

SUMMER SESSION I

**June 25 – August
3, 2007**



PHILOSOPHY 5

CRITICAL REASONING

Lucas Halpin

TWR 7:30-9:45 A.M., 233 Wellman

CRN: 58880

TEXTS:

Critical Thinking, Moore and Parker

Dialogues on Natural Religion, Hume

COURSE CONTENT: Emphasis will be on the development of various critical skills, e.g., identifying the structure of arguments, recognizing deductive or inductive validity of various arguments, detecting fallacies, and applying critical reasoning in everyday life and across various fields (e.g. science, philosophy, politics, and ethics). Special topics of discussion will include the war in Iraq, and arguments for the existence of God.

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers, one midterm, and one final.

PREREQUISITES: None

GE CREDIT: Writing Experience

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PHILOSOPHY 5

CRITICAL REASONING

Gina Calderone

TWR 5:10-7:25 P.M., 212 Wellman

CRN: 58881

TEXTS:

Critical Thinking, Moore and Parker

A Rulebook for Arguments, 3rd ed., Anthony Weston

COURSE CONTENT: Emphasis will be on the development of various critical skills, e.g., identifying the structure of arguments, recognizing deductive validity or inductive strength of various arguments, detecting fallacies, and applying critical reasoning in everyday life and across various fields (e.g. science, philosophy, politics, and ethics). Special emphasis

is placed on practical techniques for identifying the source of two-party disagreements, and how to argue effectively for positions.

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers, homework and in-class exercises, and a final exam.

PREREQUISITES: None

GE CREDIT: Writing Experience

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PHILOSOPHY 13 **Minds, Brains, and Computers**
David Byrd
MTWR 10:00-11:40 A.M., 1128 Hart
CRN: 58883

TEXT: *Minds, Brains, and Computers*, Robert Cummins
and Denise Cummins

COURSE CONTENT: This is an entry level course in the foundations of mind science. It asks the questions, "What would it take to construct a genuine science of the mind, what would be the structure of such a science, what would it explain, and how would it explain it? The material lies at the interface of philosophy of mind on the one hand, and neuroscience, artificial intelligence/life, and cognitive psychology and anthropology on the other (the "cognitive sciences" as usually construed). It thus introduces the student to a variety of scientific material related to the mind, with an eye to gaining a critical understanding to how such materials should or do constrain our conception of the mind and its place in evolution and natural order.

REQUIREMENTS: Three short papers, 3-4 pages each, worth 25% each. A final examination worth 25% is also required.

PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy recommended.

PHILOSOPHY 15

BIOETHICS

Jonathan Dorsey
TWR 12:40–2:20 P.M., 233 Wellman
CRN: 58884

TEXT: *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 5th edition, Rachels
Bioethics, 2nd edition, Kuhse and Singer

COURSE CONTENT: The course is designed to give students practice with reasoning in a philosophical way about ethical issues. We will first examine some “normative” ethical views, which are specific to no particular ethical issue. We will then spend the rest of the course on topics in biomedical ethics, which, to name a few, range from the cloning of humans, to the selling of kidneys, to physician-assisted suicide.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers (4-5 pages each), and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: One previous course in philosophy.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts and Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 21

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT

Regina Milano
TWR 5:10-7:25 P.M., 1128 Hart
CRN: 61269

TEXTS: *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*, 3rd edition, edited by S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, & C. D. C. Reeve.
Additional readings will be provided in class.

COURSE CONTENT: This course is designed to acquaint students with key issues in ancient Greek philosophy. We will focus primarily upon the Presocratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Hellenistic philosophy will also be introduced.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly written assignments, a mid-length paper, a midterm, and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Art and Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 38 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

Nate Smith

TWR 7:40-9:55 P.M., 115 Wellman

CRN: 58885

TEXTS: *Philosophy of Biology*, 2nd edition, Elliott Sober

COURSE CONTENT: The focus of this course will be a detailed examination of some of the key concepts of evolutionary theory. What *is* evolutionary theory and how does it work? What is fitness? What are the objects on which natural selection operates? What should we make of “adaptationist” explanations? What are species and how should we classify living things? Time permitting, we may also take a look at some ethical issues related to thinking about the biological world. We will approach all of these topics in a non-technical way that assumes no prior background in either biology or philosophy.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades will be based on class participation, short weekly writing assignments, and a final exam.

PREREQUISITES: None.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts and Humanities, Writing Experience.

PHILOSOPHY 103 **PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**
David Byrd
MTWR 12:10-1:50 P.M., 1130 Bainer
CRN: 58886

TEXTS: *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, edited by David J. Chalmers

COURSE CONTENT: This course will cover three of the main topics in the philosophy of mind. First, the mind/body problem: What is the relation between mental and physical events? Is one a kind of the other? Are they distinct? Second, and closely related to the first, consciousness: how does consciousness fit into our modern materialistic view of the world? Third, mental content: what determines the contents of our out thoughts? How are our thoughts about something else? These and related questions will be addressed in this survey course.

REQUIREMENTS: Two 5-page papers: 33% each
Final exam: 34%.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Art & Humanities, Writing Experience.

PHILOSOPHY 105 **PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**
Dennis Holden
TWR 10:00–12:15 P.M., 105 Olson
CRN: 58887

TEXT: *Philosophy of Religion*, 4th edition, Louis P. Pojman

COURSE CONTENT: We will begin the course by examining the possibility of an afterlife. We shall then focus on the existence of a supreme being (God), considering first reasons for accepting the view that such a being exists and then reasons for rejecting this view. Finally, we shall examine the interplay between “faith” and “reason.”

REQUIREMENTS: Two mid-term exams and a final examination.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy is recommended.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience
