

Summer 2008

Philosophy Courses

www.philosophy.umd.edu

PHIL100 Introduction to Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

Instructor: Ryan Millsap millsap@umd.edu

07/13/08-08/22/08 WEB ONLINE Seats 30 [Books](#)

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. This course will be taught entirely online.

PHIL140 Contemporary Moral Issues; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

Instructor: Wei Zhang wzhang2@umd.edu

06/02/08-07/12/08 WEB ONLINE Seats 30 [Books](#)

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 course will be taught entirely online.

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

Instructor: Chris Pyne cpyne@umd.edu

06/23/08-07/11/08 MTuWThF...10:00am-12:40pm Seats 30 ([SKN 1115](#)) [Books](#)

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

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

Instructor: Benedict Chan bschan@umd.edu

06/02/08-07/12/08 WEB ONLINE Seats 30 [Books](#)

In this course, we will carefully evaluate the standard arguments for or against the existence of God (ontological argument, cosmological argument, teleological argument, and problems of evil). We will also explore the topics of reformed epistemology, miracles, religious experience, and religious diversity, etc. On this latter topic, we will spend some time thinking about several "non-Western" religions, such as Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. This course is open to all believers and non-believers of any religion. The only prerequisite is a willingness to think seriously and philosophically.

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

Instructor: Susan Bilek sbilek@umd.edu

06/02/08-07/12/08 WEB ONLINE Seats 30 [Books](#)

Philosophy of the Environment considers arguments for the claim that the natural environment should be preserved. Perspectives cut across the disciplines of philosophy (value theory, aesthetics, political philosophy, philosophy of science), economics (cost-benefit analysis), psychology and sociology, and biology. It will be taught on line, using Blackboard, with no classroom meetings. Questions? Contact the

instructor at sbilek@umd.edu. (The course is not open to students who have completed HONR218F or PHIL209N.)"

PHIL280 Perspectives on the Mind: Philosophy and Cognitive Science; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Interdisciplinary & Emerging Issues (IE) Course.

Instructor: Kent Erickson erickson@umd.edu

07/14/08-08/01/08 MTuWThF...12:00pm- 2:40pm Seats 30 (SKN 1112) Books

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.

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

Instructor: Elizabeth Schechter lizschechter@gmail.com

Meets 07/14/08-08/01/08 MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:40pm (SKN 1115) Seats 30 Books

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? [Click here for more course information.](#)

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

Instructor: Vincent Picciuto picciuto@umd.edu

06/02/08-06/20/08 MTuWThF...12:00pm- 2:40pm (SKN 1116) Seats 30 Books

Happiness is often seen as the mark of a life that is going well. But what is 'happiness'? And what, exactly, does it mean for life to be "going well?". In this course we'll examine both of these questions focusing on clarifying the notion of happiness and the relation, if there is one, between happiness and well-being. [Click here for more course information.](#)

PHIL324 Existentialism; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy.

Instructor: Dimiter Kirilov iastre@yahoo.com

07/14/08-08/01/08 MTuWThF...10:00am-12:40pm (SKN 1115) Seats 30 Books

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. [Click here for more course information.](#)

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

Instructor: Staff Seats 10 **Books**

06/02/08-07/12/08 Time and room to be arranged

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

Instructor: STAFF

07/13/08-08/22/08 Seats 10 **Books**

Time and room to be arranged