Philosophy

Course Offerings – Spring 2015

Phil 1000.01	Introduction to Philosophy – CH Colter
MW 11:00-11:50 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).
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 Goodin
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 2345.01	Natural Resource Ethics – CH, D Purves
MW 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.
Plus one Friday discussion section	Discussion Sections held on Fridays: section 20 – 10:00-10:50 section 22 – 11:00-11:50 section 23 – 11:00-11:50
Phil 3000.01	Topics: Philosophy of Language Purves
TR 9:35-10:50 am	We use words to mean things. Do words also have meanings? If so, what sort of things are meanings? Are they objects in our heads or are they independent of us? And how do we come to understand a language to begin with? These are just a few of the foundational questions to be considered in this course.
Phil 3120.01	Ancient Greek Philosophy Colter
MWF 1:10-2:00 pm	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 3140.01	Philosophy of Science Griesmaier
TR 9:35-10:50 am	The course is an upper-level introduction to the philosophy of science, which is the systematic reflection on the nature of science in general and of particular scientific theories. This includes the discussion of the methods and goals of scientific theorizing, and of models for understanding many of science's central concepts, such as experimentation, explanation, causation, natural law, confirmation, and idealization.
Phil 3420.01	Symbolic Logic Griesmaier
MWF 9:00-9:50 am	Studies both propositional and quantificational logic, concentrating on methods of proof. Takes up such topics as identity, singular terms, intuitive set theory, and translating English sentences into symbolic notation.
Phil 4000/5000	Philosophical Issues: Affect Theory Hix
3:10-5:40 pm	Philosophers have persistently treated reason as good and emotion as bad, to the point even of reducing humans to emotionless reasoners. But what if that view, no matter how often taken for granted, is just wrong? What if it's not only true that we humans experience emotion, but often good that we do? In this course, we will read work from a line of inquiry that has come to be called "affect theory," in an attempt to take seriously Sara Ahmed's assertion that "It matters how we think about feeling."
Phil 4560/5560	Metaphysics Purves
3:10-5:40 pm	In this seminar we will explore several issues in metaphysics, including: the nature of time and the appropriate attitude towards the future and the past; the nature and importance of personal identity; and the distinction between making and allowing something to happen. In exploring these metaphysical issues, we will hopefully gain a better understanding of the moral issues which they underlie.
Phil 5100.01	Figures in Modern and 19th Century Philosophy Goodin
M	The seminar will be on either Descartes or Spinoza. Undergraduate majors may take this course.