

Think About It

Philosophy

Course Offerings – Fall 2014

Phil 1000.01	Introduction to Philosophy– CH	Colter
MW 10:00-10:50 am	This course is designed to introduce you to philosophy by focusing on three major areas of philosophical research: epistemology, or the theory of knowledge, metaphysics, or the theory of the ultimate nature of reality, the philosophy of mind, and ethics, the investigation of the moral permissibility and/or obligatoriness of (types of) human action.	
Plus one Friday discussion section	Discussion Sections held on Fridays: section 20 – 9:00-9:50 section 21 –10:00-10:50 section 22 – 10:00-10:50 section 23 – 11:00-11:50	
Phil 1000.02	Introduction to Philosophy - CH	Staff
MW 11:00-11:50 am	This course is designed to introduce you to philosophy by focusing on three major areas of philosophical research: epistemology, or the theory of knowledge, metaphysics, or the theory of the ultimate nature of reality, the philosophy of mind, and ethics, the investigation of the moral permissibility and/or obligatoriness of (types of) human action.	
Plus one Friday discussion section	Discussion Sections held on Fridays: section 24 – 10:00-10:50 section 25 –11:00-11:50 section 26 – 11:00-11:50 section 27 – 12:00-12:50	
Phil 1000.03	Introduction to Philosophy - CH	Goodin
TR 11:00-12:15 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 2345.01	Natural Resource Ethics - CH, D	Staff
MWF 9:00-9:50 am	This course pursues the development of an ethical “toolbox”—theoretical methods that pertain to conflicts regarding natural resources—along with how these tools work, their limitations, and what problems they can address. We finish with the tools of justice to explore how environmental assets and liabilities ought to be distributed. <i>Cross-listed with ENR 2345/RNEW 2345</i>	
Phil 2345.02	Natural Resource Ethics - CH, D	Staff
MWF 1:10-2:00 pm	This course pursues the development of an ethical “toolbox”—theoretical methods that pertain to conflicts regarding natural resources—along with how these tools work, their limitations, and what problems they can address. We finish with the tools of justice to explore how environmental assets and liabilities ought to be distributed. <i>Cross-listed with ENR 2345/RNEW 2345</i>	
Phil 3100-01	History of Modern Philosophy: Rationalist	Goodin
MWF 11:00-11:50 am	In philosophy, the modern time period is defined as 1500-1900. This course is an in-depth text-based study of the three leading Rationalists of the 16th and 17th centuries: Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz.	
Phil 3300-01	Ethical Theory	Sherline
MWF 9:00-9:50 am	Is there an ultimate principle of moral right and wrong? Is this the right question to ask? We’ll begin with those who argue for an ultimate principle (utilitarianism, Kantian deontology, contractualism). We’ll then look at alternative approaches (traditional virtue ethics, particularism, pragmatism), which reject the search for a principle. In the process we’ll have a lot of fun examining moral conundrums such as the trolley problem.	
Phil 3560-01	Introduction to Metaphysics	Colter
TR 9:35-10:50 am	This course explores the most basic questions concerning the fundamental structure of reality. We will consider questions about the basic furniture of the universe (ontology), as well as the way in which these constituents are inter-related (e.g., the nature of causation).	
Phil 4020/5020	Plato	Colter
T 3:00-5:30	This seminar will be focused on a particular topic in Plato and relevant scholarship.	
Phil 4300/5300	Topics in Ethics: "Secular moral philosophy, religion and the afterlife: recent work by Nagel, Dworkin and Scheffler"	Sherline
R 3:00-5:30 pm	Recently three powerful and innovative moral philosophers have published highly original works in the realm of ethics: Thomas Nagel, <i>Secular Philosophy and the Religious Temperament</i> ; Ronald Dworkin, <i>Religion Without God</i> ; and Samuel Scheffler, <i>Death and the Afterlife</i> . We’ll consider core excerpts from each of these works, as well as critical discussions.	
Phil 4510/5510	Theory of Knowledge: Epistemology of Understanding	Griesmaier
W 3:10-5:30 pm	For the longest time in the history of philosophy, it was actually understanding, and not primarily our JTB-based notion of knowledge, that was at the center of epistemological interest – just think about Locke, Leibniz, and Hume. Recently, philosophers such as Kvanvig and Zagzebski have re-emphasized the importance of the notion of understanding for epistemology. In this seminar, we will discuss such recent developments and explore questions such as "Can one rationally believe what one doesn't understand?", "What exactly is understanding", etc. Although our focus will be on contemporary analytic philosophy, some forays into continental thought might be appropriate.	