

Philosophy Department
Expanded Course Descriptions
Fall, 2007

PHILOSOPHY 1

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Michael Glanzberg
MWF 10:00-10:50a.m., 194 Chemistry
CRNs: 66606-66617

TEXT:

Reason and Responsibility, J. Feinberg & R. Shafer-Landau (13th 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

Cody Gilmore
MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., 216 Wellman
CRNs: 66618 & 66619

TEXT:

Language, Proof, and Logic (CSLI: 2002) by Jon Barwise and John Etchemendy

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 applications for work in computer science and mathematics. 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.

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.

REQUIREMENTS: There will be problem sets approximately once a week. There will be an in-class exam approximately once every two weeks.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 13

MINDS, BRAINS AND COMPUTERS

Bernard Molyneux
TR 12:10-1:30 p.m., 6 Wellman
CRNs: 74673-74676

TEXT: *Mind Design II: John Haugeland*

COURSE CONTENT: This is an entry level course in the foundations of mind science. We will explore the idea that the mind emerges from computational activity in the brain, and look at some significant scientific and philosophical implications. In particular, we'll ask whether fully mindful artificial beings – thinking machines – are genuine possibilities.

REQUIREMENTS: Three papers, five pages each, worth 25% each. A final examination worth 25% is also required.

G.E. CREDIT: Social Sciences or Science and Engineering, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 14

ETHICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Brooke Roberts
MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m., 1227 Haring

CRNs: 75016-75020

TEXT: *Contemporary Moral Problems (8th ed.)*, James White

COURSE CONTENT: This course will be a fast-paced study of various contemporary moral issues. We will devote the bulk of our time to understanding and thinking critically about the following topics: abortion, sexuality and marriage, liberty and drug use, the moral status of animals, and war and terrorism. The aim of the course will not be to give you answers to 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.

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

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

PHILOSOPHY 32

UNDERSTANDING SCIENTIFIC CHANGE

Magdalena Balcerak
MWF 9:00-9:50 p.m., 2016 Haring
CRNs: 75318 & 75319

TEXT: *Theory and Reality. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*, Peter Godfrey-Smith

COURSE CONTENT: The course will focus on scientific change and theory choice. After a short introduction into the basic issues of philosophy of science such as the questions of what science is, what a scientific theory is, how scientists' reason and what counts as evidence for a scientific theory, we will address the following problems: How does change in science occur? Does science make progress? How do scientists choose between rival theories? How are these changes and choices influenced by the social organization of science?

The course will introduce the ideas of Thomas Kuhn, who pointed out that actual scientific practice involves not only regular, but also "revolutionary" changes that make it difficult to describe science as being rational

and making progress. We will also look at the theories of Imre Lakatos, Larry Laudan and Paul Feyerabend, and inputs from sociology of science. Finally, concrete examples from different sciences will accompany us on the way.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers, two exams
PREREQUISITES: None
G.E. CREDIT: Art and Humanities, Science and Engineering

PHILOSOPHY 101

METAPHYSICS

Cody Gilmore
MWF 1:10 pm -2:00 p.m., 106 Wellman
CRNs: 66658, 66659, 74664, 74665

TEXT: *A Survey of Metaphysics* (Oxford: 2002) by E. J. Lowe.

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

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy.

PHILOSOPHY 119

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

Professor Dworkin
TR 10:30-11:50 a.m., 1002 Giedt

CRNs: 74677-74682

TEXT: *Morality, Harm and the Law*, Dworkin
Law, Liberty, and Morality, Hart
Xeroxed Punishment Articles (to be distributed)

COURSE CONTENT. This course will deal with various normative issues that arise in the law. We will concentrate on several questions having to do with the right of the state to use legal coercion to restrict its citizen's behavior. What principles ought to regulate the use of the law to restrict behavior? May the state do so to prevent offense? To prevent persons from harming themselves? To make people more virtuous? To make people rescue others from danger? What kinds of speech may be limited? Pornography? Hate speech? Finally, what gives the state the right to punish offenders? And may those punishments include the death penalty?

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers (approximately 1500 words) and a final examination, each worth one-third of the final grade.

PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy recommended.

G.E. CREDIT: Social Sciences, Writing Experience, Diversity

PHILOSOPHY 137B **PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE: TRUTH & MEANING**

Adam Sennet
TR 12:10-1:30 p.m., 229 Wellman
CRN: 66717

TEXT: *The Philosophy of Language* (A.P. Martinich, 5th edition)

COURSE CONTENT: This class will examine the connections, if there are any, between meaning and truth. To do so we shall examine each notion carefully, considering such topics as intentional based semantics and Tarski's work on truth. We will also spend some time considering whether or not truth can serve the role as a basis for a theory of meaning.

REQUIREMENTS: One 5-7 page paper and a final exam.
PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy or linguistics.
G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 157

20th CENTURY EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

Magdalena Balcerak
MW 12:10-2:00pm, 229 Wellman
CRN: 75320

TEXTS: *The Phenomenology Reader*, Dermot Moran & Timothy Mooney
Introduction to Phenomenology, Dermot Moran

COURSE CONTENT: This course introduces the basic concepts and problems of phenomenology. Phenomenology is not only a historical tradition in the European philosophy of the 20th century – that includes such movements as existentialism or hermeneutics – but also a specific philosophical method. So, we will not only look at what Franz Brentano, Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger and Maurice Merleau-Ponty have to say about consciousness, intentionality and the role of our body in experience, but will also examine different kinds of phenomenological analysis.

Typically, phenomenology is seen as the paradigm of so-called “continental” philosophy that is opposed to analytic philosophy as it is practiced in the English-speaking academic world. One goal of the course will be to clear up this prejudice: We will see how the ideas of phenomenologists and the methodology they developed are interesting for contemporary analytic philosophy and can be made fruitful for addressing certain issues it is concerned with.

REQUIREMENTS: Three papers and a final exam.
PREREQUISITE: One course in Philosophy .

PHILOSOPHY 160

PRE-SOCRATICS

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

CRN: 66666

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

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

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

PHILOSOPHY 174

HUME

G.J. Matthey
MW 2:10-4:00pm, 229 Wellman
CRN: 74683

TEXT: *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Hume (ed. Norton and Norton)
An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, Hume (ed. Beauchamp)

COURSE CONTENT: An intensive study of Hume's two chief philosophical works. The most important topics will be Hume's skepticism, his treatment of inductive inference, and his empiricism. Attention will be paid to Hume's application of his central results to metaphysics, religion, and morals.

REQUIREMENT: Final examination (35%), two short papers (the first, 25%, the second 30%), class participation (10%).

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 22

PHILOSOPHY 189J

TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Michael Glanzberg
MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m., 211 Wellman
CRN: 66668

TEXT: *Meaning and Grammar*, G. Chierchia and S. McConnell-Ginet (2nd edn).

COURSE CONTENT: This course will explore the semantics of natural language. It will investigate the semantics of specific

constructions in language, such as quantification, indexicality, and verb phrases. It will also explore the foundations of semantic theory, concentrating on the role of possible worlds and logical form, and the nature of context-dependence.

REQUIREMENTS: Midterm, final, problem sets.

PREREQUISITE: Background in philosophy of language or permission of instructor.

PHILOSOPHY 200A

PROSEMINAR I

Adam Sennet
T 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 74781

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: This course is designed to do two things: acclimate students to graduate student expectations and develop certain skills that you will need over the course of your graduate career. We will, in this installment, work to achieve those ends by looking at some classic works in the philosophy of language.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly papers and presentations.

PREREQUISITE: First Year Graduate Student

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 203

PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Bernard Molyneux
R 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 74684

TEXT: *Introduction to the Theory of Computation*, Michael Sipser
Plus various articles to be distributed.

COURSE CONTENT: The formal theory of computation can be used to classify cognitive tasks according to their degree of computational difficulty. This provides us with a fecund source of arguments in the philosophy of

mind, where substantial claims about the computational complexity of human cognitive systems are made based upon the complexity of the tasks humans can perform. We will study basic and advanced concepts in the theory of computation with a view to examining such arguments.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly assignments and a final exam. The final exam can be replaced by a term paper upon arrangement.

PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHILOSOPHY 210

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

James Griesemer
W 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 74685

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: TBA

REQUIREMENTS: Graduate standing in philosophy or permission of instructor.

PREREQUISITES: TBA

G. E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 213

ADVANCED LOGIC

G. J. Matthey
MW 10:30-11:50 a.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 74686

TEXT: *Symbolic Logic: An Introduction* (Richmond H. Thomason, on-line edition), other on-line materials.

COURSE CONTENT: The course is a survey of advanced topics in logic. Naive set theory and mathematical induction are introduced and then used as tools for subsequent exposition. A good deal of time will be spent on the meta-logic of both propositional and predicate logic, including proofs of completeness. Axiomatic set

theory will be briefly examined. The course will end with a treatment of modal logic and various alternative logics, such as intuitionist and relevance logics.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly homework, final examination.

PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing in philosophy or permission of instructor.

G. E. CREDIT: None
