SPRING 2014 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#2318)
TuTh 11:45AM – 1:05PM
Location: HU-20
Instructor: Daniel Feuer

This course is an introduction to philosophy and a survey of some of its core areas of inquiry. Some topics we will consider include the nature of belief and knowledge, what sorts of beings we are, and how we ought to live. To develop a better understanding of these issues, we will read works both by famous historical writers and contemporary scholars. Consistent with the philosophical tradition, we will critically analyze what we read and engage in discussion and debate. The ultimate goal of the class will be to better understand these philosophical issues and to back our understanding with carefully-reasoned arguments.

APHI 111 - The Mind and the World (#7205)
MWF 10:25AM – 11:20AM
Location: LC 21
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 http://profron.net/phi111.

APHI 111 - The Mind and the World (#9523)
MWF 1:40PM – 2:35PM
Location: HU-128
Instructor: Ruth Boeker

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.

APHI 114 - Morals and Society (#6622)
MWF 11:30AM – 12:25PM
Location: LC-6
Instructor: Jonathan Mandle

In this course, we will read three books dealing with various moral issues, both theoretical and applied. Topics may include: relativism and universalism, moral pluralism, hedonism and moral psychology, the diversity of cultures, climate change, globalization, and human rights. Grades will be based on three exams - one on each book - a series of short papers, quizzes, and group-based projects.
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.

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.

This is an introductory philosophy course focusing on our understanding of ourselves and others. By studying a series of interconnected philosophical issues, we will attempt to answer questions like “Who/what am I?” “What, if anything, is my true nature?” and “How do my interactions with other people affect who I am?” Topics we will consider include: whether we are essentially minds or bodies, whether or not there is a fixed human nature, and whether race, gender and other characteristics are essential to identity. The course readings will include both classical and contemporary philosophers, and we will cover problems originating in a variety of sub-disciplines within philosophy, such as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and political theory. Only one version of APHI 116 may be taken for credit.

A person makes an “argument” when they make a claim and try to back that claim up with some evidence. In other words, an argument consists of a claim and some reasons that are supposed to support the claim. Of course, you make and evaluate arguments all of the time, and probably with a good amount of skill. But in this class we step back and ask: what makes a good argument? What principles should we employ to discriminate between good and bad arguments?

We will focus first on deductive arguments—where the premises of the argument are supposed to “entail” its conclusion. Due to some remarkable progress made in the 20th century, we now have a simple and elegant formal characterization of good deductive arguments. In this course, you will learn the details of this characterization, and you will learn to use it to extend your skill at making and evaluating arguments.
Formal logic is a method used to symbolize a natural language (like English), and then analyze certain features or properties of that natural language. We will be studying mainly formal logic in this class, but we will also be studying 'informal' logic in the form of critical-thinking exercises. All in all, we will be focused on determining what makes for good formal & informal arguments.

In logic, an argument does not mean a loud screaming match or a disagreement. Instead, it refers to a series of ideas which lead to an overall conclusion. There are better and worse kinds of arguments out there, and we will figure out how to use only the best ones.

The goal of this course is to produce an understanding of arguments and related logical concepts which will enable students to (hopefully) think, speak, and write with more clarity and precision. Students should be prepared for a few short examinations as well as occasional homework assignments or projects. This course fulfills the university's general education (Gen Ed) requirement for Mathematics or Humanities, and is required for Philosophy majors (and highly suggested for Philosophy minors).

This course will cover the basics of logic, including the SL and QL "languages", converting English into those languages, and evaluating arguments once this has been done: which includes using truth-tables, models, and proofs. Assignments will include a midterm, a final, various homework, and some class exercises.

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. The course will include regular class discussions.
TPHI 212 - Introduction to Ethical Theory (#9552)
TuTh 10:15AM – 11:35AM
Location: LC-14
Instructor: Rachel Cohon

What is the basis of our moral judgments and attitudes? What do 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? We will examine answers to these classic philosophical questions about ethics in the works of historical and contemporary philosophers. These answers take the form of ethical theories. We will study a selection drawn from these theories: the divine command theory, cultural ethical relativism, the moral sentiment theory, utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, virtue ethics, and the immoralism of Nietzsche. We will look closely at the justifications offered for these theories, and subject the theories to critical analysis. In order to think and write clearly and reason well about these issues, we will begin with an introduction to logical arguments and we will work on the special skills required for writing philosophy.

Open to Honors College students only. Grade based on two essay tests, two analytical papers, short homework assignments and an oral presentation.

APHI 214 – World Religions (#5779)
MW 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 (#5555)
TuTh 10:15AM – 11:35AM
Location: HU-137
Instructor: John Milanese

This class examines philosophical issues in science, such as the following. (1) Should we believe that our current best scientific theories are approximately true, or will future theories look substantially different? (2) What should be the role of science in the policies of a democratic government? (3) What is the nature of scientific explanation and prediction? (4) Should we think that the task of science is to tell us about the underlying structure of the world or to devise useful models and tools for prediction? (5) Which research gets funded and how observations are interpreted introduces human interests and biases, so in what sense is scientific knowledge objective?

APHI 312 – 17c + 18c Philosophy (#2334)
MWF 10:25AM – 11:20AM
Location: HU-132
Instructor: Ruth Boeker

In this course we will discuss the works of important seventeenth- and eighteenth-century thinkers in period from Descartes to Kant. We will examine how the philosophers develop their views in dialogue and in response to their predecessors. The course will focus on questions concerning knowledge and skepticism, perception, the relation between mind and body, substance, and personal identity. Prerequisite: A 100-200 level course in Philosophy
**APHI 324 – Philosophy of Art (#9544)**
TuTh 10:15AM – 11:35AM
Location: LC-3C
Instructor: P.D. Magnus

This course focuses on some central puzzles in analytical aesthetics. Questions we will consider include: What is a work of art? What role do imitation, representation, and convention play in understanding art? On what basis can we judge, with justification, that an artwork is good or that something is beautiful? How and why do artworks engage the emotions? Why are we emotionally moved by fictions – e.g. movies, novels – when we know that the fictional events are not real? What explains our attraction to horror and sadness? How can we appraise our emotional responses to fiction morally? Can an artwork be immoral, and if so, does this affect its value as a work of art?

**APHI 326 – Moral Philosophy (#9546)**
TuTh 1:15PM – 2:35PM
Location: SS-131
Instructor: Rachel Cohon

Prerequisite: At least one previous philosophy course other than symbolic logic. This is an intermediate-level philosophy course in ethical or moral philosophy. Philosophy 212 (Introduction to Ethical Theory) is not required but is helpful; there will be a bit of overlap with that course.

The first three-quarters of the course are loosely organized around the three main types of ethical theory that have dominated Western thought: virtue ethics, consequentialism, and deontology. We will consider various versions of them, historical and contemporary, and some issues that arise within them and some contemporary criticisms that are leveled against them. Topics for the last quarter of the semester will be drawn from issues in meta-ethics (such as relativism and emotivism) and/or from challenges to normative ethical theory (such as the possibility of moral luck or the idea that being a moral saint is unappealing).

Grade based on in-class tests (mostly essays), one or more analytical papers, and daily on-line reading questions. There will be some in-class discussion exercises.

**APHI 355 – Global Justice (#9755)**
MWF 1:40PM – 2:35PM
Location: ED-121
Instructor: Jonathan Mandle

Philosophers have traditionally addressed issues of social justice only within a society. But more and more our actions affect people beyond our borders, and this raises the question of what principles of justice – if any – should guide our conduct in this new situation. Some philosophers say that the principles of social justice for a single society should now be applied on a global scale. Others say that the principles of global justice are significantly different from the principles of domestic justice. Still others say that there are no principles of global justice, strictly speaking. We will explore these perspectives while examining a variety of topics which may include some of the following: the relevance of globalization and economic integration, human rights, severe poverty, the environment, just war theory, humanitarian intervention, and terrorism.
**APHI 361 – Philosophy in Science Fiction (#9545)**  
MWF 12:35PM – 1:30PM  
Location: AS-15  
Instructor: Ron McClamrock

An examination of some central issues in philosophy, using the occurrence of those issues in science fiction as a starting point. Topics to be covered will likely include the following: Can machines think? Through what changes can our self-identity persist? What kinds of beings count as persons? Is time-travel possible? Could the world be a huge illusion? This course will focus primarily on the traditional philosophical issues raised in science fiction rather than on the science fiction itself as literary or cinematic. But the settings for framing these problems will come from science fiction readings, movies, and television. Grades will come from a combination of in-class exams, short papers, and in-class and online participation. More information will be available on the course web page at [http://profron.net/phi361](http://profron.net/phi361).

**APHI 410 – Perspectives and Reasoning (#9547)**  
Tu 2:45PM – 5:35PM  
Location: SL-G20  
Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb

This course introduces issues in both the philosophy of logic, which is about issues and features in or related to logic, and philosophical logic, which uses logic as a means for resolving certain puzzles or paradoxes. As a course in the philosophy of logic and philosophical logic, we thus attempt to answer questions like the following:

- What is a paradox and how are we to understand and resolve certain philosophical paradoxes? Can logic help? If so, how?

- What is the relationship between logic and reasoning—is logic normative for reasoning? Is reasoning normative for logic?

- What is the relationship between a natural language and a logical language, e.g., what is the connection between the logical form of a sentence and its grammatical form?

- Is classical logic the one (and only) true logic or are there other logics? If there are others, what are they and why would one want to endorse or adopt them?

**APHI 412 – Metaphysics (#9553)**  
TuTh 11:45AM – 1:05PM  
Location: SS-116  
Instructor: Nathan Powers

Prerequisites: Phi 210L and a 300-level course in philosophy: Metaphysics is the inquiry into the general character of reality and existence. This course is designed as an advanced introduction to some issues of central interest to contemporary metaphysics, including (though not limited to): the existence of abstract objects; personal identity; and the nature of space and time.