

Philosophy Course Descriptions - Fall 2022

Course and Section	Date and Time	Location	Instructor
101-150	MW 11:30am-12:20pm	Morrill Hall 141	Reina Hayaki
<p>Intro to Philosophy We will examine a range of important topics that have been discussed by philosophers through the ages: the existence or non-existence of God and the rationality of religious belief; the concept of knowledge, and whether we have any knowledge of the world around us; the nature of the mind and its relationship to the body, and how the two are related to the self; determinism, free will, and moral responsibility; the relationship between morality and rationality, and conflicting accounts of what makes an action right or wrong. These topics cover a lot of ground, but they are united by a couple of broad themes: Who are we, and how do we fit into the world?</p> <p>This course is certified for both ACE 5 (Humanities) and ACE 8 (Ethics). You will be able to choose which one of these two requirements you want this course to count for.</p> <p>Textbook: Gideon Rosen, Alex Byrne, Joshua Cohen, Elizabeth Harman, and Seana Shiffrin (eds.), <i>The Norton Introduction to Philosophy</i>, 2nd ed. (W. W. Norton & Co., 2018).</p> <p>Major assignments: two exams and a paper. Additional smaller assignments, to be determined.</p>			
101-250	TR 9:30am-10:20am	Brace Lab 206	Joe Mendola
<p>Introduction to Philosophy This is an historical introduction to philosophy. We will consider a broad range of philosophical questions, including the nature of ethical truth, the relationship between the mind and body, our knowledge, and the existence of God. We will read a wide range of famous philosophers. The principal text is Stephen Cahn (ed.), <i>Classics of Western Philosophy</i>, 8th edition, 2012. The course requirements include two exams and a paper.</p> <p>The course may be used to satisfy either ACE 5 (Humanities) or ACE 8 (Ethics).</p>			
105-700	Does Not Meet	Online	Colin McLear
<p>The Philosophy of Food Food is a central part of human life, both in its production and consumption. Food is closely tied to the values that we hold and the cultural identities that we endorse (e.g. the sorts of things that we eat vs. the sorts of things that they eat). Our choices about food, both as individuals and as a society, raise a variety of moral, political, social, and economic questions. In this course we'll investigate these questions using a variety of methods and sources, but with an eye to their philosophical importance.</p> <p>This course can be used to satisfy either Ace 5 (Humanities) or Ace 8 (Ethics)</p>			
106-150	TR 9:30am-10:20am	Burnett 115	Mark van Roojen
<p>Philosophy and Current Issues The class will focus on a number of ethical topics of current interest, most likely four of the following world hunger, war, economic inequality, rights to sexual privacy, and racial justice. Each of these issues presents various choices between different and even conflicting individual and social policies. The class will focus on reasons for and against adopting various courses of action, and will explore the cogency of the reasons offered. Students will work out their own positions and, hopefully, come to better understand opposing views. In the course of examining these reasons, we will become more familiar with a very general distinction between various forms of ethical justification - the distinction between consequentialist justifications and Philosophy</p>			

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Course Descriptions – Spring 2022 nonconsequentialist justifications. We will explore how various positions about the specific issues are amenable to either form of justification. Readings for the class will encompass both classic texts and current articles from philosophy journals, but most of these will be available on line and on reserve so there will be very little if any reading to buy.

Major Assignments: Two tests; two papers; clicker participation.

This course will satisfy either ACE 8 (Ethics) and ACE 9 (Global Awareness/Knowledge of Human Diversity)

106-250	MW 9:30am-10:20am	Burnett 115	Patrick White
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Philosophy and Current Issues

Sometimes it's easy to know what one should do: study hard, brush your teeth, eat healthy meals, be kind to your friends, don't steal. This class considers topics in which figuring out what one should do, and why, is anything but easy. Imagine you are about to spend \$20 on a nice meal. Should you spend that money on yourself when that same \$20 could pay for the deworming of 60 school children in the developing world—one of the best ways to increase school completion rates? In general, our time, effort, money and attention can do tremendous good if it is directed towards the very needy instead of to ourselves or our friends and family; should we give our money, time or even our careers to helping those in need? Is it immoral not to? What about non-human animals. Can we eat them? Use them for scientific experimentation? Why or why not? And what, if anything, are our obligations towards them? Lastly, we will turn to the topic of race and racism: what is race? What is racism? How do they shape us? And how should racism be addressed? This class does not offer simple answers; it equips students with the philosophical tools necessary for clear, systematic, and rigorous thought about these and other topics in ethics that we encounter in our everyday lives. Students in this writing intensive course will grow as creative and independent thinkers, with heavy emphasis placed on developing students' argumentative writing and developing the skills to read and unpack the arguments and ideas of others.

106-350	11:00am-11:50am	Louise Pound Hall 27	John Brunero
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Philosophy and Current Issues

The course will introduce some of the important questions of moral philosophy: What is it for a life to go well? (Is the good life one of happiness, one in which you get what you want, or one in which you accomplish something of value?) What is it to act in a morally right way? (Is it to produce the best consequences possible? Is it to act in accordance with certain moral principles? If so, which principles?) Why should we act in a morally right way, especially Philosophy Department Fall 2021 Course Descriptions 2 when doing so often appears contrary to our self-interest? What is the relationship between morality and religion? Are there objective moral truths, or is ethical truth relative to cultures or individuals? We'll then consider the application of moral philosophy to some current ethical issues: Is it morally acceptable to kill and eat animals or use animals in experiments? Is abortion immoral? Is capital punishment unjust? Is torture ever permissible? What are our obligations to relieve world poverty? Is euthanasia ever morally permissible? Is there an obligation to obey the law? When is civil disobedience justified? Should the recreational use of drugs be illegal? The course will consist of two lectures and one quiz section per week. Students are required to attend both the lectures and their assigned quiz section. There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course may be used to satisfy either ACE 8 (Ethics) or ACE 9 (Global/Diversity).

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110-150	TR 9:30am-10:20am	Henzlik Hall 53	Al Casullo
<p>Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking</p> <p>This course provides an introduction to the principles of formal reasoning and their application, with an emphasis on improving skills of critical thinking, analyzing and evaluating arguments objectively, and constructing sound arguments based on relevant evidence. Requirements: Four examinations and nine quizzes. Textbooks: P. Hurley & L. Watson, <i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i>, 13th edition. Assignments on Canvas.</p> <p>This class is certified for ACE 3 (Math/Stat/Reasoning), and satisfies the logic requirement for the philosophy major.</p>			
208-001	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Burnett 121	Adam Thompson
<p>Business Ethics</p> <p>This course aims to develop students' mature reasoning about complex moral issues in business contexts. Toward that goal, students will critically explore, envision, and evaluate practical choice-making and moral reasoning in a manner that illuminates the normative contours of things like the nature of trust and conditions that facilitate and destroy it, idiosyncratic risk mitigation and its relationship to meaningful work, and the place of employee voice in the governing of a firm.</p> <p><i>Major Assignments:</i> 3 exams and a public philosophy project (e.g., a evaluative informational poster, a podcast episode, a zine issue, an essay meant for popular publication, etc.)</p> <p>This course can be used to satisfy ACE 8 (Ethics).</p>			
211-001	MW 3:30pm-4:45pm	Louise Pound Hall 124	Reina Hayaki
<p>Intro to Modern Logic</p> <p>PHIL 211 is an introduction to symbolic logic, covering sentential (propositional) logic, monadic predicate logic (with one-place predicates and simple quantifiers), and polyadic predicate logic (with relational predicates and nested quantifiers). At each stage, you will learn how to translate English sentences into the relevant logical language and vice versa, and how to construct proofs of valid arguments and statements using natural deduction. This course is highly recommended for those planning to take the LSAT, GRE, or other standardized tests with an analytical component; and for philosophy majors planning to go to grad school.</p> <p>This course is certified for ACE 3, and satisfies the logic requirement for the philosophy major.</p> <p>PHIL 211 has no prerequisites. It does not presuppose PHIL 110 (Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking), although it is more advanced than PHIL 110. There is a small amount of overlap between the last part of PHIL 110 and the first part of PHIL 211. Both PHIL 110 and PHIL 211 satisfy the logic requirement for the philosophy major.</p> <p>All course materials will be posted on Canvas; no textbook purchase is required.</p> <p>Major assignments: two in-class exams and seven take-home problem sets.</p>			

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213-150	TR 11:00am-11:50am	Hamilton Hall 112	Adam Thompson
<p>Medical Ethics</p> <p>This course aims to develop students' mature reasoning about complex moral issues in health care contexts. Toward that goal, students will critically explore, envision, and evaluate practical choice-making and moral reasoning in a manner that illuminates the normative contours of things like trust-destroying medical atrocities, the nature of life and death, and virtues integral to medical integrity.</p> <p><i>Major Assignments:</i> 3 exams and a public philosophy project (e.g., a evaluative informational poster, a podcast episode, a zine issue, an essay meant for popular publication, etc.)</p> <p>This course can be used to satisfy ACE 8 (Ethics).</p>			
213-700	Does Not Meet	Online	Aaron Bronfman
<p>Medical Ethics</p> <p>This online course covers a wide variety of moral issues in the ethics of medicine and the allocation of healthcare. These issues include the moral status of the embryo and fetus (abortion, stem cell research, genetic enhancement), the role of information (confidentiality, informed consent, scientific research), the limits in a medical context of what can be bought and sold (commercial surrogacy, organ sales), the role of rights and fairness in a healthcare system (rights to healthcare, allocation of scarce resources), and the proper extent of control over one's own body (assisted suicide, euthanasia, advance directives). The focus of the course is on assessing arguments for and against different positions on these moral issues, with background information provided as needed.</p> <p>The course requires a reading response for most weeks, two 4-page papers, and participation in a weekly small-group videoconference.</p> <p>This course may be used to satisfy either ACE 5 (Humanities) or ACE 8 (Ethics).</p>			
221-001	TR 9:30am-10:45am	Hamilton Hall 131	Adam Thompson
<p>Political Philosophy</p> <p>This course aims to develop students' mature reasoning about complex moral issues in business contexts. Toward that goal, students will critically explore, envision, and evaluate practical choice-making and moral reasoning in a manner that illuminates the normative contours of things like the nature of the state and the nature of (legitimate) political power and political authority. Central topics to facilitate the study will be the militarization of the police, work and the working poor, as well as difficulties with democracy and what to do about them.</p> <p><i>Major Assignments:</i> 3 exams and a public philosophy project (e.g., a evaluative informational poster, a podcast episode, a zine issue, an essay meant for popular publication, etc.)</p> <p>This course can be used to satisfy ACE 8 (Ethics).</p>			
231-001	MWF 9:30am-10:20am	Military & Naval Science 203	Harry Ide
<p>History of Philosophy (Ancient)</p> <p><u>Course goals</u></p> <p>After preparing for, attending, and reviewing after classes, and doing the assignments, student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · write an argumentative essay with a clear thesis, structure, and argument 			

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- rewrite their papers in response to substantive comments
- explain and evaluate key classical views through Aristotle on (a) the relation of self-interest and morality, (b) how to reach knowledge, and (c) what there is in the universe

Assignments

Several argumentative essays in two drafts, and short assignments.

317-001	TR 9:30am-10:45am	Oldfather Hall 303	David Henderson
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Philosophy of Science

Critical analysis of the philosophical foundations of the sciences. Nature of theories, observation in science, the interpretation of theories, the scientific method, explanation, interfield relations, patterns of scientific development, and the role of philosophy in science studies in general.

325-001	TR 11:00am-12:15pm	Oldfather Hall 205	Mark van Roojen
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Advanced Social Political Philosophy

CONTENT: This class will take an in depth look at various relatively contemporary approaches to the theory of justice and what it requires of societies. Approaches examined will include: Utilitarianism, Democratic Egalitarian theories, Libertarian theories, and Feminist theories. We may also look at some particular issues, such as free-speech or the value of democracy in greater depth.

GRADING: A least three papers and perhaps one in-class presentation will be required.

327-001	TR 12:30pm-1:45pm	Burnett 102	Aaron Bronfman
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Aesthetics

Critical exposition of the main classical and contemporary theories of art: Expressionist, Formalist, and Representationalist. Theories considered in definition of art, of aesthetic judgment, of art criticism, and of aesthetic value. Examples drawn from painting, literature, music, and movies.

This course may be used to satisfy either ACE 5 (Humanities) or ACE 7 (Arts).

400-001	MWF 1:30pm-2:20pm	Teacher's College 250	Harry Ide
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Undergraduate Seminar in Philosophy

Primary course goal:

After preparing for, attending, and reviewing after classes, and doing the assignments, student will be able to: write a longer argumentative essay (ca 5000 words) with a clear thesis, structure, and argument, showing mastery of a literature or topic, and developing a longer or more complex argument than in a shorter paper.

Assignments:

The key assignment will be one major paper in multiple drafts. Other short assignments may also be required.

409-001	T 3:30pm-6:05pm	Louise Pound Hall 308	Al Casullo
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Theory of Knowledge

Intensive study of basic problems in the Theory of Knowledge: (1) the analysis of the concept of knowledge; (2) the structure of epistemic justification; (3) perception and knowledge of the external world; (4) scepticism; (5) contextualism; (6) naturalism; and (7) a priori knowledge.

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Course requirements: two essay exams, and two papers.

Prerequisite for PHIL 409: 9 hours of Philosophy.

414-001

W 3:30pm-6:05pm

Louise Pound Hall 308

Joe Mendola

Philosophy of Mind

This course is a survey of main topics in the philosophy of mind and philosophy of psychology, including the relationship between the mind and body, mental causation, consciousness, and mental content. The texts are David Chalmers, *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, second edition, and Michael O’Shea, *The Brain: A Very Short Introduction*.

The course requirements for Philosophy 414 are two short papers and a final exam.

809-001

T 3:30pm-6:05pm

Louise Pound Hall 308

Al Casullo

Theory of Knowledge

Intensive study of basic problems in the Theory of Knowledge: (1) the analysis of the concept of knowledge; (2) the structure of epistemic justification; (3) perception and knowledge of the external world; (4) scepticism; (5) contextualism; (6) naturalism; and (7) a priori knowledge.

Course requirements: two essay exams, and two papers.

814-001

W 3:30pm-6:05pm

Louise Pound Hall 308

Joe Mendola

Philosophy of Mind

This course is a survey of main topics in the philosophy of mind and philosophy of psychology, including the relationship between the mind and body, mental causation, consciousness, and mental content. The texts are David Chalmers, *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, second edition, and Michael O’Shea, *The Brain: A Very Short Introduction*.

The course requirements for Philosophy 814 are two short papers, a comment on a student paper, a class presentation, and a final exam.

913-001

R 4:00pm-6:05pm

Louise Pound Hall 308

David Henderson

Advanced Epistemology

The course will be built around two recent books, supplemented by associated pieces in the philosophical literature.

- Goldberg, S. (2018). *To the Best of Our Knowledge: Social Expectations and Epistemic Normativity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Hannon, M. (2019). *What’s the Point of Knowledge: A Function First Epistemology*. New York: Oxford University Press

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920-001	M 3:30pm-5:35pm	Louise Pound Hall 308	Patrick White
<p>Ethical Theory Consent is central to everything from the law, to campus sexual consent policies, to the practice of medicine and research. This course will explore varieties of thought about consent—or perhaps more generally the phenomenon of giving permission. In doing so, we will explore whether contemporary notions of consent have neglected forms of giving permission that pervade our lives outside of institutional contexts like the law, medicine and research. Some attention will be given to historical understandings and the development of the contemporary notions of informed consent.</p>			
971-001	R 1:30pm-3:35pm	Louise Pound Hall 308	Colin McLear
<p>Kant & The Principle of Sufficient Reason The “Principle of Sufficient Reason” (PSR) says that everything has an explanation, sufficient ground, or sufficient reason. The PSR plays a major role in the philosophical thinking of many Modern philosophers, either as a crucial guiding principle in theory construction, or as something to be wholly rejected. Its unrestricted application also famously leads to some rather surprising conclusions, such as necessitarianism and substance monism. In this seminar we will look at formulations and utilizations of the principle from the 17th century to the present, as well as justifications for and against its application. A central aim of the course will be to understand Kant’s articulation and criticism of the PSR, as well as his attempt at justifying a more limited application of it. Another, more general, aim is that of putting figures from the (early) Modern tradition in dialogue with one another, as well as with contemporary philosophical work. Other than Kant, the primary figures discussed will be Spinoza, Leibniz, and Schopenhauer, as well as contemporary work by philosophers such as Jonathan Bennett, Alex Pruss, Shamik Dasgupta, Sam Levey, and Michael Della Rocca. Other figures discussed may include Descartes, Hume, Jacobi, Fichte, and Hegel. Note that though a background in Modern philosophy is encouraged, it is not a requirement for the course.</p>			