

# Department of Philosophy

## Course Descriptions

### Fall 2013



## Introductory Courses

Any section of Philosophy 110: Introduction to Philosophy can be taken to fulfill the college core requirement in philosophy. Only one Philosophy 110 course may be taken for college credit.

<b>PHIL 110</b>	<b>Introductory Philosophy Classes</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
Adrienne Chockley	10:00-10:50 MWF; 11:00-11:50 MWF	
Kevin McDonnell	11:00-12:15 TR	
George Trey	11:00-12:15 MW	
Michael Waddell	12:30-1:45 TR	
Megan Zwart	9:30-10:45 TR	

<b>PHIL 110W</b>	<b>Introductory Philosophy</b>	<b>4 credits</b>
Patricia Sayre	2:00-2:50 MWF & 3:00-3:50 W	

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.

## Upper Division Courses

<b>PHIL 220</b>	<b>Introduction to Logic</b>	<b>3 credits</b>	<b>Patricia Sayre</b>
<b>11:00-11:50 MWF</b>			

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.*

<b>PHIL 255</b>	<b>Medical Ethics</b>	<b>3 credits</b>	<b>Megan Zwart</b>
<b>6:00-8:30 T</b>			

In this course we will investigate ethical issues that arise in the health care professions. We will begin to lay the groundwork for these investigations with attention to some 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 be expected to exhibit knowledge of the ethical import of these topics and the relevant policies pertaining to each. Students will also be expected to 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.

**PHIL 331**                      **Descartes to Skepticism**                      **3 credits**                      **Patricia Sayre**  
**1:00-1:50 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 334**                      **Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas**                      **3 credits**                      **Michael Waddell**  
**3:30-4:45 TR**

Thomas Aquinas is regarded by many—both fans and critics alike—as the greatest thinker of the Catholic tradition. What is it about Aquinas’s wisdom that has evoked such respect from so many different quarters?

In this course, we will explore some of Aquinas’s most interesting teachings, including his views on the existence of God, creation, the immortality of the soul, faith and reason, knowledge and love, happiness, virtue, natural law, grace, Christ and the Eucharist.

Since Thomas himself was a questioner, there will be ample room in the course for both critics and devotees of Aquinas’s views, as well as for those who simply want to learn more about the teachings of one of the world’s greatest thinkers.

**PHIL 354**                      **Ethics**                      **3 credits**                      **Megan Zwart**  
**12:30-1:45 TR**

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

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

An intensive study of new methods and thinkers in philosophy. Both primary and secondary texts may be consulted.

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

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

**Phil 999.01**                      **Comprehensive Exam Passed**                      **George Trey**  
Permission

## Advising: Fall 2013

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:

**George Trey, Chair**  
Room 160 Spes Unica  
Ph: 284-4547  
Email: gtrey

**Patricia Sayre**  
Room 161 Spes Unica  
Ph: 284-4538  
Email: psayre

**Michael Waddell**  
Room 157 Spes Unica  
Ph: 284-4169  
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**Megan Zwart**  
Room 158 Spes Unica  
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