

FALL 2012-2013 ELECTIVES

COURSE #	CR	LV	COURSE TITLE	SCHEDULE	INSTRUCTOR
PL11601	3	1	MEDIEVAL RELIGION&THOUGHT	T TH 9*	BROWN
				CULTURAL DIVERSITY	
ALTID	3	U	TH11601: MEDIEVAL RELIGION&THOUGHT	T TH 9	BROWN
				CULTURAL DIVERSITY	
PL16001	3	1	CHALLENGE OF JUSTICE	T TH 3*	POPE
ALTID	3	U	TH16001: CHALLENGE OF JUSTICE	T TH 3	POPE
PL16002	3	1	CHALLENGE OF JUSTICE	M W 3*	SWEENEY
ALTID	3	U	TH16002: CHALLENGE OF JUSTICE	M W 3	SWEENEY
PL23301	3	1	VALUES/SOC SERV/HLTH CARE	TH 4 30-6 50	MANZO
PL25901	3	1	PERSP:WAR/AGGRESSION	T TH 12*	MULLANE
ALTID	3	U	TH32701: PERSPECT:WAR/AGGRES I	T TH 12	MULLANE
ALTID	3	U	SC25001: PERSP:WAR/AGGRESSION	T TH 12	MULLANE
PL26101	3	1	TELLING TRUTHS I	W 3-4 50	HIRSCH
PL26401	3	1	LOGIC	M W F 2	SARCA
PL26402	3	1	LOGIC	M W F 3	SARCA
PL26403	3	1	LOGIC	M W F 12	ANDERSON
PL29101	3	1	PHILOS OF COMMUNITY I	T 4 30-6 20	MC MENAMIN
PL31401	3	1	MIND AND BODY	M W F 11	TACELLI
PL37701	3	1	ETHICAL THEORY	T TH 12*	GARCIA
PL40301	3	1	DOES GOD EXIST?	M W 3*	TACELLI
PL40501	3	1	GREEK PHILOSOPHY	M W F 11	BYERS
PL40601	3	1	MODERN PHILOSOPHY	T TH 10 30*	SOLERE
PL44201	3	1	ROMANTICISM & IDEALISM	T TH 1 30*	RUMBLE
PL47001	3	1	PHIL OF WORLD RELIGIONS	T TH 3*	KREEFT
				CULTURAL DIVERSITY	
PL49301	3	1	BIOETHICS:ISS/HEALTHCARE	M W F 2	STAN
PL50001	3	3	PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	T TH 1 30*	TREJO-MATHYS
ALTID	3	G	LL66901: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	T TH 1 30	TREJO-MATHYS
PL51201	3	3	PHILOSOPHY OF EXISTENCE	T TH 3*	KEARNEY
PL51701	3	3	KANT&KANTIAN'S MORAL LAW	T TH 3*	LOTT
PL53101	3	3	DISC&METAPHYSICS ETHICS	T TH 4 30*	GARCIA
PL55001	3	1	CAPSTONE:BUILDING A LIFE	M 3-5 20	MC MENAMIN
*ALTID	3	U	UN55001: CAPSTONE:BUILDING A LIFE	M 3-5 20	MC MENAMIN
PL57701	3	3	SYMBOLIC LOGIC	T TH 3*	LANG
PL57801	3	3	KANT'S CRIT/PURE REASON	T TH 1 30*	TROXELL
PL58601	3	3	PLATONIC DIALOGUES	M W F 1	MC COY
PL60501	3	3	AUGUSTINE	M 2-4 25	BYERS
PL61401	3	3	PASSIONS:MEDIEV/MOD VIEWS	T TH 10 30*	SWEENEY
PL62501	3	3	PROBLEM OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE	M 4 30-6 50	BRAMAN
PL64301	3	3	FREUD'S CIVIL&DISCONTENT	T TH 12*	BLOECHL
PL67001	3	3	TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE	W 4 30-6 50	GRIFFITH
*ALTID	3	M	MI26701: TECHNOLOGY&CULTURE	W 4 30-6 50	GRIFFITH
PL70601	3	G	ADVANCED MEDIEVAL PHILOS	W 1-3 25	SOLERE
PL72801	3	G	KANT&LONERGAN ON ETHICS	W 4 30-6 50	BYRNE
PL74101	3	G	AESTHETICS	T 4 30-6 50	SALLIS
PL74601	3	G	RAWLS'POLITICAL PHIL	TH 4 30-6 50	RASMUSSEN

FALL 2012-2013 ELECTIVES

*ALTID	3	G	LL71201: RAWLS' POLITICAL PHIL	TH 4 30-6 50	RASMUSSEN
PL78401	3	G	RESEARCH IN HERMENEUTICS	W 10-11 50	KEARNEY
PL86201	3	G	DIACRITICAL HERMENEUTICS	TH 6 30-8 50	KEARNEY
PL87101	3	G	AQUINAS:SUMMA THEOLOGIAE	TH 4 30-6 50	KREEFT
PL99001	0	G	TEACHING SEMINAR	M 4-6 20	MADIGAN

PL 160 02
TH 160 02

Challenge of Justice

Matthew Mullane

M W 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 160 01
TH 160 01**

Challenge of Justice

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, hunger and poverty, and ecological justice.

Requirements:

Readings:

PL 233 01 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 259 01
TH 327/SC 250**

Perspectives on War and Aggression

Matthew Mullane

T TH 12*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

The Faith, Peace, and Justice Program sponsors this course as an introduction to the field of Peace Studies. The course is organized along multidisciplinary lines with faculty members from various departments responsible for each topic of discussion. This interdisciplinary approach demonstrates the varied and complex perspectives on the causes of war and conflict. The course then develops, out of the resources of these respective disciplines, comprehensive, intelligent insights into the resolution of conflicts and the development of creative alternatives to war. Topics may include: the complex causes of violence and war, use and abuse of political violence, humanitarian intervention, ethics of war and peace, conflict resolution, restorative justice post-bellum, religion and violence, and theories of non-violence.

Requirements:

Book Review, Mid-Term and Final Exam, Research Paper.

Reading:

Allman, Mark J, Who Would Jesus Kill?, Bacevich, Andrew J, Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War, Barash, David P., ed. Approaches to Peace, Byers, Michael, War Law, Hedges, Chris, War is the Force That Gives Us Meaning, Powers, Samantha, A Problem from Hell.

PL 261 01

**Telling Truths: Writing for the
Cause of Justice**

Kathleen Hirsch

W 3 – 4 50

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 – 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 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 required.

Readings:

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

PL 314 01

Mind and Body

Ronald Tacelli, S.J.

MWF 11

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Prerequisites: Philosophy of the Person or Core Equivalent

Description:

Am I my body and nothing more? Is there such a thing as a soul? If there is, can I know anything about it? What is the relation between mind and body? Is there unity between what accounts for their existence? Are they separable? Could the soul possibly survive the dissolution of the body? Can I know any of this? These are some of the questions we will raise--and try to answer.

Requirements:

occasional papers, oral exams, final

Readings:

Various

PL 377 01

Ethical Theory

Jorge Garcia

T TH 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 in utilitarianism include hedonism, welfare, position-relative value theory, direct and indirect consequentialism, hypermoralism, and of consequential evaluation in deliberators and spectators.

Topics in neo-Kantianism include the point and nature of contractual justificatory mechanisms, and the source & variety of moral rules and principles.

Topics in virtues-based ethics include the nature and acquisition of virtues, the relation of virtues to moral quandaries and obligations.

Requirements:

Two in-class examinations comprising both short-answer and essay assignments

Readings:

Readings will be selected from texts including: Deontology, ed., S. Darwall; Consequentialism, J. Driver; Normative Ethics, S. Kagan; After Virtue, A. MacIntyre; Moral Theory: a Non-Consequentialist Approach, D. Oderberg; Ethical Theory: an Anthology, ed., R. Shafer-Landau

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

Readings:

Various

PL 405 01

Greek Philosophy

Sarah Byers

MWF 11

Level 1 - 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 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 change world; the human soul; the question of the criterion of truth, and the process by which humans may come to know; the question of the criterion of ethics.

PL 406 01

Modern Philosophy

Jean-Luc Solere

T TH 10:30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

We will study the main philosophies that, from Descartes to Kant, have punctuated the rise of the modern mind. In that period, 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.

We will analyze representative texts, paying attention to their argumentative structures, and highlighting the logic in the development of problems and answers. The course will provide you with the central concepts of modern thought and the essential historical knowledge, so as to understand the bases of the present comprehension of the world and of ourselves. Also, studying the texts, class discussions and writing assignments are designed for developing rigorous argumentation and expression skills.

Syllabus on <http://www2.bc.edu/~solere/pl406.html>

Requirements:

3 synthesis papers: 2 midterms and 1 final

Readings:

Modern Philosophy. An Anthology of Primary Sources, ed. by R. Ariew & E. Watkins, Hackett, Indianapolis, 1998.

J.-J. Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Hackett, Indianapolis

E. Kant, *Groundings of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Hackett, Indianapolis

PL 442 01

Romanticism and Idealism

Vanessa Rumble

T TH 1 30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Kant's transcendental idealism has been charged with divorcing the subject of understanding from the subject of moral experience. We shall examine the basis of this claim, as well as the attempts by Romantic writers and German Idealists to provide a fresh account of the integrity of human experience. We begin examining Kant's attempt, in *The Critique of Judgment*, to bridge the moral and natural realms through aesthetics. We then trace the progressive emancipation of the imagination in the later development of German Idealism and Romanticism.

Requirements:

four 5-page essays, midterm exam, final exam

Readings:

Kant, *The Critique of Judgment*

Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*

J.G. Fichte, *Two Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre*

Schleiermacher, *On Religion*

F.W.J. Schelling, *Philosophical Investigations into the Nature of Human Freedom*

Goethe, *Faust*

E.T.A. Hoffman, *Tales of E.T.A. Hoffman*

Heinrich von Kleist, *The Marquise of O and Other Essays*

PL 470 01

Philosophy of World Religions

Peter Kreeft

T TH 3*

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*; assorted articles and excerpts from scriptures; Peter Kreeft, *Between Heaven and Hell*; Peter Kreeft, *Between Allah and Jesus*.

PL 500 01/LL 669 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*

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 512 01

Philosophy of Existence

Richard Kearney

T TH 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate

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.

Requirements:

final paper, oral exam

Reading:

to be provided in class

PL 531 01

Discourse & Metaphysics of Ethics

Jorge Garcia

T TH 4 30*

Level 3 - Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

We examine most of the 20th Century's principal positions on the metaphysics, knowledge, and modes of discourse within and behind moral judgment, as developed within Anglo-American philosophy: axiological non-naturalism, deontological non-naturalism, emotivism, prescriptivism, neo-naturalism, anti-realism, projectivism, and constructivism.

Requirements:

One two take-home examination, one final paper, and one oral presentation in class

Reading:

Readings will be selected from chapters and articles by G.E. Moore, W.D. Ross, J.N. Findlay, A.J. Ayer, C.L. Stevenson, R.M. Hare, P. Foot, E. Anscombe, J. Mackie, S. Blackburn, and J. Rawls.

PL 542 01 Themes in Modern Political Philosophy

Jonathan Trejo-Mathys

MWF 2

Level 3 - Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

We will study themes which became central to the tradition of Western political philosophy in the modern period, when revolutionary changes were occurring in religious and political spheres due to the Reformation, Wars of Religion, and the intellectual sphere due to the burgeoning Scientific Revolution. After a look at ancient and medieval philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas to understand what was genuinely new in modern political thought, we will turn to intensive engagement with great modern figures such as Hobbes, Locke, Hume, and Rousseau, and end with some contemporary approaches to political authority and obligation.

Requirements:

Reading:

PL 550 01/UN 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:

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

Martin Heidegger, *Discourse on Thinking*

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 578 01

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

Mary S. Troxell

T TH 1 30*

Level 3 - Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

This course serves as an introduction to Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason." Virtually every section of Kant's masterwork has led to conflicts in interpretation, and an introductory course cannot comprehensively address these controversies. Instead, we will focus our efforts on a close exegesis of the text, touching on fundamental conflicts of interpretation when necessary, while at the same time situating Kant's position in relation to both his predecessors and the contemporary debates of his time.

Requirements:

Reading:

PL 586 01

Platonic Dialogues

Marina B. McCoy

MWF 1

Level 3 - Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

In this fall's Platonic dialogues, we will focus on Plato's use of images and argumentation in a series of shorter dialogues: Meno, Charmides, Laches, and Protagoras. Each of these dialogues explores the nature of virtue either as a whole (as in the Meno and Protagoras) or in part (as in the Laches' examination of courage and the Charmides' look at moderation). Socrates makes arguments for his claims; often these arguments rely on the use of images. Our reading of the texts will be a slow and careful reading of these dialogues' arguments and how the use of the imagination becomes central to making such arguments. Open to undergraduate and graduate students.

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.

Reading:

Curd, Martin and J.A. Cover. 1998. *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co.

Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*. Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press.

Thomas S. Kuhn. 1996. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

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

PL 605 01

Augustine

Sarah Byers

M 2 – 4:25

Level 3 - Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

In this course we examine questions in epistemology, ethics and metaphysics using major works of Augustine (354-430 AD/CE), supplemented by works of contemporary philosophers on related themes (Kretzmann, Matthews, MacDonald, VanInwagen). We will aim at depth of understanding and breadth of knowledge, contextualizing Augustine as a philosopher of late antiquity in dialogue with the Hellenistic schools (Stoicism, Skepticism, Neo-Platonism) whose philosophy is still of interest today. Topics include the nature of faith, skepticism, the problem of evil, the nature of God, moral development and conversion, the origin and characteristics of the natural world, including the human soul and body.

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 625 01

Problem of Self-Knowledge

Brian Braman

M 4:30 – 6:50

Level 3 - Undergraduate/Graduate

Description:

This course is inspired by Socrates' imperative and dictum: "Know thy self." Yet what exactly does it 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 thy 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 643 01

Freud's Civilization & Its Discontent

Jeffrey Bloechl

T TH 12*

Level 3 - Undergraduate / Graduate

Prerequisite: Basic familiarity with Freudian thought desirable, but not strictly necessary.

Description:

This course will develop a close reading of Freud's text, with attention to the therapeutic concerns and technical difficulties that frame it and the cultural critique that it proposes. We will also consider the question of Freud's legacy, as debated between ego psychology and the interpretation developed by Jacques Lacan.

Requirements:

Reading:

PL 670 01/MI 267 01

Technology & Culture

William Griffith

W 4:30 - 6:50

Level 3 – Undergraduate / Graduate

Description:

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 706 01

Advanced Medieval Philosophy

Jean-Luc Solère

W 1 – 3:25

Level - Graduate

Description:

This year theme is: medieval theories of cognition.

How and what do we perceive? How does one form concepts? Who is the thinking subject? What do we know? This class will offer the opportunity to examine central issues of medieval philosophy: sense perception, realism versus representationalism, the nature of the intellect, the process of abstraction, the relations between universals and individuals. Through the study of some landmark thinkers, such as Avicenna, Averroes, Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham, we will thus observe the apparition of the modern conceptions of the subject and of knowledge.

The course 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:

Among others:

Aristotle, *On the Soul* bk. II and III

Avicenna and Averroes, selections (in J. McGinnis and D. C. Reisman, *Classical Arabic Philosophy*, Hackett 2007)

Boethius, Abelard and Ockham, selections, in P.V. Spade, *Five Texts on Mediaeval Problem of Universals* (Hackett, 1994)

Thomas Aquinas, *Sum of Theology*, 1st p., q.54-58, 78-89 (in *On Human Nature*, Hackett 1999)

John Duns Scotus, *Philosophical Writings* (Hackett 1993)

William of Ockham, *Philosophical Writings* (Hackett, 1990)

PL 728 01

Kant & Lonergan on Ethics

Patrick Byrne

W 4:30-6:50

Level – Undergraduate/Graduate

Description: Immanuel Kant effected not only a “Copernican Revolution” not only in the theory of knowing but in ethical and moral philosophy as well. He set forth an impressive new synthesis that closely integrated:

Duty, Autonomy, Respect, Dignity, Human Being as End-in-itself,
Freedom, Law, Rationality, Universality, Good Socio-Political Order

In his emphasis on duty, law and ordinary reason Kant incorporated a conservative, traditionalist side. By his inclusion of autonomy, universal reason, freedom and dignity, he reveals a liberal, progressivist side. His remarkable synthesis was a powerful inspiration for virtually all contemporary standards, including independent choice, universal human rights, and equal treatment before the law (i.e., procedural justice).

Remarkable though this synthesis was, it was also a very fragile and unstable. Inevitably it began to unravel. When it did, the burdens of ethical thinking were borne by the fragmented remains of that synthesis – choice, autonomy and dignity.

Bernard Lonergan’s work in cognitional theory was in large part a response to what he took as the serious limitations in Kant’s theory of knowledge. Less well-known is his ethical and value theory, and how it too came in response to limitations in Kant’s moral philosophy. In particular, Lonergan draws attention to the particularity and situatedness of ethical/value judgments, and to the role that feelings play in ethical reasoning and action.

This course will entail a careful reading of Kant’s major works in moral philosophy and the responses from Lonergan’s works

Requirements: Mid-term exam, final exam, Research term-paper (20 pages)

Readings:

Kant, *Grounding of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Kant, *The Metaphysics of Morals*

Kant, *Religion within the Bounds of Reason Alone*

Lonergan, *Insight*, (selections), *Method in Theology* (selections)

Byrne, *The Ethics of Discernment*

Cronin, *Value Ethics* (recommended)

Dunne, *Doing Better* (recommended)

PL 741 01

Aesthetics

John Sallis

T 4:30 – 6:50

Level - Graduate

Description:

This course will deal with the classical themes of the philosophy of art such as beauty, the relation between art and truth, and the connection between art and nature. A selection of texts will be read by such philosophers as Kant, Hegel, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty. Special attention will be given to the writings and artwork of Paul Klee in connection with the Klee exhibition and conference being held at Boston College in Fall Semester 2012.

PL 746 01

Rawls' Political Philosophy

David Rasmussen

TH 4:30 – 6:50

Level – Graduate

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.

Potential readings: From Rawls. *Political Liberalism, Law of Peoples, Justice as Fairness Revisited*. From Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* and *Political Sovereignty*, From Mouffe, *The Return of the Political* and *On the Political*. From Arendt, *Kant's Political Philosophy*. From Taylor, *Modern Social Imaginaries*.

Requirements: A paper, vigorous class participation and perhaps presentations.

PL 862 01

Diacritical Hermeneutics

Richard M. Kearney

TH 6:30 – 8:50

Level - Graduate

Description:

The course is a critical engagement with some of the main figures of 20th century hermeneutics - Heidegger, Gadamer, Ricoeur - culminating in a 'diacritical' turn. This turn will be examined under five main traits: critical; criteriological; semiotic, diagnostic and carnal. The seminar will conclude with discussion of a phenomenological hermeneutics of the flesh in Merleau-Ponty.

PL 871 01 *The Summa Theologiae* of St. Thomas Aquinas

Peter Kreeft

TH 4:30 – 6:50

Level -Graduate

Description:

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* by W. Norris Clarke, S.J. (the signature themes of Thomistic metaphysics related to modern philosophy, especially phenomenology, existentialism, and philosophy of science). *Person and Being* by W. Norris Clarke, S.J. (call for a synthesis of Thomistic metaphysics and modern Personalism)