

Philosophy

Course Offerings – Fall 2015

Phil 1000.01	Introduction to Philosophy 2003 CH <>2015 H	Colter
<p>MW 10:00-10:50 am</p> <p>Plus one Friday discussion section</p>	<p>In this course, we are going consider and discuss some of the major fundamental problems that philosophy considers. We will start with arguments for the existence of God, and move on to the nature and scope of knowledge, some questions about mind, self, and identity, and finish with ethics.</p> <p>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</p>	
Phil 1000.03	Introduction to Philosophy 2003 CH <>2015 H	Goodin
<p>TR 11:00 am-12:15 pm</p>	<p>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).</p>	
Phil 3000.01	Topics in Logic	Griesmaier
<p>MWF 1:10-2:00 pm</p>	<p>This course surveys advanced topics in logic, including Loewenheim-Skolem, Goedel’s Incompleteness Theorem, computability theory, and some modal logic. It is designed for the new interdisciplinary minor in Computational Epistemology (in the process of approval).</p>	
Phil 3110.01	History of Modern Philosophy: Empiricists	Goodin
<p>MWF 11:00-11:50 am</p>	<p>This course is the companion piece to The Rationalists. In this course we will study the metaphysics and epistemology of John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume.</p>	
Phil 3250.01	Global Justice 2003 G	Sherline
<p>MWF 10:00-10:50 am</p>	<p>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? In the last part of the semester, students work on independent projects.</p>	
Phil 3340.01	Philosophy in Literature	Hix
<p>TR 1:20-2:35 pm</p>	<p>In this course we will read a selection of texts, each of which seems to welcome categorization either as philosophy or as literature, but each of which also “talks to” or “talks about” the other category. Through careful readings of, and attentive inquiry into, these texts, we will attempt to enter into the conversation(s) they invite, on the twin premises that (a) philosophy can enrich our understanding of literature, and vice versa, and (b) both philosophy <i>and</i> literature can enrich our understanding of ourselves and our world. (<i>Cross-listed w/ENGL 3340</i>)</p>	
Phil 3510.01	Introduction to Epistemology	Colter
<p>TR 9:35-10:50 am</p>	<p>Epistemology considers the nature of knowledge: What does it mean when we claim to know some fact? What value does knowledge have for us? In this course, we will consider some main trends in contemporary epistemology, including: the nature of knowledge and its value, theoretical vs. practical knowledge, and the relation of knowledge to our larger life goals and projects.</p>	
Phil 4030/5030	Aristotle	Colter
<p>T 3:10-5:40 pm</p>	<p>This course will focus on a close reading of Aristotle’s <i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>De Anima</i>, supplemented by secondary readings and analysis.</p>	
Phil 4300/5300	Topics in Ethics: Moral Responsibility from the Margins	Sherline
<p>R 2:45-5:15 pm</p>	<p>The centerpiece of this course will be an exciting new work on moral responsibility called <i>Responsibility from the Margins</i>. Here is the book’s blurb: “David Shoemaker presents a new pluralistic theory of responsibility, based on the idea of quality of will. His approach is motivated by our ambivalence to real-life cases of marginal agency, such as those caused by clinical depression, dementia, scrupulosity, psychopathy, autism, intellectual disability, and poor formative circumstances.” One of the exciting aspects of this seminar is that Shoemaker will be meeting with the class to field questions about his book.</p>	
Phil 4510/5510	Theory of Knowledge: Epistemology	Griesmaier
<p>W 3:10-5:40 pm</p>	<p>During the last three decades or so, there has been a renewed interest in formal approaches to problems in epistemology, from Bayesian epistemology to belief revision theory to formal learning theory to epistemic and justification logics. We will familiarize ourselves with some of those approaches and evaluate their promise for dealing with a variety of issues, such as epistemic luck, evidentialism, safety and sensitivity, knowledge acquisition, and others. This course should be interesting to students in philosophy and in computer science (no programming will be done, however).</p>	