PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES SPRING 2017

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#2160)
MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, HU 129
Instructor: Matthew Mosdell
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 (#8260)
TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, ED 120
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 (#6113)
MWF 10:25AM-11:20AM, LC 6
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. Note that this is a four credit course. All students must enroll in the 3-hour lecture plus a one-hour discussion section. The discussion section will factor into the course grade.

APHI 111Y - The Mind and the World (#10509) – DISCUSSION SESSION
W 9:20AM-10:15AM, PH123
Instructor: Ronald McClamrock

APHI 111Y - The Mind and the World (#10510) – DISCUSSION SESSION
M 4:15pm-5:10pm, PH123
Instructor: Ronald McClamrock

APHI 111Y - The Mind and the World (#10511) – DISCUSSION SESSION
W 4:15pm-5:10pm, PH123
Instructor: Ronald McClamrock

APHI 111Y - The Mind and the World (#10512) – DISCUSSION SESSION
W 5:45pm-6:40pm, PH123
Instructor: Ronald McClamrock
In this course, we will read (parts of) three books dealing with various moral issues, both theoretical and applied. Topics may include: relativism and universalism, toleration and diversity, hedonism and moral psychology, consequentialism and deontological ethical theories, and different theories of justice. Grades will be based on three exams - one on each book - a series of short papers, quizzes, and group-based projects.

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.

Our own values will, at times, come into conflict with those held by others. Our values will also, at times, conflict with the needs of society. This course will examine the question of how we can get along with others, despite those conflicts. To that end, our readings will address the three main areas of moral philosophy, i.e. value theory, metaethics, and normative ethics. We will discuss various ethical theories, asking how to balance our pursuit of what we think is good with proper respect for others. We will also read several short stories throughout the course and watch some films with the aim of identifying, reflecting on, and evaluating real-world moral decisions and problems.

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.

This course is designed to be a survey of philosophical issues related to contemporary ethical problems. As such, it will cover several topics with only superficial depth. We will dedicate the first half of the course to ethical theory, by asking what we should and should not do and for what reasons. The rest of the course will focus on specific ethical issues related to euthanasia, abortion, sexual morality, affirmative action, the death penalty, animal rights, terrorism and others. The course is likely to challenge deeply held beliefs and presuppositions but that is one important goal of doing philosophy. The objectives are to expand your understanding of various moral views, develop critical thinking and writing skills, and learn how to evaluate arguments. By learning how to evaluate philosophical arguments you will also learn how to construct and defend your own arguments—a skill that is broadly applicable outside of philosophy.
APHI 115 - Moral Choices (#10197)
MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, HU 132
Instructor: Nataliya Karablina
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.

APHI 115 - Moral Choices (#10590)
MW 2:45PM-4:05PM, HU 132
Instructor: Nataliya Karablina
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.

APHI 116 - World Views (#5863)
MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, HU 133
Instructor: Chad Horne
This course surveys important philosophical accounts of 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 116 - World Views (#8261)
MWF 9:20AM-10:15AM, HU 133
Instructor: Chad Horne
This course surveys important philosophical accounts of 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 210 – Introduction to Logic (#2175)
TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, LC 2
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. 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 210 - Introduction to Logic (#4157)
MWF 9:20AM-10:15AM, ED 120
Instructor: Toan Tran
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.
to some of the major debates in contemporary political philosophy, including: What is equality? Is equality compatible

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 212- Introduction to Ethical Theory (#6219)
MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, HU 132
Instructor: Sydney Faught
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.

TPHI 212- Introduction to Ethical Theory (#7474)
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, HU 108
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 immorality 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 312 – 17C+18C Philosophy (#2176)
MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, BA 229
Instructor: Marcus Adams
This course surveys one of the most fertile philosophical periods in Western history — the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. During this period, philosophers provided an incredible range of novel answers to philosophical questions in light of recent scientific advances and religious controversies. We will examine texts written by philosophical figures in this period, such as René Descartes, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Thomas Hobbes, Margaret Cavendish, Damaris Cudworth, John Locke, Mary Shepherd, George Berkeley, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant, by focusing on some of the topics that occupied their work. These topics include the nature and existence of God, the possibility and character of knowledge, the nature of the mind and matter, and how to live the good life.

APHI 320 – Political and Social Philosophy (#10221)
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, SS 116
Instructor: Chad Horne
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 332 – Intermediate Logic (#9920)**
*TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, ED-120*
*Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb*
This is a second course in symbolic logic. Accordingly, after reviewing basics, we will move from sentential logic to first-order logic, including advanced symbolization and provability in first-order logic. In the last quarter of the class, after identifying limitations to first-order logic, we will turn to a non-classical logic, modal logic, and the philosophical considerations that drive such a logic.

**APHI 336 – Existentialist Philosophy (#9923)**
*MWF 10:25AM-11:20AM, BA 225*
*Instructor: P.D. Magnus*
A central existentialist idea is that individuals as human beings are caught between the particular stages of their lives and themselves as existing across time—in tension between being what they are and becoming what they will be. The course explores this theme through the works of thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Soren Kierkegaard, and Simone de Beauvoir.

**APHI 340 – Topics in Philosophy, Topic: Irrational and Rational Action (#10536)**
*TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, SS-116*
*Instructor: Rachel Cohon*
Prerequisite: at least one course in philosophy at the 100 or 200 level.
We will start with a philosophical investigation of some very familiar experiences: kidding ourselves (self-deception, wishful thinking, motivated irrationality in belief formation), and weakness of will (lack of self-control, doing what we know is a bad idea, akrasia). We will examine puzzles about these phenomena and theories to explain them set out by philosophers past and present. We will move on to talk about what a reason for action is and what intention is. Grading will be based on papers, tests, and class participation (probably including a presentation).

**APHI 355 – Global Justice (#9967)**
*TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, AS 15*
*Instructor: Kristen Hessler*
Issues of justice across borders. Approaches discussed may include various forms of realism, cosmopolitanism, and nationalism. Topics may include human rights, the duty of assistance, distributive justice, just war theory, humanitarian intervention, globalization, and environmental concerns. Prerequisite(s): a 100 or 200 level course in philosophy.

**APHI 417 - Bioethics (#9968)**
*TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, BA 225*
*Instructor: Monika Piotrowska*
An in-depth study of conceptual and ethical issues arising from the application of modern biotechnology to plants, microorganisms, nonhuman animals and human beings. **Shared resource with PHI 517.**
This course examines the historical and conceptual development of phenomenology in the 20th century, starting with Husserl's "presuppositionless and purely descriptive science of the structures of consciousness", and including works by Sartre, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty. We'll emphasize (a) the idea of a presuppositionless account of consciousness; (b) the motivations for and nature of the "existential turn", and (c) connections between phenomenology and both analytic philosophy and scientific psychology.

Grades will be based on 2 of 3 exams, 2 short papers, and a combination of in-class and online participation.

Note: Undergraduates should sign up for PHI 442; graduate students should sign up for PHI 542.

More information can be found on the course web page at [http://profron.net/phi542](http://profron.net/phi542).