Inquiring/ Humans & Nature

PHIL170301

Holly Vandewall

M W F 11

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course examines the roots of the western philosophical distinction between humans and nature. Our human experience as rational individuals capable of abstract thought has set us apart from the rest of nature. But humans have found that we are not wholly outside of nature. We have an intimate and interdependent relationship with the rest of creation, a bond that we have stretched through art and technology and been drawn back into by desire and physical necessity. We must ask, then: What does it mean to be human? How do we define nature? What responsibilities do humans have to nature?

Satisfies Core requirement for: Philosophy

Corequisites: Must be concurrently enrolled in ENGL1703; for freshmen only.
Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course satisfies the introductory requirement for students taking the minor in Faith, Peace, and Justice Studies. Other students interested in examining the problems of building a just society are welcome.

This course introduces the student to the principal understandings of justice that have developed in the Western philosophical and theological traditions. Care is taken to relate the theories to concrete, practical and political problems, and to develop good reasons for choosing one way of justice rather than another. The relationship of justice to the complementary notion of peace will also be examined. Special attention is paid to the contribution of Catholic theology in the contemporary public conversation about justice and peace. Problems discussed may include human rights, hunger and poverty, and ecological justice.
PHIL116002 Challenge of Justice

THEO216002

Department T TH 4:30*

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course introduces the student to the principal understandings of justice that have developed in the Western philosophical and theological traditions. Care is taken to relate the theories to concrete, practical and political problems, and to develop good reasons for choosing one way of justice rather than another. The relationship of justice to the complementary notion of peace will also be examined. Special attention is paid to the contribution of Catholic theology in the contemporary public conversation about justice and peace. Select problems may include human rights, poverty and development in Third World, environmental and ecological justice, just war and just peace issues.
PHIL170501

Colin Connors

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

*Core Renewal Course: Enduring Questions*

The inscription above the entrance to Plato’s Academy read: “Let no one enter here who has not studied Euclid”—the father of geometry. Thinkers have sought to understand the world through mathematics. This course will examine how mathematical concepts in the study of nature shape human knowledge, and how these systems of knowledge influence our perspective of human nature. Starting with the Greeks who viewed mathematics as the soul’s direct window to reality, we will then progress to the scientific revolution during which mathematical understandings of nature have improved the human capacity to predict natural events.

*Satisfies Core requirement for: Philosophy*

**Corequisites:** Must be concurrently enrolled in MATH1701
PHIL229701  Community and Culture I

David McMenamin  T 1:30-4:15

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course will explore the nature of community in the context of American culture. Students will examine some of the philosophical, historical, cultural, political and religious forces, which have shaped both contemporary American community and the American understanding of community. Beginning with John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau, then moving to Alexis de Tocqueville, the course’s starting points will be in two thinkers whose political philosophies were part of the intellectual climate in which this nation was born, then in the observations of an early 19th Century visitor of what had emerged in early America. Subsequent readings will raise the question of American culture and community from modern legal, cultural, political and religious perspectives.
PHIL223301  Values in Social Services and Health Care

David Manzo  TH 4:30-6:50

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Through readings, lectures, discussions, field placements, and written work, we will attempt the following: to communicate an understanding of the social services and health care delivery systems and introduce you to experts who work in these fields; explore ethical problems of allocations of limited resources; discuss topics that include violence prevention, gangs, homelessness, mental illness, innovating nursing initiatives, economy inequality, community wealth ventures, and the law; and consider possibilities for positive changes in the social service and health care system.
PHIL225901 Perspectives: War/ Aggression/ Conflict Resolution

THEO232701

SOCY225001

Matthew Mullane T TH 12*

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

The Faith, Peace, and Justice Program at Boston College sponsors this course as an introduction to the field of Peace Studies.

This course develops an interdisciplinary approach to the study of war and conflict and investigates alternatives to their resolution in contemporary global society. The course is organized along multidisciplinary lines, with faculty members from various academic departments responsible for each topic of discussion. This interdisciplinary approach demonstrates the varied and complex perspectives on the causes of war and conflict and attempts to develop, out of the resources of these respective disciplines, intelligent insights into the resolution of conflicts, and the development of alternatives to war.
PHIL226101  Telling Truths I

Kathleen Hirsch  W 3-5:45

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This PULSE elective will explore writing as a tool for social change. Students will read and experiment with a variety of written forms -- memoir, creative non-fiction, opinion and essay -- to tell the “truth” as they experience it in their own encounters with social injustice. This workshop is intended to provide a comprehensive introduction to the range of strategies that social prophets and witnesses have used, and are using today, to promote the cause of justice.
PHIL226401  Logic

David Ellis  M W F 12

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course will consider the principles of correct reasoning together with their application to concrete cases.
Description:

This course will consider the principles of correct reasoning together with their application to concrete cases.
PHIL226403 Logic

Margaret Turnbull M W F 9

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course will consider the principles of correct reasoning together with their application to concrete cases.
This course will be accepted as an elective for philosophy majors or minors

Human existence is a matter of fact in the world that calls for a twofold critical reflection, one on the theory of selfhood and one on the practice of selfhood. In this course we undertake reflection on the theory of selfhood, starting from our common experience as selves in the world and from what we are as embodied souls and spirits and going on to how we exercise our own proper activities of knowing and willing as selves in an historical culture.

Satisfies Core requirement for: Philosophy
PHIL229301   Cultural/ Social Struct I

THEO229301

Meghan Sweeney   T 4:30-6:50

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course focuses on examining the cultural foundations that underlie the contemporary ways in which people choose to structure literally, figuratively, and symbolically the way they live together. Our study centers on questions about how our cultural and social structures are the concrete expression in politics, city planning, architecture, literature, etc., of what we value and of the things we consider meaningful and important.

Prerequisites: Membership on PULSE Council.
PHIL334401 What is Racism

Jorge Garcia M W 12*

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

The course will examine philosophical approaches to the questions: In what does racism consists? What are some of its principal types? What grounds its injustice and connection to a society's common good?

Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity
PHIL447401  
American Philosophy

Richard Atkins

M W 11

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

American scholars have done some of the most innovative philosophical work. This course surveys the works of key figures in American philosophy, focusing on Jonathan Edwards, Thomas Paine, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, Josiah Royce, John Dewey, C.S. Lewis, Wilfrid Sellars, WVO Quine, Richard Rorty, and Hilary Putnam.
PHIL440301

Does God Exist?

Ronald Tacelli, SJ

M W 4:30*

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course aims to be a serious examination, for capable undergraduates, of arguments for and against the existence of God.
Description:

In this course, we will examine the theories of a variety of ancient Greek intellectuals and their theories of rhetoric and especially focus on the divergences and intersections of rhetoric and philosophy. Special attention will be paid to the role of the sophists and Plato's and Aristotle's responses to the sophists in formulating their own concepts of a philosophical rhetoric.

Prerequisites: Completion of philosophy core courses.
PHIL440501 Greek Philosophy

Gary Gurtler, SJ M W F 10

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course is organized around the central philosophical questions asked and answered, in various ways, by philosophers in the ancient Greek-speaking world. We will consider the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, and, more briefly, some Hellenistic authors such as Plutarch, Epictetus, and Plotinus. Topics include theories of material bodies and of change; whether anything immaterial or immutable exists, and if so whether it is single or multiple and its relation to this changing world; the human soul; and the question of the criterion of truth, and the process by which humans may come to know; the question of the criterion of ethics.

Prerequisites: Philosophy of the Person I & II or Perspectives I & II
PHIL440601  Modern Philosophy

Jean-Luc Solere  T TH 12*

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

The course presents in a synthetic but not superficial manner the major philosophies, from Descartes to Kant, which have punctuated the emergence of the modern mind, the development of scientific knowledge and transformations of Western societies, during a period in which conquering rationality asserted its autonomy and gave rise to the idea of Enlightenment, but at the same time reflected on its own limits. This comprehensive survey will cover metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and political thought. We will analyze representative sources, paying attention to their argumentative structures, and highlighting the logic in the unfolding of problems and answers. Syllabus on http://www2.bc.edu/~solere/pl406.html
PHIL44901  Thoreau: Nature, Religion

Jeffrey Bloechl  T TH 1:30*

Level—Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

This course explores the relationship between Thoreau as keen observer of nature, contemplative thinker, and politically engaged writer. Of particular interest are his journals, travel logs, political tracts, and of course Walden. It is helpful to compare these works to those of Rousseau, Emerson and a post-Thoreauvian author like Henry Bugbee. The course includes a visit to Walden Pond and at least one hike along a way described by Thoreau.

Prerequisites: Core philosophy course must be completed prior to registration.
PHIL445401          Unheard Voices: Philosophy at the Crossroads

Cherie McGill       M W F 2

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

What is a just society? What responsibility does each of us have to contribute to a common good? This course starts from the idea that answering these questions requires hearing the voices of those typically unheard, and recognizing the interlocking systems that construct our world. We will attempt to hear voices typically not heard, identify the forces that converge to make voices heard or unheard, and understand the roles that each of us play as silenced and silencer. We will attempt to discern a way forward to a more just society? a way forward that begins from where we are.

Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity
PHIL442601  Hermeneutics, Language, Politics

David Johnson  M W F 9

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course examines the relation between rhetoric, dialogical reason, and politics. We will draw on the thought of Aristotle, Herder, Humboldt, Heidegger, and, above all, Gadamer to understand how the nature of language, the character of rationality, and the phenomenon of non-scientific modes of truth contribute to a conception of hermeneutics as practical philosophy.
PHIL442901                           Freud & Philosophy
Vanessa Rumble                        T TH 9*

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This introductory course for the interdisciplinary minor in psychoanalysis (open to all interested) is designed to acquaint students with the scope and evolution of Freud's thinking and with significant developments in psychoanalysis since his time. Students will study and assess Freud's and Breuer's first formulation of the nature and etiology of hysteria; Freud's groundbreaking work in dream interpretation and the nature of unconscious processes; Freud's attempt to apply his novel theory of unconscious mechanisms to cultural anthropology as well as individual psychology; and the implications of the ongoing revisions in Freud's classification of the drives.

Prerequisites: Philosophy Core
Description:

This course has no prerequisites and does not assume any background in Asian philosophy, but a final research paper will be required.

This course examines the three streams of thought that make up the core of East Asian philosophy: Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. In the wisdom literature of these three "Ways," one finds the critical articulation of views about the nature of reality and about how one ought to live. An important theme common to all three teachings in this regard is the emphasis on learning as a process of self-transformation through self-effort in ordinary existence.

Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity
PHIL447601  
Classical Chinese Philosophy

You G. Jiang  
T TH 1:30*

Level—Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course is an introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy and designed to introduce students to the major philosophical schools of classical China, including the Confucian, Mohist, Daoist, and Buddhist schools. Through lectures, discussions, and reading of select primary and secondary sources, we will explore the formulations and subsequent transformations of key beliefs, doctrines, practices, and institutions that characterized specific cultural, educational, spiritual and philosophical traditions.
This course is an introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy and designed to introduce students to the major philosophical schools of classical China, including the Confucian, Mohist, Daoist, and Buddhist schools. Through lectures, discussions, and reading of select primary and secondary sources, we will explore the formulations and subsequent transformations of key beliefs, doctrines, practices, and institutions that characterized specific cultural, educational, spiritual and philosophical traditions.
PHIL550001  Philosophy of Law

Paul Van Rooy  M W F 11

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

This course aims to provide an overview of a number of core debates in contemporary philosophy of law. The primary concern will be to examine the relation between legal validity and the moral normativity of the law, that is, answers to the questions “What is the law?” and “Is there a (moral) duty to obey the law?” In addition to these more general questions, we will focus on several more specific questions pertaining to constitutionalism, including “What is the relationship between a constitution and the rule of law?”, “What is the ground of judicial review?” and “What connection, if any, is there between questions of legal theory and broader debates in contemporary political philosophy?”
PHIL550501

The Aristotelian Ethics

Deborah DeChiara-Quenzer

M W F 2

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

This course has recently been added for the fall. For students interested in Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, this course is for you! It consists of a close reading of the whole of the Nicomachean Ethics beginning with ethical virtue (Books II-IX) and ending with happiness (Books I & X). I have found that a student's understanding of Aristotle's ethical concepts is enhanced when he/she considers those concepts in relation to leading figures in Ancient Greek literature. Thus, occasionally we will discuss some of Homer's Iliad and Sophocles' Oedipus Tyrannus to consider how some of the following issues relate to Achilles, Hektor, Paris, Oedipus, and Jocasta. What does it means to have an ethical virtue (or vice), to engage in involuntary actions, to be responsible, courageous, good-tempered, truthful, temperate, continent, incontinent, and happy? Since the course will be run seminar style, students are expected to participate generously in classroom discussions.

Prerequisites: Philosophy Core
Conducted in English. Elective for Italian major or minor. 

An introduction to and critical reading of the "Divine Comedy" (in English translation), one of the world's greatest epic poems, produced by "the chief imagination of Christendom" (Yeats). Dante's journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise will be analyzed at its multiple levels of interpretation: literal and allegorical, theological, philosophical, political, and literary. Compendium of an entire epoch of European civilization, the "Comedy" will also be interrogated for its responses to the fundamental questions of human existence: God, the Cosmos, the Self, Good and Evil, Right and Wrong, Suffering, and Happiness.
PHIL551201 Philosophy of Existence

Richard Kearney T TH 3*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

An introduction to the main questions of existentialist philosophy from Kierkegaard and Nietzsche to Heidegger, Sartre and Camus. The major issues dealt with include freedom and determinism, desire and death, anxiety and the search for the absolute.
PHIL556201 Virtue Ethics

Jorge Garcia T TH 3*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

This course chiefly examines recent work on the nature, structure, types, of moral virtues, their relation to impersonal values, and their place within ethical theory, situating these discussions relative to Aristotelian accounts. Readings will be drawn from texts by Robert Adams, Robert Audi, Philippa Foot, Thomas Hurka, Michael Slote, Nancy Snow, Christine Swanton, Judith Thomson, Linda Zagzebski, and others.
PHIL552901 Metaphysics

Gary Gurtler, SJ T TH 12*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

The course begins with classical modern philosophers. Their problems concern the relation of mind and body, the possibility of objective knowledge, and cause and effect. Their method is that of science, combining both empirical and logical elements. After these modern thinkers, giving our cultural assumptions, we turn to Ancient and Medieval philosophers. Their problems concern the relation of spirit and matter, the analogy of being and truth, and causal explanation. Their method is one of dialogue. With this different set of problems and method, we will be able to evaluate the relative strengths of these different philosophical positions.
PHIL553201 Philosophy of Religion in Human Subjectivity

Oliva Blanchette M W 4:30*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

A course on how the question of God or of supernatural religion arises in a post-modern existential philosophy of subjectivity and how it comes to be answered in the affirmative as seen in Maurice Blondel's Philosophy of Action.

Prerequisites: Two courses in philosophy completed
PHIL537201 Patristic Greek

THEO537201

Margaret Schatkin T TH 9*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

This course is continued in the spring as THEO5373 New Testament Greek II.

This two-semester course is designed for the student with no previous knowledge of ancient Greek and has as its goal to develop reading and translation skills in New Testament Greek. The first semester covers chapters 1-15 of Summers, Essentials of New Testament Greek.
The concept of authenticity permeates the whole of artistic culture. For a work of art to be thought authentic it will be true to some higher standard, be it a normative understanding of beauty or the artist’s own personal vision. For Lonergan, what makes art authentic is its ability to communicate some ulterior significance or meaning through symbolic mediation of “the purely experiential pattern.” The purpose of this course will be to appropriate in a rich way Lonergan’s philosophy of art. But in order to do justice to this appropriation, we will first explore what other thinkers have had to say about the nature of art. Aquinas, Kant, Nietzsche and Heidegger will be some of the thinkers with whom we will begin our exploration of the philosophy of art.
PHIL556301  Ethics, Religion, & International Politics

INTL556301

THEO556301

Laura Johnston       T TH 9*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

Major Restricted for IS. See International Studies, Philosophy or the Theology Department for registration approval. Preference to Theology and International Studies majors and minors.

An examination of the role of religion in international politics and of ethical approaches to international affairs. Special emphasis will be given to religion as a source of conflict, religious communities as transnational agents for justice, protection of human rights, and peace; the historical development and contemporary formulations of ethical norms for the use of force; and ethical and religious contributions to reconciliation and solidarity.

Corequisites: Must be concurrently enrolled in either INTL 5562 or INTL 5564. Your discussion group must match with the professor teaching your course.
PHIL556302  Ethics, Religion, & International Politics
INTL556302
THEO556302

Erik Owens  M W 3*

Level—Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Major Restricted for IS. See International Studies, Philosophy or the Theology Department for registration approval. Preference to Theology and International Studies majors and minors.

An examination of the role of religion in international politics and of ethical approaches to international affairs. Special emphasis will be given to religion as a source of conflict, religious communities as transnational agents for justice, protection of human rights, and peace; the historical development and contemporary formulations of ethical norms for the use of force; and ethical and religious contributions to reconciliation and solidarity.

Corequisites: Must be concurrently enrolled in either INTL 5562 or INTL 5564. Your discussion group must match with the professor teaching your course.
PHIL557501  
Augustine

Peter Kreeft  
T TH 10:30*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

An introduction to the most influential Christian thinker of all time outside the New Testament. Course will begin with overviews and historical backgrounds (by Christopher Dawson, Ernest Fortin, Henri Marrou, Paul Henry, and Jacques Maritain). Most of the course will focus on a detailed exploration of the "Confessions" and parts of "The City of God.." We will also look at Augustine's influence on later thinkers: Anselm ("Proslogium"), Aquinas, Pascal ("Pensees"), and, more briefly, some modern thinkers (Luther, Calvin, Descartes, Kierkegaard, Dostoyevski, Lewis, Tolkien).
PHIL557701  Symbolic Logic
Max Weiss  T TH 10:30*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

An introduction to the powerful ways the logical forms woven into deductive reasoning and language can be analyzed using abstract symbolic structures. The study of these structures is not only relevant for understanding effective reasoning, but also for exploring the Anglo-American analytic philosophical tradition and foundations of mathematics, computer science, and linguistics. Philosophically interesting properties about logical systems will be explored, including the task of proving whether a logical system is complete and consistent. A number of interesting topics of twentieth-century logic will be briefly considered, such as set theory, Russell's paradox, and Goedel's theorems.
PHIL559301 Philosophy of Science
Patrick Byrne T 4:30-7:15

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

An introduction to the central themes of twentieth-century history and philosophy of science. Topics to be discussed include the classic and contemporary problems of demarcation, explanation, confirmation, laws of nature, inter-theoretic reduction, social and historical critiques of neo-positivism, and the realism-antirealism debate. We will examine some philosophical perspectives sometimes thought to be closely associated with science including empiricism, pragmatism, naturalism, and physicalism. We will also discuss a number of other issues, including questions about objectivity and the role of values in science, about the methods, scope, and limits of science, and about whether science provides anything like a worldview.
PHIL663701 Philosophy of Theologians

TMST716801

Brian Dunkle, SJ M W 1-2:30

Level—Graduate Elective

Description:

This course has two aims: (1) critical study of philosophical texts that have been important in the development of Christian theological reflection; (2) investigate relations between philosophy and theology from the Classical epoch into the late 20th century. This course is designed especially for students of Theology, Ministry, and the joint MA program in philosophy and theology, but is open to all students.
Daoism

THEO657801

David Mozina T TH 3*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

*Formerly offered as TH578 Visions & Visualizations: Daoist Religious Traditions*

Daoism (sometimes spelled Taoism) has been imagined in the West as an Eastern philosophy of blithe individuality and environmental consciousness. But what have Daoist thought and practice meant to Chinese practitioners? The answer might surprise. This course will examine major moments of thought and practice from the early, medieval, and modern periods of China’s most successful indigenous religious tradition. Close readings of texts and images will challenge Western assumptions about what this religious tradition has been all about, and by extension, how we imagine the general categories ?theology? and ?religion.?  

*Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity*
PHIL663701    Kant: Within the Limits of Reason Alone

Micah Lott    T TH 3*

Level—Undergraduate/ Graduate Elective

Description:

This will be a seminar, focused on a close reading of this text by Kant. We will also supplement this text with passages from other works by Kant, especially the Critique of Practical Reason.

Prerequisites: Philosophy Core if Undergraduate
PHIL667001 Technology and Culture

SOCY667001

CSCI226701

William Griffith M 4:30-6:50

Level—Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Satisfies Computer Science Requirement. Satisfies CSOM Computer Science Concentration Requirement and CSOM Information Systems Concentration Requirement.

This interdisciplinary course will first investigate the social, political, psychological, ethical, and spiritual aspects of the Western cultural development with a special emphasis on scientific and technological metaphors and narratives. We will then focus on the contemporary world, examining the impact of our various technological creations on cultural directions, democratic process, the world of work, quality of life, and especially on the emergent meanings for the terms "citizen" and "ethics" in contemporary society. Students will explore technologies in four broad and interrelated domains: (1) computer, media, communications, and information technologies, (2) biotechnology, (3) globalization, and (4) environmental issues.
PHIL667001  
David Johnson  
M 3-5:45

Level—Graduate Elective

Description:

The purpose of this course is to examine the idea of philosophical hermeneutics that is found in the work of Gadamer. We will focus especially on Gadamer’s reflections on the nature of language, the character of rationality, and the question of non-scientific modes of truth. Because hermeneutics as Gadamer conceives it is also practical philosophy, much of our attention will be taken up with the question of the relation between rhetoric, dialogical reason, and the problems of ethical life. Truth and Method will be the central text for this course, though we will also read some of Gadamer’s shorter essays.
PHIL772101  Medieval Ontology

Jean-Luc Solere  TH  4:30-7:15

Level—Graduate Elective

Description:

We will study how Neo-Platonism and Aristotelism dialogued, argued, merged, parted in medieval metaphysics, especially in Aquinas's, Scotus's and Ockham's thought, during the 13th and 14th centuries. We will analyze fundamental concepts such as being, form and matter, substance and accident, essence and existence, individuation, participation, creation, etc. The class is especially designed for giving graduate students a strong and in-depth presentation of medieval thought, an essential moment of the development of western philosophy.
PHIL772101 Medieval Ontology

Jean-Luc Solere TH 4:30-7:15

Level—Graduate Elective

Description:

We will study how Neo-Platonism and Aristotelism dialogued, argued, merged, parted in medieval metaphysics, especially in Aquinas's, Scotus's and Ockham's thought, during the 13th and 14th centuries. We will analyze fundamental concepts such as being, form and matter, substance and accident, essence and existence, individuation, participation, creation, etc. The class is especially designed for giving graduate students a strong and in-depth presentation of medieval thought, an essential moment of the development of western philosophy.
PHIL773301 Phenomenology and Deconstruction

John Sallis T 4:30-7:15

Level—Graduate Elective

Description:

This course will consider such phenomenological themes as the relation between expression and meaning, the nature of time-consciousness, and the concept of intentionality. Subsequently, consideration will be given to the interpretations and critiques of these themes in the texts of Heidegger and Derrida.

Prerequisites: Grad students only. Others only with permission.
Description:

This seminar will explore the phenomenological investigation of the 'stranger' as other, foreigner, guest and invader. Beginning with Husserl's analysis of intersubjectivity and otherness in his Cartesian Meditations, the course examines how this classic account was critically developed by later generations of thinkers from Levinas, Sartre and Merleau-Ponty to Kristeva, Derrida and Jean-Luc Marion. The seminar will also look at phenomenological 'examples' of the stranger and the strange (the Uncanny) in contemporary literature, cinema and popular culture.
This course will consider the many different contexts in which Thomas Aquinas uses the notion of nature and natural motion to explain the character of human and divine attributes and actions. We will examine how the notion of Aristotelian nature and motion informs his account of not just vice and virtue but freedom and creation. We will also consider the account of natural law in light of his account of nature after the Fall and as in need of grace. We will consider how and whether his use of these notions changes from the *Summa theologiae* to the Disputed Questions on Truth, as well as on power and evil.