APHI 546 - The Continental Rationalists (#10079)
W 2:45PM-5:35PM, BB 368
Instructor: Marcus Adams
Leibniz says that Descartes' philosophy is the “antechamber” of the true philosophy. This course will first focus on mapping out the various parts of this antechamber by seeing how they fit together. Next the course will examine how Descartes’ philosophy is continued by his followers and is criticized by Leibniz. Descartes’ metaphysics and epistemology will be viewed alongside his natural philosophy and optics. The course will attend to significant shifts in Descartes’ philosophy over his lifetime: early works, such as the *Rules for the Direction of the Mind*, will be contrasted with later works, such as the *Meditations on First Philosophy* and the *Principles of Philosophy*. Topics may include the following: innate ideas, substance, the Cartesian circle, eternal truths, the will, occasionalism and re-creationalism, and the passions. The latter part of the course will survey some of these themes as they are developed by the early Cartesians and as they figure in Leibniz’ criticisms of Descartes.

APHI 574 - Contemporary Politic (#10077)
TTH 1:15PM-2:35PM, BA 225
Instructor: Kristen Hessler
This course consists of two parts. The first half of the semester will focus on philosophical approaches to fundamental issues in feminist theory, such as how to understand sex, gender, and oppression. We will examine different schools of feminist thought, and investigate both similarities and differences between the subordination of women and the subordination of other social groups (racial or ethnic groups, for example). The second half of the semester will address feminist critiques of various fields in philosophy (including epistemology, philosophy of science, ethics, and political philosophy). In this section we will also examine the current status of women and other underrepresented groups in the field of philosophy through a feminist lens. This course should be of interest to graduate students in any area of philosophy who are interested in feminist theory and/or the impact that feminist scholarship has had in the field. This course is also appropriate for advanced undergraduates majors who are interested either in pursuing philosophy in graduate school or simply in deepening their understanding of feminist philosophy.
APHI 580 - Metaethics (#10078)
T 2:45PM-5:35PM, BB 368
Instructor: Rachel Cohon
Metaethics is the most abstract area of moral philosophy. It deals with questions about the nature of moral language and thought and the foundations of morality, including such issues as the rationality of moral conduct, the connection of morality with emotion, and the question whether there are any moral facts or objectively real moral properties. It is a huge area, so I will select some central issues in it that are prominent either because they are the foundation of the subject as it is understood today or because they are the focus of lively current controversies. These may include:

- The definition and meaning of moral words and concepts
- Whether there are any moral facts, and if so of what kind
- Whether moral properties explain any natural events
- The nature of reasons for acting and moral reasons
- Whether moral norms are rational constructions or the products of human sensibilities.

Assignments will probably include a shorter paper, a long paper, and a presentation.

APHI 610 - Topics in Philosophy: Topic: Science, Knowledge, and Values (#10080)
TH 2:45PM-5:35PM, BB 368
Instructor: P.D Magnus
A traditional conception of scientific objectivity has held that science should be value-free, that the answers it provides should depend only on the facts. A further traditional conception has held that factual findings can't themselves yield normative conclusions; in short, that is can't imply ought. On examination, however, the value-free conception of science is untenable -- at least in its traditional form. Where does that leave science and knowledge? The course will look approach these issues by looking at recent debates in philosophy of science, through the works of authors such as Hilary Putnam, Philip Kitcher, and Heather Douglas.