

Philosophy

Course Offerings

Fall 2010

Phil 1000-01	Intro to Philosophy: Conceptual Foundations of Science – C1, CH	Griesmaier
MW 10:00-10:50 am	Despite popular opinion, philosophical questions have driven the development of science in the West to a degree at least as great, if not greater, as that stemming from empirical discoveries. Even today, many of the foundational questions arising in the empirical sciences are of a distinctly philosophical nature: What standards, e.g., should guide rational theory choice? What is the nature of evidence? What's the use of idealization if we are after the truth? We'll discuss these issues by exploring the interplay between philosophy and the sciences throughout history.	
Plus one Friday discussion section	Discussion Sections held on Fridays: section 20 – 10:00-10:50 section 21 – 10:00-10:50 section 22 – 11:00-11:50 section 23 – 11:00-11:50	
Phil 1000-02	Introduction to Philosophy – C1, CH	Colter
MW 9:00-9:50 am	This course is the study of basic questions in philosophy: what is reality, what is knowledge, what is the Good, does God exist, can only humans think, and do we have free will?	
Plus one Friday discussion section	Discussion Sections held on Fridays: section 24 – 9:00-9:50 section 25 – 9:00-9:50 section 26 – 10:00-10:50 section 27 – 11:00-11:50	
Phil 1000-03	Introduction to Philosophy – C1, CH	Goodin
MWF 11:00-11:50 am	This course is the study of basic questions in philosophy: what is reality, what is knowledge, what is the Good, does God exist, can only humans think, and do we have free will?	
Phil 2420-01	Critical Thinking – CH	Moffett
TR 9:35-10:50 am	A paradox is a contradictory, absurd or otherwise unacceptable conclusion derived from apparently true premises by way of a seemingly valid line reasoning. In this course we will explore a number paradoxes with an eye toward coming to a fuller appreciation of exactly what reasoning (critical thinking) is all about.	
Phil 3000-01	Topic: Ancient Philosophy	Colter
MWF 11:00-11:50 am		
Phil 3000-02	Topic: Feminist Ethics	Goodin
MWF 1:10-2:00 pm	This course will examine both traditional ethical theory and the feminist claim of deficiencies in the traditional theories. We will examine the validity of the claims that there are deficiencies in the theories and evaluate the feminist ethical theories in terms of how well they deal with various ethical issues. <i>Cross listed with WMST 4500</i>	
Phil 3100-01	History of Modern Philosophy	Goodin
MWF 9:00-9:50 am	This course provides a critical study of philosophical figures during the 17th and 18th century: Descartes, Locke, Spinoza, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume and Kant.	
Phil 3250-01	Global Justice – G	Sherline
TR 11:00am-12:50 pm	This course examines a number of current debates concerning the ethics and justice of international relations: Does justice even apply to the international order? Do people have a right to secede from a state? What is a just policy on immigration, open or closed borders? Should guest workers have a right to become citizens? What are the obligations of affluent individuals and states to the poor of the world? In the last part of the semester, students work on independent projects.	
Phil 3510-01	Introduction to Epistemology	Moffett
TR 1:20-2:35	In 1963, Ed Gettier formulated two counterexamples to the traditional analysis of knowledge as justified true belief. This lead, on the one hand, to a considerable revival of interest in skepticism, and on the other hand, to a proliferation of theories about what sort of condition has to be added to the traditional analysis of knowledge. In this course, we will study in detail the various reactions to Gettier cases and their implications for issues concerning the role of perception, memory, and reasoning in our quest for knowledge.	
Phil 4120/5120	Philosophy and the 20th Century	Griesmaier
W 3:00-5:30 pm	This course is a pro-seminar for graduate students as well as a seminar for undergraduates. We will discuss in depth a number of classics in analytic philosophy in the areas of the philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Emphasis will be on (further) developing the skills required for doing philosophy in the analytic tradition, including argument analysis, construction of objections and counterexamples, elements of paper writing, and peer editing.	
Phil 4140/5140	Topic: Philosophy of Science	Griesmaier
T 3:00-5:30 pm	In this seminar, we will discuss the role, and in particular, the evidential weight, of thought experiments in the empirical sciences and in philosophy. Arguably, many important episodes in the history of science were driven by thought experiments (Galileo's inclined planes, Newton's two-ball universe, his bucket experiment, to name just a couple) at least as much as they were by new observations and advances in scientific instrumentation. The question is what exactly the role of such a non-empirical research method can be, and how it can be defended against charges that it relies too much on psychological categories, such as imaginability and the like.	
Phil 4300/5300	Topics in Ethics	Sherline
R 3:00-5:30 pm	In this seminar we'll concentrate on Stephen Darwall's recent (2006) and important book <i>The Second Person Standpoint: Morality, Respect, and Accountability</i> . This is book deeply influenced by Kant's moral philosophy, and rich in themes. We'll use it as a spring board into questions such as the bearing of different standpoints (first, second, third) on the understanding of moral obligation, and different accounts of accountability. To deepen the discussion we'll also consider some recent papers from an issue of <i>Ethics</i> on Darwall's book.	

Major and Minor information can be found on the Philosophy web site at: <http://uwyo.edu/philosophy> or by contacting the Philosophy Department at 766-3204, Hoyt Hall, Rm 325