

**Expanded Course Descriptions  
UC Davis Philosophy Department  
Winter, 2006**

**PHILOSOPHY 1            INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

G. J. Matthey  
MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., 2 Wellman  
CRNs: 66426-66433

TEXT:                    *Classics of Western Philosophy*, Steven M. Cahn (6<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: Two five-page papers, final examination, discussion section participation.

PREREQUISITE: None

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 5            CRITICAL REASONING**

Andrew Hamilton  
MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m., 179 Chemistry  
CRNs: 66434-66437

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 14      ETHICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

Stefan Sciaraffa  
MWF 2:10-3:00 p.m., 176 Everson  
CRNs: 66438-66443

**TEXTS:** *Ethics for Adversaries*, Arthur Applbaum  
*World Poverty and Human Rights*, Thomas Pogge  
Coursepack of readings

**COURSE CONTENT:** We will discuss two separate issues in this course: (1) license to be immoral and (2) international distributive justice. The first issue is centered around the claim that persons occupying a particular role, such as lawyer, campaign manager, or public official have moral license as occupants of such a role to engage in unjust or deceitful practices that harm others. We will discuss a number of arguments for and against this claim in general and in particular contexts. In the second part of the course, we will discuss some contemporary debates about the obligation of persons in wealthy countries to alleviate poverty among those in the developing world. We will critically evaluate a number of purported justifications of this obligation. And we will discuss some different conceptions of human rights that have been offered relating to these issues. This will require us to examine the basis of the nation state in the international order and the extent to which people are morally required to help those who are not fellow citizens.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Two 5-page papers and a cumulative final.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 15**

**BIOETHICS**

Matt Haber

TR 9:00–10:20 a.m., 100 Hunt

CRN: 73284-73289

**TEXTS:** *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, James Rachels

*Bioethics and the New Embryology:  
Springboards For Debate*, Gilbert, Tyler, and  
Zackin  
*On Bullshit*, Frankfurt  
*A Rulebook for Arguments*, Weston

**COURSE CONTENT:** A study of the ethical issues that arise in the practice of medicine, the study of human biology, and other biological practices. Typical topics will include end-life-issues, patient autonomy, cloning, paternalism, research ethics and environmental ethics. The class will consider topical debates concerning bioethical issues. A broad overview of ethical theories will also be included.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Several short papers (1 page each), one to two mid-length papers (4-7 pages), and a final exam.

**PREREQUISITE:** None

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 31      APPRAISING SCIENTIFIC REASONING**

Andrew Hamilton  
MWF 1100-11:50 a.m., 1150 Hart  
CRNs: 73292 & 73293

**TEXT:** None

**COURSE CONTENT:** Reasoning and decision making are two of the most important activities we engage in, but we don't always do them in the best manner. This course asks what constitutes good reasoning in science by considering the following questions: (1) What makes for a good piece of reasoning in science? (2) Can

you ever be absolutely certain of the truth or falsity of a scientific hypothesis? (3) How objective is observation and how can we avoid making mistakes in perception? (4) What might we learn by systematic observation? (5) When can we learn from discovering correlations and how can we avoid illusory correlations? (6) What does it take to establish a causal relationship? (7) What are mechanisms and how do scientists discover them?

REQUIREMENTS: Regular homework, short writing assignments, final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Art and Humanities, Science and Engineering

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**PHILOSOPHY 38**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY**

Andrew Hamilton

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

CRNs: 66444 & 66445

TEXTS: *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin  
*Sex and Death*, Sterelny and Griffiths  
*At Home in the Universe*, Kauffman

COURSE CONTENT: We will take an extended look at a set of issues that arise from thinking carefully about evolution: What are species? How should we classify them? What is evolutionary theory and how does it work? Upon what does evolution operate? How did evolution get started in the first place? This course is aimed at those students who are interested in cultivating a basic understanding of biology as a means of participating in an informed way in

wider discussions of the cultural, social, and moral implications of evolutionary thought. No prior coursework in biology or philosophy is required.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Grades will be assigned based on class participation, short writing assignments, mid-term and final exams, and a term paper.

**PREREQUISITE:** None.

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 105      Philosophy of Religion**

Jan Szaif

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., 1 Wellman

CRN: 73314 & 73315

**TEXTS:** *The Miracle of Theism: Arguments for and against the Existence of God*, J.L. Mackie, *The Existence of God*, R. Swinburne (2nd edition)

**COURSE CONTENT:** A comprehensive introduction to the major arguments for and against the rationality of theism (i.e. belief in God) covering logical, metaphysical, epistemological, and existential issues in the philosophy of religion. The texts are by two leading philosophical authors in this debate, one critical, one supportive of theism.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mid-term and final examinations, a short paper and other homework assignments

**PREREQUISITIE:** One course in philosophy.

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**PHILOSOPHY 112      INTERMEDIATE SYMBOLIC LOGIC**

Dan Gaskill  
MW 12:10-2:00 p.m., 229 Wellman  
CRN: 66480

TEXT:                    *The Logic Book*, Bergman, Moor & Nelson (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)

COURSE CONTENT: An investigation of the formal logic of predicates and quantifiers. Rules for the formation of sentences of predicate logic will be given, along with a technique for interpreting them as to yield notions of truth to an interpretation, validity, etc. Extensive treatment will be given to the relation between formal logic and natural language. Sentential logic natural deduction rules will be extended to allow inferences involving quantifiers. Techniques for dealing with identity, and definite descriptions will be developed.

REQUIREMENTS:      Two midterms and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE:        Philosophy 12, Mathematics 108, or the equivalent.

G.E. CREDIT:         None

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**PHILOSOPHY 115      Problems in Normative Ethics**

Stefan Sciaraffa  
MWF 11:00-11:50p.m., 7 Wellman  
CRN: 73294

TEXTS:                    *Just and Unjust Wars*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Michael Walzer  
*Torture: A Collection*, Sanford Levinson, ed.  
Coursepack of readings

**COURSE CONTENT:** In this course we will discuss two connected issues in contemporary debates about the proper moral limits of the state's use of force against other states or individuals. First, we will discuss contemporary conceptions of the moral justification of warfare. We will examine debates about when it is just to go to war and when it isn't. We will discuss war as self-defense, humanitarian intervention and preventive war. And we will examine some different views about the Iraq war. In part this will require an exploration of some different accounts of the moral basis of the nation-state and the international order. We will also discuss some different conceptions of the morally proper ways to conduct war. Here we will discuss the alleged moral importance of the distinction between combatants and non-combatants. We will also examine terrorism and contemporary forms of high technology warfare. Finally we will discuss the problem of war crimes and the nature of responsibility for them. In the second section of the course, we will discuss torture. A number of prominent scholars and politicians have recently argued for the permissibility of torture as a means of interrogation under certain limited circumstances. We will discuss arguments for and against the legalization and institutionalization of this practice.

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

**PREREQUISITE:** One previous course in philosophy.

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 116      ETHICAL THEORIES**  
Pekka Väyrynen

TR 10:30-11:50a.m., 107 Cruess  
CRN: 66481

TEXTS: Course reader (required)  
Online readings (required)

COURSE CONTENT: This is an advanced course in ethical theory, focusing on an area of moral philosophy called “normative ethics”. At the most basic level, we might say that normative ethics concerns what kind of actions are morally right and morally wrong, and what makes them so. We’ll contrast main forms of “consequentialism” – the view that the rightness of an action is determined solely by the goodness of its total consequences – with such rivals as “deontology,” “contractualism,” and “virtue ethics”. To distinguish and evaluate these theories, we’ll address such questions in normative ethics as these: In distributing benefits and burdens, should we value equality, or give priority to the worst-off or the deserving, or just not care about patterns of distribution at all? What kind of personal sacrifices does morality require of us? Are we ever morally permitted or morally required not to act so as to produce the best available outcome, and if so, when and why? Do we have a moral duty to save others from dying when we can, and if so, ought we always to save the greater number? On what grounds are we to decide between competing ethical theories? And are there any general moral principles concerning what actions are right and wrong in the first place? The aims of the course are two: first, to introduce you to some of the major theories, issues, and debates in contemporary normative ethics; and second, to assist you in developing your philosophical and analytical skills.

REQUIREMENTS: Two 5-7-page papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: At least one previous course in philosophy; one previous course in some area of moral philosophy recommended.

GE CREDIT: None

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**PHILOSOPHY 117 FOUNDATIONS OF ETHICS**  
Pekka Väyrynen  
TR 9:00-10:20a.m., 229 Wellman  
CRN: 66482

TEXTS Course reader (required)  
Online readings (required)

COURSE CONTENT: This is an advanced course in ethical theory, focusing on an area of moral philosophy called “meta-ethics”. At the most basic level, we might say that meta-ethics concerns whether moral realism is true. In this area, philosophers address such “meta-ethical” questions as these: What do moral terms like ‘good’ and ‘morally right’ and the judgments containing them mean? "Do moral terms express moral properties and do moral judgments represent the world as being a certain way?" Are there moral properties in the world, and if so, what are they like? Are there truths about ethics, and if so, how do we know of them? The material for this course is deep and fascinating – but it is also difficult, so it is not for the faint of heart! The aims of the course are two: first, to introduce you to some of the major meta-ethical theories, issues, and debates of the 20th century; and second, to assist you in developing your philosophical and analytical skills.

REQUIREMENTS: Two 5-7-page papers and a final exam.  
PREREQUISITE: At least one of 114, 115, 116, 101, or 137.  
G.E. CREDIT: None

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**PHILOSOPHY 137      PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

Michael Glanzberg  
TR 12:10-1:30 p.m., 7 Wellman  
CRN: 73296

TEXT: *Readings in the Philosophy of Language*, ed. Peter Ludlow

COURSE CONTENT: We will discuss core issues in the philosophy of language, such as the nature of linguistic meaning and the relation between our words and the things they talk about. Readings will be drawn from the pioneering work of Gottlob Frege and more recent authors

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final exam.  
PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy or linguistics.  
G.E. CREDIT: None

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**PHILOSOPHY 161      PLATO**

Jan Szaif  
MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m., 1 Wellman  
CRN: 73316

TEXT: *Complete Works of Plato*, ed. J. Cooper

COURSE CONTENT: An introduction to Socratic and Platonic virtue theory and to the Platonic theory of Forms and

its epistemology based on the early and middle-period writings of Plato

REQUIREMENTS: Term paper, comprehensive final examination, regular homework assignments

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 21 or consent of instructor.

G.E. CREDIT: None

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**PHILOSOPHY 189H TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF MIND:  
CONCEPTS**

Karen Neander

TR 1:40-3:00 p.m., 7 Wellman

CRN: 73297

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: Philosophers and psychologists talk a lot about concepts. Our conceptual repertoire makes our thoughts possible. But what are concepts? There are a number of competing theories about their nature, but none seems entirely satisfactory given the full list of desiderata that a theory of concepts seems to need to fill. This course provides an introduction to theories of concepts, covering all or some of the following topics: an introduction to the main theories of concepts, the analytic-synthetic distinction, concepts and reference, innate concepts, and the acquisition of concepts and their role in classification and recognition of kinds.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades are based on a weekly diary and summaries of readings, one term paper and one final exam.

PREREQUISITES: One course in the area of special topic.

G.E. CREDIT: None

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**PHILOSOPHY 202 THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE**

G. J. Matthey

W 3:10-6:00p.m., 2275 SSH

CRN: 73298

TEXT: Special edition of *The Philosophical Quarterly*:  
"Contextualism: Problems and Prospects"  
(April 2005)

COURSE CONTENT: We will be looking at papers and discussion  
from the 2004 conference at the University of  
Sterling, "Epistemic Contextualism."  
Epistemic contextualism is the view that  
conditions for true knowledge attribution are  
variable from context to context.

REQUIREMENTS: Seminar presentation, term paper, class  
participation.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing in philosophy or  
permission of instructor.

G. E. CREDIT: None

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**PHILOSOPHY 212 PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC & MATHEMATICS**

Michael Glanzberg

T 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH

CRN: 73295

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: Selected topics in philosophy of logic or  
mathematics. Topics may include: the nature

of mathematical objects, and how we know about them; the nature of mathematical proof, and the role of sets theory in mathematics; the notion of truth, reference, and logical consequences; intensional and non-standard logic, and its application to philosophical problem; and the nature of ontological commitment.

REQUIREMENTS: Term Paper

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

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9/28/05