**FALL 2013 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS**

**APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#2307)**
M/W/F 10:25AM – 11:20AM  
Location: LC-5  
Instructor: Nathan Powers

What is a person? What is a mind? What is knowledge? Do I have certain knowledge about some things, or could all my beliefs about the world turn out to be false? Is there a god? Am I truly free, or are my actions and experiences ultimately determined by forces beyond my control? Answers to difficult and important questions like these form the core of the western philosophical tradition, now over 2,500 years old. This class explores answers that have been given to such questions by some of the best philosophers of the past and present in this tradition. Emphasis will be placed on the central role that arguments play in philosophy: a good philosopher gives reasons for his or her view that support that view in a rigorous way.

**APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#6026)**
TU/TH 10:15AM-11:35AM  
Location: HU-128  
Instructor: Susan Parrillo

This course offers an introduction to the central topics of the discipline of philosophy. It is my aim that, by the end of the semester, you will each have become comfortable with reading and absorbing some basic philosophical texts. This means that you will learn how to read texts critically and formulate coherent arguments regarding their content. Additionally, I expect that you will concurrently learn how to think more philosophically – that is, that you will be able to formulate and answer some of your own philosophical questions. Accordingly, you will learn not only how to think philosophically, but also how to write philosophically – which is to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions presented by philosophers, and offer expositions which present their positions along with reasons or arguments which demonstrate the coherency (or incoherency) of those positions.

It is my belief that a firm foundation in philosophy will serve you well throughout all of your endeavors. You will be a clearer and more critical thinker – one who can articulate thoughts and ideas, and defend them with clear and concise arguments. You will earn the ability to synthesize complex ideas, formulate your own opinion, and convey them to others persuasively. These skills will sharpen the other skills you attain throughout your Skidmore education and will be useful in whichever profession you choose. Or, at the very least, thinking philosophically will make you dramatically more interesting to talk to at the coffee shop.
In this course we will examine, discuss, and search for our own answers to philosophical questions which have puzzled philosophers of the past and present. The questions we study will include the following: What is knowledge? Can I know that an external world exists? Can I know the nature of my mind? If so, what is it? What makes me the same person as the person I was ten years ago? Is there room for freedom and responsibility in a world which is governed by laws? Does God exist? Can we prove his existence? How can we understand God despite the fact that there is evil?

The aim of the course is to introduce you to basic philosophical concepts, to learn how to reconstruct arguments, and to assess and defend arguments by giving reasons for your claims. Grading will be based on short papers, examinations, pop quizzes, and class participation.

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The aim of the course is to introduce you to basic philosophical concepts, to learn how to reconstruct arguments, and to assess and defend arguments by giving reasons for your claims. Grading will be based on short papers, examinations, pop quizzes, and class participation.

Some of the most difficult questions in moral and political philosophy, as well as in the quest for social justice concern the relationship between individuals and society. For example, to what degree can society legitimately subordinate the interests of individuals to those of the group? How can social cooperation occur when we disagree about what is morally right? We will begin by studying one famous example of this type of conflict: that between Socrates and the Ancient Greek city-state of Athens. We will then examine some of the themes raised by this conflict between individual and collective throughout the subsequent development of Western moral and political philosophy. We will be looking into the history of moral and political philosophy so that we can find insight into important moral and political questions we face today. Along the way students will be encouraged to reflect on their own social, political, and ethical ideas.
FALL 2013 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

APHI 114 - Morals and Society (#7655)
T/Th 1:15PM – 2:35PM
Location: HU-128
Instructor: Jason D’Cruz
This course will provide an introduction to moral philosophy. We will study philosophical views about the nature, scope, and foundations of morality, as well as a few specific contemporary moral questions. Philosophical questions we will address include: What is morality? Are there any universal moral principles? Does morality depend on religion? What is the relationship between morality and self-interest? We will also examine three kinds of theory about right action: utilitarianism, virtue ethics, and deontological ethics. Finally, we will engage in the practice of moral reasoning through consideration of a few issues of actual public controversy (e.g. - capital punishment, abortion, and affirmative action). Emphasis is placed on identifying, evaluating, and constructing careful and well thought-out moral arguments.

APHI 114 - Morals and Society (#7888)
TU/TH 10:15AM –11:35AM
Location: HU-109
Instructor: Kristen Hessler
Some of the most difficult and persistent questions in moral philosophy concern the relationship between the individual and society. We will begin studying these issues by exploring the famous conflict between the philosopher Socrates and the democracy of ancient Athens. The rest of the course will trace some important themes raised by this conflict throughout the subsequent development of Western moral and political philosophy, looking for insight into ethical questions that we face today, including the following: Is it ever morally permissible to cheat on college coursework? What moral obligations do you have, if any, to the poor? Under what circumstances, if any, is the killing of innocent civilians permissible in war? NOTE: This course utilizes Team-Based Learning. On the first day of the semester, you will be assigned to a team that will work together throughout the duration of the course. Individual grades will be influenced (nearly always improved!) by team performance on team-based assignments.

APHI 115 - Moral Choices (#2308)
TU/TH 11:45AM – 1:05PM
Location: LC-19
Instructor: Bonnie Steinbock
This is a course in philosophical applied ethics. We begin the course with the question of whether ethics is invariably subjective and relative to culture, or whether there can be objective ethical standards. we will examine two classical moral theories, utilitarianism, and Kantian ethics, before going on to specific topics. A theme running through the class is the liberty of the individual and the proper limits of state intervention. We will discuss this theme through the topics of drug policy, freedom of speech, abortion, physician-assisted death, and terrorism and torture.
FALL 2013 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

APHI 115 - Moral Choices (#6347)
MWF 11:30AM – 12:25PM
Location: AS-14
Instructor: Rachel Cohon

This course is devoted to the philosophical analysis of some selected controversial topics in the ethics of personal behavior and social policy. Students will need to learn to recognize, construct, and criticize logical arguments on these topics. Our topics will be related to the conflict between individual liberty and the social good, and may include the legalization of recreational drugs, hate speech, pornography, and/or the legitimacy of war, terrorism, and torture. The subject matter of the course is not personal feelings or convictions (of the professor, the student, or anyone else), but rational arguments for and against positions on the selected topics. Readings include works in ethical and political theory and in applied philosophical ethics. Grading is based on examinations and at least one analytical essay (paper).

APHI 116 - World Views (#4096)
M/W/F 1:40PM – 2:35PM
Location: SS-256
Instructor: Jonathan Mandle

This course surveys various perspectives on the nature of society and the relationship between the individual and society. Authors include Plato, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, Mill, and King. Grading will be based on a series of quizzes, short papers, a midterm and a final exam.

PHI 116 - World Views (#9092)
TU/TH 2:45PM – 4:05PM
Location: PH-123
Instructor: Nicholas Partyka

For many centuries persons, peoples, and civilizations, have dreamed about what an ideal society (utopia) would look like, and worried about ways in which society could be much worse (dystopia). Utopian dreams and dystopian worries are powerful tools for thinking about what sorts of changes a society should pursue or avoid, and what underlying dynamics these proposed changes expose. This course examines the tradition of utopian and dystopian thought in western culture, starting in ancient Greece, but focusing on the modern period. Our focus in this course will be on the important social, political, and economic ideas and issues raised in the readings. The role of hierarchy in efficiency, the scope of egalitarianism in democratic society, and the utility of self-interest and market competition in social progress are examples of the kinds of issues this course will examine. Along the way, students will be encouraged to reflect on (and articulate) their own political, economic, and social ideals.
APHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#2318)
M/W/F 10:25AM – 11:20PM
Location: HU 132
Instructor: Christopher Andreski

Introduction to classical and modern logic with an emphasis on the theory and application of truth functions. Introduction to quantification; discussion of the structure and properties of formal systems of logic. Students should be prepared to do daily homework assignments. Only one version of A PHI 210 may be taken for credit.

APHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#2319)
M/W/F 1:40PM-2:35PM
Location: ES-241
Instructor: Christopher Andreski

Introduction to classical and modern logic with an emphasis on the theory and application of truth functions. Introduction to quantification; discussion of the structure and properties of formal systems of logic. Students should be prepared to do daily homework assignments. Only one version of A PHI 210 may be taken for credit.

APHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#6773)
T/TH 10:15AM – 11:35AM
Location: ES-241
Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb

This class will be an introduction to modern symbolic logic. Two systems of logic will be presented: sentential (or propositional) logic and quantificational (or first-order predicate) logic. We will learn both the proof theory and the model theory (or semantics) for each logic. Theoretical concepts such as validity, soundness, and entailment will also be defined. Students should be prepared to do homework regularly in order to have a good understanding of the material. There will be three exams during the semester.

APHI 212 - Introduction to Ethical Theory (#2320)
TU/TH 11:45AM – 1:05PM
Location: HU-129
Instructor: Leahanna Pelish

This course is an introduction to some central problems and approaches in the field of ethical theory. We will consider questions such as: "Why behave morally?" "How can I live a good life?" "How can I be a good person?" and "What makes right actions right?" Our preliminary topics will include egoism, moral relativism and the nature of moral value. We will then work our way through a series of classic and contemporary readings from the three major ethical traditions: utilitarianism, Kantianism (deontology), and virtue ethics.
**APHI 214 – World Religions (#7807)**
TU/TH 8:45AM – 10:05AM
Location: HU-132
Instructor: William Mehl

In this course we will explore (some of) the world’s religions, which focus of course on the nature of reality and of human being. We will ask religion’s basic questions, “What is this world?” (What’s walking around on earth all about?), and “What am I?” (What is a human being and how can I be a good one?). Another way to put it: we will seriously investigate the deepest or highest place human consciousness can be; we will inquire into true-human-spirituality and reality-just-as-it-is. This exploration is the philosopher’s journey: gaining a deeper understanding of reality and human life and becoming a better person.

**APHI 218 - Understanding Science (#7698)**
M/W/F 10:25AM – 11:20AM
Location: HU-128
Instructor: Ronald McClamrock

This course is an introduction to some issues in the philosophy of science, including the nature of scientific inference and knowledge. We will also consider the relationship between science and society: What sort of social organization makes for the most productive science? Should science set its own agenda, or should it be guided by our social aspirations? Readings will include recent and classic papers in philosophy and science studies.

**TPHI 219 - Scientific Revolutions (#9677)**
MoWeFr 11:30AM – 12:25PM
Location: BA-213
Instructor: P. D. Magnus

Thomas Kuhn introduced the notion of a "paradigm shift", something that has become part of our general vocabulary, and his 1962 book The Structure of Scientific Revolutions marked a shift in the way that people think about science. This course begins with the state of science studies before Kuhn: the way that historians, sociologists, and philosophers thought about science. Then it takes a close look at Kuhn's landmark book. Finally, it explores some of the reactions and consequences that Kuhn’s work had for science studies.

**APHI 310 – Ancient Philosophy (#2321)**
M/W/F 12:35AM – 1:30PM
Location: AS-15
Instructor: Nathan Powers

This course is a survey of the major achievements of classical Greek philosophy, focusing mainly on the pivotal figures of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

**Prerequisite:** A 100-200 level course in Philosophy
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APHI 314 –History of 19th Century Philosophy (#9093)
TU/TH 1:15PM-2:35PM
Location: HU-133
Instructor: Robert Howell

The course will introduce you to some important figures in nineteenth-century philosophy on the European continent. After reviewing Kant, who sets the stage for what follows, we will read selections from Hegel, Marx, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and possibly a little of Brentano. Tentative requirements: two 4-5-page papers, mid-term and final examinations, regular attendance, and possibly some quizzes on the readings and lectures.

APHI 321 – 17-19th Century Ethics (#9094)
M/W/F 11:30PM – 12:25PM
Location: HU-132
Instructor: Jonathan Mandle

This course will investigate the ethical theories of Hobbes, Kant, and Nietzsche. Grades will be based on class participation and a series of written assignments.

APHI 338 – Moral Problems in Medicine (#7650)
TU/TH 2:45PM-4:05PM
Location: LC-3B
Instructor: Bonnie Steinbock

The subject of the course is biomedical ethics: the branch of applied ethics that concerns moral problems in medicine, biotechnology, and scientific research. We begin with an examination of moral reasoning in general and its application to bioethics. From there, we examine the relationship between patients and health care professionals, covering truth-telling, confidentiality, informed consent, and autonomy. We continue with issues in allocation, social justice, and health policy. We then take up decisional capacity and the right to refuse treatment, advance directives, choosing for radically diminished patients, and physician-assisted death. We end the course with issues in reproduction.

APHI 350 – Philosophy & Feminism (#9095)
TU/TH 4:15PM – 5:35PM
Location: SS-133
Instructor: Kristen Hessler

The theme for this course is “Sex, Gender, and Justice.” Questions to be addressed include: Do men and women have distinct “natures” that justify different social or political roles for men and women? Does evolutionary theory support assigning different social or political roles for men and women? How might our conceptions of sexuality impact our conceptions of gender justice -- and vice versa? What does feminism imply about questions of international justice? We will study traditional philosophical thought about gender and justice, appeals to science in justifying different social and political roles for men and women, and feminist critiques of justice, as well as several different perspectives on what feminist justice would look like.
**APHI 415 – Philosophy of Language (#9096)**

TU/TH 1:15PM – 2:35PM  
Location: LC-3C  
Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb

The course will cover the problem of skepticism in the modern period. Topics will include Descartes' attempt to answer the skeptic, skepticism about science, and religious skepticism, including the question of miracles, God's existence and the possibility of religious belief in the light of skepticism. Philosophers covered will be: Descartes, Montaigne, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and some contemporary figures.

Requirements: a midterm and final, with quizzes for extra credit and an optional paper for extra credit. **Shared resource with PHI 515.**

**APHI 416 – Philosophy of Mind (#9098)**

M/W/F 1:40PM – 2:35PM  
Location: LC-3A  
Instructor: Ronald McClamrock

An examination of the modern version of the traditional mind-body problem and issues connected with it. Topics to be covered will include varieties of dualism and materialism, the problem of mental causation, reductionism and the mind-body problem, the relevance of various kinds of scientific theorizing about mind to the traditional mind-body problem, and some puzzles concerning qualia, embeddedness, and intentionality, the explanatory gap, and subjectivity. More information can be found on the course web page at [http://profron.net/phi516](http://profron.net/phi516). **Shared resource with PHI 516.**

**APHI 422 – Theory of Knowledge (#9100)**

M/W/F 10:25AM - 11:20AM  
Location: HU-116  
Instructor: Ruth Boeker

This course will focus on the following questions: (1) What is knowledge? (2) Is knowledge possible? (3) How do we get knowledge? To address these questions we will consider the difference between knowledge and true belief, and examine different proposals to analyze knowledge. Skeptics challenge the possibility of knowledge. We will consider different forms of skepticism and responses to the skeptic such as foundationalism, coherentism, and reliabilism. Moreover, we will examine perception, memory, reason, and testimony as different sources of knowledge. We will end the course by turning to trust and discuss how trust differs from knowledge and plays an important role in cases where we do not have knowledge.