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PL 116 01  Medieval Religion & Thought

Stephen Brown  T Th 9*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Cross Listed with TH 116 01

Description:

The medieval world of philosophy and theology was a multicultural world: Arabian, Jewish and Christian thinkers from the three great religious traditions adopted, adapted and shared the philosophical riches of the classical world and the religious resources of the biblical heritage. This course introduces students to the great Arabian thinkers: Alfarabi, Avicenna, Algazel and Averroes, the respected Jewish authors: Saadiah Gaon, Moses Maimonides and Gersonides, and the famous Christian writers: Anselm, Bonaventure and Thomas Aquinas and the intellectual challenges from the Greek intellectual world that they met and faced in the Middle Ages.

PL 160 01/2  CHALLENGE OF JUSTICE

Cross Listed with TH160 01/2

Matthew Mullane  M W 3*
Stephen Pope  T Th 3*

Level 1 – 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.
PL 233 01 Values in Social Services and Health Care

David Manzo

Th 4:30-6:20

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.
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*.

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**PL 291 01**  
*Philosophy of Community I*

Joseph Flanagan, S.J.  
David McMenamin  
T 4:30-6:20

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Prerequisites: Limited to members of the PULSE Council

Description:

This seminar explores the nature of community, with particular focus on community in the American context. Some of the central historical, cultural, political and religious forces that have shaped both American community and the American understanding of community are examined.

These questions are initially approached from a historical perspective with an assessment of the philosophical ideas which were dominating the political thinking of the American founders. The seminar then considers the historical development of those ideas in light of the way they are concretized in political practice, arriving at an assessment of contemporary American thinking on community.
PL 259 01  Perspectives on War and Aggression

Matthew Mullane  T Th 12*, Th 3

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Cross Listed with TH327 01 and SC250 01

Description:

This course is the result of work by faculty and students interested in developing an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Peace and War at Boston College. The Boston College Program for Study of Peace and War sponsors this course as its introductory offering in Peace Studies at the university. This course is centered around analyses of the causes of war and conflict in contemporary society.

Requirements: Take-home mid-term examination; conventional final examination.

Reading: David P. Barash, *Approaches to Peace*; Brian E. Fogarty, *Peace and the Social Order*

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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 374 01  Witness: Justice Writings II

Kathleen Hirsch  Th 3 - 450

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This is a two-semester course that centers on producing an ejournal and a hard journal dedicated to student writings on issues of service, social justice, and spirituality. Students will write content for the journals, as well as maintain a weekly blog, the ejournal and an on-line events calendar. They will advertise for submissions, edit, and perform all of the duties associated with publishing a hard journal in the spring. A passion for social issues is key, as is imagination and the willingness to think outside the box. Experience with website/blog maintenance, or a background in layout and hard journal design, art and display are all advantages in being accepted into this course. This is a high level, high energy class. By permission only. Students interested in being interviewed for this class should send a brief description of their interest, social justice background, and publishing experience, to bc.witnessjournal@gmail.com no later than April 30.

PL 403 01  Does God Exist?

Ronald Tacelli, S.J.  M W 3*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

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

Requirements:  Short Papers
Oral Exams on papers
PL 405 01  Greek Philosophy

Gary Gurtler, S.J.  T TH 1030*

Level 1 - Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Ancient philosophers were fascinated by human language as revealing human nature and our ability to know the rest of reality. By focusing on texts that focus on the use and limits of language, we can learn how the ancients came to understand and explain the world around them in several interconnected ways, related to truth, the good, and the beautiful, and the corresponding human activities, knowing, acting, and making.

For Plato, the study of language and art looks toward the beautiful, holding the metaphysical structure of his system in mutual tension with its starting point in human experience and the various levels of knowledge. From this vantage, Platonic dualism presents an account of reality that is never merely theoretical, but necessarily contains a strong dimension of action.

For Aristotle in the Poetics the analysis of action in poetry reveals not only the nature of poetry but the philosophic character of human agents as imitators. The conjunction of the theoretical and practical in the Poetics comes through the cathartic function of drama. Longinus continues the tradition of examining rhetoric in Plato and Aristotle, but emphasizes the nature of great writing.

Plotinus returns to Plato's discussion of human nature in terms of beauty, which he traces not only to the forms as good, but examines the nature of the self as double. The lower self is centered on reason and the empirical, while the true self is found in the intelligible world and comes to rest in the One.

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

Reading:

Plotinus, selections from I 6[1], "On Beauty," and V 8[31] "On the Intelligible Beauty."
PL 406 01  Modern Philosophy

Eileen C. Sweeney  T Th 10:30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

In this course, we will work to develop an understanding of the major figures and questions of the Modern period, situating them in relationship to the Medieval world out of which and in reaction to which they were formed and as forming the intellectual foundations of the modern world. We will consider major texts by thinkers such as Descartes, Leibniz, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, and Kant, covering issues of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and political theory.

Requirements:

Two tests, an 8 page paper, final exam (take-home)

Readings:

Descartes, Meditations, Discourse on Method

Leibniz, Discourse on Metaphysics

Hobbes, Leviathan (selections)

Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Two Treatises of Government

Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature

Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics; Perpetual Peace and Other Essays
James Bernauer, S.J.

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:
Perhaps one of the greatest challenges to contemporary existence is how to live with others and oneself in a personal manner and, thus, overcome western culture's long dominant technocratic approach to human life. This course will seek to uncover the personal as a way of being and of evaluating the spheres of ethics, religion, and knowledge. Major orientations to the personal point of view will be provided by readings from John Macmurray, Martin Buber, Gabriel Marcel, Michel Foucault and major spiritual texts from the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Requirements: Regular participation in seminar. A choice of 3 or 4 smaller essays (approximately 7 pages each) or one large term paper (20-25). Topic to be chosen after consultation with the professor.

Reading:
Macmurray, John. Self as Agent & Persons in Relation.

Buber, Martin. I and Thou

Mooney, Edward. Lost Intimacy in American Thought: Recovering Personal Philosophy from Thoreau to Cavell.

An anthology of readings on the personal from a range philosophical and religious traditions.
PL 422 01  Madness, Eroticism and Spirituality: An Introduction to Michel Foucault

James Bernauer, S.J.  T TH 3*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of Michel Foucault (1926-1984) for undergraduates. We will consider Foucault’s radical interrogations of contemporary human experience: madness as a critique of modern reason; eroticism as a pleasurable renunciation of sexuality; spirituality as the road to a fulfilled life beyond modern ethics.

Requirements: Regular participation in class; a course journal; a term paper.

Readings:

Foucault, M. Madness and Civilization.

Foucault, M. History of Sexuality I: An Introduction; History of Sexuality II: The Use of Pleasure

Foucault, M. The Hermeneutics of the Subject

Foucault, M. Ethics, Subjectivity and Truth.
Spanish American Philosophy

Gary Gurtler, S.J.  
Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective  
Satisfies the Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

Description:

The course is designed to give the student an opportunity to look at some fundamental philosophical issues regarding human nature and the origins and development of human thought from a fresh perspective. Unamuno's *Tragic Sense of Life* presents a critique of the rationalism of modern European thought by focusing on human life as dream, theater and struggle. His work forms part of the existentialism current in Europe at the turn of the last century, but with the tragic sense that derives from the Spanish character going back to Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. Octavio Paz, in *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, explores the meaning of human existence through the lens, or perhaps the mask, of the Mexican quest for identity at the end of the present century. Here is a dual task in addressing Mexico's colonial and Indian past as well as the challenge of the Anglo-Saxon culture to its north. Paz works these out through the mask of dissimulation, the day of the dead and solitude of self and others. Xavier Zubiri, finally, will present a Spanish version of Twentieth Century phenomenology. Zubiri traces human knowing as sentient thinking to primordial apprehension, which expands to the field through logos and to the world through thought.

Requirements: class summaries, class presentation, 10-15 page paper, midterm and final exam.

Reading:


Excerpts from Zubiri's *Inteligencia Sentiente* in translation:  
http://zubiri.org/works/englishworks/si/SITOC.htm
PL 429 01  FREUD AND PHILOSOPHY

Vanessa Rumble  T TH 12*

Level 1 - Undergraduate Elective

Description:

The first half of the semester will be dedicated to a chronological reading of Freudian texts. We will examine (1) Freud's and Breuer's first formulation of the nature and etiology of hysteria (*Studies on Hysteria*), (2) Freud's groundbreaking work in dream interpretation and the nature of unconscious processes (*Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*), (3) Freud's application of the theory of unconscious mechanisms to cultural and religious phenomena (*Totem and Taboo*), and (4) the ongoing revisions in Freud's classification of the drives (*The Ego and the Id, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Civilization and Its Discontents*).

In the second half of the semester, we will survey the developments which have taken place in psychoanalytic theory and practice since Freud's day, including some of the more creative and philosophically fruitful readings of Freud. We will work with primary sources selected from the following: Anna Freud, Melanie Klein, David Winnicott, Herbert Marcuse, Jacques Lacan, and Rene Girard.

Requirements:

Mid-term examination, four reflection papers--two pages, typed, final exam

Reading:

Sigmund Freud, selections from *Studies on Hysteria*, "Screen Memories" "The Psychical Mechanism of Forgetfulness," selections from *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis; Totem and Taboo; Mourning and Melancholia; Beyond the Pleasure Principle; Civilization and Its Discontents*

Anna Freud, *The Ego and The Mechanisms of Defense*

Articles, essays, or chapters by Klein, Winnicott, Marcuse, Lacan, and Girard.
PL 440 01   Historical Introduction to Western Moral Theory

Jorge Garcia

Description: The course introduces, contextualizes, explains, and critiques representative writings by such Western philosophical thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Epictetus, Aquinas, T. Hobbes, D. Hume, I. Kant, J. Bentham, J.S. Mill, K. Marx, F. Nietzsche, and F.H. Bradley.

Requirements: 3 in-class blue book examinations

Readings: Selection from principal classic texts of European moral theory, including: The Encheiridion, Leviathan, Utilitarianism, Summa Theologiae, and The Genealogy of Morals

PL 455 01   Kierkegaard and Nietzsche

Stuart Martin

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.

Nietzsche’s Thus Spoke Zarathustra and The AntiChrist, plus other selections from The Portable Nietzsche, as well as readings from The Birth of Tragedy.
PL 470 01 Philosophy of World Religions

Peter Kreeft

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Satisfies Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

Description:

The purposes of this course are (a) to familiarize students with religious data: the teaching of each of the world's major religions; (b) to understand, empathize with, and appreciate them; (c) to appreciate one's own religion (or lack of one) better by comparison – like appreciating one's native language through studying a foreign language; (d) to philosophize critically and rationally about a subject that is not in itself critical and rational; (e) to question and search for a universal nature or core of religion if possible; (f) to raise and explore the question of religious truth: do religions make truth-claims? If so, do they contradict each other? Can all be true?” How does one decide which to believe? (g) to explore differences and similarities among world religions, especially between Eastern and Western religions; to try to find common patterns; (h) to foster dialog especially between Christianity and other world religions; (i) to examine key concepts like “pluralism”, “equality”, and “uniqueness” in trying to compare world religions; (j) to find and evaluate alternative possible answers to the question of comparative religions such as “exclusivism”, “inclusivism”, and mediating positions; (k) to explore the relation between religion and morality, religion and life in different cultures; (l) to focus on religion's cultural role as offering an overall meaning and purpose to human life and everything in it, rather than being a specialized “area” of life.

Requirements: mid-semester exam, final exam and original paper

Reading: Huston Smith, The Religions of Man; Hermann Hesse, Siddhartha; Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching; Peter Kreeft, Between Heaven and Hell; Peter Kreeft, Between Allah and Jesus; and a coursepak with assorted articles and excerpts from scriptures
PL 500 01  PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

David Rasmussen

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Cross Listed with LL669 01

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
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan.
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
John Rawls, Law of Peoples.
PL 510 01  Contemporary Philosophy of Religion

Jeffrey Bloechl  T Th 12*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Prerequisites: Core philosophy courses

Description:

This course investigates the experience of faith and conceptions of God and revelation in the wake of developments since the late 19th century. Three basic moves will be made: 1. concentration on the religious significance of the “death of God” (Nietzsche) and the “end of metaphysics” (Heidegger); 2. study of responses proposed especially by K. Rahner, J.-L. Marion and J.-Y. Lacoste; 3. outline of a post-Nietzschean and post-Heideggerian conception of religious life that also returns in part to positions taken by Augustine and Aquinas.

Requirements: careful reading of difficult texts, with preparation to discuss them in class; mid-term and final examination; one final paper (10 pages minimum).

Readings:

Augustine, Confessions
M. Heidegger, Being and Time (concentration on being-in-the-world, mood, and mortality)
J.-Y. Lacoste, Experience and the Absolute
J.-L. Marion, God without Being, “L’Interloqué,” passages from later works
F. Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols and short passages from other works
K. Rahner, Hearer of the Word
Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae I-II, 49-67 (= “Treatise on the Virtues”)
PL 518 01  Philosophy of Imagination

Richard Kearney  T TH 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description: Beginning with Biblical and Greek accounts of images and image-making, this course will explore three main paradigm shifts in the western history of imagination: (1) the ancient paradigm of the Mirror (Plato to Augustine); (2) the modern paradigm of the Lamp (Kant to Sartre); (3) the postmodern paradigm of the circular Looking Glass (Lacan to Derrida). The course will conclude with a critical evaluation of the political and ethical functions of imagination in our contemporary civilization of cyber fantasy, simulation and spectacle.

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 540 01   Philosophy of Liberation

Oliva Blanchette

Level 3 – Undergraduate / Graduate Elective

Prerequisite: 3 courses in philosophy

Satisfies the Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

Description:

Philosophy of Liberation is the philosophy of a new humanism emerging from the third world and from the consciousness of being oppressed, downtrodden, and marginalized as human beings. It is a revolutionary philosophy, from a consciousness of the oppressed that has been raised, and for a consciousness that is resolutely post-modern and post-colonial, coming from the third world, or from the wretched of the earth, and making its way into the first-world consciousness of the oppressor and the colonizer. In this course we shall study some of the most important teachers of this philosophy, who have raised consciousness of oppression and of the way to liberation, beginning in Africa and in Latin America, and then turning to the USA itself amid the African and Latin American diaspora, in an attempt to raise our own consciousness to the level of this spirited philosophy of liberation.

Requirements: 4 reflection papers, 1 term paper with presentation in class, final exam.

Readings: Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed, Frantz Fanon's The Wretched of the Earth, Malcolm X's Autobiography, and bell hooks's Ain't I a Woman, plus another author as chosen by each student for personal research to be presented in class and written up as a term paper.
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
Two Existentialisms

Peter Kreeft  T TH 10:30*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Prerequisite: Core philosophy fulfilled.

Description:

No philosophers more directly address the problems ordinary people think to be the most important than the existentialists. And, no two existentialists form a more perfect and total contrast than Marcel and Sartre: theist vs. atheist, humanist vs. nihilist, personalist vs. rationalist, mystic vs. reductionist. We will enter into each of these opposite worldviews by careful, thoughtful Socratic reading of a few key texts. The quantity of reading is fairly small; the quality and depth and detail is demanding. This will be a small class; come prepared to participate actively.

Reading:

Sartre: Existentialism and Human Emotions
        "No Exit"
        Short excerpts from Nausea and The Words
        Critical essays by C.S. Evans, Paul Johnson, Gabriel Marcel
        Socrates Meets Sartre by Peter Kreeft

Marcel: The Philosophy of Existentialism
       K. Gallagher, The Philosophy of Gabriel Marcel

Requirements:
Undergraduates: 2 exams
Graduates: Term Paper

PL 578 01 KANT’S CRITIQUE / PURE REASON

Mary S. Troxell  T Th 1:30*

Level 3 – Undergraduate / Graduate Elective

Description: This course is an analysis of the major themes of Kant's philosophy as expressed in his first critique, including a study of its antecedents and consequences in the history of philosophy.
PL 593 01  Philosophy of Science

Daniel McKaughan  T 4:30-6:20

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:


PL 612 01  Heidegger's Conception of Art

Françoise Dastur

*Class meets from Sept 8 – Oct 20

Level 3 - Undergraduate / Graduate Elective

Description:

The course will be dedicated to a linear reading of Heidegger's 1936 lecture on "The Origin of the Work of Art" with comparison to the two previous 1935 versions of the same lecture. The originality of Heidegger's conception of art consists in the fact that for him the work of art initiates the conflict of world and earth, i.e. opens the free play in which human existence becomes possible. The course will focus on the three major questions of the relation between work of art and thing, art and truth, art and poetry.

Basic readings:


Other readings:


**Requirements:**

- 1 Final Essay (20%)
- Final Essay (15 pp., 40%)
- Participation (20%)

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**Schedule:**

**Level 3 - Undergraduate/Graduate Elective**

**Feeling Intentionality, Emotion**

**T Th 10:30**

**Michael R. Kelly**

**Pl 615 01**
Problem of Self-Knowledge

Brian Braman

T Th 1:30*

Level 3 – Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

This course is inspired by Socrates' imperative and dictum: "Know thy self." Yet what exactly does that mean? A human being is more than a rational animal. In fact we are symbolic beings with a polymorphic consciousness, have language, and a relational existence to others, the cosmos, and transcendence. In order to flesh out more thoroughly what exactly it means to "know they self" we will focus primarily on the thought of Bernard Lonergan S.J. Through our encounter with Lonergan's thought we will begin to formulate a partial answer to the question "what does it mean to know thyself." In other words, from Lonergan's perspectives, to know thy self is to personally appropriate yourself as someone who is a knower, chooser, and lover."

Requirements:

Mid-term
Final paper: topic to be determined.

Readings:

The readings will be both primary texts and secondary texts dealing with the thought of Bernard Lonergan
PL 628 01  Schelling

John Sallis  Th 4:30-6:20

Level 3 – Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

This course will be conducted as a seminar. It will be devoted to a close reading of a major text by Schelling. The interpretive work with this text will be supplemented by student presentations.

PL 670 01  TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE

William Griffith  W 4:30-6:50

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Cross Listed with MI267

This interdisciplinary course will first investigate the social, political, psychological, ethical and spiritual aspects of 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.
PL 701 01
Augustine

Sarah Byers
Level - Graduate

Description:
Topics in Augustine’s epistemology, ethics, and metaphysics, focusing on his reception of earlier philosophical problems and claims, the syntheses he forges from these earlier positions, and his developments away from them. (By “developments” I mean preservation of core principles, with some disagreement about applications and creative elaboration of new implications and applications.)

Projected primary readings: Cicero’s Academica and some Enneads of Plotinus with Augustine’s On the Trinity, Cicero’s Tusculan Disputations 3-4, Seneca’ On Providence and On Anger, with a large portion of Augustine’s City of God, and Replies to Simplicianus; some Enneads of Plotinus with Augustine’s Literal Meaning of Genesis.

PL 704 01
Plato’s Republic

Marina McCoy
Level – Graduate

Description:
In this course, we will explore in depth Plato’s Republic, with particular attention to parallels between the Republic and the literary works of Plato’s predecessors, including Homer, the tragedians, and Aristophanes. The focus of our reading will be on the role of poetry, imagination, and narrative in the dialogue.

Requirements: active participation in seminar-style class; one midterm paper; one final paper

Required reading: Plato, Republic (Allan Bloom trans.)
Merleau-Ponty: Flesh and Language

Françoise Dastur

*Class Meets from Sept 8 – Oct 20

Level - Graduate

Description:

The course will be dedicated to Merleau-Ponty's last philosophy and phenomenological ontology (1950-1961) with special emphasis on the fundamental notions of expression, chiasm and reversibility. The question is to show the intertwining of two main themes, the theme of corporety and flesh, which Merleau-Ponty found in Husserl, and the theme of expression and language, which brings him in a close proximity to Heidegger.

Basic Readings:


Other Readings:

F. Dastur, Chair et langage, Essais sur Merleau-Ponty, La Versanne, Encre Marine, 2001
PL 713 01  
**Virtue and Action**

**Jorge Garcia**

*Level - Graduate*

**Description:** This course treats the moral virtues and vices, especially in their relationship with right action, obligation, and supererogation in, for example, virtuous/vicious action, acting virtuously/viciously, performing an act of virtue/vice, being virtuous/vicious in doing something, its being virtuous/vicious of someone to perform an action, and so on. We will discuss objective and subjective accounts of the virtues and vices, intention-sensitivity, and treat output-driven, input-driven, and mixed accounts of duty.

**Requirements:** One term paper (18 pages), one oral presentation in class.

**Readings:** Readings will be drawn from works by Robert Audi, Thomas Hurka, Rosalind Hursthouse, Scott Gelfand, Michael Slote, Linda Zagzebski, Judith Thomson, Philippa Foot, and other contemporary writers.

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PL 722 01  
**German Idealism**

**John Sallis**

*Level - Graduate*

**Description:** This course deals with the development of German philosophy in the period immediately following the appearance of Kant’s three Critiques. Attention will be given to (1) the initial reception of the critical philosophy; (2) Fichte’s reformulation and systematization of the critical philosophy in the form of the Wissenschaftslehre; (3) Schelling’s appropriation of Fichte’s thought and his extension of it to the philosophy of art and of nature; (4) the emergence of Hegel’s early thought from this development.

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PL 732 01  
**Husserl’s Ideas: Book I**

**Andrea Staiti**

*Level – Graduate*

**Description:** In this class we will examine Husserl’s groundbreaking work *Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and a Phenomenological Philosophy* primarily from a systematic perspective. An effort will be made to connect Husserl’s phenomenology with the broader tradition of transcendental philosophy. The goal of the class is to learn Husserl’s phenomenological method and to understand key notions of phenomenology such as reduction, intentionality, pure consciousness, noesis-noema.
The first half of the semester will be dedicated to a chronological reading of Freudian texts. We will examine (1) Freud's and Breuer's first formulation of the nature and etiology of hysteria (Studies on Hysteria), (2) Freud's groundbreaking work in dream interpretation and the nature of unconscious processes (Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis), (3) Freud's application of the theory of unconscious mechanisms to cultural and religious phenomena ( Totem and Taboo), and (4) the ongoing revisions in Freud's classification of the drives ( The Ego and the Id, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Civilization and Its Discontents). We will attend to the issues which repeatedly return to trouble and fascinate Freud—the nature of the drives and their relation to sublimation and cultural achievement and (a similar question posed differently) the importance of the Oedipal complex to the question of conscience:

We will then survey some of the central clinical developments subsequent to Freud's time, such as ego psychology and object relations theory.

Finally, we will work with a number of philosophic responses to Freud, summarizing and/or selectively reading Ricoeur, Laplanche, Marcuse, and Derrida.

Requirements: 2 Reflection papers, Final Paper

Reading:

Sigmund Freud, selections from Studies on Hysteria, "Screen Memories", "The Psychical Mechanism of Forgetfulness," selections from Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis; Totem and Taboo; Mourning and Melancholia; Beyond the Pleasure Principle; Civilization and Its Discontents

Anna Freud, The Ego and The Mechanisms of Defense

Articles by Klein and Winnicott.

Articles and essays by Marcuse, Laplanche, and Derrida.
PL 739 01  HERMENEUTICS OF THE GIFT

Richard Kearney  

Level - Graduate

Description:

This seminar explores debates on the meaning of gift in contemporary continental thought.

We begin with an analysis of certain foundational narratives of giving (Indo-European, Homeric, Biblical, Native American). The seminar will then offer a close reading of three discussions of the enigma of the gift in recent continental philosophy: 1) The hermeneutic reading of Paul Ricoeur; 2) The deconstructive reading of Jacques Derrida and 3) The phenomenological reading of Jean-Luc Marion. All three draw from the formative analysis of giving and givenness in the work of Husserl and Heidegger.

The seminar will conclude with a consideration of the critical relation between giving and forgiving in the final conversation between Ricoeur and Derrida.

The course will be based on selected readings from the following texts:

- Jean-Luc Marion: 'Being Given: Toward a Phenomenology of Givenness' and 'On the Gift: A discussion between Marion and Derrida'
- Paul Ricoeur: 'Difficult Pardon'
- Marcel Mauss: 'The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies'
We can no longer view the political as the last secular triumph of the end of modernity but only as a sphere that may be appropriated by multiple modernities. This seminar will examine the confluence of political philosophers who consider the political as a unique sphere independent of other forms of metaphysical justification which now emerges under a different light. We will start with the work of the later Rawls who, in contrast to his position in *Theory of Justice* (1971), came to see the political sphere as *freestanding*. His great late distinction was between the comprehensive and the political. Certain forms of Continental philosophy have made similar justifications albeit from different points of view. The reason for this peculiar confluence is what might be called the end of modernity. That is to say, according to Eisenstadt, Arnason, Taylor and maybe even Habermas, we can no longer speak of modernity in a Weberian/ Marxist and/or Western traditional way. Instead, instead we can only speak of multiple modernities and various adaptations to global culture. Given this reality political traditions, which once seemed at odds with one another may now be comparable. This comparability will be the subject of this seminar. I will begin the seminar by presenting the fundamental breakthrough represented by Rawls later thought. Basic to this presentation will be the primacy of concept of reasonability, a modern reconstruction of the Hegelian notion of recognition. Public reason constitutes his unique reconstruction of the Kantian notion of publicity. Finally, in my view his notion of overlapping consensus is our last best hope in a world that is constituted by multiple modernities.

The second part of this seminar will be devoted to the writings of those philosophers of the continent who introduce the sphere of the political as distinctive. Carl Schmitt was the first to introduce the concept of the political. Chantal Mouffe follows Schmitt in her more modern use of the concept of the political. Hannah Arendt has a distinctive idea of the uniqueness of the political going back to her lectures on Kant’s *Third Critique*. Charles Taylor (*The Secular Age* and *Modern Social Imaginaries*) and Jürgen Habermas (recent essays) are beginning to turn to a view of politics adapted to a conception of multiple modernities as expressed in their recent works.

My vision for the seminar is that I will present the first part on the late Rawls with a view towards other concepts of the political. Later sections of the course will deal with Schmitt, Mouffe, Arendt, Taylor, Habermas and others.


**Requirements:** A paper, vigorous class participation and perhaps presentations.
Investigation into Thomistic metaphysics (1) in St. Thomas himself and (2) in light of contemporary movements especially in phenomenology and existentialism, and (3) its radical consequences in epistemology, anthropology, and ethics.

Prerequisites: familiarity with Aristotelian logic and philosophy (suggested minimum: Mortimer Adler, *Aristotle for Everybody*) and the major figures in the history of philosophy.

Requirements: to be chosen by the class: seminar papers, take-home exam, supervised term papers, or other. This class is designed as a seminar; active participation and discussion is expected of all.

Readings: *Summa of the Summa* (edited version of the *Summa*’s philosophically important passages). *The Elements of Christian Philosophy* by Etienne Gilson (exposition of Thomistic philosophy following the order of the *Summa*). *Saint Thomas Aquinas, the Dumb Ox* by G.K. Chesterton (lively biography which the best Thomistic scholars have all called the best book ever written about St. Thomas). *The One and the Many* (the signature themes of Thomistic metaphysics related to modern philosophy, especially phenomenology, existentialism, and philosophy of science) and *Person and Being* by W. Norris Clarke, S.J. *Summa Contra Gentiles*, Book I (more extensive version of the philosophical beginnings in the *Summa Theologiae*)
PL 990 01  Teaching Seminar

Ronald Tacelli, S.J.  F 4:30-6

Description:
This course is required of all first- and second-year doctoral candidates who are or will become teaching fellows. This course includes discussion of teaching techniques, planning of curricula, and careful analysis of various ways of presenting major philosophical texts.

PL 991 01  Writing Seminar

Arthur Madigan, S.J.  **MF 4:30-6

Level - Graduate

Description:
Designed to introduce doctoral students to the main concepts and practices of scholarly writing in philosophy, this seminar will cover the basic principles of composition, the main techniques for writing about philosophical issues and about the history of philosophy, and the common practices of scholarly journals. The seminar will analyze classic examples of philosophical scholarship as well as participants own work in progress. In the course of the seminar participants will be expected to develop a paper of publishable quality.

**Class will meet on Fridays from Sept 10 thru Oct 15. After Oct 15th, this class will meet on Mondays 4:30-6 p.m.