

PHILOSOPHY

SPRING 2019

COURSE OFFERINGS

Phil 1000.01	Introduction to Philosophy 2003 CH <>2015 H	Goodin
MW 11 – 11:50 am	This course explores such philosophical topics as God (his existence and his traits), metaphysics (the study of reality and being), and epistemology (the study of knowledge).	
Phil 1000.02	Introduction to Philosophy 2003 CH <>2015 H	Colter
TR 11:00 am-12:15 pm	This course explores such philosophical topics as God (his existence and his traits), metaphysics (the study of reality and being), and epistemology (the study of knowledge).	
Phil 2310.01	Philosophy of Religion 2003 CH	Rettler
TR 9:35-10:50 am	Philosophy of religion is the attempt to answer questions about God, religion, and religious experience. Some of the questions that we'll be discussing this semester are: Does God exist? Is the existence of God compatible with the existence of evil? Do the physical constants of the universe give us reason to believe in God? Is the existence of God compatible with God's hiddenness? Can we make sense of goodness without God? Cross-listed with RELI 2500	
Phil 2420.01	Critical Thinking	Colter
TR 1:20-2:35 PM	Critical Thinking is the process by which we develop and support our beliefs, and evaluate the strength of arguments made by others in real-life situations. Students will identify and use critical thinking skills, processes and techniques that will assist them in their careers and personal lives, as well as develop their ability to investigate and evaluate thinking from different viewpoints and synthesize their own positions based on the evidence available.	
PHIL 3120.01	Ancient Greek Philosophy	Colter
MWF 11:00-11:50 AM	This is a course surveying some of ancient Greek philosophy. We will begin with the works of the earliest extant philosophical thinkers, known as the pre-Socratics, who began thinking in a way that is recognizably philosophical. The remainder of the course will focus on two giants of western philosophy, Plato and Aristotle.	
Phil 3300.01	Ethical Theory	Sherline
TR 9:35-10:50 am	The study of right and wrong as covered in theories of Utilitarianism, Kantian deontological ethics, Aristotelian virtue theory, divine law theory and moral intuitionism. Challenges to morality such as from relativism will also be covered.	
Phil 3320.40	Eastern Thought	Grether
Online	Examines the development of major concepts found in Zoroastrian, Hindu, Gnostic, Buddhist, and Taoist sacred texts. Themes include selfhood, soteriology, apotheosis, eschatology, and cosmic dualisms; especially as they develop along the Silk Road.	
Phil 3420.01	Symbolic Logic	Griesmaier
MWF 1:10-2:00 pm	This is an introduction to the two simplest logical systems, propositional and predicate calculus. No prior familiarity with logic is assumed or required. We start by learning how to transform strings of symbols into other strings of symbols in accordance with a small set of rules. It's a bit like learning how to play a game, such as chess or checkers. Towards the end, we will also discuss what proofs are, how their validity can be checked. We end with an introduction to a simplified version of Tarski's model theory, which gives us a definition of truth.	
Phil 3510.01	Introduction to Epistemology	Griesmaier
MWF 10:00-10:50 am	Epistemology is one the foundational areas of philosophy, investigating the nature of knowledge and the conditions under which a person is justified in forming, maintaining, or abandoning their beliefs. We will survey the central traditional topics, such as the externalism – internalism distinction, responses to the Gettier problem, and foundationalism vs. coherentism vs reliabilism about justification. In addition, we will discuss some of the currently "hot" topics, such as safety and sensitivity accounts of knowledge, the nature of testimony, issues in social epistemology, and the so-called pragmatic encroachment on knowledge (roughly, whether one knows in a certain situation might be dependent on what's at stake in that situation).	
Phil 3933.01	African Philosophy < >H	Sherline
TR 1:20-2:35 pm	Examines the work of philosophers of Africa, of African descent and others who deal with the African diaspora. Topics include the nature of African philosophy, post-colonial political philosophy in Africa and the Americas, African ethics, black resistance to oppression, philosophy of race, philosophy and gender.	
Phil 4000.01	Phil Issues: Philosophy of Film	Griesmaier
W 3:10-5:40 pm	Films can sometimes thematize issues that look familiar to philosophers. However, films themselves can also be a topic for philosophy; they are a particular kind of artistic representation that commands great attention. How can that be explained, given that most films are fairly formulaic? Films also engage us emotionally: But why do we care about fictional characters and their fate, and in what ways do films secure our emotional engagement that distinguishes them from novels? What is the role of film music? Who is the author of a film – the director, the editor, or everyone involved in the production? If the latter, are films products of collective cognition? Can we learn from films, and if so, how, given that they are fictional? In addition to discussing those issues, we will also watch a number of films, some classics (perhaps <i>North by Northwest</i> , or <i>Bringing Up Baby</i>), some not so well-known (perhaps Saura's <i>Carmen</i> , or Godard's <i>Week-End</i>), and some more avant-garde (perhaps <i>Orfeo Negro</i> , or <i>The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie</i>).	
Phil 4560.01	Metaphysics	Rettler
R 4:10-6:40 pm	Ontology is the branch of metaphysics that asks questions about what there is. Meta-ontology is the branch of metaphysics that asks questions about the ontology questions. For example: What do we mean when we ask, "What is there?" Is there only one kind of existence, or many? Do some things exist in different ways? Do some things have more being than other things? In his recent book <i>The Fragmentation of Being</i> (OUP, 2018), Kris McDaniel asks and answers these questions. Drawing on work from Aquinas, Aristotle, Heidegger, Husserl, and others, he articulates and defends <i>pluralism</i> about being. Pluralism about being is by far the minority view in contemporary metaphysics. So, alongside McDaniel's book, we will read papers by those who argue for the majority view. This will give us a well-rounded overview of the options.	