PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES FALL 2015

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#2221) MWF 11:30AM – 12:25PM, LC-21 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 111 - The Mind and the World (#5152) MWF 10:25AM – 11:20AM, LC 1 Instructor: Ronald McClamrock
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 114 - Morals and Society (#6961) TuTh 10:15AM – 11:35AM, ES-147 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. At 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 (#2222) MWF 12:35PM – 1:30PM, LC-19 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 (#3823) MWF 9:20AM – 10:15AM, HU-129 Instructor: Marius Pascale
Examination of some of the major systems of assumptions and values humans have used in attempting to understand reality, the meaning of life, and their dealings with others. World views studied may vary from semester to semester. Examples are Greek, Judeo-Christian, Marxist and libertarian. Only one version of A PHI 116 may be taken for credit.

APHI 116 - World Views (#7815) MWF 1:40PM – 2:35PM, HU-129 Instructor: Nicholas Jacobson
This is an introductory philosophy course focusing on our understanding of ourselves and others. We will attempt to answer the questions “Who/what am I?” “What, if anything, is my true nature?” and “How do other people affect who I am?” by studying a series of interconnected philosophical issues. Topics we will consider include: whether we are essentially minds or bodies, whether we each have a fixed “inner” nature or are simply the sum total of our actions, and whether race, gender and other un-chosen characteristics are essential to identity. The course readings will include both classical and contemporary philosophers, and we will
Mathematics. of logic, deductive validity, truth-functional logical connectives, truth tables, and proofs. We will examine these topics in two formal languages—sentential logic and quantified logic.

APHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#2230) MWF 11:30AM – 12:25PM, ES 147 Instructor: Toan Tran
This class introduces topics in modern logic, which includes translation of arguments from everyday English to the formal languages of logic, deductive validity, truth-functional logical connectives, truth tables, and proofs. We will examine these topics in two formal languages—sentential logic and quantified logic.

APHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#6227) TuTh 10:15AM –11:35AM, ED-120 Instructor: Marcus Adams
This course provides an introduction to deductive logic. We will discuss topics such as translation from everyday language, deductive validity, truth-functional logical connectives, truth tables, and proofs. We will examine these topics in two formal languages—sentential logic and quantified logic. This course may be used to fulfill the general education requirement for Humanities or for Mathematics.

PHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#9936) TuTh 1:15PM – 2:35PM, LC 5 Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb
This course is an introduction to modern logic. Students will learn how to translate English language arguments into formal logical languages and then evaluate those arguments. Some topics that will be surveyed include: validity, equivalence, consistency, sentential logic, truth tables, quantified logic, formal semantics, and natural deduction.

APHI 212 - Introduction to Ethical Theory (#2231) TuTh 2:45PM – 4:05PM, ES 147 Instructor: Susan Home
Introduction to the dimensions of ethical experience, the factors in value judgments, and alternative theories and methods of reasoning about such notions as right and wrong, obligations, moral codes, moral conflicts, and responsibility.

PHI 212 - Introduction to Ethical Theory (#8692) TuTh 11:45AM – 1:05PM, ED-120 Instructor: Jason D’Cruz
What is the basis of our moral judgments and attitudes? What do morally right actions have in common that makes them right, and what do wrong actions have in common that makes them wrong? (Is it that they are commanded by a divine being? Required by existing social rules? Are actions right or wrong because of their consequences for human happiness? Their conformity to a rule of reason?) What sort of person is it best to be? What is valuable in life? In clarifying these questions, and seeking answers, we will study the following theories: ethical relativism, the divine command theory, utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, virtue ethics.

APHI 310 – Ancient Philosophy (#9186) MWF 1:40AM – 2:35PM, BB 205 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- or 200-level course in philosophy

APHI 329 – American Philosophy (#9940) MWF 11:30AM – 12:25PM, BA-225 Instructor: PD Magnus
In the United States in the 19th-century, thinkers challenged the neat division between the theoretical and the practical. Belief involves a commitment to act in a certain way and so too, they argued, does knowledge. This challenge came first from transcendentalists and later from pragmatists: Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, and John Dewey. According to the pragmatists, beliefs involve commitments to act—the theoretical and the practical cannot be kept apart. This course addresses with the relation of belief and practice, as it plays out in some of the classics of American philosophy. We’ll follow pragmatism from its roots in the 19th-century to its fruits in the 20th. Prerequisite: a 100- or 200-level course in philosophy

APHi 338 – Moral Problems in Medicine (#6958)
MWF 9:20AM – 10:15 AM, BB 225 Instructor: Monika Piotrowska
An investigation of moral problems in medicine, such as confidentiality and truth-telling in the doctor/patient relationship, the refusal of life-sustaining treatments, experimentation on human subjects, and biomedical enhancement. The aim of the class is to help students develop views on these issues by critically analyzing arguments advanced by academics, judges, and healthcare professionals.

APHi 416 – Philosophy of Mind (#9942)
MWF 12:35PM – 1:30PM, BA-225 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. Shared resource with PHI 516.

APHI 425Y – Contemporary Ethical Theory (#8710)  
MWF 10:25AM – 11:20AM, BB-121 Instructor: Rachel Cohon  
An in-depth study of some contemporary normative ethical theories and how each one analyzes the question of why we are obligated to keep our promises. This will bring up such questions as how it is that we can create new moral obligations just by saying something, whether (and if so why) death-bed promises are morally binding, the moral difference between a promise and a threat, whether promissory obligation is a social construct, and what role promises play in intimate relationships. Ethical theories will include (at least) modern act and rule consequentialism, some modern deontologies, and contractualism. Along the way we may consider the consequences of particular ethical theories for such matters as negative responsibility, the moral worth of actions, personal relationships, and the possibility of moral dilemmas. Grading is based on essays (papers), take-home essay examinations, discussion exercises and other class participation (depending on class size). Prerequisites: PHI 212 and a 300-level course in philosophy. If you have not completed the prerequisites by the start of the semester, you need the permission of the instructor to take the course.

APHI 474 – Society and Values (#10269)  
T TH 11:45AM – 1:05PM, BB-141 Instructor: Matthew Mosdell  
Moral relativism is the view that values are determined by individuals, societies, or cultures. To some extent, the view is obviously correct. After all, there is observable cultural variation concerning the value of privacy, public protest, women’s rights, freedom of speech, and so on. Despite this fact, relativism gets a bad rap from nearly all moral philosophers, who, as a group, tend to think that moral truths are more robust than can be accounted for by relativistic theories. So who is right? What is the truth in relativism? And how robust is morality? In this course, we will examine the arguments supporting both sides of the issue.