

GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Fall 2010

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

120 Cocke Hall, 924-7701

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Undergraduate Advisor: Rebecca Stangl

General Information

The Philosophy courses described in this booklet will be offered during the Fall 2010 semester. Although there are no formal prerequisites for most courses, the following guidelines may be helpful. Courses numbered between 1000 and 1999 are designed as a general introduction to philosophy. Courses between 2000 and 2999 can be taken without any prior preparation in philosophy, and tend to focus on rather more specific issues than 1000-level courses. Courses numbered 3000 and above will be more advanced (although not necessarily more specialized), have a fair number of philosophy majors enrolled, will be small enough to permit classroom discussion and will usually require longer papers. If you have any questions about the degree of difficulty of 3000 level courses, consult the instructor. **PHIL 1510 courses** are taught by graduate students and are small introductory seminars limited to a maximum of 20 students. All courses carry three semester hours of credit. **Courses designated by an asterisk (*) satisfy the College Second**

Writing Requirement.

Majoring in Philosophy

The requirements for a major in philosophy are 30 hours of coursework in philosophy above the 1999 level including 6 hours of history of philosophy, 3 hours of ethics/social philosophy, 3 hours of metaphysics/ epistemology and 3 hours of logic. The Distinguished Majors Program requires 36 hours of a more structured program. A full description of the major program and the Distinguished Major Program is contained in the booklet *Undergraduate Programs in Philosophy* available from the undergraduate advisor and the Philosophy Department Office. To declare a philosophy major, contact Rebecca Stangl (203 Cocke).

The Philosophy Honors Program

Students who have a very strong interest in philosophy might want to consider the Philosophy Honors Program. This program is designed to give students a deep and comprehensive background in philosophy through individual, "tutorial" instruction. Students normally enter the Program at the beginning of the third year. At the start of each semester, an honors student is assigned to a faculty member who serves as his or her tutor. Students meet once a week with their tutors (these meetings are called "tutorials") for informal discussion of a pre-set topic. A weekly essay prepared by the student serves as a basis for discussion in the tutorial. Tutorials in the first three semesters of the Program over the areas of epistemology, ethics and

metaphysics. In the fourth and final semester the student may either write an honors thesis or do a tutorial in an area of special interest. At the end of the fourth year, honors students take a set of comprehensive examinations, both written and oral, on the areas covered in their tutorials and on their thesis. These examinations are set and graded by "external examiners" - usually faculty from other universities. Depending on a student's performance on these exams, he or she is awarded a degree with Honors, High Honors or Highest Honors in Philosophy.

The primary requirements for entrance to the Honors Program are a strong interest in philosophy and demonstrated abilities in the field. Students considering the Program are therefore strongly advised to take some upper level philosophy courses (2000 or above) prior to application. For further information about the Program, consult *Undergraduate Programs in Philosophy* and/or see Daniel Devereux (207 Cocke).

Minor in Philosophy

In order to complete a minor in philosophy you must take 15 hours of course-work in philosophy at least 12 hours of which are above the 1999-level. Your minor program must also be approved by your advisor in the Philosophy Department. Declaration of Minor forms can be obtained from Prof. Stangl (203 Cocke) or the departmental secretary (120 Cocke).

The Distinguished Majors Program

This program is designed for students who wish to pursue their philosophy studies beyond the requirements for the regular major. Students have to apply for admission to the program by, at least, their last year before graduation. The application will be considered by the Undergraduate Committee and should be addressed to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The program requires that students take 30 credits in PHIL courses beyond the 1000-level, not more than 12 of which can be at the 2000-level. Students in this program cannot satisfy the major's logic requirement with a 1000-level course; and they must take the Seminar for Majors (PHIL 4010 or 4020), one Directed Reading and Research course (PHIL 4993 or 4994) which is aimed at preparing a thesis proposal, and the Senior Thesis course (PHIL 4999). To obtain the Distinguished Majors degree, students must have an overall GPA of 3.4 and a philosophy GPA of 3.4.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 1000 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY [3]

Prof. Secada (M W 11:00-11:50 + disc sec)

A general and non-technical introduction to the main traditional problems of metaphysics, ethics, and the theory of knowledge as they are to be found in the writings of historical figures (such as Plato, Descartes, Berkeley, and John Stuart Mill) and contemporary authors. Among our questions will be:

What is knowledge and can anyone have it? Is the mind so related to the body that it could survive the latter's death or are 'mind' and 'brain' two ways of referring to the same thing? Is there a God? Can consequences justify monstrous violence? This course is intended for those making a first approach to the subject, either to gain an idea of its scope or in order to lay a foundation for further study.

PHIL 1410 FORMS OF REASONING [3]

Prof. Cargile (Sect 1: M W F 9:00-9:50)

Prof. Cargile (Sect 2: M W F 11:00-11:50)

A philosophy course with a practical aim: to develop the student's ability to recognize and evaluate arguments. The course will *not* cover symbolic logic in any detail (for this, take PHIL 2420), but will concentrate on actual arguments given in ordinary language. Some time will be spent studying those fallacies, or errors in reasoning, which occur most frequently in discussion and argument. The goal of this course is to give the student a *working* knowledge of logic which has an application to daily life.

PHIL 1510 (1) INTRO PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR: THE SOCIAL CONTRACT [3]

Mr. Braun (T R 3:30-4:45)

Many political philosophers have used the idea of a social contract to either explain or justify a particular form of government. According to contract theorists such as Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, and Rawls, the agreement or consent of the people either explains or justifies the imposition of a particular form of government. This course is designed to examine the various philosophical approaches to the social contract and assess their strengths and weaknesses. Among the questions considered will be: Why are we motivated to consent to a government based on contract? How do we explain the normative force of the consensual act? And finally, what type of government results from a social contract?

PHIL 1730 INTRO TO MORAL & POLITICAL PHIL [3]

Prof. Stangl (T R 9:30-10:20+ disc sec)

How should we live, both as individuals and as members of communities? This course is an introduction to the philosophical issues which arise from taking this question seriously. As such, we will consider the following topics, among others: Are there objective truths in ethics? Or, are ethical judgments merely expressions of personal preferences or cultural expectations? Must we always act so as to promote the best consequences? Or are some kinds of actions absolutely prohibited? What makes a society just? What makes it free? Can a democracy flourish without a concern for the common good?

PHIL 2110 HIST OF PHIL: ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL [3]

Prof. LoLordo (T R 11:00-11:50 + disc sec)

This course surveys the history of Western philosophy from its origins to the Middle Ages. We will read and discuss some works of Plato and Aristotle; of post-Aristotelian philosophers like the Skeptics, Stoics and Epicureans; of a few of the major medieval philosophers, both Christian and Islamic. Major themes are the scope and limits of human knowledge, the nature of reality, and the way to achieve human happiness. The course is designed for students who want a basis for more advanced work in philosophy and for those who do not plan to go on in philosophy but believe that some knowledge of the history of philosophy is essential to a liberal arts education. Requirements are a midterm exam, a take-home final, and a number of short writing assignments.

PHIL 2420 INTRO TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC [3]

Prof. Humphreys (M W 10:00-10:50 + disc sec)

A basic introduction to the concepts and techniques of modern formal logic. The aim of this course is to give the student a working knowledge of both sentential and quantifier logic. The emphasis is on developing an ability to carry out proofs within these systems and on developing an ability to translate sentences of natural language into symbolic notation. The course will acquaint the student with the concepts of formula, proof, interpretation, and validity. There will be weekly homework assignments, two midterms, and a final exam. Students will use logic software that will allow them to develop greater expertise with the material.

PHIL 2450 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE [3]

Prof. Humphreys (M W 12:00-12:50 + disc sec)

The course will focus on scientific method as a route to knowledge. Typical topics to be investigated are: how scientific claims can be demarcated from other types of knowledge; why science appears to progress while other fields do not; scientific explanations; the contrast between natural and social sciences; scientific realism and instrumentalism; the relationship between the philosophy and the history of science. Topics will be illustrated with historical and contemporary examples, ranging from Greek astronomy to current social sciences, but no background in any particular science will be presupposed. Requirements include fortnightly assignments, a term paper, and a final examination.

PHIL 2770 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY [3]

Prof. Simmons (T R 11:00-11:50 + disc sec)

This course will examine several of the most important problems in political philosophy, including the justification of the state, the problem of political obligation, the requirements of social justice, the justification of democracy, and the duties of states to those outside their borders. In the process, we will discuss such topics as anarchism, the state's right to punish, property rights, disobedience and revolution, libertarianism, and secession. Readings will be from both classical and contemporary sources. Course requirements: two short papers, a midterm, and a final

exam. (This course satisfies the major concentration requirement in Ethics and Social Philosophy.)

PHIL 2780 ANCIENT POLITICAL THOUGHT [3]

Prof. Devereux (M W 11:00-11:50)

A survey of the political ideas and theories of the ancient Greeks and Romans, including such works as Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Politics* and Cicero's *De Re Publica*. Requirements: 2 papers, a midterm, and a final exam.

***PHIL 3140 HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY [3]**

Prof. Lomasky (M W 2:00-3:15)

The so-called Middle Ages stretch approximately a thousand years, and its philosophers include Christians, Jews, and Muslims in dialogue within their own communities as well as across sectarian lines. This course will not attempt to provide a play-by-play of all this action but will instead focus on major books by three of the major thinkers of this extended period: Augustine's *Confessions*, Maimonides' *Guide for the Perplexed*, Aquinas's *Summa Theologica*. The course can, then, be subtitled "Two Saints and a Rabbi." These are individuals of surpassing (and continuing) philosophical as well as theological interest. Understanding why that is so is a central goal of the class. Our studies will be historical but will also take these figures as speaking importantly to issues that remain current. Students will write three short (approximately 5 pp.) papers as well as a final exam and, possibly, a midterm

***PHIL 3170 KANT [3]**

Prof. LoLordo (T R 2:00-3:15)

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* is famous - and famously difficult to understand. In this class we will learn how to make sense of Kant. Resources will include readings from previous (easier) philosophers who influenced Kant, secondary literature, and class discussion.

***PHIL 3330 PHILOSOPHY OF MIND [3]**

Prof. Gertler (M W 2:00-3:15)

What is the nature of the mind and why do we find its nature so puzzling? We shall critically examine various theories about the nature of the mind; we shall also discuss the nature of particular kinds of mental states and events, such as beliefs, desires, feelings, sensory experiences, and others. We shall be especially concerned with the relations between the mind and the body, and, more generally, between the mental and the physical. Most of the readings will be by contemporary philosophers. (This course satisfies the major concentration requirement in Metaphysics and Epistemology.)

***PHIL 3500 SEMINAR IN PHIL: ANIMALS & ETHICS [3]**

Prof. Ahktar (T R 2:00-3:15)

This course will examine the moral status of non-human animals and what the major ethical theories imply for our treatment of animals, including in scientific research and food. In an effort to examine their moral status, we will explore the questions of whether and to what extent animals experience pain and emotions.

PHIL 3650 JUSTICE & HEALTH CARE [3]

Prof. Arras (T R 9:30-10:45)

This course examines the implications of several influential theories of justice (e.g., utilitarian, libertarian, Rawlsian,

communitarian) for a broad range of questions bearing on the allocation of health care and scarce medical resources. We begin with the articulation and application of the above theories to the debate over rights to health care -- e.g., Is there a right? If so, what are its nature, grounds, and limits? What is the usefulness of rights language in this context? How important is a right to health care in view of the pivotal role of the so-called social determinants of health (e.g., poverty, unemployment, social inequality, etc.)? The second half of the course is devoted to theories and methods of just health care rationing. What processes (explicit or covert?) and substantive principles (e.g., cost-effectiveness analysis, hypothetical consent) should govern the distribution of scarce health-related resources? Case examples include rationing by age, the Oregon Medicaid experiment, and rationing vaccine during a projected pandemic flu epidemic. Requirements include a midterm and final exam, and two papers (one short and one 10-15 pages). Instructor permission.

***PHIL 3720 RECENT ETHICAL THEORY [3]**

Prof. Stangl (T R 12:30-1:45)

In this course, we will consider some of the liveliest topics of debate in contemporary ethical theory. Among the questions to be considered: Are there objective truths in ethics? Or, are ethical judgments merely expressions of personal preferences or cultural expectations? Must we always act so as to promote the best consequences? Do contemporary conceptions of our moral obligations leave us sufficient space to be true to our own ideals and loves? Are there "morally tragic" cases in which we will do wrong no matter what? Do we 'moderns' have something to learn about virtue from the 'ancients'?

PHIL 4010 SEMINAR FOR MAJORS: 20th CENTURY ARISTOTELIAN [3]

Prof. Jech (W 3:30-6:00)

Action theory staged a resurgence during the latter half of the 20th century, becoming again an important topic of philosophical inquiry. Aristotelian action theory in particular received many able defenses, elaborations, and extensions, beginning with Elizabeth Anscombe and continuing until today through the work of Philippa Foot, Candace Vogler, Michael Thompson, Warren Quinn, and others.

In this course we shall examine some of Aristotelian action theory's most interesting contributions, especially those concerning intention, desire, pleasure, and deliberation (including weakness of will). We will focus on such questions as whether everything sought is sought under the aspect of the good, what the explanatory role of final ends is, how to think about desirability, whether the pleasure of reading good poetry and playing a good video game alike consists in an agent's active and wholehearted engagement with the activity, and whether a desire is like a grocer's shopping list.

Readings will include extended passages from Aristotle's *Ethics* and some of his commentators, but our main focus will be upon contemporary work and to a lesser extent, contemporary critics. Grades will be based primarily upon two papers.

**PHIL 4500-1 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY:
UNIVERSALS [3]**

Prof. Cargile (T R 9:30-10:45)

Readings on the traditional "problem of universals". These will include both traditional and contemporary sources. PHIL 242 or equivalent, plus upper division philosophy courses, such as Metaphysics (PHIL 331).

**PHIL 4500-2 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY:
PLATO'S AND ARISTOTLE'S ETHICS [3]**

Prof. Scott (W 6:00-8:30)

In this course we shall examine Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics. The course shall focus on the ethical theory of the Republic in order to compare it with the Nicomachean Ethics. Students will be expected to engage philosophically with both texts, as well as to be sensitive to issues of detailed interpretation.

**PHIL 4500-3 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY:
CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF CAUSATION [3]**

Prof. McDaniel (T R 3:30-4:45)

We all rely on causation. We use it to explain why things happened the way they did (the spark caused the explosion). We use it to impute responsibility (his actions caused her death). We use it as a means to bring about specific ends (her taking of the medication brought about her recovery). But what exactly is causation?

In this course we will examine some of the most prominent contemporary theories of causation. Among the theories discussed will be Humean regularity theories, counterfactual theories, physical process theories, agency and interventionist theories, and others. We will also deal with such questions as: Are any extant analyses of causation plausible? Is 'cause' a univocal concept? Is causation a real feature of the world?

PHIL 4990 HONORS PROGRAM [15]

Prof. Devereux

PHIL 4993 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH [3,3]

PHIL 4995 THESIS RESEARCH [3]

PHIL 5420 ADVANCED LOGIC [3]

Prof. Cargile (M W 1:00-2:15)

This course is designed to acquaint students with those central results in modern logic which have important philosophical implications. The topics covered may include the completeness and undecidability of first order logic; the notions of satisfaction and truth; Tarski's theorem on the undefinability of truth; the consequences of adding identity to first order logic; the Deduction Theorem and the differences between axiomatic and natural deduction formulations of logic; the Lowenheim-Skolem Theorem(s). The prerequisites for the course are either a) satisfactory completion of Philosophy 242 or its equivalent, or b) a demonstrated ability to follow abstract formal reasoning. The course requirements will include weekly homework assignments and a final examination.

**PHIL 5510-1 SEMINAR ON A PHILOSOPHICAL TOPIC:
HUME AND KANT ON ETHICS [3]**

Prof. Marshall (T 3:30-6:00)

We will discuss the moral theories of Hume and Kant.

PHIL 5760 GLOBAL JUSTICE, HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS [3]

Prof. Arras (F 9:30-12:00)

This seminar is motivated by a desire to expand the horizons of bioethics to include a set of important issues impacting global health. The focus will be on current work in political philosophy bearing on such issues as: the rationale and boundaries of political toleration; humanitarian and justice-based arguments for assistance to the "distant needy"; nationalism vs. cosmopolitanism; current philosophical perspectives on the objectives and measures of human development; and the proposed role of human rights as a transcultural *lingua franca* for international ethics. The major focal point of the seminar will be a prolonged and careful examination and assessment of John Rawls' last work, *The Law of Peoples*, and the responses of his critics on the libertarian right and the cosmopolitan left - e.g., Singer, Lomasky, Nagel, Pogge, Beitz, J. Cohen, Sen, Nussbaum, Daniels, Walzer, Shue, et al.

PHIL7350 SELF-KNOWLEDGE [3]

Prof. Gertler (M 4:00-6:30)

We will examine some leading controversies about self-knowledge, and consider how those controversies bear on questions about knowledge, the mind, personal identity, and action. Topics may include: Is there a particular faculty of *introspection*? Is introspection an especially reliable source of knowledge? Can it provide an epistemic foundation for other beliefs? Do we grasp our own beliefs by self-reflection, or by 'looking outward' to their objects? What, if anything, can introspection reveal about the metaphysical status of the mind? Does evidence gleaned from introspection shape how we understand the self? Is some degree of self-understanding required for rational agency? Readings will be taken from a variety of sources, including some or all of the following: Russell, Ryle, Alston, Evans, Burge, Boghossian, Shoemaker, Moran, Williamson. We may also read some empirical work on self-knowledge.

PHIL 7500 First Year Seminar [3]

Prof. Devereux (R 1:00-3:30)

Theme of course to be decided at later date.

PHIL 7510-1 TUTORIAL INSTRUCTION: DUTY TO OBEY THE LAW [3]

Prof. Simmons (T R 2:10-3:30)

This seminar will examine philosophical debates concerning the duty to obey the law (or political obligation) and the grounds for various kinds of legal disobedience. Readings will be from contemporary sources in political philosophy and legal theory, and we will consider arguments concerning (among other things) consent, fairness, justice, associative responsibilities, civil disobedience, conscientious refusal, and violent resistance.

PHIL 7750 WELL-BEING [3]

Prof. Ahktar (T 10:00-12:30)

In this class we will explore the related questions of: what makes a life go well; what contributes to flourishing; and, what counts as welfare. We will spend the majority of the semester studying the dominant accounts of the nature and sources of well-being, and then examine efforts to define and measure well-being in economic theory and social psychology.

PHIL 7995 SUPERVISED RESEARCH [3]

PHIL 8995 SUPERVISED RESEARCH [3]

PHIL 8998 NON-TOPICAL RESEARCH [3-12]

MASTER'S PREP

Prof. Gertler

Working towards an MA without an advisor.

PHIL 8999 NON-TOPICAL RESEARCH [3-12]

Thesis Advisor

Working towards an MA with an advisor.

PHIL 9998 NON-TOPICAL RESEARCH [3-12]

DOCTORAL PREP

Prof. Gertler

Working towards a PhD without an advisor.

PHIL 9999 NON-TOPICAL RESEARCH [3-12]

Dissertation Advisor

Working towards a PhD with an advisor.

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PPL 201 MORALITY, LAW AND THE STATE [3]

Prof. Lomasky (M W 6:00-7:15)

This is the gateway course to the PPL major and is open only to PPL students. It will survey issues concerning the legal requisites of a good society with special attention to the question of whether it is appropriate in a free society for the state to enforce penalties against "victimless crimes."