor Stephen Elkin

[selkin@umd.edu](mailto:selkin@umd.edu)

Professor Christopher Morris

[cwmorris@umd.edu](mailto:cwmorris@umd.edu)

This is the second semester of a two-semester course designed to introduce students to basic concepts required to evaluate public policy choices and the institutional arrangements that constrain these choices. For more information about the topics to be taken up this spring, please contact the instructors.

### **PHIL 828: Seminar in the History of Philosophy: Ethics and its History**

M 1-3:30 p.m.

Maximum seats 20

SKN 1116

Professor Samuel Kerstein

[kerstein@umd.edu](mailto:kerstein@umd.edu)

For Philosophy majors only. All other interested students will need to obtain permission from the Philosophy department.

### **PHIL 848: Seminar in Ethics: Advanced Topics in Ethical Theory Expressivism**

Tu 4-6:30 p.m.

Maximum seats 20

SKN 1116

Professor Mark Schroeder

[mschroed@umd.edu](mailto:mschroed@umd.edu)

For Philosophy majors only. All other students will need to obtain permission from the philosophy department.

Metaethical expressivism is a theory about the meaning of moral terms like "right", "wrong", "good", and "bad". Roughly, it says that to say, "murder is wrong" is to express a certain kind of *attitude* to murder - for example, *disapproval*. Expressivism is not a dominant view in contemporary meta-ethics, but it is an important and central one, and it has undergone a recent revival. In this seminar we will investigate the issues and problems surrounding expressivism, old and new. For example: is expressivism a kind of *subjectivism*? Is it in any way *relativist*? Is it *irrealist* about morality? Can expressivists solve what has come to be known as the *Frege-Geach Problem*? Can moral sentences be true or false, if expressivism is true? What motivates expressivism? What are its advantages over similar but distinct views? Can expressivists give an adequate account of negation? What does "express" mean? Can sentences express beliefs as well as attitudes like disapproval? What is the best version of expressivism? Active participants in this seminar should leave with a general acquaintance with the shape of the literature about expressivism, and therefore a toe-hold on issues in meta-ethics more generally. No previous acquaintance with the issues covered will be necessary.

### **PHIL 858: Seminar in Logic and Philosophy of Sciences: Advanced Philosophy of Sciences**

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

Maximum seats 20

SKN 1116

Professor Mathias Frisch

[mfrisch@umd.edu](mailto:mfrisch@umd.edu)

Traditionally philosophers of science have reconstructed science as being governed by a rational method aimed at arriving at objective knowledge. This image of science as supremely rational has been challenged by sociologists of science who have pointed to seemingly ineliminable

social, non-cognitive factors that shape scientific inquiry. To what extent do the social conditions under which science is practiced influence the outcomes of scientific inquiry? Does the role of social factors in science conflict with the purported aim of science to uncover truths? Should moral and political concerns be allowed to influence science? In this seminar we will survey some of the main strands in this debate, which a few years ago erupted in what has quite dramatically been labeled "the science wars." We will then examine two recent accounts by Helen Longino and Philip Kitcher that try to overcome the dichotomy between the social and the normative cognitive dimensions of science and argue that social factors in fact play an important role in the production of scientific knowledge.

Reading:

Philip Kitcher's *Science, Truth and Democracy*  
Helen Longino's *The Fate of Knowledge*.