UC Davis Philosophy Department
Expanded Course Descriptions
Spring, 2009

PHILOSOPHY 1   **INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

Elaine Landry
TR 3:10-4:30 P.M.
2205 Haring
CRNs: 85430-85437

TEXT   Special order text from Pearson Publishing. TBA

COURSE CONTENT   This course is designed to introduce the student to various issues that serve to underwrite both philosophical problems and inquiries. Specifically, we will consider questions in *Epistemology*—theories of knowledge, *Metaphysics*—theories of reality, and *Ethics*—theories of value. Before addressing these questions, however, we will consider the very act of philosophizing. This will include a brief look at the writings of Plato and articles on *methodology*. The overall aim, then, will be the development of those critical and analytical skills that are necessary for understanding in philosophy and in other areas of inquiry.

REQUIRMENTS   25%—Take home midterm, 50%—2 essays (5 pages each), 25%—Take home final. *No* late exams or essays will be accepted unless a medical note is provided and/or permission is granted by the instructor *prior* to the set date.

PREREQUISITE   None

PHILOSOPHY 5   **CRITICAL REASONING**

Nick Diehl
MWF 11:00-11:50 A.M.
26 Wellman
CRNs: 85438-85441

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Attacking Faulty Reasoning*, 6th ed., T. Edward Damer
On Bullshit, Harry G. Frankfurt

COURSE CONTENT This is an introductory course in critical reasoning. And what exactly *is* a critical reasoning course? More or less, it is a course about the process of reasoning and common problems that we all struggle with when we attempt to think clearly about difficult problems. So this course does have a topical component, albeit a rather abstract one. But the more significant part of this course is its practical component. To judge from the thinking that is on display in political speeches, religious sermons, letters to the editor, and—yes—even undergraduate student papers, most people could use some guidance and some practice in constructing clear and cogent arguments for their beliefs. By learning to recognize common fallacies and to apply various strategies of critical reasoning in your own thinking and writing, it is devoutly to be wished that you will become a better thinker in general. Thus much of our time will be spent on practical exercises on a variety of topics including: gay marriage, the use of Native American mascots in sports, affirmative action admissions policies, the existence of God, and the possibility of just war. The goal in discussing these topics will not be to come to a definitive answer, but to examine supporting arguments critically. We will also pursue a series of topics of your own devising in small group settings.

REQUIREMENTS 3 exams, 5 short (1-page) argumentative papers

PREREQUISITES None

PHILOSOPHY 12 **INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC**
Aldo Antonelli
TR 12:10-1:30 P.M.
1204 Haring
CRNs: 93767, 93768

REQUIRED TEXTS *A Modern Formal Logic Primer*, Paul Teller. Available at http://tellerprimer.ucdavis.edu

COURSE CONTENT A self-contained introduction to propositional logic, emphasizing translation from English into the formal language and assessment of arguments by a variety of methods (truth tables, truth trees, derivations).

REQUIREMENTS	Homework assignments, midterm and final exams
PREREQUISITES	None

PHILOSOPHY 14   ETHICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Regina Milano
MW 4:10-6:00 P.M.
6 Olson
CRNs: 93770-93773

REQUIRED TEXTS	*Contemporary Moral Problems*, 9th ed., James E. White
COURSE CONTENT	This course will be a study of various contemporary moral issues, including an introduction to ethical theories. Some of the topics we will focus upon may include the following: abortion, euthanasia, liberty and drugs, the moral status of animals, war and terrorism, and torture. The aim of this course is not to resolve these difficult moral issues, but rather to explore them and learn how to think about and discuss them in a clear and critical way through argumentation. By learning how to distinguish good from bad arguments you will be in a better position to begin to decide for yourself which positions make the most sense and why.
REQUIREMENTS	Two (3-5 page) papers, a final exam, and participation
PREREQUISITES	None

PHILOSOPHY 22   HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: EARLY MODERN

G. J. Mattey
TR 12:10-1:30 P.M.
1150 Haring
CRNs: 85450-85451

REQUIRED TEXTS	*Readings in Modern Philosophy*, Vols. I & II, Ariew and 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, Berkeley and Reid. 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.

PREREQUISITES   None

PHILOSOPHY 30   INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
David Ian Spencer
TR 1:40-3:00 P.M.
168 Hoagland
CRNs: 85453-85453

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*, Peter Godfrey-Smith
Readings in the Philosophy of Science: From Positivism to Postmodernism, Theodore Schick

COURSE CONTENT   A study of some of the basic problems in the philosophy of science, common to the physical, biological, and social sciences. Problems to be addressed include the following: What is science and what distinguishes it from pseudo-science? Can science really tell us anything about reality? What is the goal of science, anyway? How do we test scientific theories?

REQUIREMENTS   Regular short written assignments, class participation, a midterm and a final exam.

PREREQUISITES   None

PHILOSOPHY 31   UNDERSTANDING SCIENTIFIC REASONING
James Griesemer
MWF 9:00-9:50 A.M.

226 Wellman
CRNs: 93758-93759

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Understanding Scientific Reasoning*, 5th ed., Ronald Giere, John Bickle and Robert Mauldin

COURSE CONTENT   The impact of science and technology on our day-to-day lives is great. As citizens, we cannot afford to be ignorant of them. In addition, scholars of many sorts must understand science and technology in order to interpret society, culture, politics, economy, or history as well as science itself. But taking advantage of the information presented to us (in the mass media and elsewhere) requires understanding how such information is produced. One important activity involved in producing scientific information is reasoning. In this course we will examine reasoning processes and strategies employed in science through examination of general principles and concrete examples. We will explore the nature and evaluation of theoretical hypotheses—including statistical and causal hypotheses—and models of decision-making. Examples will be drawn from historical material described in the text as well as contemporary examples drawn from popular media such as newspapers, magazines, and the Internet.

REQUIREMENTS   Homework: 50%, Two Midterms: 30% (15% each), Final Exam: 20%.

PREREQUISITES   None

PHILOSOPHY 103   PHILOSOPHY OF MIND
Bernard Molyneux
MWF 9:00-9:50 A.M.
212 Wellman
CRN: 85494

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, ed. David Chalmers
Philosophy of Mind, Jaegwon Kim

COURSE CONTENT   This course is designed to give an overview of the mind-body problem—the problem of how mentality emerges in the world as we understand it. We begin by looking at dualism—the view that the mind is a non-physical entity that

interacts with the brain but is distinct from it. We then proceed to critically examine other theories such as mind-brain identity (the mind is the brain) and computational functionalism (the mind is like the software to the brain). Students will gain some understanding of the main metaphysical theories of the mind and their major strengths and weaknesses.

REQUIREMENTS Grades are based on two papers (35%) and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE There is no time for training in basic philosophical method; therefore students are *strongly* advised to have taken at least one prior philosophy course.

PHILOSOPHY 119 **PHILOSOPHY OF LAW**
Gerald Dworkin
TR 10:30-11:50 A.M.
101 Wellman
CRNs: 93760-93765

REQUIRED TEXTS *Morality, Harm and the Law*, Dworkin
Law, Liberty and Morality, Hart

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 citizens 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.

PREREQUISITE One prior course in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHILOSOPHY 134 **MODAL LOGIC**

Aldo Antonelli
TR 1:40-3:00 P.M., R 3:10-4:00 P.M.
105 Wellman
CRN: 93769

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Modal Logic: An Introduction*, Brian Chellas

COURSE CONTENT   A survey of the basic tools, ideas, and methods of modal logic, i.e., the logic of possibility and necessity. Students are introduced to the main system of modal logic, including standard axiomatizations and possible world semantics. The aim of this course is to present detailed proofs of completeness for the different systems and give students a good grasp of "correspondence theory", i.e., the way in which different axioms characterize different properties of the accessibility relation between possible worlds.

REQUIRMENTS   Homework assignments

PREREQUISITES   Philosophy 112 (Philosophy 113 recommended)

PHILOSOPHY 145   MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Jan Szaif
TR 10:30-11:50 A.M.
130 Physics and Geology
CRN: 93766

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Philosophy in the Middle Ages: The Christian, Islamic, and Jewish Traditions*, eds. Arthur Hyman and James J. Walsh

COURSE CONTENT   An introduction to medieval philosophy based on selected texts from major philosophers in the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions of the medieval era. The themes to be covered include problems in metaphysics, epistemology (theory of knowledge), political philosophy, and philosophy of religion.

REQUIREMENTS   A term paper, a mid-term and a final examination, homework assignments.

PREREQUISITES   Philosophy 21, another class in history of philosophy, or consent of the instructor.

PHILOSOPHY 162	**ARISTOTLE**
	Michael Wedin
	TR 1:40-3:00 P.M.
	7 Wellman
	CRN: 85496

REQUIRED TEXTS	*A New Aristotle Reader*, ed. J. L. Ackrill
COURSE CONTENT	This course introduces the student to the main themes and problems in Aristotle's metaphysics, ontology, theory of language, and theory of scientific explanation. Emphasis is on discussion and analysis of the theories and arguments found in a set of fundamental treatises: *Categories, De Interpretatione, Posterior Analytics, Physics,* and *Metaphysics*.
REQUIREMENTS	Two short papers on assigned topics and a final examination.
PREREQUISITES	Interest and a willingness to work.

PHILOSOPHY 175	**KANT**
	G. J. Mattey
	MW 2:10-4:00 P.M.
	233 Wellman
	CRN: 93775

REQUIRED TEXTS	*Critique of Pure Reason*, Kant (tr. Werner S. Pluhar) *Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics*, Kant (2nd ed., tr. James Ellington)
COURSE CONTENT	A reading of most of Kant's seminal work in metaphysics and epistemology, the *Critique of Pure Reason* (1st edition 1781, 2nd edition 1787). Kant's work will be examined in the context of the metaphysics of his eighteenth-century German predecessors, from whose dogmatism he says he broke away upon his "recollection of David Hume." In its place, Kant proposed a system of categories and principles valid for things as they appear to the human subject but illegitimately applied to things in themselves. We will look at the structure of Kant's system as well as the arguments he used to justify it.

REQUIREMENTS   Four short papers and a comprehensive final exam.

PREREQUISITES   Philosophy 22.

PHILOSOPHY 189H   TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Bernard Molyneux
MWF 1:10-2:00 P.M.
229 Wellman
CRN: 85499

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Out of our Heads: Why You Are Not Your Brain, and Other Lessons from the Biology of Consciousness*, Alva Noë

COURSE CONTENT   We will be examining the externalist challenge to the traditional conception of the mind. Externalism is the view that the physical locus of cognition/intelligence/mentality extends beyond the boundaries of the organism. We start with issues pertaining to swarm intelligence, altruism and the prisoner's dilemma and find that behavior that seems unintelligent at the level of the individual is intelligent at the level of the group (and vice versa). We move on to look at Putnamian/Burgian semantic externalism (is meaning in the head?) personal externalism (is the self bounded by the organism?) and mental state externalism (does your mental state extend beyond your physiological boundaries?).

REQUIREMENTS   Grades are based on two papers (35%) and a final exam.

PREREQUISITES   We have no time for a primer on philosophical methodology, so the student is *strongly* advised to have taken one prior course in philosophy.

PHILOSOPHY 189I   TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Elaine Landry
TR 12:10-1:30 P.M.
290 Hickey Gym
CRN: 93776

REQUIRED TEXTS   *Science and Philosophy in the West*, Jeffery C. Leon

COURSE CONTENT   This course will survey some of the central themes that inform both the historical developments and the philosophical foundations of ancient, modern and contemporary science. We will consider these themes through the analysis of selections from primary source readings. Our focus will be on the manner in which the interaction between science and philosophy has engendered a move, through various shifts in scientific methodology, from a metaphysics-driven science to a science-driven metaphysics. We will investigate these themes by beginning with Aristotelian Science and ending with Positivistic Metaphysics.

REQUIREMENTS   25%—Take home midterm; 50%—2 essays (5 pages each); 25%—Take home final. *No* late exams or essays will be accepted unless a medical note is provided, and/or permission is granted by the instructor *prior* to the set date.

PREREQUISITES   Philosophy 30 or consent of instructor

PHILOSOPHY 210   **PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE—MATHEMATICAL STRUCTURALISM**
Elaine Landry
W 3:10-6:00
2275 Social Science and Humanities
CRN: 93778

REQUIRED TEXTS   All readings will be posted on SmartSite

COURSE CONTENT   This course will investigate issues in the philosophy of mathematics by considering current interpretations of mathematical structuralism. Our aim will be to answer the question: is structuralism an alternative to foundationalism?

Moving beyond the traditional foundationalist debates of Platonism, institutionism and formalism, we begin with the challenges posed by Benacerraf [1965], as to whether, and in what sense, numbers can be considered as objects. We then consider structuralism as a response to this challenge and seek to understand the sense in which mathematical objects are "positions in structure". We then investigate, in greater detail, the various interpretations and varieties of mathematical "frameworks" for mathematical structuralism, i.e., set-theory, modal logic, structure-theory and category-

theory, and consider the extent to which each may offer an alternative to the traditional foundationalist positions.

REQUIREMENTS 40%—Presentation, 60%—Paper (15 pages). *No* late essays will be accepted unless a medical note is provided and/or permission is granted by the instructor *prior* to the set date.

PREREQUISITES Graduate standing or consent of the instructor

PHILOSOPHY 212 **PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS— QUANTIFIERS**
Aldo Antonelli
T 3:10-6:00 P.M.
2275 Social Science and Humanities
CRN: 93777

REQUIRED TEXTS *Quantifiers in Logic and Language*, Stanley Peters and Dag Westerstahl

COURSE CONTENT A thorough study of quantifiers from a logical point of view. The main emphasis of the course is on definition and classification of quantifiers, but other topics might also be covered (applications in linguistics, definability and expressive power, etc.) depending on students' interest.

REQUIREMENTS In-class presentation, final paper.

PREREQUISITES Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

PHILOSOPHY 290 **HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY**
Jan Szaif
R 3:10-6:00 P.M.
2275 Social Science and Humanities
CRN: 93779

REQUIRED TEXTS TBA

COURSE CONTENT *Parmenides' notion of being and its critique in Plato and Aristotle*. Parmenides was the first to assign a central role in metaphysics to the notions of *being* and *not-being*. Plato

and Aristotle provide critical assessments of these notions and the arguments based on them, and develop alternative approaches. Since this debate is of central importance for the development of the classical conception of ontology and its reception in medieval and early modern metaphysics, this course will be particularly relevant for those interested in the history of metaphysics.

REQUIREMENTS   One substantial research paper.

PREREQUISITE   Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.