

Summer 2009 Philosophy Courses

www.philosophy.umd.edu

Philosophy Advising

philadv@umd.edu

PHIL100.0201 Introduction to Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

D. McElhoes Seats 40 **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-08/21/09 TBA (WEB ONLINE)

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 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 thedave@umd.edu.

PHIL140.0101 Contemporary Moral Issues; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

S. Emet Seats 40 **Books**

Meets 06/01/09-07/12/09

TBA (WEB ONLINE)

This is an online section, which will be taught using Blackboard. There will be no classroom meetings.

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.

PHIL140.04YS Contemporary Moral Issues; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

E. Schechter Seats 20 **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-07/31/09

MTuWThF...10:00am- 1:00pm (TLF 1103)

This section is part of The Young Scholars Program. Enrollment by permission only. Please access the Summer Programs website for further information.

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.

PHIL170.0401 Introduction to Logic; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Mathematics or Formal Reasoning (MS) Course.

W. Zhang Seats 30 **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-07/31/09

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. Welcome to the course and please enjoy!

PHIL209T.0301 Philosophical Issues: Time in Philosophy, Film and Literature; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

M. Frisch **Seats 30** **Books**

Meets 06/01/09-06/19/09

MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:40pm (SKN 1115)

We all experience the passage of time in a direct and immediate way. Yet once we begin to reflect on what time really is, it is easy to feel as puzzled as St Augustine was, who wrote: "If no one asks me, I know what time is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks me, I do not know." In this course we will examine how the nature of time and our experience of time are treated in philosophy, literature, film, and science.

Among the issues we will address are the following. What is it for time to 'flow' or pass? Are the past and the future real in the same way in which the present seems to be? What does psychology teach us about how we experience the present?

We can move around freely in space, but we cannot similarly move around in time. How, then, is time different from space? The idea of time travel is a common theme in science fiction. But some philosophers have suggested that time-travel is conceptually impossible: if time travel is possible I should be able to kill my father before I was conceived. But this is impossible, and hence time travel must be impossible. Is this a good argument? If not, why not? Can we coherently imagine, as many time-travel stories do, that a time traveler could change the past? What does contemporary physics teach us about the possibility of time travel?

Certain views of time imply that there can be no freedom of the will. One might worry that if facts about the future (including facts about what I will do tomorrow) already existed in the same way as facts about the present exist, then I could not be free to choose what I will do. After all, how can I be free to decide to skip class tomorrow, if it is 'already' a fact today that I will attend class? What, if anything, is the connection between various views of time and 'fatalism'?

The asymmetry between past and future is central to the notion of time. But what can account for this asymmetry? How might the temporal asymmetry be connected to physical asymmetries? And why do we experience time as asymmetric?

We will use novels, short stories, and films to illustrate the conceptual and philosophical issues we will be discuss and we will analyze how the authors or filmmakers represent various of aspects of possible temporal structures and of our experience of time.

PHIL209W.0101 Philosophical Issues: The Problem of Free Will; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

This course will be taught entirely online.

R. Millsap **Seats 30** **Books**

Meets 06/01/09-07/10/09

TBA (WEB ONLINE)

Human beings seem to be subject to the same scientific laws as rocks and computers. Does this mean you don't act freely? And if God knows what you're going to do before you do it, in what sense do you have a choice? We'll look at philosophical responses to such questions, as well as their implications for responsibility, praise, blame, and punishment.

This course will meet entirely online. Students should contact the instructor at millsap@umd.edu if they have questions.

PHIL236.0101 Philosophy of Religion; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

B. Chan **Seats 40** **Books**

Meets 06/01/09-07/10/09

TBA (WEB ONLINE)

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. 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 bschan@umd.edu.

PHIL308B.0501 Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Ethical issues in medicine and life science; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

S. Kerstein Seats 30 **Books**

Meets 06/22/09-07/10/09

MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:40pm (SKN 1115)

This course takes a philosophical approach to controversial issues in biomedical ethics, several of which are the subject of lively public debate. The first part of the course is a brief exploration of ethical theory designed to facilitate understanding of the readings that follow. We then discuss some topics in clinical ethics, such as the requirement that patients give their informed consent to treatment and the nature of the professional obligations of physicians. We turn next to ethical problems surrounding the use of human subjects for testing drugs and procedures. Finally, we take a look at some controversial emerging technologies: prenatal genetic testing for disabilities and pharmaceutical and genetic enhancement of human beings. The course aims to help students develop their ability to formulate and evaluate arguments in applied ethics.

PHIL308X.0201 Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Wisdom; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

J. Gibson Seats 30 **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-08/23/09

TBA (WEB ONLINE)

This course will have two main components. On the one hand, we shall explore general questions about wisdom itself: what wisdom is, what the characteristics of the wise individual are, how wisdom can be acquired, etc. On the other hand, we shall read wisdom literature in several traditions (and genres) with a view to becoming a little wiser ourselves—although this latter undertaking will undoubtedly illuminate the general questions about wisdom as well.

Possible texts include all or parts of the following:

Selections from Aristotle, Epicurus, and Epictetus

Selections from Friedrich Nietzsche

Albert Camus' *The Myth of Sisyphus*

Bertrand Russell's *Autobiography*

A. J. Ayer's *Language, Truth, and Logic*

Erich Fromm's *The Art of Loving*

Yi-Fu Tuan's *Escapism*

Aesop's Fables

Biblical wisdom literature

Something by the American Buddhist nun Pema Chodron

Short stories and poems (e.g., Matthew Arnold's "Dover Beach")

More particular questions that we shall consider include the following:

Why has the concept of wisdom fallen out of fashion in Western philosophy? (Is there no longer a place for Sophia in Philosophia?) How does wisdom relate to moral goodness? (Is the good person necessarily wise? Is the wise individual necessarily good?) How does wisdom relate to science? (Do sciences merely yield information, or does the scientific perspective afford a distinctive sort of wisdom?) Do you have to be old to be wise? Is wisdom acquired by special modes of knowledge restricted to the few?

Most centrally, we will contemplate the nature of the universe, the condition of human beings within it, and what mode of life represents the most authentic response to that condition. Our overall approach will be to engage sympathetically, but critically, with the views of authors who have written on these topics.

Moreover, we should have ample opportunity to express and evaluate our own and each others' views about these important questions.

PHIL324.0401 Existentialism; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy. A study of authors such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sarte, and Camus on issues of human morality, freedom, and suffering. [Click here for more course information.](#)

D. Kirilov **Seats 30** **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-07/31/09

MTuWThF... 1:00pm- 3:40pm (SKN 1115)

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

STAFF **Seats 10** **Books**

Meets 06/01/09-07/12/09

Time and room to be arranged

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

STAFF **Seats 10** **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-08/23/09

Time and room to be arranged

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

STAFF **Seats 10** **Books**

Meets 06/01/09-07/12/09

Time and room to be arranged

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

STAFF **Seats 10** **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-08/23/09

Time and room to be arranged

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

STAFF **Seats 10** **Books**

Meets 06/01/09-07/12/09

Time and room to be arranged

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

STAFF **Seats 10** **Books**

Meets 07/13/09-08/23/09

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.