

**UC Davis Philosophy Department  
Expanded Course Descriptions  
Winter, 2009**

**PHILOSOPHY 1                    INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

Michael Glanzberg

MWF 10:00-10:50 A.M., 194 Chemistry

CRNs: 66606-66617

**TEXT**                                 *Reason and Responsibility*, J. Feinberg & R. Shafer-Landau

**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

**PREREQUISITES**                    None

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 5                    CRITICAL REASONING**

Jonathan Dorsey

TR 9:00-10:20 A.M., 6 Wellman

CRNs: 45921-45924

**TEXT**                                 McKay, Thomas. *Reasons, Explanations and Decisions: Guidelines for Critical Thinking*.

**COURSE CONTENT**                The course is designed to familiarize students with the elements of *argument* and *explanation*: what arguments and explanations are, the different kinds of each, and corresponding methods of evaluation. By firmly grasping

such things, students may reason more responsibly and critically about academic and everyday issues.

**REQUIREMENTS** Three exams and a short paper

**G.E. CREDIT** Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 15 BIOETHICS**

Dana Goswick

TR 4:10-6:00 P.M., 1002 Giedt

CRNs: 54339-54344

**TEXT** Course reader

**COURSE CONTENT** TBA

**REQUIREMENTS** TBA

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 17 LANGUAGE, THOUGHT, AND WORLD**

Adam Sennet

TR 12:10-1:30 P.M., 212 Wellman

CRNs: 45927 & 45928

**TEXTS** TBA

**COURSE CONTENT** Survey of basic issues in philosophy of language, centering on the relation of meaning, reference and use, as well as on the philosophical significance of contemporary conceptions of language.

**REQUIREMENTS** TBA

**G.E. CREDIT** TBA

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**PHILOSOPHY 21 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT**

Jan Szaif

MWF 11:00-11:50 A.M., 119 Wellman

CRNs: 45929 & 45930

**TEXTS** Readings in Ancient Philosophy, PHI 21, Winter 2009, UC Davis, compiled by Jan Szaif

<b>COURSE CONTENT</b>	This course introduces students to the main themes and problems of ancient Greek philosophy, as found in the Pre-Socratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenic philosophers.
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	Participation, two short papers, mid-term, and a final exam
<b>PREREQUISITE</b>	None
<b>G.E. CREDIT</b>	Art and Humanities, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 24      INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

Brooke Roberts

MWF 2:10-3:00 P.M., 6 Wellman

CRNs: 54273, 54336, 54337, 54338

**TEXTS**      *Political Philosophy: A Beginner's Guide for Students and Politicians* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Adam Swift

*Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by George Lakoff

**COURSE CONTENT**      This is an entry level course in political philosophy. We will learn about various normative ethical theories in order to explore what the role of the state should be. In particular, the focus will be on the following topic: many think that the state's role should be to administer justice, but before we can make sense of this assertion we must understand what justice is. We will take a critical look at the various theories of justice in order to understand the dimensions of this issue.

Towards the end of the quarter we will switch gears and entertain a hypothesis concerning how morality plays a role in politics. Modern-day liberals and conservatives take different stances on a large range of policies. It is plausible that their stances are informed by their different conceptions of morality and the proper role of the state. Our focus will be on examining this hypothesis through examples, and thinking about its implications.

**REQUIREMENTS**      Class participation and in-class group activities, two papers (~ five pages each), and a final exam

**PREREQUISITES**      None

**G.E. CREDIT**

Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 108**

**PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Roberta Millstein

TR 12:10-1:30 P.M., 2016 Haring

CRNs: 45972 & 45973

**TEXTS**

Readings available online

**COURSE CONTENT**

This class will consider foundational conceptual and methodological issues in biology such as: the proper definition of “natural selection” and “fitness”; adaptationism as a research program, especially with respect to the evolution of female sexuality and evolutionary psychology; the question of whether there are any biological laws or whether model building suffices; the concept of “population”; the debate over whether race is a social construction of biological reality.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Class participation, reading reflections, short written assignments, final exam

**PREREQUISITES**

None

**G.E. CREDIT**

Arts & Humanities or Science & Engineering, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 111**

**PHILOSOPHY OF SPACE AND TIME**

Cody Gilmore

MW 10:00-11:50 A.M., 212 Wellman

CRN: 54272

**TEXTS**

TBA

**COURSE CONTENT**

This course will examine questions about the nature of space and time. Is space a “thing”, or a collection of “objective places”, and if so, what kind of a “thing”, or what kinds of things are these “places”? Or, as Leibniz argues, do the facts about space involve only facts about spatial relations between physical objects? What implications do our best theory of the nature of space and time, Einstein’s theory of relativity; have for our understanding of the nature of space and time? Einstein’s theory has implications for the old questions and introduces many new ones.

We will begin with some questions about time connected with the subjective feeling that there is a radical difference between “now”, the “past”, and the “future”. Are these objectively different, or is the impression of difference an artifact of the subjectivity of one’s present thoughts?

We will then spend some time introducing the basic ideas and surprising implications of relativity theory. No prior work in physics will be assumed, and (I hope!) the exposition will be accessible to everyone. Then we will use this understanding of relativity in examining the discussion of the nature of space and time.

**REQUIREMENTS** Two papers, an in-class midterm and an in-class final. Other assignments to be determined.

**PREREQUISITE** One upper division philosophy course.

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**PHILOSOPHY 112 INTERMEDIATE SYMBOLIC LOGIC**

G.J. Matthey

TR 12:10-2:00 P.M., 233 Wellman

CRN: 45975

**TEXT** *A Modern Formal Language Primer*, Paul Teller (available on-line at <http://tellerprimer.ucdavis.edu>)

**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 interferences involving quantifiers. Techniques for dealing with identity, functions and definite descriptions will be developed.

**REQUIREMENTS** Two midterms, final exam, homework

**PREREQUISITE** Philosophy 12, Mathematics 108 or the equivalent

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**PHILOSOPHY 114 HISTORY OF ETHICS**

G.J. Matthey

TR 10:00-11:50 A.M., 233 Wellman

CRN: 54265

**TEXT**

*Classics of Moral and Political Theory*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. Michael L. Morgan

**COURSE CONTENT**

The course will survey developments in ethical theory in Western philosophy from its origins in Socrates and the Sophists to the end of the nineteenth century. Emphasis will be on major figures such as Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Mill and Nietzsche, though other significant moral theorists will also be treated. Some questions to be examined are: What is the nature and origin of the good? What is the origin and purpose of moral concepts? What makes a person good? What makes an action good? Is goodness an absolute or a relative value? Is there a "moral law," and if so, what is its content?

**REQUIREMENTS**

Two papers and a final examination

**PREREQUISITE**

One course in philosophy

**G.E. CREDIT**

Arts and Humanities, Writing Experience.

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**PHILOSOPHY 161**

**PLATO**

Jan Szaif

TR 10:30-11:50 A.M., 229 Wellman

CRN: 45980

**TEXTS**

*Complete Works of Plato*, ed. by J. Cooper  
*An Introduction to Plato's Republic*, J. Annas

**COURSE CONTENT**

The first part of this course addresses the problems and objectives of Socratic and Platonic virtue theory. The second part is devoted to Plato's views on knowledge, education and the structure of reality as set out within the framework of his 'theory of Forms'. The course is based on the early and middle-period writings of Plato, with a particular emphasis on his dialogue *Republic*.

**REQUIREMENTS**

A term paper, a midterm and a final examination

**PREREQUISITE**

Philosophy 21 or consent of instructor

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**PHILOSOPHY 189A TOPICS IN HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: FREGE**

Robert May

TR 3:10-4:30 P.M., 233 Wellman

CRN: 54269

**TEXTS**

*Conceptual Notation and Related Articles*, Gottlob Frege  
*Foundations of Arithmetic*, Gottlob Frege  
*The Frege Reader*, Michael Beaney

**COURSE CONTENT**

TBA

**REQUIREMENTS**

TBA

**PREREQUISITE**

One course in philosophy

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**PHILOSOPHY 189J TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE:  
SEMANTIC NIHILISM**

Adam Sennet

TR 12:10-1:30 P.M., 217 Olson

CRN: 54270

**TEXT**

*Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*, Saul Kripke

**COURSE CONTENT**

This course will focus on several challenges to meaning realism, or the view that words and sentences have meaning. It will focus on Quine, Putnam and Kripke's Wittgenstein challenges as well as responses from Chomsky, Lewis and others.

**REQUIREMENTS**

One midterm exam, one final paper

**PREREQUISITE**

One course in philosophy or linguistics

**G.E. CREDIT**

None

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**PHILOSOPHY 200B PROSEMINAR II**

Cody Gilmore

M 3:10-6:00 P.M., 2275 Social Science and Humanities

CRN: 46052

**TEXTS**

TBA



W 3:10-6:00 P.M., 2275 Social Sciences and Humanities

CRN: 46056

**TEXT**

*De Lingua Belief*, Robert Fiengo & Robert May  
*Semantic Relationalism*, Kit Fine

**COURSE CONTENT**

Topics in philosophy of language. Discussion of recent published and unpublished papers and books, presentations of work in progress by faculty and students.

**REQUIREMENTS**

TBA

**PREREQUISITE**

Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

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