PHILOSOPHY
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
SPRING 2020

APHI 110 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (#1892)
MWF 1:40PM-2:35PM, HU-128
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 111 - The Mind and the World (#8105)
MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, 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 (#7973)
TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, ES-241
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 (#10249)
MWF 12:35PM-1:30PM, LC-003B
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: Do you have a moral obligation to follow the law? Should you do more than you do to help the poor? Under what circumstances, if any, is the killing of innocent civilians permissible in war? Do we live in a just society? What are our individual and social responsibilities regarding climate change? Since this is an honors class, grading will include in-class debates and formal essays (rather than exams). In addition, we will discuss the readings in greater depth, students will be expected to participate more in class, and the written assignments will require greater precision.

TPHI 114 - Morals and Society (#7972)
TuTh 5:45PM-7:05PM, HU-128
Instructor: Henry Curtis
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.
APHI 114 - Morals and Society (#9738)  
MW 2:45PM-4:05PM, LC-003B  
Instructor: Kali Milner  
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 Dilemmas (#7567)  
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, LC-04  
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 210 – Introduction to Logic (#1907)  
TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, LC-04  
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 (#3581)  
MWF 10:25AM-11:20AM, HU-133  
Instructor: Kali Milner  
An introduction to modern logic, semantics, and proof theory of first-order logic with identity.

APHI 212- Introduction to Ethical Theory (#5215)  
TuTh 10:15AM-11:35AM, LC-6  
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 (#9739)  
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, HU-132  
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 (#7977)  
MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, HU-124  
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 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.
APHI 220 – History of Social and Political Philosophy (#9740)  
TuTh 2:45PM-4:05PM, HU-132  
Instructor: Henry Curtis  
Formerly A PHI/A REL 116. In any society, individuals have both shared interests as well as conflicts. Societies impose laws to resolve those conflicts. But this, in turn, raises the possibility of still further conflicts - between individuals and the laws. What is the relationship between individuals and a society's laws? Do individuals have an obligation to obey the law? Does society have an obligation to impose only just laws on individuals - and what is justice, anyway? These are some of the questions that will explored in this course by reading a variety of theories, starting with ancient writings and ending with work from the 20th or 21st century. Only one of A PHI/A REL 116 or A PHI/A REL 220 or T PHI 116 or T PHI 220 may be taken for credit.

APHI 312 – 17c+18c Philosophy (#1908)  
TuTh 1:15PM-2:35PM, BB-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 Rene Descartes, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Thomas Hobbes, Margaret Cavendish, Damaris Cudworth, John Locke, Mary Shepherd, George Berkeley, 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 (#9741)  
MWF 10:25AM-11:20 AM, BB-129  
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 325–Philosophy of Law (#8593)  
MWF 11:30AM-12:25PM, HU-039  
Instructor: Ariel Zylberman  
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. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing, and one course in philosophy.

APHI 365–Environmental Ethics (#9742)  
MW 2:45PM-4:05PM, BB-209  
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 412 – Metaphysics (#9743)  
TuTh 11:45AM-1:05PM, HU-109  
Instructor: Nathan Powers  
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, such as: the existence of abstract objects; personal identity; and the nature of space and time.
As many philosophers understand it, morality is a set of norms that transcend any particular society and that bind you regardless of your desires and dispositions. Morality tells you to keep your promises, not coerce others, respect others’ human rights, and so on. But what explains the authority of morality? This seminar is a systematic investigation of both contemporary philosophical attempts to ground this authority in the nature of practical reason and of skeptical challenges to such attempts. In particular, the seminar’s point of departure is the skeptical challenges posed by Elizabeth Anscombe, Bernard Williams, and Alasdair MacIntyre, all of whom argue that morality is a “peculiarly modern” institution that cannot have practical reason as its basis. The seminar seeks to understand this skeptical challenge and investigate the extent to which it is right. In the process, students will gain a deeper understanding of theories about practical rationality and their connection to metaethics, ethics, philosophy of action, and political philosophy. The seminar will culminate in a one-day workshop bringing together four leading scholars working on our topic, Michael Smith, Tamar Schapiro, David Owens, and Hille Paakunainen. The seminar will thus prepare students to engage with these scholars by thinking through some of their published and unpublished work.