

PHILOSOPHY

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

SPRING 2018

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#2064)

MW 5:45PM-7:05 PM, AS-14

Instructor: Matt 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 (#7776)

TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, HU-109

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 (#10107)

MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, LC-2

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 112 – Critical Thinking (#10117)

MWF 10:25AM-11:20AM, AS-14

Instructor: Marcus Adams

This is a course in informal logic. It centers on the meaning of claims, and whether a claim should be accepted or rejected, or whether suspension of judgment is appropriate. This course is intended to help students think clearly and effectively.

APHI 114 - Morals and Society (#7072)

MW 2:45PM-4:05PM, LC-6

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 (#10116)

FULLY ONLINE VIA BLACKBOARD

Instructor: Sydney Faught

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.

APHI 115 - Moral Dilemmas (#9208)**TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, HU-123****Instructor: Monika Piotrowska**

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 Dilemmas (#9209)**MWF 9:20AM-10:15AM, HU-123****Instructor: Gunnar Babcock**

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 Dilemmas (#9560)**MW 11:30AM-12:25PM, ES-147****Instructor: Sydney Faught**

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 210 – Introduction to Logic (#2079)**TuTh 1:15PM-2:35, LC 20****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 210 - Introduction to Logic (#3978)**TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, ED 120****Instructor: Natasha 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 (#6343)**MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, ED-120****Instructor: Natasha 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 (#5918)**TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, HU 133****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.

TPHI 212- Introduction to Ethical Theory (#7082)

TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, BLDG. 25, Room 110

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 220 – History of Social and Political Philosophy (#10137)

MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, HU-132

Instructor: Jonathan Mandle

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 312 – 17C+18C Philosophy (#2080)

MWF 12:35PM-1:30 PM, CH-151

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 315 – Twentieth Century Philosophy (#10139)

MWF 10:25AM-11:20 AM, BB-217

Instructor: Ronald McClamrock

A survey of the history of Western philosophy during the 20th century.

The course will start with the beginnings of the linguistic turn in Anglo-American philosophy and follow its development into the analytic

philosophy that dominated the middle of the 20th century. We will examine commonalities and contrasts between this analytic movement and the phenomenological tradition that developed in Europe during the same period, and explore some of the changes in philosophical outlook that came with the latter-20th-century turn away from analyticity.

Topics will include meaning and its analysis, the separation of the philosophical and the empirical sciences, the divide between the analytic and phenomenological movements, and the emergence of contemporary philosophy of language, science, and mind.

APHI 322 –Philosophy of Religion (#10134)

TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, HU-109

Instructor: Nathan Powers

An examination of some of the philosophical issues raised by religion, with a main focus on the Western tradition (both historical and contemporary), including topics such as: arguments for and against the existence of God; the nature of religious experience; the respective roles of faith and reason in religion; and whether religious pluralism is tenable (given the apparently conflicting claims made by different religious authorities).

APHI 324 – Philosophy of Art (#10135)**TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, BB-205****Instructor: Jason D’Cruz**

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 (#10136)**TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, PH-123****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 course will examine some of the main ethical theories that have dominated Western thought: virtue ethics, consequentialism, deontology, and possibly contractarianism. It will also address some interesting systematic issues about morality that are somewhat independent of what ethical theory one subscribes to. Concerning the ethical theories, we will read some historical and contemporary versions, and

some criticisms of them. Topics that are independent of particular ethical theories will be drawn from meta-ethics (such as relativism and emotivism), challenges to normative ethical theory (such as the possibility of moral luck or the idea that being a moral saint is unappealing), psychological egoism, and/or moral responsibility.

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

APHI 418 – Philosophy of Science (#10288)**TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, HU-039****Instructor: Monika Piotrowska****Shared resource with PHI 520**

What is science? In this course, we will look at a variety of philosophical views on what makes something a science and compare those views with a historical example that most scientists consider to be exemplary science—the Copernican Revolution. In the course of our investigation, we will examine 1) the distinction between science and pseudoscience and between natural and social science, 2) the nature of scientific explanation, observation, and confirmation, and 3) the relationship between science and values.

APHI 432 – Completeness and Decidability (#10286)**TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, HU-041****Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb****Prerequisite: PHI 210 or permission of instructor**

While this course will review both propositional and predicate logic, it will focus on the metatheory for those logics, proving the soundness, completeness, decidability and undecidability of the relevant logics. There will be some attention to the philosophical implications of these features, as well. This is a shared resource course with PHI 532.