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PL 193 01  Chinese Classical Philosophy: 
Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism

Frank Soo       TTh  10:30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective
Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

Description:
Starting from the general introduction to Chinese culture & philosophy as a whole, the course will focus on three of the most important Chinese classical philosophies: Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Emphasizing social harmony and order, Confucianism deals mainly with human relationships and human virtues. Centered on the balance and harmony among Nature, man, and society, Taoism teaches the most natural way to achieve this balance and harmony: Tao. Synthesized as soon as it arrived in China from India, Chinese Buddhism teaches that there is “Buddha-hood” in every one of us, and that the Buddhist Way is to have “infinite compassion” towards others.

Requirements:

- Midterm
- Final
- One paper (and 5-6 small written assignments)
- Participation that includes:
  [a] Class attendance (obligatory)
  [b] Group discussions
  [c] Meditations
  [d] Group-Project, etc.

Reading:

[3] Lao Tzu, The Tao Te-ching
[6] Christmas Humphreys, A Western Approach to Zen
PL 233  Values in Social Services and Health Care

David Manzo  Th 4:30-6:50

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

"But you know, there are no children here. They've seen too much to be children."
  LaJoe Rivers, There Are No Children Here

"Homelessness in America begins at home."
  Kathleen Hirsch, Songs From The Alley

"We can degrade people by caring for them; and we can degrade people by not caring for them."
  Steven Marcus, Doing Good

Through readings, lectures, discussions, field placements and written work, we will pursue some of the questions raised by the facts, philosophies, and statements listed above. We hope to do more, too. Among the objectives for Values in Social Services and Health Care are: (1) communicate an understanding of the social services and health care delivery systems and introduce you to experts who work in these fields; (2) explore ethical problems of allocations of limited resources; (3) discuss topics that include, violence prevention, gangs, homelessness, mental illness, innovative nursing initiatives, economic inequality, community wealth ventures, and the law; (4) consider possibilities for positive changes in the social service and health care system.

Students may take this course with 2 grading options. Option A includes an 8-hour per week field placement with PULSE. Option B includes a 4-hour per week placement with 4Boston or a similar commitment.
PL 261 01  Telling Truths: Writing for the Cause of Justice

Kathleen Hirsch  W 3-450

Level 1 – 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 – fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, and journalism – 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 literary strategies that social prophets and witnesses have used, and are using today, to promote the cause of justice.

Requirements: A PULSE, 4-Boston or other voluntary involvement strongly recommended.

Readings: Selected works of contemporary fiction, urban poetry, rap music, oral history, memoir, and non-fiction.

PL 264 01  Logic

Stuart Martin  MWF 11

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Logic is the science of correct reasoning. The study of this science aims at perfecting the student’s practical ability for critical analysis and precise argumentation. This course will emphasize the elements of traditional logic but will also introduce the student to the field of modern symbolic notation.

Requirements: Working exercises are supplied for each unit of study, and class participation is encouraged. There will be two tests during the semester as well as a final examination.
Reading: Robert J. Kreyche, *Logic for Undergraduates*.

**PL 264 02/03 Logic**

**Lynn Purcell**

**MWF 2**

**MWF 3**

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course is designed to introduce students with no previous experience with logic to the basic terms, forms, symbols, and methods of logical reasoning especially as they have become important for philosophical thought. The course, then, will have four parts each of which is designed to emphasize a different point in the history of philosophy. The first will introduce students to the forms of rigorous argumentative analysis, which is most widely used in philosophy, and which has relevance for standardized tests such as the LSAT and GMAT. The second will consider formal logic, as developed principally by Aristotle, and which was put to use by Immanuel Kant. The third portion will examine the development of symbolic logic, which has been the mainstay of contemporary Analytic philosophy. Finally, we will turn to a consideration of the development of axiomatic set theory, which has recently found its most salient use in contemporary Continental philosophy.

**Requirements:**

Weekly homework assignments. Two tests. A final.

**Reading:**


**PL 293 01 Cultural and Social Structure I**
Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Prerequisites: Limited to members of the PULSE Council

Description:

This course is one in the four semester cycle of courses designed for members of the Boston College PULSE Council. In this course we attempt to lay a foundation for understanding contemporary ways in which people choose to structure -- literally and figuratively -- the way they live together. Our study centers on questions about how our cultural and social structures are the concrete expression of what we value, of the things we consider meaningful and important.

The texts we have chosen to guide us in this pursuit will lead us to raise these questions in a way that will direct our focus somewhat to western, particularly North American ways of creating these cultural and social structures.

As the late Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, that distinguished Boston College alumnus whose name adorns our library, Thomas P. O'Neill was fond of saying: "All politics is local." No doubt he derived that from his reading of Aristotle's Ethics. Understanding that as a sort of underlying theme of all four semesters of this course, we hope to look closely at the origins and development of some of the guiding themes and ideas that ground those local politics: the structuring of the culture in which we find ourselves today.

Accordingly, we have selected texts from what might appear to be a broad range of disciplines. As usual for this seminar, some may initially appear to have little to do with what you think of when you hear the word "philosophy." They all, however, have a great deal to do with what you might need to think about when trying to answer such questions as: "Is there a philosophy behind what it means to be a citizen of a particular country?" or "What does it mean to be a member of a particular society?"

Gerard O’Brien, S.J.  

MW 3*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This is a course in what are generally called the early and middle dialogues of Plato, including most of his best known works such as The Republic, Symposium, Phaedo, Protagoras Gorgias and several others. The emphasis will be on reading the text in translation and attempting to think out the questions along with Plato. Some reading of secondary sources is expected, but these will not be stressed as much as reading the text of Plato. No previous courses in philosophy are required, and a knowledge of Greek is not needed for the course. Classes will be partly lecture and partly discussion.

Requirements: one mid-term; one course paper; one final exam. Students are expected to read the dialogues so as to participate in class discussion, which counts towards the course grade.


PL 338 01  

Heidegger Project I

Thomas Owens  

TTh 1:30*
Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This is a course designed to allow undergraduates an opportunity to work closely with the major texts of Martin Heidegger, one of the leading twentieth century philosophers. Students will be expected to participate in assessing Heidegger’s relevance to contemporary issues and in developing their own philosophical views vis-a-vis Heidegger's. Some knowledge of traditional philosophy (Aristotle, Descartes, etc.) would be helpful, but is not an absolute prerequisite.

Requirements: Class participations, oral exam

Reading: Being and Time, (Macquarrie and Robinson translation)

PL 377 01 Normative Ethical Theory

Jorge Garcia TTh 12 *

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course examines developments by twentieth-century British and American thinkers in theorizing about moral life, concentrating on utilitarian, neo-Kantian, and virtues-based approaches. Topics under utilitarianism include hedonism, position-relative value theory, direct and indirect consequentialism, hypermorality (?moral imperialism?), and of consequential evaluation in deliberators and spectators. Topics under neo-Kantianism include the point and nature of contractual justificatory mechanisms and the role of moral reasons. Topics under virtues-based ethics include the pertinence of virtues to moral quandaries and obligations.

Readings include M. Baron, P. Pettit, and M. Slote, Three Methods of Ethics; G. Scarre, Utilitarianism; and T. Scanlon, What We Owe to Each Other; with possible addition of some recent articles by A. Sen, L. Zagzebski, and Garcia.

Assignments include two examinations and an argumentative paper.

PL 404 01 Rhetoric: Beauty, Truth, and Power
Marina McCoy  MWF 9

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

In this course, we will begin with the sophists, orators, and playwrights of ancient Greece and study their approaches to speech and persuasion. We will then read Plato’s criticisms of rhetoric, as well as examine his own distinct use of rhetoric as an author of the dialogue form. Finally, we will examine more formal classical theories of rhetoric, beginning with Aristotle’s *Rhetoric* and moving on to Cicero’s *De Oratore* and Augustine’s *On Christian Doctrine*. In the course of our discussions, we will also ask questions such as: To what extent is the practice of rhetoric concerned with truth, beauty, and/or power? Is rhetoric separable from inquiry into what is true, or inevitably a part of philosophical discovery itself? Is beautiful speech something that beguiles the audience, or something that better illuminates what is real, or potentially both? Is a rhetorician’s manipulation of his or her audience’s emotions justifiable or not? What is the relationship between philosophy, as love of wisdom, and rhetoric? Classical authors’ claims as to what "works" to persuade your audience will also be examined, and students will be encouraged to relate the ideals of these texts to contemporary examples of public speaking, political debate, advertising, and the like.

Requirements: Three short papers, one longer paper (as the final project), and active class participation.

Reading:
*Greek Orators-I* (Antiphon and Lysias) (Aris and Philips)
Gorgias, "On Non-Being" and "Encomium to Helen" (handouts)
Isocrates, *Isocrates I* (Loeb edition)
Aristophanes, *Knights* (Penguin edition)
Plato, *Phaedrus* (Focus Library edition)
Cicero, *De Oratore* –handouts

PL 405 01  Greek Philosophy
Gary Gurtler, S.J.  T TH 4 30*

Level 1 - Undergraduate Elective

Description:

The road to reality in the tradition of ancient philosophy takes several parallel paths, the intellectual ascent to truth, the moral ascent to the good, and the aesthetic ascent to beauty. This course will wander up the aesthetic path, bringing into focus the Greek accounts of reality and the capacity of the human mind to know it.

For Plato, the ascent to beauty has the advantage of holding the metaphysical structure of his system in mutual tension with its starting point in human experience and knowledge. From this vantage, Platonic dualism presents an account of reality that is never merely theoretical, but necessarily contains a strong dimension of value.

For Aristotle the aesthetic path outlined in the Poetics is not so much an ascent to beauty as a descent into drama as revealing the complexity of human character. The two approaches, nonetheless, agree profoundly on the crucial issue of the conjunction of the theoretical and practical, adumbrated in the Poetics by the cathartic function of drama.

Longinus continues the tradition of writing on rhetoric, but emphasizes, like Aristotle, examples of great writing. In a similar way, Plotinus continues Plato’s discussion of beauty, its connection to the good and the role of forms in transmitting beauty to particulars, but with a keen sense of the nature of sensible beauty and the role of the artist.

Requirements: Midterm and final exams, term paper (10-15 pp.), consultation, participation, class summaries.

Reading:

Plato, Plato’s Symposium and Phaedrus. ISBN 0375411747
Plotinus, selections from I 6[1], "On Beauty," and V 8[31] "On the Intelligible Beauty."
PL 406 01  Modern Philosophy

Jean-Luc Solere  T Th 10:30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

From Descartes to Kant, we will study the main philosophies which have punctuated the rise of the modern mind: a period where a conquering rationality affirmed its autonomy and led to the idea of Enlightenment, but at the same time reflected on its own limits. In relation with the development of scientific knowledge and the transformations of Western societies, the metaphysical, epistemological, ethical and political aspects of modern thought will be thoroughly considered.
Syllabus on http://www2.bc.edu/~solere/pl406.html

Requirements:

3 synthesis papers: 2 midterms and 1 final

PL 411 01  HITLER: In Search of His Evil

James Bernauer, S.J.  TTh 12*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course will investigate Adolf Hitler whose personal will subverted western culture’s inherited moral order and destroyed tens of millions of human lives. We will study his words and deeds and, most importantly, the appeal he exercised for people who, in turn, empowered him and bear responsibility for the evil he did. The purpose of the course is to confront the emergence of evil and to understand better why elites as well as ordinary people may find it seductive.

Requirements:

1) In addition to the texts that we will read in common, students will work individually or with a few others in studies of individuals or groups who found
Hitler appealing or who thought Hitler should be resisted. Public reports on these projects will be identified at the beginning of the semester. These will be submitted as written essays near the end of the semester.

2) Each student will keep a course journal in which he/she will deal with the readings, presentations and class discussion. This will form the student’s own interpretation of Hitler’s evil.

Readings:

Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf
P. Romaine (ed), The Essential Hitler: Speeches and Commentary
Ian Kershaw, Hitler (2 volumes)
Ron Rosenbaum, Explaining Hitler
In addition there will be assorted essays on evil and a variety of videos.

PL 429 01            Freud & Philosophy
Jeffrey Bloechl       MWF 10
Level 1 - Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course will undertake a consideration of important development and themes in Freudian psychoanalysis. The latter will be addressed as a clinical therapy, and investigated for its philosophical significance. The first part of the course will concentrate on Freud's early work, clinical and theoretical, especially as his study of hysteria yields basic conceptions of body, language and subjectivity. The second part will inquire after the significance of the Freudian subject for contemporary philosophy. In addition to Freud, authors read will include Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen, Jean Laplanche, Monique David-Menard, and Jacques Lacan.

PL 455 01            Kierkegaard and Nietzsche
Stuart Martin        MWF 2
Level 1 - Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Kierkegaard and Nietzsche are two of the most important thinkers of the nineteenth century, and two leading influences on contemporary thought. This course will study their lives and the dominant themes of their thought along the lines of Christian belief and Atheistic Humanism. The class will include lectures, student reports, and analyses of some of their important and influential writings.

Requirements: Assigned readings, 2 tests during the semester, 2 conferences, a written report.

Reading: Kierkegaard’s Sickness Unto Death and Fear and Trembling, plus selection from his Journals and other writings.

Nierzsche’s Thus Spoke Zarathustra and The AntiChrist, plus other selections from The Portable Nietzsche, as well as readings from The Birth of Tragedy.

PL 500 01 Philosophy of Law

David Rasmussen T TH 1 30*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

A major goal of this course is to explore some of the complex linkages between political philosophy and legal theory. Emphasis will be placed on the different concepts of ‘law’, ‘human nature’, ‘reason’ and ‘human rights’ present in the modern tradition. In particular we will be looking for insight into the content and limit of human rights, the relationship between law and morality and politics, the juridification of global society and cosmopolitanism.

This course is intended for those interested or enrolled in our Philosophy and Law program, students planning on pursuing a law degree and those interested in the interface between philosophy, politics, law and international relations.

Course requirements:
Undergraduates: Mid-term oral exam and final take-home exam.
Graduates: a research paper, the topic of which is to be determined by mutual agreement between the student and the instructor.
Students are expected to have read the materials required before class in order to participate in the class discussion. Also, bring the appropriate texts to class.

Reading:
Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*
John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*.
J.J. Rousseau, *The First and Second Discourses*
Hamilton, Madison, Jay. *The Federalist Paper*
Immanuel Kant. *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays* and *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*.
G.W.F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*.
Bruce Ackerman. *We the People*

PL 524 01  Ethics: An Introduction

Arthur R Madigan, S.J.  MWF 1

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Ethics, properly understood, is a practical discipline, i.e., an intellectually rigorous study with implications for personal and social life. This course will introduce students to the standard issues of contemporary Anglo-American ethics, but also to a broader selection of issues addressed in classical and contemporary philosophy. The goal is to develop a more adequate understanding of what it means to be practically reasonable, and of how practical reasonableness can be embodied in personal and social life.

Requirements: careful study of assigned readings (the three books listed below, plus a number of briefer selections from classical and contemporary sources); active participation in class discussions; the written assignments listed below under Grading Formula:

20%  Exercise on Frankena, Ethics.
00%  First draft of an essay on basic ethical questions.
10%  Second draft of an essay on basic ethical questions.
30% Third draft of an essay on basic ethical questions.
20% End of term exercise (short answers and essays)

Grades may be adjusted to reflect class participation.

Students should secure the following: William K. Frankena, Ethics; Mortimer J. Adler, The Time of Our Lives; John Finnis, Fundamentals of Ethics.

PL 548 01 Art, Ethics, & Modernity

Thomas Miles T Th 1:30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Art and ethics are two of the most profound sources of meaning and significance in modern life. But what is the relationship between art and ethics, and how do they each shape our lives and values? Are art and ethics rivals in this task, or can they be mutually supportive? We will begin by briefly looking at what Plato calls “the ancient quarrel” between art and ethical philosophy and introduce a series of questions about the relationship between art and ethics. We also will briefly discuss ancient and modern attempts to address these questions (e.g. in Aristotle, Kant, Schopenhauer, Wittgenstein, and Heidegger). The class will mostly focus on Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Camus whose works attempt to skillfully merge art and ethical philosophy in order to present an inspiring vision of meaning and greatness for modern life.

Requirements: Reading assignments, one exam, one short paper, one term paper

Readings: Along with selections from the other authors listed above, we will read the following texts:

Søren Kierkegaard *Either/Or, Fear and Trembling, The Lilies and the Birds*
Friedrich Nietzsche *Ecce Homo*, selections from *Zarathustra* and other texts
PL 550 01 Capstone: Building a Life

David McMenamin M 3-5:20

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Prerequisites: PULSE: Person and Social Responsibility I & II

Description:
This Capstone course is designed for seniors who have taken PULSE. Using an approach based in It invites students to explore the ways that they might integrate their PULSE service and learning experiences into their post graduate choices.

Sample Readings:
Mircea Eliade, selections from *Myth and Reality*

Christian Norberg-Schulz, selections from *Genius Loci; The Concept of Dwelling.*

Lorraine Hansberry, *Raisin in the Sun*

Andrew Delbanco, *The Real American Dream*

Tracy Kidder, *House*

William Shore, *Cathedral Within*

Requirements:
Seminar leadership: Each week's seminar will be led by two of the students, working together to prepare, based on the question of how the reading for that week can be understood in relation to the theme of the course.

Four papers, including final exam.

Brief weekly writing assignments on the readings
PL 577 01  Symbolic Logic
Department  T Th 9*

Level 1 – Undergraduate 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.

PL 584 01  C.S. Lewis
Peter J. Kreeft  T TH 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Lewis wrote poetry, literary criticism, science fiction, fantasy, philosophy, theology, religion, literary history, epics, children’s stories, historical novels, short stories, psychology, and politics. He was a rationalist and a romanticist, a classicist and an existentialist, a conservative and a radical, a pagan and a Christian. No writer of our century had more strings to his bow, and no one excels him at once in clarity, in moral force, and in imagination: the true, the good, and the beautiful. We will consider a sampling of Lewis’ fiction and non-fiction.

Let me begin on a personal note: I have learned more from C.S. Lewis than from any other writer. In reading everything I could get my hands on (some 30-40 published titles) I came to appreciate both his value as an author and the value of a course that studies a single such commodious mind in depth (a thing 'survey' courses miss).
But why Lewis? Why do so many, like me, find him valuable and fascinating? (1) Because of his unique variety: a master of essays, poetry, theology, autobiography, science fiction, fantasy, philosophy, practical psychology, children's stories, literary criticism, literary history, religious psychology, apologetics, historical novel, debate, educational philosophy, and many other unclassifiable things; (2) because of his unique blend of “the true, the good and the beautiful,” “rationalism, religion, and romanticism” (all three labels subtly misleading), clarity, faith and imagination, the ability to move the intellect, will and emotions--no one excels him in all three departments at once; (3) because for so many people he makes New Testament Christianity intellectually respectable, daily livable and above all imaginatively attractive and interesting; (4) and most of all for an almost indefinable quality about everything he wrote: a combination of wonder, joy, surprise, the shock of recognition, the sharp, bracing challenge of waking up, and the demand for simple, uncompromising honesty with a delightful yet uncomfortable absence of vagueness and abstraction.

We will read a sampling from his many works, emphasizing the fiction, the philosophy, and the religion. Opportunity to branch out into his literary criticism and other areas will be offered on an individual basis.

Requirements: mid-semester and final; optional extra-credit essays or papers.


PL 593 01 Philosophy of Science

Daniel McKaughan T 4:30-6:50

Level 3 – 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.

Readings:

Martin Curd and J.A. Cover, *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues* (New

Bas C. van Fraassen, *The Empirical Stance* (New Haven: Yale University Press,
2002).

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**PL 595 01**  
**Kant’s Critique**

**Ronald Tacelli, S.J.**  
**M W 3**

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

**Description:**

This course is an analysis of the major theme of Kant's philosophy as expressed
in his first critique, including a study of its antecedents and consequences in the
history of philosophy.

**Requirements:**

1. Synopses of the text;
2. mid-term;
3. final.

**Readings:**

Kant's Critique of Pure Reason (Kemp Smith translation)

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**PL 606 01**  
**Philosophy and Painting**
John Sallis       TH 4:30-6:50

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate

Description:

This course will deal with a series of philosophers who wrote extensively on painting and with certain painters who were especially significant for these philosophers. Emphasis will be on bringing together the study of the philosophical texts and the visual experience and interpretation of various paintings. The philosophers to be dealt with most extensively are Hegel, Nietzsche, and Heidegger. Correspondingly, attention will be given to seventeenth-century Dutch painting, to French Impressionism, and to the work of van Gogh and Klee.

PL 614 01       Passions: Medieval and Modern Views

Eileen Sweeney       T Th 10:30*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

This course will look at how philosophers from Aquinas to Kant have understood the emotions and appetites, their relationship to the body, to reason, and to the moral life. Can the emotions be controlled by the mind, is the reason the ‘slave of the passions’, are our actions moral only when they are devoid of passion? We will read the works of Aquinas, Descartes, Hobbes, Hume, Rousseau, and Kant with an eye both to the way their accounts of the emotions fit into their larger philosophical views and how their accounts of the emotions mesh with our own emotional experience.

Requirements:

Mid-term exam, 10 page paper, final take-home exam

Reading:

Aquinas, *Treatise on the Passions* (from *Summa theologiae*)
Descartes, *The Passions of the Soul*
Hobbes, *Leviathan* (selections)
Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature* (selections)
Rousseau, *Emile*
Kant, *Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View, Lectures on Ethics* (selections)

PL 623 01  Spiritual Existence:  
**The Weimar Experiments**  
James Bernauer, S.J.  T Th 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Weimar Germany (1918-33) is customarily approached as a politically and economically disastrous period. Unfortunately, this approach has eclipsed that period's protean experimentation with practices of spirituality among Christians, Jews and the non- or post-religious. This seminar will examine the efforts of some of Weimar's major thinkers and artists to create a renewed spiritual existence for their epoch. This seminar is strictly limited to 15 students.

Requirements: Seminar style participation (readings for each session with discussion). Term paper selected after consultation with the professor.

Readings:


*I and Thou* by Martin Buber.

A collection of readings that is under construction.
Problem of Self-Knowledge

Charles Oduke, S.J.                 MWF 3

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

A human being is more than a rational animal. We are symbolic beings with a polymorphic consciousness, have language, and a relational existence to others, the cosmos, and transcendence. Insights from the selected readings and pedagogy will serve both as a maieutic and a heuristic; inspiring us to articulate who we are, how we ought to live with others, and how we are to collaborate with others and transcendence in originating creative and healing insights in response to challenges of humanity at the dawn of our 21st century. This course is inspired by Socrates' imperative and dictum: "Know thy self."

Requirements: A mid-term and final exam, 12-15 page paper

Readings: Quest for Self Knowledge, Joseph Flanagan; Foundations of Philosophy, Brian Cronin; selected readings.

Philosophy of Being I

Oliva Blanchette                  MW 3*

Level 3 - Undergraduate/Graduate

Description:
Postmodern metaphysics as a science of being as being requires both
deconstruction and reconstruction in a phenomenology of subjectivity. The
question of being, as it was raised in antiquity, was brushed aside in modern
philosophy and replaced by questions of epistemology and questions of logic or
ontology. It took Heidegger to bring question back to the forefront of philosophy
in postmodern times and to keep it as “the task for thinking at the end of
philosophy” through his own phenomenology of subjectivity as Dasein. In this
course, after our own deconstruction of ancient and modern metaphysics, we
shall attempt a reconstruction with a more positive outcome than has been found
in Heidegger, stressing anew the analogy of being and its transcendent
properties as one, active, true and good.

PL 706 01 Themes in Medieval Philosophy:
Theories of Knowledge

Jean-Luc Solère W 2-3:50

Level - Graduate

Description:

We will deal with the theories of knowledge in the 13th and 14th centuries, mainly
in thinkers such as Aquinas, Scotus and Ockham, but including sources such as
St. Augustine, Avicenna and Averroes. This class will offer the opportunity to
study central issues of philosophy in the Middle Ages: perception and the
species, the process of abstraction, the nature of the intellect, the relations
between universals and individuals, etc. It is especially designed for giving
graduate students a strong and in-depth presentation of an essential moment of
the development of medieval thought.

Requirements:

Class participation and presentations; final paper.
Readings:


PL 707 01 Habermas: Law and Politics

David Rasmussen TH 4:30-6:15

Level – Graduate

Description:

Between Facts and Norms, the extraordinary recent work by Jürgen Habermas, is thought by some to be one of the most comprehensive works in political philosophy and law in recent decades. The book with its original thesis about the co-relation between private and public autonomy can be read in the great tradition of the philosophy of law inaugurated by Kant and continued by Fichte, Hegel and Weber. In recent times Habermas has written essays on religion and politics, globalization and human rights, cosmopolitanism and international law. In this seminar we will read key chapters of Between Facts and Norms and explore the significant more recent writings of Habermas on law and politics.

Requirements: A research paper on a topic relevant to the course and selected with the approval of the professor will be due at the end of the semester. Course attendance is mandatory. Class participation is expected. Presentations will be possible.

Readings:
Vulnerability and the Greeks
Marina B. McCoy  M 2-4:30

Description:
This course will examine the theme of vulnerability and human weakness in Greek philosophy and literature, focusing in particular on the image of 'woundedness.' We will especially focus on vulnerability in the Platonic dialogues in relation to Greek epic, tragedy, and love poetry. We will also read MacIntyre, Nussbaum, and other contemporary authors who have written on this issue. The course will be conducted seminar style with active student participation in discussion.

Requirements:
Two 15 page papers,
formal student presentations
Seminar style discussion

Readings:
Homer, Iliad; Greek lyric poetry; Aeschylus, Prometheus Bound;
Sophocles, Oedipus Tyrannus; Sophocles, Philoctetes; Euripides, Medea
selections from Hippocrates, Plato (Rep, Gorg, Symp.), Aristotle, and the Stoics;
MacIntyre Dependent Rational Animals; Nussbaum, The Fragility of Goodness

Husserl’s Ideas II
Andrea Staiti T 4:30-6:20
Level – Graduate

Description:

In this seminar we will examine Husserl's Ideas II which is dedicated to a phenomenological account of three encompassing dimensions of reality: nature, mind and spirit. We will highlight the distinctive features of the phenomenological method (intentionality, reduction, attitude and essence) in the context of concrete phenomenology analysis. The reading of the text will be enriched by the consideration of lesser known Husserlian manuscripts. An effort will also be made to understand the relevance of Husserl's approach for current philosophical debates (e.g. the so-called mind/body problem).

Requirements: participation, class presentations, oral exam.

Readings:


PL 748 01 Values and the Good

Jorge Garcia Th 4:30*

Level – Graduate

Description:

This course examines recent treatments of fundamental questions in value theory, including those of the existence and nature of intrinsic value, the logical structure of value judgments, the types of value, so-called "organic unities," the relation of value to virtue and duty, and the connections among valuation, meaning, and emotion.

Requirements: Assignments comprise an oral presentation in class and a term paper.

PL 754 01 Heidegger and the Question of Truth

John Sallis T 4:30-6:50

Level: Graduate

Description:

This course will trace the development of Heidegger's concept of truth from his early lectures on logic, through Being and Time and "On the Essence of Truth," to such later texts as Contributions to Philosophy and "The End of Philosophy and the Task of Thinking." Some attention may also be given to other themes such as art, technology, and history that are closely linked to the question of truth.

PL 772 01 Insight and Beyond I

Patrick Byrne W 4:30-6:20

Description:

"Insofar as there is a struggle about agreeing with Insight or disagreeing with it, that struggle arises on a very fundamental existential level. It is akin to Heidegger’s classification of a person as authentic or inauthentic; in other words, there is a deep existential level of self-criticism."

Bernard Lonergan

This course begins a two-semester project exploring Lonergan's unique invitation to "self-appropriation" as a response to the crises of our times. Bernard Lonergan wrote his major philosophical work, Insight, to address what he regarded as the great challenges posed by Modernity: modern natural science, modern historical thought, and the great revolutions in modern philosophy, especially in Descartes, Kant and Hegel. In many ways Insight shares the concerns of post-modernism, but departs from its pervasive relativism. Written after his scholarly investigations of Aquinas, Lonergan set himself
the task of developing what he learned from those studies into a methodical way of treating philosophical, metaphysical, ethical, historical, hermeneutical and theological issues. He called that method “self-appropriation” – that is, coming to better know oneself as an agent of one's own conscious activities, and as a contributor to the destiny of human history.

Students in this course will have the unique opportunity to be part of an online, international learning community. Class sessions will be edited, placed online, and shared with the international community of others also wishing to study Insight and Lonergan's later works.

Course Requirements:
(1) Class preparedness (15%); careful reading of the weeks assigned chapters, responses to study questions and exercises, and prepared notes of questions and comments for class discussion;
(2) A short paper (4-5 pages) describing an insight you have had. (15%);
(3) Term paper (of 20-25 pages) (40%);
(4) Final Exam (30%).

Reading List:
Lonergan, *Insight*
Lonergan, *Topics in Education*
Selected essays
Flanagan, *Quest for Self-Knowledge*

PL 820 01 Reason and Faith in Hegel, Kierkegaard, Blondel

Oliva Blanchette M 6:30-8:15

Level G – Graduate

Description:

Hegel, Kierkegaard and Blondel all come to a philosophy of religion that is associated with Christian faith, through a dialectic of how the finite spirit relates to the infinite, as to a community, as to the absolute, or as to the necessary supernatural. Each one has his own dialectical way of dealing with this question of the infinite as it relates to the question of fulfillment in human existence, with Kierkegaard and Blondel on one side disagreeing with Hegel’s way of conceiving Christian religion, albeit for different philosophical reasons. This course will
explore how these three modern and postmodern philosophers converge and diverge around this question of infinite Spirit.

**PL 855 01  Seminar: Heidegger I**

**Thomas Owens  W 3-4:30**

**Level – Graduate**

**Description:**

This course is a close textual analysis of *Being and Time*, focusing on Heidegger's epochal insights on man, world, time and being.

**Requirements:** class presentations, oral exam

**Readings:** *Being and Time* (Macquarrie and Robinson translation only)