**Spring 2023 Course Descriptions** 

Course/ Section	Date and Time	Location	Instructor
101-101	T 6:30pm-9:20pm	Louise Pound Hall 7	Drew Gallagher

## **Introduction to Philosophy**

To Be Completed after Staff is assigned

101-150	TR 9:30am-10:20am	Louise Pound Hall 27	Reina Hayaki
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### **Introduction 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?

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.

Textbook: Gideon Rosen, Alex Byrne, Joshua Cohen, Elizabeth Harman, and Seana Shiffrin (eds.), *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy*, 2nd ed. (W. W. Norton & Co., 2018).

Major assignments: two exams and a paper. Additional smaller assignments, to be determined.

101-250	TR 11:00am-11:50am	Avery Hall 106	Joe Mendola		
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## **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.), Classics of Western Philosophy, 8th edition, 2012. The course requirements include two exams and a paper.

The course may be used to satisfy either ACE 5 (Humanities) or ACE 8 (Ethics).

105-001	MWF 10:30am- 11:20am	Oldfather Hall 204	Eunhong Lee			
The Philosophy of Food						
To Be Comp	leted after Staff is assigned					
105-700	Does Not Meet	Online	Colin McLear			

#### 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.

This course can be used to satisfy either Ace 5 (Humanities) or Ace 8 (Ethics)

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106-101	R 6:30pm-9:20pm	Louise Pound Hall 103	Bjorn Flanagan
1 0	and Current Issues leted after Staff is assigned		
106-150	T 9:30am-10:20am	Morrill Hall 141	John Brunero

### **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 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).

106-250	MW 11:30am-12:20pm	Military & Naval Science B5	Mark van Roojen

## **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 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-W99	TR 12:30pm-1:45pm	Henzlik Hall 35	Adam Thompson
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## Philosophy and Current Issues

This course explores the complexities of current issues through the lens of individual and collective moral responsibility and freedom as you design your own inquiry into questions related to concepts like accountability, emancipation, praise/blame, and abolition in relation to morally complex current issues. We will explore the freedom limiting effects of things like the military, prison, and healthcare industrial complexes as well as the complexity of holding the right individuals and agencies responsible for various praiseworthy/blameworthy acts.

### Required Book:

Weston and Bloch-Schulman, *Thinking Through Questions*, Hackett Publishing, ~\$10 New (Paperback), Used from ~\$4.

## Couse Orientation and Assignments:

Inquiry-Based Course – 3 exams composed of responses to questions you design in light of your main line of inquiry; weekly exercises

107-150	MW 9:30am-10:20am	Brace Lab 105	Adam Thompson
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## **Ethics of Emerging Media Arts**

What, if any, bearing does ethics have on art? Of art on ethics? In this course, we will consider many dimensions of the ethics of emerging media arts as you design your own inquiry into questions like the moral status of immoral artists and immoral art (if there is any such thing), forgeries, fakes and imitations, cultural appropriation, considerations of privacy, the relation between art and games and the aesthetic and ethical value of the latter.

## Required Book:

Erich Hatala Matthes, *Drawing a Line*, Oxford University Press – New ~\$25 (Hardback), Used from ~\$8 (Hardback)

### Couse Orientation and Assignments:

Inquiry-Based Course – 3 exams composed of responses to questions you design in light of your main line of inquiry; weekly exercises

110-150	TR 9:30am-10:20am	Henzlik Hall 53	Adam Thompson
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#### **Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking**

Introduction to the principles of correct reasoning and their application. Emphasis on improving skills of thinking and reading critically, analyzing and evaluating arguments objectively, and constructing sound arguments based on relevant evidence.

#### *Required Book:*

**TBA** 

This course can be used to satisfy either ACE 3 (Math/Stat/Reasoning).

213-101	W 6:30pm-9:20pm	Louise Pound Hall 34	Janelle Gormley		
Medical Ethics					
To Be Completed after Staff is assigned					

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213-700	Does Not Meet	Online	Aaron Bronfman

#### **Medical Ethics**

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.

The course requires a reading response for most weeks, two 4-page papers, and participation in a weekly small-group videoconference.

This course may be used to satisfy either ACE 5 (Humanities) or ACE 8 (Ethics).

230-001	TR 12:30pm-1:45pm	Oldfather Hall 304	John Brunero

### Philosophy of Law

This course is divided into three parts. In the first part, we'll discuss various issues concerning the relationship between law and morality. In the second part, we'll consider several important legal and moral concepts, including liberty, privacy, justice, and equality. In the third part, we'll consider issues related to punishment and responsibility. We'll read essays by philosophers and lawyers, as well as the judicial opinions in several important US Supreme Court cases. The course does not presuppose any background in philosophy or in law. Here are some of the questions we'll consider in this course: Are unjust laws legally valid? Is there a moral obligation to obey the law? Which standards should we employ when we attempt to interpret the law and the Constitution? Why is liberty important and to what extent should people be left free to do as they choose? What are the proper limits to free speech and expression? What are the Constitutional and moral grounds for personal privacy and autonomy? What does it mean to treat people justly and equally? Why, and to what extent, should we punish criminals? Is capital punishment morally permissible? Should we punish unsuccessful attempts at murder less severely than successful attempts, and, if so, why? Should people be held legally responsible for their omissions as well as their actions? When are people excused from responsibility for their acts?

This course may be used to satisfy either ACE 5 (Humanities) or ACE 8 (Ethics)

232-001	TR 12:30pm-1:45pm	Louise Pound Hall 124	Colin McLear

## History of Philosophy (Modern)

This course surveys the metaphysical and ethical views of some key figures in Early Modern (17th—18th century) European philosophy. We will examine five key ideas that drove much of the philosophical debate of the Early Modern period: Dualism, Materialism, Idealism, Monism, and Skepticism. Figures discussed include Astell, Cavendish, Descartes, Galileo, Hobbes, Hume, Leibniz, Newton, Poullain de la Barre, and Spinoza.

This course satisfies ACE requirement 5 (Humanities). This course is certified for ACE 5

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(Humanities) and satisfies the history of philosophy requirement for the philosophy major.

265-001	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Burnett 204	Adam Thompson
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## **Introduction to Philosophy of Religion**

A survey of the key concepts and themes that arise as we respond to questions about salvation. We'll approach Western traditions—primarily Abrahamic ideas and arguments—from the perspective of an Eastern tradition—primarily, Buddhism. From there we will track some of these ideas through African traditions and Native American thought as well as other Indigenous viewpoints.

## Required Book:

Avrind Sharma, *The Philosophy of Religion: A Buddhist Perspective*, Oxford India Paperback – New ~\$53 (Hardback), Used from ~\$8 (Paperback)

#### Recommended Book:

Chad Meister, Introducing the Philosophy of Religion, Routledge – New ~\$30 (Paperback), Used from ~\$9 (Paperback)

### Couse Orientation and Assignments:

Inquiry-Based Course – 3 exams composed of responses to questions you design in light of your main line of inquiry; weekly exercises

## Problems in the Philosophy of Mind

This course is an introduction to philosophy of mind. We will discuss the relationship between the mind and body, mental content, and consciousness.

The principle texts are Jaegwon Kim, *Philosophy of Mind*, third edition, George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, and Michael O'Shea, *The Brain*.

This course may be used to satisfy ACE 5 (Humanities).

337-001	TR 9:30am-10:45am	Oldfather Hall 209	Harry Ide
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# Later Ancient and Medieval Epistemology

learning objectives

After preparing for, participating in, and reviewing classes, and doing the assignments, students will be able to:

- · write argumentative essays of ca 2000 words that
- (a) have a clear thesis,
- (b) make a plausible argument for that thesis,
- (c) are structured to make that case clearly, and
- (d) appropriately cite sources (primary, and where relevant, secondary).
- · read philosophical articles, and in particular
- (a) find the thesis of the article,
- (b) identify the overall structure, and
- (c) restate the key evidence the author presents for the thesis,

(d) giving appropriate references throughout

• evaluate the three ways to disprove Democritus's argument that no human beliefs are justified, taking account of classical and medieval discussions.

textbooks: all reading will be supplied

assignments:

- · one argumentative paper, in two versions, with short assignments to help with writing the paper
  - · short reading assignments
- $\cdot$  three essays evaluating the three ways Democritus's argument could be unsound, taking into account classical theories

#### ACE requirements

Philosophy 337 satisfies ACE 5 (humanities)

411-001	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Burnett 103	Reina Hayaki
811-001			

### **Formal Logic**

Prerequisite: PHIL 211, MATH 310, MATH 325, or CSCE 235.

PHIL 411/811 is a second course in symbolic logic. It presupposes familiarity with propositional (sentential) and first-order predicate logic. You will learn how to construct metatheoretic proofs about various formal systems (as opposed to derivations using the rules of a formal system, as in PHIL 211 and other first courses in symbolic logic). Main topics: the soundness and completeness of classical propositional logic, non-classical propositional logics, and propositional modal logics; and extensions of and alternatives to classical first-order predicate logic.

Textbooks: Theodore Sider, *Logic for Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2010); Daniel J. Velleman, *How to Prove It: A Structured Approach*, 3rd edition (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Major assignments: two in-class exams, and several problem sets (number to be determined). Reading and homework exercises will be assigned for each class.

424-001	R 3:30pm-6:05pm	<b>Louise Pound Hall 308</b>	Aaron Bronfman
824-001	_		

## Philosophy of Action

Foundational issues in human action, including the nature of intentional action, practical reasoning, moral responsibility, group agency, and various forms of irrationality.

450-001	T 3:30pm-6:05pm	Louise Pound Hall 308	Harry Ide
850-001			

#### **Ancient Philosophy**

*learning objectives* 

After preparing for, participating in, and reviewing the classes, doing the written assignments, and reviewing the comments on the written assignments, students will ...

- · have improved their ability to write argumentative essays
- · have improved their understanding of some important controversial topics in classical philosophy

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· have improved their ability to interpret complex texts (including analyzing arguments in texts)

## assignments

Philosophy 850

- · two papers, about 1500 words each, in two versions each
- · weekly argument analyses

## Philosophy 450

- · two papers, about 1000 words each, in two version each
- · students may do weekly argument analyses instead of one of the papers

## tentative list of topics

- 1 What are Plato's forms?
- 2 How does Plato get from Heracleitean flux to forms?
- 3 Aristotle on substance
- 4 Aristotelian hylomorphism
- 5 Neoplatonic theories of universals (esp. Proclus)
- 6 nature-based ethical theories
- 7 the role of external goods in the good life
- 8 Stoic ethical theory
- 9 friendship in classical philosophy
- 10 initial Christian adaptation of classical ethics
- 11 Democritus's objection to knowledge and Plato's response
- 12 Aristotle's response
- 13 the Hellenistic search for a criterion of truth
- 14 Plotinus on knowledge
- 15 illumination theory

915-001	M 3:30-5:35pm	<b>Louise Pound Hall 308</b>	Jennifer McKitrick
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## **Advanced Metaphysics: Non-being**

The Pitch

George: The course is about... nothing!

Jerry: Well, it's not about nothing. George: No, it's about nothing!

Things that do not exist, like holes, shadows, and omissions surround us. We read stories of non-existent unicorns and magical creatures. We reason about possible effects of events that did not happen, we apparently refer to non-existent objects, and we hold people morally responsible for not doing certain things. Non-existence is ubiquitous, yet mysterious. This course addresses some of the questions about non-being, such as: "Could there have been nothing at all?"; "What are holes?"; "What are we really talking about when we are talking about nothing?" We will consider answers to these questions from different philosophical perspectives.

### Requirements:

Presentation of research project, 30 minutes: 25%

Research paper, roughly 20 pages: 75%

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# **Ethical Theory**

We will likely be reading up to five different books in ethics, metaethics and/or moral epistemology. Chances are these will include Sarah McGrath's Moral Knowledge, and Bengson, Cuneo and Shafer-Landau Philosophical Methodology.