

Summer 2007

Philosophy Courses

PHIL100 Introduction to Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course. USP Distributive Studies Area A: Cultural and Historical Course.

Instructor Dimiter Kirilov iastre@yahoo.com

07/16/07-08/03/07 MTuWThF...10:00am-12:40pm ([SKN 1115](#))

An introduction to the literature, problems, and methods of philosophy either through a study of some of the main figures in philosophic thought or through an examination of some of the central and recurring problems of philosophy.

PHIL140 Contemporary Moral Issues; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course. USP Distributive Studies Area D: Social and Behavioral Sciences Course.

Instructor Melissa Ebbers mebbers@umd.edu

06/04/07 - 07/15/07 ONLINE

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. This is an online course, which will be taught using Blackboard. There will be no classroom meetings. Students who have questions can contact the instructor at mebbers@umd.edu.

PHIL170 Introduction to Logic; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Mathematics or Formal Reasoning (MS) Course.

Instructor Wei Zhang wzhang2@umd.edu

06/25/07-07/13/07 MTuWThF...10:00am-12:40pm ([SKN 1115](#))

In this course, we will cover a variety of topics concerning the basics of reasoning. By the end of this course, your aim is to be skilled in the ways of detecting bad reasoning in ordinary English, understanding what it means for an argument to be valid and sound, and knowing how to use tools and techniques such as truth tables, derivation rules and truth trees to check the validity of an argument. Throughout the semester we will focus on sentential logic and predicate logic of deduction, and if time permits, we will briefly discuss inductive logic as well.

PHIL236 Philosophy of Religion; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

Instructor Allen Stairs stairs@umd.edu

06/04/07-06/22/07 MTuWThF...10:00am-12:40pm ([SKN 1115](#))

A philosophical study of some of the main problems of religious thought: the nature of religious experience, the justification of religious belief, the conflicting claims of religion and science, and the relation between religion and morality.

PHIL245 Political and Social Philosophy I; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course. USP Distributive Studies Area D: Social and Behavioral Sciences Course.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

Instructor Bénédicte Veillet bveillet@hotmail.com

06/04/07-06/22/07 MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:40pm ([SKN 1115](#))

A critical examination of such classical political theories as those of Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, and such contemporary theories as those of Hayek, Rawls, and recent Marxist thinkers.

PHIL261 Philosophy of the Environment; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Interdisciplinary & Emerging Issues (IE) Course.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

Instructor Susan Bilek sbilek@umd.edu

06/04/070 - 07/15/07 ONLINE

Not open to students who have completed HONR218F or PHIL209N. Formerly HONR 218F.

An evaluation of different kinds of arguments for the claim that the natural environment should be preserved. Perspectives cut across the disciplines of philosophy (environmental ethics, philosophies of nature), economics (cost-benefit analysis), and biology (evolution, ecology, environmental studies). This is an online course, which will be taught using Blackboard. There will be no classroom meetings. Students who have questions can contact the instructor at sbilek@umd.edu.

PHIL308J Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Sex and Death; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Metaphysics/Epistemology OR Value Theory Requirement

Instructor Elizabeth Schechter lizschechter@gmail.com

07/16/07-08/03/07 MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:40pm (SKN 1115)

This course will examine sex and death from the standpoint of value theory and the philosophy of science. Are sexual identities rooted in biology? Or are they socially constructed? What role has sexual selection played in our evolution? What is death? Are we unique in our awareness of its inevitability? Might it some day be "cured," and if so, how would this change the meaning and value of life? And was Freud right? Is our behavior determined by opposing and unconscious drives towards sex and death?

PHIL308M Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Philosophy In Film; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

Instructor Elizabeth Picciuto epicciuto@gmail.com

06/25/07-07/13/07 MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:40pm (SKN 1112)

Movies are often entertaining, but they can also serve as a way of raising philosophical questions. In this course, we will watch films and read related philosophical works. Among the questions the movies will raise are what constitutes a person, the reliability of our perceptions, whether we have free will, and what the correct moral choice might be in a given situation. We will pay special attention to the differences and similarities in the treatment of such topics by filmmakers and philosophers.

PHIL308W Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Happiness and Well-Being; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

Instructor Vincent Picciuto vpicciuto@gmail.com

06/25/07-07/13/07 MTuWThF...10:00am-12:40pm (SKN 1116)

Happiness is typically seen as one of the indicators that a life is "going well." In fact, happiness is usually seen as the primary indicator of a life that is going well. Jefferson claimed we have an inalienable right to the pursuit of *happiness*, and Bentham put forth his "greatest *happiness* principle." In one way or another we all seem to strive for happiness, or at least, for what we think will attain happiness. We refer to happiness regularly in our ordinary lives, and we seem particularly quick to pass judgment about the alleged happiness of ourselves and others. But what are we striving for, referring to, and judging about, exactly? What, exactly, is happiness, and what, exactly, does it mean for a life to go well? At first glance, it seems plausible that one can be wrong about whether another person is happy or not, but can self-assessments be wrong?

As they stand, most of these perennial questions have no satisfactory answers. In this course we'll try to make sense of these and other related questions, with particular focus on clarifying the concept "happiness" and its relation, if there is one, to well-being. Along the way, the student will be introduced to some fundamental philosophical concepts, *e.g.*, fallibility, truth, value, morality, subjectivity, phenomenology, &c.

PHIL347 Philosophy of Law; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

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

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

Instructor Matt King mattking@umd.edu

06/04/07-07/15/07 MTuWTh....10:00am-11:40am (SKN 1112)

This course examines the fundamental concepts related to law, e.g. legal systems, law and morality, justice, legal reasoning, responsibility. We will begin with a study of the debate concerning the origins of law (what makes a given command a law), then proceed to issues concerning the law's restriction of individual liberty including, privacy, paternalism, and freedom of expression. We'll also consider the role of responsibility in the law and its relation to the justification of punishment. We may also discuss whether there's a duty to obey the law and the justification of civil disobedience.

PHIL498W Topical Investigations; (1-3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

STAFF

06/04/07-07/15/07 Time and room to be arranged

PHIL498X Topical Investigations; (1-3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

STAFF

07/16/07-08/26/07 Time and room to be arranged

PHIL688W Selected Problems in Philosophy; (1-3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

STAFF

06/04/07-07/15/07 Time and room to be arranged

PHIL688X Selected Problems in Philosophy; (1-3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

STAFF

07/16/07-08/26/07 Time and room to be arranged

PHIL788W Research in Philosophy; (1-6 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

STAFF

06/04/07-07/15/07 Time and room to be arranged

PHIL788X Research in Philosophy; (1-6 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

STAFF

07/16/07-08/26/07 Time and room to be arranged

PHIL799 Master's Thesis Research; (1-6 credits) Grade Method: REG. Individual Instruction course: contact department or instructor to obtain section number.

Contact department to make arrangements.

PHIL899 Doctoral Dissertation Research; (1-8 credits) Grade Method: REG. Individual Instruction course:

contact department or instructor to obtain section number.

Contact department to make arrangements.



MARYLAND
TERRAPINS.