UC Davis Philosophy Department
Expanded Course Descriptions
Summer Session II, 2008

PHILOSOPHY 1 **INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**
Greg Damico
10:00-12:15p.m., 229 Wellman
CRN: 78939

TEXT — Sober, Elliott, *Core Questions in Philosophy: A Text with Readings* (5th ed.)

COURSE CONTENT — This course is designed to introduce students to the major themes, problems and methods of philosophy in the Western tradition, with a special emphasis on the contemporary analytic approach. Students will explore questions about the nature of morality, knowledge, truth etc., not with an eye towards answering them definitively, but rather with the goal of learning how to read a philosophical text, how to make sense of philosophical theories and how to evaluate the argumentation that claimed to support them.

REQUIREMENTS — Two mid-length papers, an optional midterm, and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE — None

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

PHILOSOPHY 5 **CRITICAL REASONING**
Ian Spencer
TWR 7:30-9:45 a.m., Wellman 233
CRN 78940

TEXTS: *Critical Thinking,* 8th edition, Moore and Parker

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

REQUIREMENTS: Regular short assignments, quizzes, a medium-length paper, and a final.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 5 **CRITICAL REASONING**
Nicholas Diehl
TWR 7:40-9:55 p.m., Wellman 233
CRN 78940

TEXTS: *Critical Thinking: An Introduction*, Alec Fisher; *On Bullshit*, Harry Frankfurt; *On Truth*, Harry Frankfurt. Recommended: *Truth*, edited by Blackburn and Simmons.

COURSE CONTENT: This course is designed to change the way you read and think. Most of us read for factual information and are prone to a variety of fallacies in our thinking. We will study the nature of arguments and learn to read for reasons and conclusions and to think clearlyand carefully. Along the way we will look at a variety of contemporary debates in ethics, politics, and popular culture.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly short written assignments and active participation in workshops, a midterm, and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

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

PHILOSOPHY 12 **INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC**
Erik Johnson
TWR 5:10-7:25p.m., 233 Wellman
CRN: 78942

TEXT: *A Concise Introduction to Logic,* by Patrick Hurley

COURSE CONTENT: Philosophy 12 will introduce you to the elements of formal deductive logic. Understanding of this material is essential for work in philosophy. It has broad application for work in computer science and mathematics. And many students preparing for work in law and other areas where use of formal reasoning plays an important role find this material useful. More generally this course will show you, by example, what is involved in having a formal theory of a subject matter, in this case a formal theory of deductive reasoning.
More specifically, the course will train you in the language of formal sentence logic and its proof techniques. Subjects will include sentence logic syntax and semantics, truth tables, laws of logical

equivalence, transcription between English and sentence logic, the concept of argument validity, and methods of proof. If time allows, we will have a short introduction to predicate logic at the end of thecourse.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly quizzes and a final exam.

PHILOSOPHY 13 **Minds, Brains, and Computers**
Jonathan Dorsey
MTWR 12:10-1:50 p.m., 101 Olson
CRN 81130

TEXTS: This class is officially "readingless". A recommended textbook is *Mind Design II*, edited by John Haugeland. Other recommended readings will be placed on reserve at the library.

COURSE CONTENT: We will explore three questions in the philosophy of mind, with emphasis on the last two: Is the mind just the brain? Is the human mind/brain a computer? Can normal computers, perhaps with some modification, have minds?

REQUIREMENTS: A midterm, one 3-4 page paper, and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: One other course in philosophy recommended but not required.

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

PHILOSOPHY 14 **Ethical and Social Problems in Contemporary Society**
David J. Gilbert
TWR 12:40-2:55, 229 Wellman
CRN 78943

TEXTS: Contemporary Moral Problems (9th ed.), James White. Additional readings will be provided in class.

COURSE CONTENT: This course will be a fast-paced study of various contemporary moral issues. The following topics (as well as others) may be covered: abortion, liberty and drug use, the moral status of animals, war and terrorism, euthanasia, and torture. The aim of the course will not be to resolve these difficult moral issues! It will be to teach you how to think more critically and carefully, to distinguish good arguments from bad ones, so that you are in a better position to begin to decide for yourself which answers really make the most sense. As we discuss these issues, special emphasis will be placed on questions about

the proper relationship between legal and moral duties.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers (3-5 pages), a midterm and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

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

PHILOSOPHY 30 **PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**
Dana Goswick
TWR 5:10-7:25 p.m., Wellman 229
CRN 78944

TEXTS: *Philosophy of Science: A Very Short Introduction,* Samir Okasha
Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, Peter Godfrey-Smith
Coursepack

COURSE CONTENT: The focus of the course will be on the Scientists' Philosophers and the Philosophers' Scientists. First we'll examine the views of the three philosophers which were most influential in the development of 20th century American science: Karl Popper, Thomas Kuhn, and Bas van Fraassen. Then we'll examine three scientific developments which were influential in the development of 20th century Analytic Philosophy. In biology, we'll focus on Darwin's theory of evolution. In chemistry, we'll focus on Mendeleev's periodic table. In physics, we'll focus on the Bohr-Einstein debates concerning quantum mechanics. Our goal will be to ascertain how well the philosophical models of science we've studies (those of Popper, Kuhn, and van Fraassen) mesh with science as actually practiced (by Darwin, Mendeleev, Bohr, and Einstein).

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly quizzes. Two papers (5-7 pages). Occasional in-class projects.

PREREQUISITE: None

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

PHILOSOPHY 101 **METAPHYSICS**
Joel I. Friedman
MTWR 10:00-11:40 a.m., Olson 261
CRN: 78947

TEXTS: *Elements of Metaphysics,* W.R. Carter

	Contemporary Metaphysics, M. Jubien Course Reader
COURSE CONTENT:	We shall deal with central metaphysical topics in the following order: mind and body; substance and sum; part and whole; identity and change; personal identity and God; the nature of numbers; Platonism and anti-Platonism; properties and relations; possibility, necessity, and atuality. Considered also are views on the natrue and method of metaphysics itself, as well as anti metaphysical theories.
REQUIREMENTS:	One 2-page practice paper, two 5-page pers, and an in-class final exam.
PREREQUISITE:	One previous course in Philosophy is recommended. Philosophy 101 is not open to first-quarter freshmen.
G.E. CREDIT:	Art and Humanities, Writing Experience.