

Department of Philosophy Course Descriptions Fall 2015

Introductory Courses

PHIL 110.01, 04 **Introductory Philosophy** **3 credits**
Adrienne Lyles **10:00-10:50 MWF**
 1:00-1:50 MWF

Readings and discussions designed to introduce the student to the major areas and problems of philosophy through a study of writings of classical and contemporary thinkers. *This course fulfills LO1: Philosophical Worldviews.*

PHIL 110.02, 05 **Introductory Philosophy** **3 credits**
Staff **12:30-1:45 TR**
 3:30-4:45 TR

Readings and discussions designed to introduce the student to the major areas and problems of philosophy through a study of writings of classical and contemporary thinkers. *This course fulfills LO1: Philosophical Worldviews.*

PHIL 110.06 **Introductory Philosophy** **3 credits**
George Trey **11:00-12:15 MW**

Readings and discussions designed to introduce the student to the major areas and problems of philosophy through a study of writings of classical and contemporary thinkers. *This course fulfills LO1: Philosophical Worldviews and LO2: Critical Thinking Seminar.*

PHIL 110.03 **Introductory Philosophy** **3 credits**
Megan Zwart **11:00-12:15 TR**

Readings and discussions designed to introduce the student to the major areas and problems of philosophy through a study of writings of classical and contemporary thinkers. *This course fulfills LO1: Philosophical Worldviews; LO2: Critical Thinking Seminar; LO2: Women's Voices; and LO3: Social Responsibility A.*

PHIL 110W **Introductory Philosophy** **3.5 credits**
Patricia Sayre **11:00-11:50 MWF**
 also meets 12:00-12:50 W
 Tandem with ART 211W (71929)

We live in a world that can dazzle us with beauty but also threaten us with chaos. Even the most orderly of lives can unexpectedly veer out of control, and the most rational of activities take on aspects of madness. How are we to make our way in such a world? Is there some underlying pattern in the mad whirl? Can we find meaning in the mayhem? Questions concerning life's meaning and purpose lie at the heart of all serious philosophical inquiry. In this course we will explore the

possibilities for meaning offered by the conceptual frameworks of western philosophy. Whether we are wrestling with Socrates' response to the collapse of Athenian democracy or Descartes' response to the collapse of the medieval worldview, our concern throughout will be to articulate our own responses to the questions that matter most. *This course fulfills LO1: Philosophical Worldviews; LO2: Writing Proficiency; and pending approval--LO2: Women's Voices.*

Upper Division Courses

PHIL 220 **Introduction to Logic** **3 credits**
Patricia Sayre **10:00-10:50 MWF**

Logic is the study of the methods and principles used to distinguish good, or correct, reasoning from bad, or fallacious, reasoning. Because its methods and principles can be applied to any subject matter, logic is a tool with practical applications in many other disciplines and has played an important role in the development of Western thought in general. In this course, we study not only logical techniques, but also consider the connections between logic and intellectual history. We begin with a unit on argumentation in ordinary language, move on to consider three systems of deductive logic (categorical, propositional, and predicate logic) and conclude with a brief introduction to some cutting edge issues in contemporary logic. *Essential preparation for anyone considering law school or planning to take the GRE's.*

PHIL 255 **Medical Ethics** **3 credits**
Megan Zwart **2:00-3:15 TR**

In this course we will investigate ethical issues that arise in the health care professions. We will start with basic ethical theories and principles. Then we will move through the life cycle, considering special ethical topics that arise at specific times of life, including beginning of life questions (abortion, reproductive technologies), issues of childhood (seriously ill infants, children and autonomy), issues surrounding aging (care giving, dementia, allocation of resources to elders), issues at the end of life (active and passive euthanasia, palliative care, discontinuing futile care) as well as those issues that arise across the life cycle (allocation of scarce resources, paying for health care). Students will investigate and clarify their own positions on these issues, including the compatibility of these positions with their broader philosophical commitments (i.e. what is a person, what rights do persons have, what constitutes human flourishing etc.). Students will display their knowledge and views through clear, analytical writing, class discussion, informal journals and an exam. This class will also include an experiential learning component, allowing students to engage in hands-on learning through field trips and service learning placements at local healthcare organizations. *This course fulfills LO3: Social Responsibility A; and LO3: Academic Experiential Learning.*

PHIL 331 **Descartes to Skepticism** **3 credits**
Patricia Sayre **9:00-9:50 MWF**

Descartes is plagued by evil demons. Spinoza grinds lenses into the night. Locke scribbles on the tabula rasa at a furious pace, only to be met by a Leibnizian monad. Through it all, Berkeley worries about the tree that falls in the forest with no one to hear, and Hume hones his backgammon skills. This course is a study in major themes of 17 and 18th century Western philosophy beginning with Descartes and tracing the development of modern thought up through Hume. Class discussions throughout the semester are grounded in our reading of primary source texts. The focus is on the epistemological and metaphysical dimensions of these works, and on ways they set a problematic in philosophy that is still with us today. Students write three five-page papers and take an exam. Strongly recommended for humanities students who have an interest in the history of ideas.

PHIL 348 **Philosophy of Science** **3 credits**
Kevin McDonnell **11:00-12:15 MW**

The objective of the course is to explore the nature, power, and value of scientific knowledge. The course will be more an exploration than an explanation. That is, the course will operate as a dialogue among scientists and philosophers about the enterprises of human knowledge: their diversity, how they operate, and what they can and cannot accomplish. The course will begin and end in pluralism of background and approach to these problems. There will be historical readings, but more that are contemporary, including the works of several women who are currently making major contributions to the field.

PHIL 354 **Ethics** **3 credits**
Megan Zwart **9:30-10:45 TR**

A study and critique of selected ethical theories with some application to current moral issues.

PHIL 495 **Senior Sem: New Methods in Philosophy** **3 credits**
George Trey **3:00-4:15 MW**

An intensive study of new methods and thinkers in philosophy. Both primary and secondary texts may be consulted. *Pending Approval: LO2: Women's Voices.*

Phil 497.01 **Independent Study** **1 to 3 credits** **Megan Zwart**
 Permission

Phil 497.02 **Independent Study** **1 to 3 credits** **George Trey**
 Permission

Phil 497.03 **Independent Study** **1 to 3 credits** **Patricia Sayre**
 Permission

Phil 998.01 **Advanced Writing Proficiency** **George Trey**
 Permission

Phil 999.01 **Senior Comprehensive** **George Trey**
 Permission

Advising: Fall 2015

For advising regarding course selection you may consult with any member of the Philosophy faculty, or, if you are working on a major or minor in Philosophy Contact:

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