

**EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
UC DAVIS PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
FALL, 2006**

PHILOSOPHY 1 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Michael Glanzberg
MWF 10:00-10:50a.m., 123 SCILEC
CRNs: 36525-36536

TEXT: *Reason and Responsibility*, J. Feinberg & R.
Shafer-Landau (12th edition)

COURSE CONTENT: The course will introduce students to philosophy through an examination of some of the most important writings in the Western tradition concerning reality, knowledge and morality. Students will learn how to read a philosophical text, so that they can comprehend philosophical theories and evaluate the argumentation supporting them. There will be significant writing assignments in which these skills will be put to use.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

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

PHILOSOPHY 12 INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC
Paul Teller
MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., 119 Wellman
CRNs: 36537 & 36538

TEXT: *A Modern Formal Logic Primer*, Volume I, by
Paul Teller.
Course Reader, answer manual and other

materials.

All available free on the web or at Classical Notes.

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. We will have a short introduction to predicate logic at the end of the course.

REQUIREMENTS: There will be problem sets approximately once a week. There will be in class exams every other week.

PHILOSOPHY 21

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT

Jan Szaif

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m., 119 Wellman

CRNs: 36541 & 36542

TEXT: Readings in Ancient Philosophy, compiled by J. Szaif

COURSE CONTENT: This course introduces students to the main themes and problems of ancient Greek philosophy, as found in the Pre-Socratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenistic philosophers.

REQUIREMENTS: Participation, two short papers, mid-term and final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

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

PHILOSOPHY 38 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

Roberta Millstein

TR 1:40-3:00 p.m., 115 Hutchison

CRNs: 43262 & 43263

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: TBA

REQUIREMENTS: TBA

PREREQUISITE: None

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

PHILOSOPHY 101 METAPHYSICS

Cody Gilmore

TR 12:10 pm -1:30 p.m., 119 Wellman

CRNs: 36581 & 36582

TEXT: *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, 2nd Ed., Michael J. Loux, (Routledge: 2002).

Other readings to be determined.

COURSE CONTENT: Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that poses the most general questions about the world. Many of these questions concern what there is: Is there, in addition to all the red things, the color red? Are there, in addition to sub-atomic particles arranged in various ways, larger objects *composed* of these particles? Other metaphysical questions concern the nature of the world and our place in it: what makes me the same person as the young child born to my parents? Which of my properties, if any, are *essential* to me in the sense that anything that lacked them couldn't be me? What is the nature of possibility and necessity more generally?

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final exam. Other assignments to be determined.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy.

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

PHILOSOPHY 102 THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE
Jonathan Vogel
MW 2:10-4:00p.m., 107 Cruess
CRNs: 36583 & 36584

TEXT: *Epistemology*, Richard Feldman
Course pack

COURSE CONTENT: The course will be an overview of the main issues in contemporary theory of knowledge. Questions to be discussed include: What is knowledge? What justifies our beliefs about the world? Can we know anything about the future and the past?

REQUIREMENTS: Two five-page papers and a final examination.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy

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

PHILOSOPHY 103

PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Bernard Molyneux

TR 10:30-11:50 a.m., 212 Wellman

CRN: 43269

TEXT:

Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings, David Chalmers (ed.)

Contemporary Philosophy of Mind, Georges Rey

Course Reader

COURSE CONTENT: This course is designed to give a first taste of philosophy of mind to those new or nearly new to the topic. The contemporary philosophical literature on the nature of the mind is vast and fascinating and we will barely have a chance to scratch the surface. However, students will gain some understanding of the main metaphysical theories of mind and their major strengths and weaknesses. They will learn why most philosophers now reject the once dominant idea of a soul, and why the main naturalistic alternatives (Mind-Brain Identity and Functionalism) are nonetheless controversial. We will focus on issues most likely to interest those new to the topic: these include all or some of the following. The possibility of thinking machines, freedom of the will in a world of causes, the puzzle of mental representation and the nature of consciousness.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades are based on two papers (30%) and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

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

PHILOSOPHY 109 PHILOSOPHY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Paul Teller

MWF 12:10-1:00p.m., 106 Olson

CRNs: 43266 & 43267

TEXTS:

Required:

Philosophy of Social Science, Second Edition,
by Alexander Rosenberg

Course Reader

Optional:

Optional Course reader

COURSE CONTENT: The course will explore the nature of the social sciences: What do they study: How do they carry out these studies? In what way do typical activities practiced by social sciences count as science? What are the similarities and differences with the physical and life sciences? More specific topics will include: Behaviorism and its difficulties. In what way are considerations of meaning and signification integral to the subject matter of social sciences? Holism vs. individualism. Moral issues connected with the conduct of social sciences. More generally the course will use the subject matter of the social sciences to learn the methods of analytic philosophy in clarifying and illuminating important concepts and practices.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will write a short paper every other week. There will be an in class mid term and an in class final.

PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy or a social science.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities or Social Science, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 131 PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS

Michael Glanzberg
MWF 2:10-3:00 p.m., 229 Wellman
CRN: 43268

TEXT: *Thinking about Mathematics*, Stewart Shapiro
Philosophy of Mathematics: Selected Readings, ed. Paul Benacerraf and Hilary Putnam

COURSE CONTENT: We will examine the nature of mathematical objects such as numbers and sets, how we can come to have knowledge of those objects, and the status of mathematical truth. Readings will be drawn from classical and contemporary sources.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: Course 12 or one course for credit in mathematics.

PHILOSOPHY 160 PRE-SOCRATICS

Michael Wedin
TR 1:40-3:00 p.m., 229 Wellman
CRN: 36588

TEXT: *The Pre-Socratic Philosophers*, Kirk, Raven & Schofield

COURSE CONTENT: The course will examine the central doctrines and themes of the major pre-Socratic philosophers.

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 21

PHILOSOPHY 168 DESCARTES

G. J. Matthey

MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m., 103 Wellman

CRN: 43833

TEXT: *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Vols. I and II, tr. Cottingham, Stoothoff, Murdoch

COURSE CONTENT: An intensive examination of the philosophical works of Descartes, including *Rules for the Direction of the Mind*, *Discourse on Method*, *Meditations*, *Principles of Philosophy*, *Passions of the Soul*, and excerpts from other writings. Special attention will be paid to the extent to which Descartes' philosophical doctrines are related to his scientific theorizing.

REQUIREMENTS: Two five-page papers (30% each), final examination (40%).

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 22N or the equivalent.

G.E. CREDIT: None.

PHILOSOPHY 189J TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Adam Sennet

MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., 2275 Soc Sci

CRN: 43839

TEXT: *A Reader*, Gary Ostertag

COURSE CONTENT: This class will focus on some modern work on descriptions, continuing some themes from the intro to Philosophy of Language class. Some issues will include the alleged referential-attributive ambiguity, the familiarity/novelty conditions and whether or not indefinite and definite descriptions are semantically distinct or simply differ in presuppositional status.

REQUIREMENTS: One midterm exam, one final paper.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy or linguistics.

G.E. CREDIT: None.

PHILOSOPHY 194HA/HB HONORS RESEARCH PROJECT
The Staff (Chairperson in Charge)
To be announced.

TEXTS: Depends on course content.

COURSE CONTENT: Students ordinarily will take a graduate seminar in philosophy, though an individual project may be developed in consultation with a faculty member. (In any case students must enroll in Philosophy 194HA or 194HB if 194HA has been completed.

PREREQUISITE: Enrollment is restricted to members of the honors program in philosophy.
Consent of instructor.

HONORS PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the honors program in philosophy requires meeting the following criteria:

1. major in philosophy,
2. completion of at least 135 units,
3. cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 in the courses counted toward the major.
4. cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 in the upper division philosophy courses taken.

approval by the major adviser, Dr. G. J. Matthey (752-0609).

PHILOSOPHY 202 THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

Jonathan Vogel
 T 3:10-6:00p.m., 2275 SSH
 CRN: 43840

TEXT: Packet of readings.

COURSE CONTENT: We will discuss contemporary responses to the problem of skepticism about the external world, with an emphasis on “internalist” approaches.

REQUIREMENTS: Seminar presentation, term paper, class participation.

PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing in philosophy or permission of instructor.

G. E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 217 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Gerald Dworkin
 R 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH
 CRN: 43270

TEXT: *The Difficulty of Tolerance: Essays in Political Philosophy*, Scanlon

COURSE CONTENT: We will examine the writings of Tim Scanlon on a number of topics in political philosophy. These will include: freedom of speech, rights and fairness, contractualism, tolerance, inequality, promises and punishment.

REQUIREMENTS: There will be a short (2-4pp) paper due each week. No final paper.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

**PHILOSOPHY 290 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY:
EXTERNAL WORLD SKEPTICISM IN
MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

G. J. Matthey
M 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 43841

TEXT: Course Reader

COURSE CONTENT: Descartes was the first Western philosopher to seek a proof of the existence of objects outside our thought. More than a century later, Kant proclaimed it a “scandal to philosophy” that a satisfactory proof had not yet been given.

We will look at various attempts from Descartes to Kant to prove that an external world exists, as well as skeptical arguments against the possibility of such a proof. Other philosophers to be examined are Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Reid, and perhaps others.

Readings will be from primary and secondary sources.

REQUIREMENTS: Seminar presentation (40%), term paper (60%).

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing in philosophy or permission of instructor.

G.E. CREDIT: None.