PHILOSOPHY
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
SPRING 2019

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#1921)
MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, HU-124
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 (#7083)
TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, 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 (#8941)
MWF 11:30PM-12:25PM, 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 profron.net/mind-world.

APHI 112 – Critical Thinking (#8648)
TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, SS-256
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 (#6490)
MW 12:35PM-1:30PM, HU-124
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 (#8647)
TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, LC-5
Instructor: Ariel Zylberman
This course is a historically informed introduction to central questions in moral and political philosophy. The overarching theme is the relation between practical reasoning, the good, and the just. Only one version of A PHI 114 may be taken for credit.
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.

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.

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 physician-assisted suicide, and/or the legitimacy of war. 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).

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.
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.

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 may 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.

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.

Life under law is a pervasive feature of modern life, governing how we interact with each other at home, at work, on the streets and how we organize ourselves into a political community. But what is law? In virtue of what, if anything, does the law have the power to bind us to certain courses of action? Are there basic rights that constrain the exercise of law? Is freedom under law possible? And how are we to organize a system of law for equals, free of discrimination? This course will provide an introduction to the philosophy of law by raising, addressing, and systematically examining various answers offered to these fundamental questions.

Grading will be based on weekly short essays, papers, tests, and class participation (possibly including a presentation, depending on class size).

Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing, and one course in philosophy.

APHI 212 - Introduction to Ethical Theory (#5449)
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, LC-5
Instructor: Jason D'Cruz

APHI 220 – History of Social and Political Philosophy (#8659)
MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, ED-123
Instructor: Jonathan Mandle

APHI 312 – 17C+18C Philosophy (#1937)
TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, ES-144
Instructor: Marcus Adams

APHI 325–Philosophy of Law (#9604)
TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, BB-213
Instructor: Ariel Zylberman

APHI 340 – Topics in Philosophy, Topic: Irrational and Rational Action (#9605)
MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, BB-137
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 weekly short essays, papers, tests, and class participation (possibly including a presentation, depending on class size).
It is impossible to pay attention to our national politics lately without hearing about the world beyond our borders. War and refugees, poverty and international trade, climate change and human rights, patriotism and immigration, are all front-page news on a regular basis. This course examines some basic moral questions lurking beneath these issues. For example, to what extent (if at all) does morality permit us to treat our fellow citizens better than others? Can we even justify dividing up the world's surface into countries controlled by their governments? Do we have a moral obligation to accept immigrants or refugees into our country? How should we understand the problem of climate change, and is it possible to solve it? The course aims to provide students with the philosophical background necessary to understand the complexity of these moral questions, and some resources to enable students to begin answering them for themselves.

**APHI 417 – Bioethics (#9607)**  
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, ED-120  
**Instructor: Monika Piotrowska**

The age of biotechnology is here. Instead of relying on random mutations, we can now directly manipulate the genes of organisms to create new traits. That's an incredibly powerful fact, and with great power comes great responsibility. In this class, we will think about a range of ethical issues that arise from the application of modern biotechnology to plants, nonhuman animals, and humans. The goal is to introduce you to the current controversies surrounding biotechnology while sharpening your critical reading and writing skills.  

*Shared resource with PHI 517.*

**APHI 422 – Theory of Knowledge (#9609)**  
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, ED-22  
**Instructor: P.D. Magnus**

Knowledge, on one analysis, is justified true belief. There are classic reasons for thinking this can't be quite right, and various amendments have been suggested. But what is justification? Do you even need to know something in order to believe it? When is knowledge even possible? How does the possibility of knowing things rely on factors in our natural and social environment?  

This course is an introduction to epistemology and social epistemology. Topics covered will include epistemic justification, scepticism, the nature of belief, and epistemic injustice. The course is taught as a shared-resources course. APHI 422 is an advanced undergraduate course. APHI522 is the graduate section. No previous expertise in epistemology is presumed, although students should have at least some background in philosophy.  

*Shared resource with PHI 522.*

**APHI 442 - Phenomenology (#9611)**  
MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, HU-113  
**Instructor: Ronald McClamrock**

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).