

**UC Davis Philosophy Department  
Expanded Course Descriptions  
Fall, 2008**

<b>PHILOSOPHY 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY</b> <b>Adam Sennet</b> <b>MWF 12:10-1:00 P.M., 1100 Social Sciences</b> <b>CRNs: 75825-75836</b>
TEXT:	None
COURSE CONTENT:	A brief but tantalizing look at certain classic problems in philosophy, including skepticism, free will, personal identity and the persistence of objects over time.
REQUIREMENTS:	Two exams and a short paper.
PREREQUISITE:	None
G.E. CREDIT:	Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience.
<hr/>	
<b>PHILOSOPHY 5</b>	<b>CRITICAL REASONING</b> <b>Gina Calderone</b> <b>MWF 9:00-9:50 A.M., 1309 Surge III</b> <b>CRNs: 83723, 83728, 83730 &amp; 83734</b>
TEXT:	<i>The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims</i> , Lewis Vaughn
COURSE CONTENT:	This course will focus on the development of various critical skills, such as identifying the structure of arguments, evaluating arguments, detecting various kinds of fallacies and applying critical reasoning to cases from both science and everyday life. At the same time, we will be looking at different kinds of explanations and their strengths and weaknesses. Another goal is to introduce the basic methodology of philosophy and to learn how to prepare and write argumentative papers.
REQUIREMENTS:	TBA

PREREQUISITES: None

---

**PHILOSOPHY 12**                    **INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC**  
**Cody Gilmore**  
**TR 10:30-11:50 A.M., 119 Wellman**  
**CRNs: 75837 &75838**

TEXT:                                *Language, Proof, and Logic*, 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 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 13**                    **MINDS, BRAINS, AND COMPUTERS**  
**Bernard Molyneux**  
**TR 12:10-1:30 P.M., 6 Wellman**  
**CRNs: 75839-75842**

TEXT:                                *Mind Design II*, John Haugeland

COURSE CONTENT:                This is an entry level course in the foundations of mind science. It asks the questions, "What would it take to construct a genuine science of the mind, what

would be the structure of such a science, what would philosophy of mind on the one hand, and neuroscience, artificial intelligence/life, and cognitive psychology and anthropology on the other (the “cognitive sciences” as usually construed). It thus introduces the student to a variety of scientific material related to the mind, with an eye to gaining a critical understanding to how such materials should or do constrain our conception of the mind and its place in evolution and natural order.

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

PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy recommended.

---

**PHILOSOPHY 38**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY**

**Roberta Millstein**

**MWF 1:10-2:00 P.M., 1150 Hart**

**CRNs: 83737, 83741**

TEXTS: Readings available online

COURSE CONTENT: This course investigates philosophical critiques and analyses of the concepts and methods biologists use in research and explanation of their work to the public. It challenges students to evaluate controversial biological issues in social, cultural and political context. Issues to be discussed *may* include: the debate over creationism and intelligent design, whether evolutionary history was the product of chance or whether certain aspects were inevitable, whether Darwin’s theory of sexual selection is false and ought to be replaced, the accusation that many evolutionary explanations are “adaptationist,” why primarily genetic explanations of human behavior have been labelled as deterministic and reductionistic.

REQUIREMENTS: Class participation and in-class group projects, reading reflections, short written assignments, final exam.

PREREQUISITES: None.

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

---

**PHILOSOPHY 101**

**METAPHYSICS**

**Cody Gilmore**

**TR 1:40-3:00 P.M., 6 Wellman**

**CRNs: 75885-75888**

TEXT: *What is this Thing Called Metaphysics?*, Brian Garrett

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.

---

**PHILOSOPHY 102**

**THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE**

**G. J. Matthey**

**MWF 1:10-2:00 P.M., 1130 Hart**

**CRN: 83718 & 83722**

TEXT: On-line text by the instructor.

COURSE CONTENT: The course will be an overview of the main issues in the theory of knowledge. Questions to be discussed include: What is a theory of Knowledge supposed to do? How should the concept or concepts of knowledge be understood? How is human knowledge to be described? How might we determine whether we have knowledge?

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

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy.

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

---

**PHILOSOPHY 115 PROBLEMS IN NORMATIVE ETHICS**  
**Roberta Millstein**  
**MWF 10:00-11:50 A.M., 1007 Giedt**  
**CRN: 83744**

TEXTS: *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*, Patrick G. Derr and Edward M. McNamara  
Other readings available online

COURSE CONTENT: Many people are concerned about a variety of environmental issues, from pollution to global warming to the extinction of species. They say that we “should” do something about those issues. But what ethical assumptions underlie that “should”? Is it a concern for human well-being? For animals? For all life? Or, even more broadly, for ecosystems? In other words, which things count morally? The answers matter not only because we need to justify our actions, but because different answers may imply different courses of action. In this class, we will explore the various answers that can and have been given to this question, and see how well these answers hold up when applied to contemporary environmental case studies.

REQUIREMENTS: Class participation and in-class group projects, reading reflections, short written assignments, final exam.

PREREQUISITE: One previous course in philosophy.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts and Humanities, Writing

---

**PHILOSOPHY 131 PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS**  
**Michael Glanzberg**  
**TR 12:10-1:30 P.M.**  
**CRN: 84208**

TEXT: *Thinking About Mathematics*, Stewart Shapiro

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 137B      PHILOSOPHY OF  
LANGUAGE: TRUTH & MEANING**  
Adam Sennet  
MWF 11:00-11:50 A.M., 290 Hickey Gym  
CRN: 75895

TEXT: *Philosophy of Language*, A. P. Martinich

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 168      DESCARTES**  
G. J. Matthey  
MTWF 11:00-11:50 A.M., 290 Hickey Gym  
CRN: 84207

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's philosophical doctrines are related to his scientific theorizing.

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

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 22 or the equivalent.

G.E. CREDIT: None.

---

**PHILOSOPHY 200A      PROSEMINAR I**  
**Bernard Molyneux**  
**R 3:10-6:00 P.M., 2275 Social Sciences**  
**CRN: 75971**

TEXT: Course Pack

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 (TBA).

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly papers and presentations.

PREREQUISITE: First Year Graduate Student

G.E. CREDIT: None

---

**PHILOSOPHY 201      METAPHYSICS**  
**Michael Glanzberg**  
**T 3:10-6:00 P.M., 2275 Social Sciences**  
**CRN: 84206**

TEXT: *The Nature and Structure of Content*, Jeffrey C. King

COURSE CONTENT: This is an advanced metaphysics course focusing on issues in the Metaphysics of Propositions. Topics to

include the role of nature of propositions, and theories based on possible worlds, situations and structured propositions

PREREQUISITE: Open to all graduate students in Philosophy and to others by consent of the instructor.

---

**PHILOSOPHY 214**

**ETHICS**

**Gerald Dworkin**

**W 3:10-6:00 P.M. 2275 Social Sciences**

**CRN: 83750**

TEXTS: Various articles by contemporary and classical authors including Kant, Sidgwick, Scanlon, MacIntyre, Korsgaard, Hill and Chisholm.

COURSE CONTENT: This seminar will be an examination of the morality of lying and deception. What is a lie? When, if ever, is it wrong to lie? What do various traditional moral theories have to say about lying? Is there a moral difference between lying by saying something false, and deceiving by means of a true statement? Is it possible for there to be a "bald-faced lie?" Is it worse to deceive by saying something than by not saying something?

REQUIREMENTS: Each week you will do a short paper on the assigned reading (2-3 pages). These will serve as a basis for class presentations and discussion of the material. There will be no term paper.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate Standing