

GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Spring 2011

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

120 Cocke Hall, 924-7701

Graduate Advisor: Brie Gertler

Undergraduate Advisor: Rebecca Stangl

General Information

The Philosophy courses described in this booklet will be offered during the Spring 2011 semester. Although there are no formal prerequisites for most courses, the following guidelines may be helpful. Courses numbered between 1000 and 2000 are designed as a general introduction to philosophy. Courses between 2000 and 3000 can be taken without any prior preparation in philosophy, and tend to focus on rather more specific issues than 100-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 199 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 (200 or above) prior to application. For further information about the Program, consult *Undergraduate Programs in Philosophy* and/or see Daniel Devereux (207 Cocke).

Minoring 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 199-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 100-level, not more than 12 of which can be at the 200-level. Students in this program cannot satisfy the major's logic requirement with a 100-level course; and they must take the Seminar for Majors (PHIL 401 or 402), one Directed Reading and Research course (PHIL 493 or 494) which is aimed at preparing a thesis proposal, and the Senior Thesis course (PHIL 498). 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. Gertler (T R 1230-0120+ disc sec)

Introduces a broad spectrum of philosophical problems and approaches. Topics include basic questions concerning skepticism and the foundations of knowledge, freedom of the will, morality, and justice. Readings are drawn from classics in the history of philosophy and from contemporary sources.

PHIL 1410 FORMS OF REASONING [3]

Prof. Cargile (Sect 1: MW F 1100-1150)

Prof. Cargile (Sect 2: MW F 0100-0150)

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 1710 HUMAN NATURE [3]

Prof. Langsam (M W 1200-1250 + disc sec)

This course is concerned with the question of whether there are characteristics that all human beings have in common other than the obvious biological similarities. In particular, we shall address issues such as the following: 1) is rationality a part of human nature, and, if so, what is the nature of human rationality, and how does the rational part of human beings relate to their other characteristics? 2) what is the relation of human nature to morality: is it in the nature of human beings to act morally and/or to recognize moral obligations, or, on the contrary, are moral requirements in some sense contrary to our nature? 3) are human beings *social* animals: is it natural for human beings to live with others in societies and be governed by political institutions, or are such living arrangements contrary to our nature? Readings will include both contemporary and historical writers.

PHIL 1740 ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH [3]

Prof. Stangl (M W 1100-1150 + disc sect)

This course is an exploration, from the point of view of philosophical theory, of a number of ethical problems at the beginning and end of life. Questions to be addressed will include: What is the significance of death and the value of life? Under what conditions, if any, are abortion and euthanasia morally permissible? At what point ought we to discontinue medical treatment of the terminally ill, and who should be empowered to make this decision? Are we under any moral obligation to prevent the death of those threatened by hunger and easily treatable disease? (This course satisfies the requirement for an introductory course in the Bioethics Minor Program.)

PHIL 2000 INTERNSHIP IN PHILOSOPHY: TEACHING PHILOSOPHY IN HIGH SCHOOLS [2]

Professor Green (R 1100-1215)

Students will intern in area high schools to work with teachers in support of their teaching of philosophy. In preparation for

this, students will learn about the aims of the teachers with whom they intern, as well as the challenges they face. Students will support teachers with the construction of lesson plans, reading material, discussion material, discussion points, and paper topics.

Prerequisites: At least three courses in Philosophy at the 2000-level or above. [Note: Enrollment for this class will not take place until January 2011.]

PHIL 2060 PHIL PROBLEMS IN LAW [3]

Prof. Simmons (T R 1100-1150 + disc sec)

An examination and evaluation of some basic practices and principles of Anglo-American law. The course will focus on such problems as: the nature and extent of legal liability, strict liability statutes, "Good Samaritan" laws, the legal enforcement of community moral standards, and the justification of punishment and capital punishment. We will examine prominent legal cases and their underlying principles, but the emphasis will be on philosophical analysis and moral evaluation of the law in these areas.

There will be two lectures and one discussion section each week. Readings will be drawn from both classical and contemporary sources. Required written work will be two short papers, a midterm, and a final examination. This course is suitable for students who have done little or no previous work in philosophy.

PHIL 2120 HISTORY OF PHIL: MODERN [3]

Prof. LoLordo (M W 1000-1050 + disc sect)

This course will examine some topics and authors in 17th and 18th century philosophy. Topics include skepticism, realism vs idealism, the nature of space and time, personal identity and the presuppositions of knowledge. Figures studied include Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant.

This course is suitable for students who have done little or no previous work in philosophy.

PHIL 2330 COMPUTERS, MINDS, AND BRAINS [3]

Prof. Humphreys (M W 0900-0950 + disc sec)

Can computers think or have experiences roughly like ours? Over the last three decades different approaches to answering this question have been developed, including classical AI, neural nets, varieties of non-reductive physicalism, and neurophysiological eliminativism. All have something to say about what does and does not make humans special. The possibility also arises of transcending human nature and abilities using artificial intelligence and artificial life, rendering humans obsolete. These and other issues will be addressed through readings in philosophy, cognitive science, and computer science. No previous knowledge of philosophy is required. For course requirements see the course syllabus.

PHIL 2420 INTRO TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC [3]

Prof. Cargile (M W F 0900-0950 + 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 course will acquaint the student with the concepts of formula, proof, interpretation, and validity. There will be three open book take home tests and a final exam.

PHIL 2660 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION [3]

Prof. Merricks (T R 0930-1045+disc section)

This course will examine a number of different topics that have been of perennial interest to philosophers of religion and philosophical theologians. These topics include arguments for and against God's existence, the problem of evil, the relationship between human freedom and divine foreknowledge, and how to think about personal immortality and the nature of the human person. Restricted to 1st and 2nd yr students only.

***PHIL 3120 ARISTOTLE [3]**

Prof. Devereux (T R 0200-0315)

An introduction to the philosophy of Aristotle, focusing on the theories and ideas of lasting importance in the history of Western philosophy. Readings will be drawn from his works on metaphysics, theory of science, natural philosophy, ethics, and political philosophy.

***PHIL 3160 LOCKE, BERKELEY, HUME [3]**

Prof. LoLordo (M W 0200-0315)

We will focus on epistemological, psychological and metaphysical issues in the work of the famous British Empiricists" John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume. For example, we will discuss their answers to questions like: Do we have reason to believe the external world exists? Is causation objective or subjective? What is the self? What does personal identity consist in? We will start with Locke's formulation of the empiricist principle that all concepts and knowledge are derived from experience, and trace the development of that principle out as it leads Berkeley and Hume to more and more radical or counter-intuitive positions.

PHIL 3180 NIETZSCHE [3]

Prof. Langsam (M W 0200-0315)

Nietzsche, Nietzsche, and even more Nietzsche on life, truth, philosophy, art, morality, nihilism, values and their creation, will to power, eternal recurrence, and a lot of other good stuff. Readings will include *The Birth of Tragedy*, *The Gay Science*, *Beyond Good and Evil*, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, *Twilight of the Idols*, *The Antichrist*, and others.

PHIL 3320 EPISTEMOLOGY [3]

Prof. Gertler (T R 0330-0445)

We will examine classic and contemporary answers to a range of questions about knowledge, including the following. What is required for genuine *knowledge* as opposed to merely true belief? Do these requirements vary according to context or other factors? Does knowledge involve an awareness of *how* one knows? Can skepticism be refuted? Must it be refuted? Is knowledge intrinsically valuable, or does its value derive from its usefulness?

PHIL 3651 GENES, NATURE AND JUSTICE [3]

Prof. Akhtar (T R 1100-1215)

What is a human being? What is natural? What is a normal human society? Manipulation of the genome of humans and other animals raises a number of ethical, social and political challenges. This class will explore these challenges through philosophical argument. In particular, we will attempt to wrestle with such concepts as perfection, species boundaries, enhancement and cure, and address concerns about the 'natural course' of the human species and issues of fairness and justice that are raised by enhancement.

PHIL 3710 ETHICS [3]

Prof. Brewer (T R 0200-0315)

In this course, we will engage in an in-depth study of the ethical theories of Aristotle, Hume and Kant--three figures who continue to have an extremely powerful influence on contemporary philosophical discussions of ethics. The main themes of the course will include: the nature of practical reason, the place of particular and general judgments in practical deliberation, the nature and value of the virtues of character, and the source and content of the idea of right action.

***PHIL 3790 RESEARCH ETHICS [3]**

Prof. Arras (T R 0930-1045)

This course begins with the birth of contemporary bioethics in famous research scandals (the Nazi doctors, Tuskegee, etc.) and ends with some current problems in the ethics of clinical and public health research. In between, we shall focus primarily on the ethical problems posed by various controversial elements of the randomized controlled trial, the current "gold standard" of biomedical research. Is the most scientifically rigorous method for conducting research compatible with the interests and rights of patients in such trials? Answering this question requires sustained reflection upon such philosophical themes as the nature of consent, coercion, undue inducement, exploitation, vulnerability, and risk assessment. A significant portion of the syllabus will be devoted to versions of these themes in the challenging context of international research. What does justice require in terms of research design, post trial benefits, and ancillary treatment within trials when researchers from wealthy countries study health problems (e.g., HIV) in impoverished distant lands?

PHIL 4020 SEMINAR FOR MAJORS: ANCIENT AND MODERN [3]

Prof. Devereux (W 0130-0330)

The course will cover both moral and 'epistemic' relativism (relativity regarding standards of justification and rationality). We will begin with the classic ancient theory of relativism--the theory of Protagoras as presented in Plato's *Theaetetus*. We will consider Plato's critical treatment of relativism, as well as Aristotle's and later ancient philosophers'. In the second half of the semester we will focus on the modern revival of interest in relativism, beginning with a quick look at 'cultural relativism' as understood by anthropologists and then turning to recent philosophical debates concerning both moral and epistemic relativism. Requirements for the course: regular participation in seminar discussion, one or two seminar presentations, and a final term paper (12-15 pages).

PHIL 4500 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY[3]

Prof. Scott (W 0600-0830)

In this course we shall study three of Plato's most accessible dialogues, the Protagoras, Meno and Gorgias. These are all thought to come from the earlier phase of his career and to have been written close together. There is considerable thematic overlap between them, which makes them suitable to be studied as a group. All three dialogues show a particular interest in characterisation. We shall attempt to do justice to this dimension of his writing, with careful philosophical analysis of the principal arguments.

PHIL 4500 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: WELL-BEING AND ETHICS [3]

Prof. Akhtar (T 0200-0430)

In this class we will explore the related questions of: what makes a life go well; what contributes to flourishing; and, what counts as well-being. The majority of the semester will be spent studying the dominant accounts of the nature and sources of well-being. This will be followed by an examination of efforts to define and measure well-being in economics and psychology, especially in the context of global well-being and development.

PHIL 4990 HONORS PROGRAM [15]

Prof. Devereux

PHIL 4993 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH [3,3]

PHIL 4999 SENIOR THESIS [3]

Prof. Stangl

PHIL 5450 LANGUAGE AND LOGIC [3]

Prof. Green (T R 930-1045)

This course will examine, in light of classical readings and with the aid of the techniques of formal semantics and formal pragmatics, topics that have been given the most intense treatment: distinction between sense and reference, nature of meaning, relation between thought and language, etc.

PHIL 5460 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE [3]

Prof. Humphreys (M 0330-0600)

Science gives us a special kind of understanding of the world. This seminar will focus on some of the ways it does that, including scientific explanation, discoveries of causal relations, the use of different types and levels of representation, inductive inferences, a commitment to scientific realism, the use of formal theories, and so on. Requirements will include regular short papers and a research paper. Prerequisites: At least one of PHIL 2330, 2420, 2450, 3310, 3320, a strong science background, or instructor permission.

PHIL 5470 PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS [3]

Prof. Cargile (M W 0200-0315)

A comparison of various schools in the philosophy of mathematics (including logicism, formalism, and conceptualism) and their answers to such questions as "Do numbers exist?" and "How is mathematical knowledge possible?" Prerequisite: Some familiarity with quantifier logic such as PHIL 242 and permission of instructor.

PHIL 5510(1) SEM ON A PHILOSOPHICAL TOPIC

Prof. Secada/Scott (R 0130-0400)

The full and correct title of this course is 'Innatism in Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy'. The interest in innate knowledge and ideas began in ancient philosophy with Plato's theory of recollection, and persisted through later antiquity among the Hellenistics, the neo-Platonists and Augustine. This course will begin by examining some of the philosophically most significant contributions to innatism in this period.

PHIL 7520(1) SEM ON A PHILOSOPHICAL TOPIC: THOUGHT AND ACTION [3]

Prof. Brewer (R 0400-0630)

A look at different pictures of how thought makes itself practical by guiding or shaping action, with special attention to the relationship between conceptions of practical thought and conceptions of the subject matter of philosophical ethics.

PHIL 7520(2) SEM ON A PHILOSOPHICAL TOPIC: HELLENISTIC ETHICS [3]

Prof. Scott (R 0630-0900)

Most of this course will be devoted to examining the ethical theories of the Epicurean and Stoic schools, though we shall also discuss those of the Sceptics and the Peripatetics. Although the different schools had certain common assumptions (e.g. about the scope and nature of ethics), they had radically different answers to such questions as the definition of eudaimonia and the role of external goods in the ethical life. So, as well as trying to understand the development of thought within individual schools, we shall be particularly interested in the ongoing debate between them.

PHIL 7631 RIGHTS [3]

Prof. Simmons (T R 0210-0330)

This seminar will examine the nature of and possible justifications for claims of right. Readings will be from both classical and contemporary sources. The works we read will be authored principally by philosophers, with a few pieces by political and legal theorists.

PHIL 7720 CONTEMPORARY ETHICS [3]

Prof. Stangl (M 0100-0330)

A discussion of recent work on neo-Aristotelian naturalism (broadly construed). Authors to be discussed include Foot, Thompson, Thomson, and MacIntyre.

PHIL 7995 SUPERVISED RESEARCH [3]

PHIL 8510(1) SEMINAR ON A PHILOSOPHICAL TOPIC: DESCARTES' MEDITATIONS [3]

Prof. Secada (T 0400-0630)

This is a seminar on Descartes' *Meditations*. By closely reading the text of the *Meditations*, this seminar will study the metaphysics and epistemology of René Descartes (1596-1650). Topics that will be covered include: skepticism and the Cartesian circle; the cogito; the reflection on a piece of wax; ideas and their material falsity; the proofs of the existence of God; causation; the individuation, essence and existence of substances; the distinction and relation between a mind and a body. Descartes's thought will be examined in its Late Scholastic historical context, particularly the philosophy of Francisco Suárez (1548-1617), but consideration will also be given to Descartes's influence on subsequent philosophers, such as Spinoza, Malebranche, Leibniz, Berkeley and Hume. Requirements will include a term paper, seminar presentations, and short written summaries and discussions.

PHIL 8510(2) SEMINAR ON A PHILOSOPHICAL TOPIC: VAGUENESS [3]

Prof. Merricks (T 0130-0400)

We shall read the book *VAGUENESS* by Timothy Williamson,

and a lot of articles on vagueness and related topics. This course satisfies the second logic requirement.

PHIL 8995 SUPERVISED RESEARCH [3]

PHIL 8999 NON-TOPICAL RESEARCH [3-12]

Thesis Advisor/Working towards an MA..

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.