

# UC Davis Philosophy Department

## Expanded Course Descriptions

Fall, 2009

PHILOSOPHY 1	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY Adam Sennet MWF 12:10-1:00 P.M. Social Science and Humanities 1100 CRNs: 35738-35749
TEXTS	<i>Reason and Responsibility: Readings in Some Basic Problems of Philosophy</i> , Joel Feinberg, ed. (optional)
COURSE CONTENT	A brief but tantalizing look at certain classical problems in philosophy, including skepticism, free will, personal identity and the persistence of objects over time.
REQUIREMENTS	Two exams and a short paper.
PREREQUISITES	None
G.E. CREDIT	Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience
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PHILOSOPHY 12	INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC Elaine Landry TR 12:10-1:30 P.M. Wellman 216 CRNs: 35754 & 35755
TEXTS	<i>The Logic Book</i> , Bergmann, Moor and Nelson (5 <sup>th</sup> edition)
COURSE CONTENT	This course considers the theoretical elements of symbolic deductive logic, which is primarily concerned with the study of valid inference. The focus of this course is not on sharpening critical and evaluative skills of everyday discourse; instead we look upon logic as an

area of study in, and of, itself. We consider sentential logic—the branch of symbolic deductive logic that takes sentences as the fundamental unit of logical analysis. We investigate three tools used for the analysis of logical concepts: truth-tables, truth-trees and derivations.

The class lectures (in contrast to the discussion sections) are intended to explain the conceptual notions of symbolic deductive logic and so will focus more on the theoretical side of the material rather than on its applications. There are, however, many exercises found in the textbook (and solutions to selected exercises are provided with the text)—it is the students' responsibility to work through these exercises. Any questions of a conceptual nature will be taken up in class lectures and those related to the applications of these concepts are to be brought to the TA sections. Attendance for both lectures and TA sections is, therefore, essential.

The overall aim of this course is to achieve a conceptual understanding of the formal notions and procedures of symbolic deductive logic. Consequently, a majority of the questions on assignments and tests will be theoretical in nature.

REQUIREMENTS	5 assignments (8% each) and 2 tests (30% each)
PREREQUISITES	None
G.E. CREDIT	None

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PHILOSOPHY 16	PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY David Copp TR 10:30-11:50 A.M. Wellman 1
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TEXTS	<i>Political Philosophy</i> , A. John Simmons
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*The Federalist Papers*, ed. Clinton Rossiter  
*The Basic Writings*, John Stuart Mill  
*Torture: A Collection*, ed. Stanford Levinson

COURSE CONTENT

This is a course in the philosophical underpinnings of democratic government and on the tension between security on the one hand and democracy and civil liberties on the other hand. To illustrate this tension, in the last part of the course we will focus on issues related war and terrorism.

Overall, the goal of the course is to investigate the cogency of arguments that can be given for (1) democracy (understood as majority rule), (2) restricting majority rule or constitutional protections for individuals and minority rights, (3) abridging majority rule or constitutional protections for individual and minority rights to ensure the security of the state in the face of internal or external threats of various kinds.

REQUIREMENTS

Midterm, two three-page essays, quizzes, final essay

PREREQUISITES

None

G.E. CREDIT

None

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PHILOSOPHY 22

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: EARLY MODERN  
G.J. Matthey  
MWF 11:00-11:50 A.M.  
Wellman 212  
CRNs: 43669-43670

TEXTS

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

COURSE CONTENT

This 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, and discussion participation.

PREREQUISITES None

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

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PHILOSOPHY 30 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE  
Elaine Landry  
TR 1:40-3:00 P.M.  
Olson 223  
CRNs 43671-43672

TEXTS *Introductory Readings in the Philosophy of Science*, E.D. Klemke (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

COURSE CONTENT This course will survey some of the main issues that have been discussed in the philosophy of science through the investigation of primary source readings. Specifically we will consider:

1. The nature of scientific explanation and the role of scientific laws
2. The nature of scientific theories
3. The roll of observation, and the status of theoretic entities
4. The means and basis by witch a scientific theory is confirmed and accepted.

REQUIREMENTS Take home midterm (50%), Take home final (50%)

PREREQUISITES None

G.E. CREDIT Arts and Humanities or Science and

PHILOSOPHY 38

INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF  
BIOLOGYRoberta Millstein  
TR 1:40-3:00 P.M.  
Wellman 212

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 evolution is progressive, whether Darwin's theory of sexual selection is false and ought to be replaced, the accusation that many evolutionary explanations are "adaptationist," and some debates over the existence of animal minds.

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.

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PHILOSOPHY 102

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

G.J. Matthey  
MWF 1:10-2:00 P.M.  
Hoagland 168  
CRNs: 35802-35803

TEXTS	On-line text by the instructor
COURSE CONTENT	The course will be an overview of the main issues in the theory of knowledge from ancient times to the present. 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 and a final examination.
PREREQUISITES	One course in philosophy.
G.E. CREDIT	Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience.

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PHILOSOPHY 115                      PROBLEMS IN NORMATIVE ETHICS  
 Roberta Millstein  
 TR 10:30-11:50 A.M.  
 Wellman 233  
 CRN: 35804

TEXTS                                      *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*, Patrick G. Derr and Edward M. McNamara

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.
PREREQUISITES	One previous course in philosophy.
G.E. CREDIT	Arts & Humanities, Writing.

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PHILOSOPHY 118  
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY  
Marina Oshana  
MW 10:00-11:50 A.M.  
Haring 2016  
CRN: 43666

TEXTS  
*Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Kymlicka  
*Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Goodin

COURSE CONTENT  
This course begins by surveying a range of key schools of contemporary political philosophy, including liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, and Marxism. The different perspectives of some of the most influential contemporary Anglo-American theorists will be discussed in an effort to shed light on long-established philosophical disagreement over the meaning of such concepts as justice, community, rights, freedom, and the common good. We will examine various philosophical perspectives on the nature and justification of the state, the authority that the state alleges over the individual, and the terms of an individual's obligation to this authority.

REQUIREMENTS	Two short papers and a final exam.
PREREQUISITES	One course in philosophy.
G.E. CREDIT	Social Science, Diversity, Writing.

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PHILOSOPHY 131

PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS

Elaine Landry  
TR 3:10-4:30 P.M.  
Haring 2016  
CRN: 35806

TEXTS

*Thinking about Mathematics: The philosophy of Mathematics*, Stewart Shapiro.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will survey some of the main issues that have been discussed in the philosophy of mathematics through the investigation and analysis of the following:

1. Typical questions and proposed answers
2. History: Plato, Aristotle, Kant and Mill
3. The Big Three: Logicism, Formalism, Intuitionism
4. Do numbers exist?
5. Structuralism

REQUIREMENTS

Take home midterm (50%), Take home final (50%)

PREREQUISITES

Course 12 or one course for credit in mathematics.

G.E. CREDIT

None

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PHILOSOPHY 137B

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE:

TRUTH AND MEANING

Michael Glanzberg  
MWF 10:00-10:50  
Wellman 115  
CRN: 35807

TEXTS

*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 midterm and one final exam.
PREREQUISITES	One course in philosophy or linguistics.
G.E. CREDIT	None

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PHILOSOPHY 156                      CONTEMPORARY ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY  
Aldo Antonelli  
TR 12:10-1:30 P.M.  
Wellman 233  
CRN: 43667

TEXTS                                      Course pack available at Davis Copy Shop

COURSE CONTENT                      A historical introduction to the Vienna Circle through a number of original articles (in translation) by Schlick, Hahn, Carnap (among others).

REQUIREMENTS                      In-class midterm and final. Participation, including doing the reading in advance of class and submitting questions to the instructor.

PREREQUISITES                      One course in philosophy.

G.E. CREDIT                              None.

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PHILOSOPHY 189K                      TOPICS IN LOGIC  
Aldo Antonelli  
TR 1:40-3:00 P.M.  
Wellman 205  
CRN: 43668

TEXTS                                      Readings available online

COURSE CONTENT                      An introduction to the meta-theory of first-order logic, including soundness, completeness, compactness etc. This class is intended to give students the necessary background to take more advanced logic courses, as well to expose them to some of the deepest and most beautiful

theorems from the golden age of logic in the 20-th century.

REQUIREMENTS

Fortnightly take-home problem sets.

PREREQUISITES

Philosophy 112 or permission of instructor

G.E. CREDIT

None

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PHILOSOPHY 200A

PROSEMINAR I

David Copp

R 3:10-6:00 P.M.

Social Science and Humanities 2275

CRN: 35880

TEXTS

Readings will be available online

COURSE CONTENT

TBA

REQUIREMENTS

TBA

PREREQUISITES

Graduate standing or consent of the instructor

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PHILOSOPHY 213

ADVANCED LOGIC

Aldo Antonelli

W 3:10-6:00 P.M.

Social Science and Humanities 2275

CRN: 43665

TEXTS

*Relevant Logic*, Mares

*Introduction to Substructural Logics*, Restall

*Philosophical Logic*, J. Burgess (optional).

COURSE CONTENT

An introduction to the logic of *relevant implication*, the logic which requires a relevant connection between the antecedent and the consequent of a conditional. The requirement turns out to be unexpectedly difficult to meet, although in interesting ways.

REQUIREMENTS

Class participation, in-class presentations, and a final paper.

PREREQUISITES

Graduate standing, some logic proficiency

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PHILOSOPHY 214

ETHICS

Marina Oshana

M 3:10-6:00 P.M.

Social Science and Humanities 2275

CRN: 43663

TEXTS

Readings will be posted online

COURSE CONTENT

The aim of this course is two-fold. One aim is to investigate concepts of the self. By the self I mean characteristics of a person that are primary to the person's identity. The second aim is to examine how pathologies of the self affect a person's ability to navigate life and make sense of herself.

REQUIREMENTS

TBA

PREREQUISITES

Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

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PHILOSOPHY 237

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Adam Sennet

T 3:10-6:00 P.M.

Social Science and Humanities 2275

CRN: 43664

TEXTS

*Relativism and Monadic Truth*, Cappelen

COURSE CONTENT

This class will focus on the phenomenon of context sensitivity, with a view to extensions of the classical Kaplanian logic of demonstratives to other claimed instances of semantic contextual variation. Under this heading, we will look at various theories of context sensitivity including minimalism, contextualism and unarticulated constituent theory. We will then look at a second approach to those problems, relativism about truth (which is also an extension of the Kaplanian system) and critics

of the latter view and, indeed, the entire Kaplanian framework within which the latter is defined.

REQUIREMENTS

Two very short papers and one term paper.

PREREQUISITES

Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

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