

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FALL 2017

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#9306)

MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, ES-241

Instructor:

Survey of representative problems in some of the major areas of philosophy; topics such as free will, morality, justice and social order, knowledge and truth, God and religion, art, and beauty.

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#2083)

TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, 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, stretching back all the way to ancient Greece. 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 (#4759)

MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, LC-02

Instructor: Ronald McClamrock

A survey and critical examination of topics in contemporary philosophy, focusing largely on the relationship between the human mind and the natural world. Topics will include skepticism about knowledge of the external world, the relationship between the mind and the brain, the possibility of the mind causing free actions, and the existence or non-existence of God. Grade will be based on a combination of in-class exams (80%) and in-class quizzes and participation (20%, using the iClicker). More information will be available on the course web page at profron.net/mind-world.

APHI 114 - Morals and Society (#6375)

TTH 10:15AM-11:35AM, HU-123

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 114 - Morals and Society (#9061)

MWF 9:20AM-10:15AM, ED-120

Instructor:

Philosophical study of the conflict between personal values and the needs of society. Topics include personal and social values, the nature of moral reasoning, and ways to resolve conflicts between values. Readings from philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Locke and Mill. Only one version of A PHI 114 may be taken for credit.

APHI 114 - Morals and Society (#10168)

MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, HU-132

Instructor:

Philosophical study of the conflict between personal values and the needs of society. Topics include personal and social values, the nature of moral reasoning, and ways to resolve conflicts between values. Readings from philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Locke and Mill. Only one version of A PHI 114 may be taken for credit.

APHI 115 - Moral Choices (#5428)**MWF 10:25AM-11:20AM, HU 132****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 115 - Moral Choices (#2084)**MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, ED-120****Instructor:**

Critical examination of contemporary moral problems in the light of the most influential moral theories. The problems discussed vary with semesters, but they typically include such topics as abortion, affirmative action, animals and the environment, capital punishment, euthanasia, free speech and censorship, liberty and paternalism, sex and love, terrorism, and world hunger. Only one version of A PHI 115 may be taken for credit.

TPHI 116 - World Views (#9333)**MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, BB-137****Instructor: Jonathan Mandle**

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

TPHI 210 – Introduction to Logic (#10185)**TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, BB-241****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. **Open to Honors College students only.**

APHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#5728)**MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, LC-021****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. For more about General Education courses, see http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/general_education.html

APHI 210 - Introduction to Logic (#10141)**TuTh, 1:15PM-2:35PM, ED 120****Instructor: Nataliya Karablina**

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 (#10142)**TuTh 8:45AM-10:05AM, FA-114****Instructor: Nataliya Karablina**

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 212- Introduction to Ethical Theory (#2092)

TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, HU 129

Instructor: Jason D’Cruz

This course is an introduction to some central problems and approaches in the field of ethical theory. We will consider questions such as: “Why should I be moral?” “How can I live a good life?” “How can I be a good person?” and “What makes right actions right, and wrong actions wrong?” We will work our way through a series of classic and contemporary readings covering ethical theories such as ethical relativism, objectivism/ethical egoism, utilitarianism, Kantianism (deontology), feminist ethics, and virtue ethics.

APHI 218- Understanding Science (#10143)

MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, HU-133

Instructor: P.D. Magnus

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. Some questions we'll consider include: What kind of activity is science? 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? We'll read some recent and classic papers in philosophy and science studies.

APHI 220 - History of Social and Political Philosophy (#7042)

M 5:45pm-8:35pm, HU 132

Instructor:

This course surveys important philosophical accounts the human being and her place in society and the world, from ancient times to the present. Philosophers to be studied include Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Marx, and King, Jr. Particular attention will be paid to the ways these thinkers' views about human nature inform their views about the proper organization of social and political life.

APHI 310 – Ancient Philosophy (#7965)

TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, BB-151

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 325 –Philosophy of Law (#10147)

MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, HU-112

Instructor: Jonathan Mandle

This course is an introduction to contemporary theories of distributive justice, including utilitarianism, liberal egalitarianism, luck egalitarianism, and libertarianism. We will also look at some theoretical approaches that probe the limits of justice, such as feminism, critical race theory, and cosmopolitanism. Along the way, students will be introduced to some of the major debates in contemporary political philosophy, including: What is equality? Is equality compatible with liberty? Do principles of justice apply to individual choices? Do they apply across national boundaries? Prerequisite(s): a 100 or 200 level course in philosophy.

APHI 338 – Moral Problems in Medicine (#7965)

MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, FA-114

Instructor: Sydney Faught

An investigation of moral problems in medicine, such as the health professional–patient relationship, medical paternalism, informed consent, social justice and health policy, the treatment of severely defective newborns, and the withholding of life-prolonging treatment. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing.

APHI 340 – Topics in Philosophy,

Topic: Environmental Ethics (#10148)

TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, AS-15

Instructor: Kristen Hessler

This course will address philosophical issues in environmental ethics and policy. The first half of the course will examine whether we have duties to animals, ecosystems, and/or species that require re-thinking traditional moral theory and concepts. The second half of the course will focus on more policy-oriented issues such as preserving wilderness and wildlife, human population growth, sustainable agriculture, climate change, and resource consumption.

APHI 415 – Philosophy of Language (#10149)

TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, BB-221

Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb

In this course, we focus on central questions in the philosophy of language. We will explore questions like: What is it for a person to mean something by uttering a sentence? What is it for that sentence to mean something? How can ink on a page or sounds emitted from our throats refer to things in the world? We will also consider figurative language, such as metaphor. Along the way, we will investigate the profound influence the philosophy of language has had on contemporary analytic philosophy. **Shared resource course with PHI 515.**

APHI 416 – Philosophy of Mind (#10150)

MWF 10:25AM-11:20AM, BB-221

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 webpage at <http://profron.net/phi516>. **Shared resource with PHI 516**

APHI 422 – Theory of Knowledge (#10339)

MW 2:45PM-4:05PM, HU-116

Instructor: Matthew Mosdell

Systematic study of theories of knowledge, including such topics as theories of perception, the character and value of logical systems, theories of the nature of truth and of the nature of proof. Prerequisite(s): A PHI 210 and a 300 level course in philosophy, or permission of instructor.

APHI 425Y – Contemporary Ethical Theory (#10151)

MWF 12:35PM-1:30 PM, ES-139

Instructor: Rachel Cohon

PREREQUISITES: at least four courses in philosophy, one of which must be either PHI 212 (Introduction to Ethical Theory), PHI 326 (Moral Philosophy), an equivalent course at another university, or a graduate course in ethical theory. If you are unsure whether you have the prerequisites, consult the instructor.

The topics of the course are contemporary deontology and contemporary accounts of the nature of normativity. Readings will be drawn from the work of Christine Korsgaard, T. M. Scanlon, Stephen Darwall, and other living moral philosophers. Much of the reading will consist of a few long books. Grading will be based on weekly reading responses, two or three papers, participation, and (if class size permits) an oral presentation. Depending on enrollment, there may be a required mentoring relationship between students enrolled in PHI 525 and those enrolled in PHI 425.