

Department of Philosophy

Course Descriptions

Fall 2010

Introductory Courses

PHIL 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.

Phil 110	<u>Introductory Philosophy Classes</u>	<u>3 credits</u>
Ann Clark	11:00-11:50 MWF	
Charlie Hobbs	10:00-10:50 & 2:00-2:50 MWF	
Megan Zwart	12:30-1:45 & 2:00-3:15 TR	
Michael Waddell	9:30-10:45 & 11:00-12:15 TR	

<u>Phil 110W</u>	<u>Introductory Philosophy</u>	<u>3.5 credits</u>
Patti Sayre	1:00-1:50 MWF & W 12:00-12:50 W (Tandem with ENLT 106W CRN 71993)	

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

PHIL 220	Introduction to Logic	3 credits	Patti Sayre
11:00-11:50 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
10:00-10:50 MWF			

The moral problems raised by modern medical practice are the liveliest ethical problems in contemporary society. They have engaged the interest of the medical profession, of professional philosophers, and of the general public. The right to live, the right to be left alone, the duties of professionals to those under their care, all these raise moral problems of great importance. This course will develop a dialogue between examples of moral problems which arise in medical practice and approaches to these problems which philosophers have developed. The object of the course is to involve the student in this dialogue, inviting her both to address today's moral problems and provoking her to develop a general approach to moral problems - what guidance she can expect, and what answers she should not expect.

PHIL 331 **Descartes to Skepticism** **3 credits** **Patti Sayre**
12:30-1:45 TR

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 345 **Philosophy of Language** **3 credits** **Megan Zwart**
11:00-12:15 TR

When Martin Heidegger claimed that 'language is the house of being' he meant that language makes human beings unique—our ability to interpret our experience of the world and our interactions with others is bound up in our use of language. In this course we will consider philosophy of language and interpretation in the work of 20th century thinkers. We will primarily study figures in the continental European tradition (Heidegger, Gadamer and Derrida, for example), but will spend some time with figures in the analytic tradition as well (Austin and Searle), focusing on points of conflict between the two traditions. Questions for consideration will include: What is the connection between language and being human? How are thought and language related? How important is the speaker/author's intention? How can we decide which interpretations are better or worse?

PHIL 352 **Political Philosophy** **3 credits** **Charlie Hobbs**
3:30-4:45 TR

Who is the state to boss me around? How much of our individual *liberty* should the state limit? Should the state be involved in enforcing any particular conception of how we ought to live? What does it mean to be part of a *community*? How are various political philosophies dependent upon assumptions or arguments about *human nature*? What is the nature and origin of *political authority*? What is the purpose of *revolution*? What is a *right*? What is *democracy*? To address these questions and others, we shall examine a variety of arguments and concepts as they have arisen historically in the works of a number of Western political philosophers. Figures to be considered include: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Kant, Mill, Marx, Rawls, and Dewey -- all of whom pose questions and problems that remain with us as areas of contemporary concern.

PHIL 495 **Senior Seminar:** **3 credits** **Ann Clark**
2:00-3:15 TR **New Methods in Philosophy**

This course will engage students in a wide range of philosophical practices which women philosophers have worked with and are still developing. We will read, copy and invent. Grades will be based on careful reading, reflective conversation and progress in weaving together philosophical writing practices which fit their philosophical aims.

PHIL 497.01 **Independent Study** **1 to 3 credits** **Ann Clark**
Permission

PHIL 497.02 **Independent Study** **1 to 3 credits** **Charlie Hobbs**
Permission

PHIL 497.03 **Independent Study** **1 to 3 credits** **George Trey**
Permission

PHIL 497.04 Permission	Independent Study	1 to 3 credits	Patti Sayre
PHIL 497.05 Permission	Independent Study	1 to 3 credits	Megan Zwart
PHIL 998.01 Permission	Advanced Writing Proficiency		George Trey
PHIL 999.01 Permission	Comprehensive Exam Passed		George Trey

Advising: Fall 2010

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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