

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

**PHILOSOPHY 1            INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
Michael Glanzberg  
MWF 10:00-10:50a.m., 176 Everson  
CRNs: 86179-86186

TEXT:                    *Reason and Responsibility*, J. Feinberg & R.  
Shafer-Landau (12<sup>th</sup> 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:    None

PREREQUISITE:        None

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 5            CRITICAL REASONING**  
Andrew Hamilton  
TR 9:00-10:20 a.m.,  
CRNs: 93170-93175

TEXTS:                 *Informal Logic: A Handbook for Critical  
Argument*, Walton  
*On Bullshit*, Frankfurt

*Your Call is Important to Us: The Truth About Bullshit*, Penny  
*The Evasion English Dictionary*, Balistreri

**COURSE CONTENT:** Much of the information and many of the arguments we hear on the news, in product advertisements, and from politicians are faulty, unintentionally misleading, or purposely deceptive. The practical consequences of bad information and unjustified conclusions range from humorous and mostly harmless to catastrophic and not funny at all. In this course, we will learn to evaluate information, claims to fact, and arguments in an attempt to be informed consumers, better participants in civil society, and more careful decision makers in daily life. We will give attention to discussion and debate in informal as well as formal contexts.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Several short writing assignments, quizzes, mid-term, final

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**G.E. CREDIT:** Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 22N**

**HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: EARLY MODERN**

G. J. Matthey

TR 10:30-11:50 a.m., 166 Chemistry

CRNs: 86193 & 86194

**TEXTS:** *Readings in Modern Philosophy*, Vols. I & II,  
Ariew and Watkins  
*Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*,  
Kant

**COURSE CONTENT:** The course will survey the main trends and thinkers in the first two centuries of the modern period. Most of the course will be devoted to Descartes, Locke, Hume, and Kant. Other philosophers to be covered in less detail are Spinoza, Leibniz, and Berkeley. The main issues arising in this period include the nature and extent of human knowledge, the composition of the physical world and of the human mind (and the relation between the two), the existence of God, and human freedom. Readings will be from the original writings of the philosophers. Papers will require exposition and interpretation of those writings.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Two 5-page papers, final examination, discussion participation.

**PREREQUISITE:** None

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 32 UNDERSTANDING SCIENTIFIC CHANGE**

Jim Griesemer  
TR 1:40-3:00 p.m.  
CRNs: 93168 & 93169

**TEXTS:** *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*,  
Thomas Kuhn  
*The Fate of Knowledge*, Helen Longino

**COURSE CONTENT:** Thomas Kuhn, in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962), famously argued that then popular philosophical concepts of the nature and structure of scientific theories, scientific knowledge, and scientific change did not account for the actual practice of science. He argued for a different picture, based on his

concepts of “paradigm,” “normal science” and “revolutionary science” applied to case studies from the history of astronomy, physics and chemistry. (We’ll supplement with discussion of other sciences as well, e.g. biology).

In an equally famous postscript, Kuhn argued for a “social” or “community” view of paradigms and scientific knowledge production. This view of knowledge seemed to open the door to “relativism” — the idea that knowledge rests with human invention rather than the true, objective nature of reality. Kuhn’s ideas provoked decades of debate about the nature of scientific knowledge, trading on the fact that traditional attempts to say what knowledge must be (to count as knowledge rather than mere opinion or belief) seem not to accurately describe science, while theories of the social character of science seem to imply either that science doesn’t yield knowledge or that traditional normative accounts of knowledge fail. Helen Longino’s recent book, *The Fate of Knowledge*, takes up the challenge of producing an epistemology that is both accurate on the social character of science and on the normative force and pluralistic character of knowledge.

**REQUIREMENTS:** In this offering of Philosophy 32, we will read Kuhn’s *Structure* and Longino’s *Fate* and examine their arguments that science is social and that it produces genuine knowledge. Students will write three short papers during the quarter: one on Kuhn, one on Longino, and one integrative, each worth 25% of the course grade. The final exam will also be worth 25%.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

GE CREDIT: Arts and Humanities or Science and Engineering, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 108 PHILOSOPHY OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Andrew Hamilton  
TR 12:10 – 1:30 p.m.  
CRNs: 93179 & 93180

TEXTS: *Evolution*, Ridley  
*On the Origin of Species*, Darwin  
Internet Resources

COURSE CONTENT: This course offers a philosophical and historical look at the biological sciences. We will focus on issues involving evolutionary theory, species concepts, systematics, developmental biology, and ecology, as well as on connections between biology and human values. We will also critically examine the intelligent design movement and some of its implications for science and politics.

REQUIREMENTS: Several short papers, intellectual participation, term paper, mid-term exam, final exam.

PREREQUISITES: None

G.E. CREDIT: Arts and Humanities or Science and Engineering, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 113 ADVANCED LOGIC**

G. J. Matthey  
MWF 12:10 – 2:00 p.m., 103 Wellman  
CRN: 93176

TEXT: *Metalogic*, Geoffrey Hunter

COURSE CONTENT: The metalogic of classical propositional and first-order predicate logic. Proofs of consistency, soundness and completeness. Time permitting, proof of the undecidability of first-order predicate logic.

REQUIREMENTS: Several exams.

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 112

G.E. CREDIT: None

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## **PHILOSOPHY 118**

## **POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

Stefan Sciaraffa

MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., 216 Wellman

CRNs: 93177 & 93178

TEXT: *A Theory of Justice*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., John Rawls.

*Liberals and Communitarians*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Stephen Mulhall and Adam Swift.

Coursepack of readings.

COURSE CONTENT: Much of contemporary political philosophy can be understood as a response to John Rawls's Theory of Justice. In this course, we will explore the basic arguments of *A Theory of Justice* and one line of response, the communitarian critique marshaled by Michael Walzer, Charles Taylor, Michael Sandel, and Alisdair MacIntyre. Rawls develops a liberal theory of justice within the contract tradition. Communitarians level a number of charges against this theory. (1) It relies on an implausible conception of the person; (2) It fails to appreciate the social nature of

persons' ends; (3) It is insufficiently attentive to cultural differences between the various societies it purports to regulate; (4) It has an implausibly subjectivist conception of persons' ends, and; (5) It's purported neutrality with respect to conceptions of the good is untenable. If time permits, we will also discuss a number of liberal responses to the communitarian challenge. We will read much of *A Theory of Justice* to come to terms with Rawls's view. We will rely on Mulhall and Swift and a small number of readings (in the coursepack) to come to terms with the communitarian critique and liberal responses.

REQUIREMENTS: Two seven-page papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy.

G.E. CREDIT: Social Sciences, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 119**

**PHILOSOPHY OF LAW**

Stefan Sciaraffa

MWF 2:10-3:00 p.m., 2 Wellman

CRNs: 86233-86238

TEXTS: *Concept of Law, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, H.L.A. Hart  
Coursepack of readings.

COURSE CONTENT: We will explore a number of classic issues in the philosophy of law revolving around how judges decide cases and how they ought to decide them. We might describe what judges do as the identification and application of the rules and principles of the relevant legal system. We will explore the view of one set of authors, American legal realists, who seem to reject such a description. These authors argue that rules and principles of the legal system

play little or no role in guiding judge's decisions. We will also explore the work of a number of authors who accept this description but who disagree on how to answer the following questions: How do and how should judges determine what the rules and principles of the legal system are? How should they apply such rules? On what basis should they decide a case when the rules and principles of the legal system specify no clear resolution to the case? In such cases, do judges legislate from the bench? We will explore and contrast a number of answers to these questions, including those provided by soft positivists (Hart and Coleman), hard positivists (Raz, Marmor, and Shapiro), natural law theorists (John Finnis), and Ronald Dworkin's theory of adjudication. We will read much of *Hart's Concept of Law*. The coursepack will contain quite a few readings, perhaps 15 or so.

- REQUIREMENTS: Two seven-page papers and a final exam.
- PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy.
- G.E. CREDIT: Social Sciences, Diversity, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 162**

**ARISTOTLE**

Michael Wedin  
TR 1:40-3:00 p.m., 7 Wellman  
CRN: 86244

TEXT: *A New Aristotle Reader*, John Ackill

COURSE CONTENT: This course introduces the student to some of the main doctrines and theories of Aristotle in semantics, scientific explanation, ontology,

and metaphysics. Format is lecture – discussion.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final examination.

PREREQUISITES: Philosophy 21 or consent of the instructor.

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 203**

**PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

Karen Neander  
R 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH  
CRN: 93181

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: TBA

REQUIREMENTS: TBA

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

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**PHILOSOPHY 275**

**KANT**

Henry Allison  
W 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH  
CRN: 86311

TEXT: *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant, Practical Philosophy*, Mary Gregor  
*Kant's Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, Critical Essays*, Paul Guyer

COURSE CONTENT: This seminar is intended as a graduate level introduction to Kant's moral theory. It will focus mainly on Kant's Groundwork, supplement by materials from other writings and selected secondary sources. Some prior acquaintance with Kant's theoretical philosophy is highly desirable but not required.

REQUIREMENTS: Probably a seminar presentation and a term paper.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.