

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL116001

Challenge of Justice

THEO 216001

T TH 3*

Steve Pope

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. Problems discussed may include human rights, hunger and poverty, and ecological justice.

Readings:

Requirements:

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL223301

Values in Social Services and Healthcare

David Manzo

TH 4:30-6:50

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

“The opposite of faith is not heresy. It is indifference.” Elie Wiesel

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." FDR Second Inaugural Address, Washington, D.C., January 20, 1937.

This course has a dual purpose. Its broadest mission is to give perspective and offer reflection on your service experiences to date and then to help you discern the answer to the question, “What’s next?” We will try to accomplish this through readings, lectures, discussions, and written assignments.

Among the objectives for Values in Social Services and Health Care are: to communicate an understanding of the social services and health care delivery system; to explore ethical problems and challenges related to the allocations of limited resources, regulations, economic injustice, community conflicts and the responsibility for the dependent person; to consider strategies for effecting positive changes in the social service and health care system.

Requirements:

Although this course is a PULSE Elective, it is OPEN to ALL students. You must participate in a 4 or 8 hour per week field placement.

Readings:

Tough, Whatever it Takes: Geoffrey Canada’s Quest to Change Harlem and America

Gaylin, Doing Good

Kotlowitz ,There are No Children Here

Hirsch ,Songs from the Alley

Shore ,The Cathedral Within

Himes , Doing the Truth in Love (Selected Chapter)

Collins , Moral Measure of the Economy

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL225901

Perspectives on War and Aggression

THEO232701

T TH 12*

SOCY225001

Matthew Mullane

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

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

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL226101

Telling Truths

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 strategies that social prophets and witnesses have used, and are using today, to promote the cause of justice.

Requirements:

A 4-hour service placement through the PULSE office is required, as field work in conjunction with this class.

Readings:

Autobiographical essays, significant historical letters, contemporary op ed pieces and non-fiction articles.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL226401

Logic

David Ellis

M W F 12

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This class is an introduction to logic in three distinct but related ways. One, this course approaches logic in a *mechanical* way. This part of the course intends to develop the student's rational faculties. The focus is on developing one's ability to engage in procedural, cognitive operations. Two, this course approaches logic in a *historical* way. This part of the course explores the various types of logic and their origins. Logic has not fallen into our laps as a ready-made discipline. It arose from human beings involved in inquiry about how things are, how we come to know things, and how we communicate that knowledge. As in any human inquiry, people have and continue to disagree. So, three, this course approaches logic in an *inquiring* way. This part of the course presents logic as an open and not a closed area of inquiry. Students will learn about some of the ancient and contemporary impasses in the philosophy of logic. In presenting logic as an ongoing inquiry, students have the opportunity to reexamine their own understanding of logic. In short, this course intends to help students develop their ability not only to think logically but to think about logic.

Requirements:

Although there are no requirements, it will help to have taken an introductory philosophy course.

Readings:

The instructor will provide a reading packet.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL226402

Logic

PHIL226403

M W F 2

Miles Rind

M W F 3

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of the norms of reasoning. It will include both formal logic, which is the study of reasoning within a formal system, and informal logic, which is the study of how norms of reasoning apply in actual discourse. Topics to be studied include the identification, classification, and analysis of arguments; the formal analysis of categorical statements, syllogisms, complex propositions, predicates, relational expressions, quantifiers, and identity; the identification of fallacies in argumentation; and the norms of analogical reasoning.

Readings:

Paul Herrick, *Introduction to Logic* (Oxford University Press, 2013)

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL229101

Philosophy of Community I

Meghan Sweeney

T 4:30-6:50

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

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 an historical perspective with an assessment of philosophical and theological ideas which were dominant in 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.

Requirements:

Limited to members of the PULSE Council.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL229501

Society and Culture I

David McMEnamin

TH 3-5:50

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course will aim at an understanding of contemporary American society by exploring the underlying cultural traditions and practices from which that society arises. We will attempt to lay a foundation for understanding contemporary ways in which the American people choose to structure the way they live together. Our study centers on questions about how our culture and its social structures are the concrete expression of what we value, of the things consider meaningful and important within American culture.

Prerequisites:

PULSE: Person and Social Responsibility I and II, or PULSE elective courses.

Requirements:

Seminar leadership of two class meetings: Each week's seminar will be led by two (or more) 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.

Brief weekly writing assignments on the readings

Final Exam

Readings:

Christian Norberg-Schulz, *Genius Loci*.

Leo Marx, *The Machine in the Garden*

Michael Kammen, *People of Paradox*

The Acts of the Apostles

Patrick Byrne, "Paradigms of Justice and Love" (Handout)

Nathaniel Hawthorn, "Ethan Brand" (Handout, short story)

Martin Heidegger, "Memorial Address" (Handout)

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL440501

Greek Philosophy

Gary Gurtler, S.J.

T TH 10 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 reviews, term paper (10-15 pp.), consultation, participation, class summaries.

Reading:

Plato, Republic, tr. Grube (Hackett) ISBN 0-87220-136-8 (pbk).

Plato, Plato's Symposium and Phaedrus. ISBN 0375411747

Aristotle, Poetics, tr. Janko (Hackett) ISBN 0-87220-033-7 (pbk).

Longinus, On Great Writing, tr. Grube (Hackett) ISBN 0-87220-080-9 (pbk).

Plotinus, selections from I 6[1], "On Beauty," and V 8[31] "On the Intelligible Beauty."

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL440601

Modern Philosophy

Jean-Luc Solere

T TH 12*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

We will study the main philosophies that, from Descartes to Kant, have punctuated the rise of the modern mind. From the scientific revolution to the triumph of the Enlightenment, the 17th and 18th centuries progressively asserted the autonomy of reason but also reflected on its limits. The metaphysical, epistemological, ethical and political aspects of modern thought will be thoroughly considered, especially in relation with the development of scientific knowledge and the transformations of Western societies.

We will analyze representative texts, pay attention to their argumentative structures, and highlight the logical development of problems and answers they deal with. The course will provide you with the essential historical knowledge and the central concepts of modern thought so as to understand the bases of what is our today understanding of the world and of ourselves. In addition, studying the texts, class discussions and writing assignments are designed to develop rigorous argumentation and expression skills.

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

Requirements:

3 synthesis papers: 2 midterms and 1 final

Readings:

R. Ariew & E. Watkins, *Modern Philosophy. An Anthology of Primary Sources*, 2nd edition, Hackett, Indianapolis, 2009, ISBN 978-0-87220-978-7

J-J. Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, Hackett, Indianapolis, 1988, ISBN 978-0-87220-068-5

E. Kant, *Groundings of the Metaphysics of Moral*, Hackett, Indianapolis, 1993, ISBN, 978-0-87220-166-8

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL441901

Friendship

Gary Gurtler

T TH 12*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

The renewed interest among philosophers about friendship indicates a break from the suspicion of the last several centuries. The lack of interest can be traced to an understanding of human nature where each individual is a self-contained unit. Ethical reflection emphasized equality so much that friendship appeared hard to justify, as based on preferring one individual over another. This has not always been the case, since Greek and Medieval thinkers regarded friendship rather highly as indicating what is best in human nature and essential to happiness. We will try to understand why different cultural perspectives evaluate friendship in different ways.

Requirements:

Requirements: class summaries, term paper on one of the philosophers, midterm and final review. Class attendance and participation are an integral part of the course.

Readings:

Michael Pakaluk, ed. *Other Selves: Philosophers on Friendship* (Indianapolis, Hackett, 1991). ISBN 0-87220-113-9

Gary M. Gurtler, S.J., and Suzanne Stern-Gillet, eds. *Ancient and Medieval Concepts of Friendship* (Albany, SUNY Press, 2014)

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL443101

Philosophy of Mind

Cherie McGill

M W 1*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

What is the mind? Some of history's most profound thinkers have attempted to answer this question, yet the nature of the mind remains elusive and hotly debated in contemporary philosophy. Can the mysteries of conscious experience be reconciled with a naturalistic, scientific world view? Is the mind really just a kind of computer, a machine made of meat? In this course, we will investigate what Francis Crick has called the Astonishing Hypothesis??that "You," your joys and your sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules.?

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL444001

Historical Intro to Western Moral Theology

Jorge García

M W 12:30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

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:

Three in-class examinations comprising short-answer and essay assignments

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL447201

Buddhist Ethics

THEO447201

T 3-5:25

John Makransky

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This course focuses on ethical principles and practices of Buddhism in India, Southeast Asia and Tibet, how those principles have been applied for individual and social transformation and, in the modern period, their application to contemporary issues, such as social and economic inequality, environmental degradation, ethnic and religious tension, and violence. Students are encouraged to notice how their study of Buddhism informs their ethical, philosophical, and theological understandings. Mindfulness practices, which involve learning to pay fuller attention to our experienced world, are introduced in class to inform these studies.

Requirements:

Weekly writing of 3 pages, active class participation, and final paper.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL447601

Classical Chinese Philosophy

You Guo Jiang, SJ

T TH 1:30*

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Course fulfills Cultural Diversity core requirement.

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

Readings:

Requirements:

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL448301

Revolution and Social Change

Eileen Sweeney

T TH 12*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

This course will take up accounts of the roots of modern notions of justified revolution and social justice calls to transform society in Hebrew scripture and the ministry of Jesus as depicted in the Christian bible through the interpretations of political theorist Michael Walzer's *Exodus and Revolution*, and the work of progressive theologian Walter Wink, as well as classical political theory in Aquinas and Locke and others. We will also consider the works of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Hannah Arendt on non-violent resistance, as well as works of Malcolm X, Fritz Fanon, Vaclav Havel, and Aung San Suu Kyi. Students will work on projects examining the theoretical underpinnings of recent attempts at revolution and social change, and considering their success or failure.

Requirements:

- Two exams
- One class project/paper
- Final exam

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL493101

Senior Honors Seminar

Eileen Sweeney

TH 1:30-3:45

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

The senior honors seminar will support the development of a senior thesis. Topics will include methods for strong research, writing workshops, and contemporary philosophical readings and discussion.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL493201

Perspectives Seminar

Fred Lawrence/Thomas Kohler

T 1:30-3:45

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

Readings:

Requirements:

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL537201

New Testament Greek I

THEO537201

T TH 10:30*

Margaret Schatkin

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Why Study New Testament Greek?

The most important reason is to gain a deeper and better understanding of the Bible (New Testament) and to appreciate the language in which it was written about 2000 years ago. No longer will you have to depend on the translations of others, but will be in direct touch with the original (Greek) text. This knowledge will benefit you in all your other classes, theology, philosophy, and if pre-med, in medical school.

How difficult is New Testament Greek?

Here's the thing, the New Testament was mostly written in a type of Greek known as "Koinē." This is an "easy" Greek (for the most part).

Requirements:

Practice is essential. Make it part of your daily schedule. Treat it like exercise. It is exercise—for the brain, and food for the soul!

Readings:

1. Essentials of New Testament Greek, by Ray Summers, revised by Thomas Sawyer. Nashville: Broadman and Holman 1995.
2. New Testament Greek: A Student's Guide, by Steven L. Cox. Nashville: Broadman and Holman 1999.
3. The UBS Greek New Testament: A Reader's Edition. Edited by Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland, et al. German Bible Society.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL551801

Philosophy of Imagination

Richard Kearney

T TH 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Readings in the philosophy of imagination from ancient myth to post-modernity. 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); and (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.

Requirements:

Attendance, participation, final paper

Readings:

Jean-Paul Sartre, *The Imaginary*

Roland Barthes, *Image, Music, Text*

Richard Kearney, *The Wake of Imagination*

Other Readings be provided in class and on Library course reserve

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL552401

Ethics: An Introduction

Arthur Madigan, SJ

M W F 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.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL553101

Discourse & Metaphysics Ethics

Jorge García

M W 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

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, and projectivism,. Readings will be selected from articles and chapters by such thinkers as 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.

Requirements:

Midterm and final take-home examinations

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL553201

Philosophy of Religion in Human Subjectivity

Oliva Blanchette

M W 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Maurice Blondel sought to reinstate a positive philosophy of religion into a French philosophical establishment that, at the end of the 19th century, was repudiating, not only religion itself, but the very idea of a philosophy of religion understood as something supernatural. To do this he introduced into French philosophy an existential turn to human action and to human subjectivity, long before the better known existential turn of some 50 years later with Sartre, Camus, and others, after WW II. He first took this turn in his doctoral dissertation at the Sorbonne in 1893, and in his book on Action published soon thereafter.

In this course we shall study how Blondel went about making this existential turn to human action as a philosopher, and how he uses this turn phenomenologically and systematically to rise to a philosophy of transcendence showing the necessity of some supernatural religion at the heart of human existential subjectivity. We shall examine how the question of religion arises for him in the question of human action, and we shall follow how he proceeds to answer the question in his book on Action (1893) according to a method that is systematic and scientific from beginning to end.

We shall mainly examine how Blondel turns the question of human action into a question of human subjectivity in his elaboration of the phenomenon of action and how this turn affects the way the question of God or of religion is raised at the end in relation to how human action may attain completion of one sort or another.

Readings:

Readings will be mostly from Action (1893), tr. by Oliva Blanchette (University of Notre Dame Press, 1984). There will be a mid-term take-home essay exam and a term paper on some aspect of Blondel's philosophy of action as chosen by each student. The final exam will be oral, one on one, on what we will have seen of Action(1893).

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL555001

Capstone: Building a Life

David McMenamín

M 3-5:20

Level 1 – Undergraduate Elective

Description:

This Capstone course is designed for seniors who have taken PULSE. Using an approach based in disciplines as varied as architecture, literature, history and philosophy, it invites students to explore the ways that they might integrate their PULSE service and learning experiences into their post graduate choices.

Prerequisites:

PULSE: Person and Social Responsibility I & II; Seniors Only

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

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*

Raymond Carver, "Cathedral"

William Shore, *Cathedral Within*

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL555601

Quest for Authenticity

Brian Braman

M 6:30-9

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

The concept of authenticity permeates the whole of artistic culture. For a work of art to be thought authentic it will be true to some higher standard, be it a normative understanding of beauty or the artist's own personal vision. For Lonergan, what makes art authentic is its ability to communicate some ulterior significance or meaning through symbolic mediation of "the purely experiential pattern." The purpose of this course will be to appropriate in a rich way Lonergan's philosophy of art. But in order to do justice to this appropriation, we will first explore what other thinkers have had to say about the nature of art. Aquinas, Kant, Nietzsche and Heidegger will be some of the thinkers with whom we will begin our exploration of the philosophy of art.

Requirements:

Must be a philosophy major.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL556302

Ethics, Religion and International Politics

THEO556302

M W 3*

INTL556302

Erik Owens

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

See International Studies or the Theology Department for registration approval. Preference to Theology and International Studies majors and minors.

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

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL557601

Existentialism

Peter Kreeft

T TH 12*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

An exploration of the writings of 8 Existentialists: Pascal, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Marcel, Buber, and Clarke (the Thomist-existentialist-personalist). Existentialists do not share a set of conclusions (they include Protestants, Catholics, Jews, humanists,, atheists, and agnostics) but a set of questions: about human existence, meaning, and subjectivity.

Readings:

Readings include overviews and long excerpts from their writings as well as short classics; its quantity (over 1000 pages) is offset by its quality (interesting, relevant, life-changing, "existential")

Requirements:

Quizzes, comprehensive take-home exam, short original essays.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL557701

Symbolic Logic

Max Weiss

T TH 3*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Three triplets get a painting set for their birthday. A few hours later, their father sees that two of them have paint on their foreheads. He tells the three that at least one of them has paint on her forehead, and then asks: 'do you know if you have paint on your forehead?' At once the kids say 'No'. So he repeats the question. Now the two painted kids say 'Yes, I've got paint on my forehead' while the other says 'I don't know'. How did they figure?

In recent decades logic has spread beyond philosophy and mathematics to find applications in a broad range of subjects, including linguistics, computer science, and economics. In this course, we'll consider two families of application of logical techniques: knowledge and action.

After an outline of truth-functional logic, we'll introduce the classical notions of necessity and possibility, and discuss their capacity for modeling various metaphysical and epistemic phenomena.

Then we'll investigate the application of logic to knowledge. Classical logic regards propositions as either true or false; but we can also ask whether something is known, and by whom. So, we'll develop methods of reasoning about what people know about the world and about other people's knowledge.

People don't just know about the world, but change it. Human actions can be regarded as transforming the totality of facts. So we'll develop techniques for reasoning about actions. The logic of action naturally meshes with the logic of what's known. For a changing world introduces new things to know, and changing knowledge is a changing world.

Readings:

Logic in Action, freely available at www.logicinaction.org

Requirements:

The enjoyment of logic puzzles, and the will to think rigorously about abstract matters.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL559301

Philosophy of Science

Daniel McKaughan

T 4:30-6:50

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

An introduction to the central themes from contemporary 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 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 York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1998.

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

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

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

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL559801

Law, Medicine and Ethics

THEO359801

T TH 10:30*

John Paris

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Department Permission Required -- from the Theology department

This course examines legal and ethical issues in medicine. It is designed so that students take an ethical position on difficult or emerging issues in medicine, such as appropriate care of seriously ill newborns, new forms of reproduction, and proposals for health care reform. The student is expected to provide a principled rationale for the position. The goal is to have the students think, be prepared to recognize inadequacies or difficulties in their position, modify it if necessary, and ultimately arrive at a thought-through and principled position. A Socratic method is used to achieve that goal.

Readings:

Requirements:

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PHIL584601

Plato's Republic

Deborah Dechiara-Quenzer

M W F 2

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Welcome to one of Plato's greatest dialogues, the Republic. As a Platonic dialogue, the Republic has it all: an aporetic beginning (Book I), an ideal state, philosopher-kings, the theory of forms, degenerative states and souls, true and pseudo pleasures, and a great myth. In defense of a life of justice over injustice, this text involves ethics, politics, epistemology, psychology, and metaphysics. Classes will be run seminar style, so it is expected that students participate generously in classroom discussions. There will also be selected readings from Greek literature and Aristotle in order to enhance an understanding of Plato's views.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL657801

Daoism

THEO657801

T TH 9*

David Mozina

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

Formerly offered as TH578 Visions & Visualizations: Daoist Religious Traditions

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

Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL660601

Philosophy and Painting

John Sallis

TH 4:30-6:50

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

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.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL663701

Philosophy for Theologians

TMST71801

T TH 3*

Jeffrey Bloechl

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

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

Readings:

We will work with an anthology, with occasional supplements. Works by, e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Marx and Heidegger will be studied.

Requirements:

One introductory philosophy course.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL664301

Freud's Civilization and Discontent

Jeffrey Bloechl

T TH 1:30*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

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.

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

Readings:

Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

Freud, *Three Essays in the Theory of Sexuality*

Freud, *General Psychological Theory: Metapsychological Papers*

Requirements:

At minimum, core philosophy course.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL664901

Philosophy of Being I

Oliva Blanchette

M W 11*

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

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, constituting being as universe.

Readings:

The required reading for all in this course will be *Philosophy of Being: A Reconstructive Essay in Metaphysics* (CUA Press, 2003). Our aim will be to pursue the question of being in all its ramifications as they are laid out systematically in that book.

Requirements:

Each student will be required to choose another author or another set of readings on a theme in metaphysics to explore reflectively and critically as part of this effort to do metaphysics scientifically or systematically. This will be by individual arrangement with the professor beginning with a written proposal and to be followed up by progress reports leading up to a term paper.

There will also be periodic reflection papers on the themes discussed in class each two or three weeks with a final reflection paper on the subject matter of the entire semester.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL665401

Contemporary Aristotelian Ethics

Micah Lott

TH 4:30-6:50

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

This course examines some of the most interesting recent work in moral philosophy done from a broadly Aristotelian perspective. Our course will be divided into two main sections. In the first section, we will consider accounts of fundamental normative notions like: goodness, the good of, good as, and good for. We will pay special attention to possible connections between goodness and nature. In the second section we will look at Aristotelian accounts of practical reasoning and practical wisdom. As part of this, we will consider the eudaimonistic structure of Aristotelian ethics, and challenges to eudaimonism.

Requirements:

Must have completed philosophy core requirements.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL667001

Technology and Culture

SOCY667001

T 4:30-6:50

CSCI226701

William Griffith

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

This interdisciplinary course will first investigate the social, political, psychological, ethical and spiritual aspects of the Western cultural development with a special emphasis on scientific and technological metaphors and narratives from the Greeks to the present. We will then focus on the contemporary world, examining the impact of our various technological creations on cultural directions, democratic process, quality of the lifeworld and on the emergent meanings for the terms "citizen" and "ethics" in our so-called post-modern society.

Readings:

Requirements:

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL667301

Fascisms

James Bernaeur SJ

W 4-6:20

Level 3 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

This course in cultural & political philosophy will study twentieth-century European Fascisms as ideologies, practices of political religion and forms of erotic community. The special focus will be Fascism's appeal as a force for moral, spiritual and erotic renewal in Western culture. In addition to original documents, the reading list will include writings from a wide variety of thinkers. Films will also be utilized as learning instruments.

Requirements:

- 1) Regular class attendance and participation.
- 2) **FOR UNDERGRADUATES:** Investigation of a theme in Fascism that will be written up in a paper submitted at the end of the semester. Also the keeping of a course journal (at least one entry per week) in which the student will bring his/her interests into conversation with the readings, class discussions and the films that will be shown. These journals will be submitted three times during the semester.
- 2) **FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:** A research paper on a topic in Fascism studies. Topic to be selected with the approval of the instructor.

Readings:

Stanley Payne, A History of Fascism.

Jeffrey Schnapp (ed), A Primer of Italian Fascism (selections)

Mark Neocleous, Fascism

Hannah Arendt, The Portable Hannah Arendt (selections)

George Mosse, The Fascist Revolution

Michel Foucault, A History of Sexuality I

Klaus Theweleit, Male Fantasies (selections)

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL746301

Science, Values and Metaphysics

Daniel McKaughan

T TH 12*

Level G – Graduate Elective

Description:

Science exerts enormous influence in our society and on our views of reality. But what is science and what are its scope and limits? This course will introduce graduate students to recent literature on the relation of science to social values, metaphysics, and religion. In particular, we will evaluate various influential characterizations of naturalism both as an approach to scientific and philosophical inquiry and as a view about reality and ask such questions as: Is science value free or should it be? What are the implications of arguments from inductive risk and the underdetermination of theory by evidence?

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL774301

Contemporary Continental Ethics: the Problem of Suffering

Jeffrey Bloechl

W 12-2:50

Level G – Graduate Elective

Description:

This course will proceed in seminar format. It will concentrate on close readings of texts that address human suffering in three overlapping ways: (1) *phenomenologically* as a range of field of distinct range of human phenomena (Scheler, Levinas); (2) *existentially*, as a question of meaning (Schopenhauer, Frankl, Amery); and (3) *theologically*, as a problem for how one might understand and relate to God (Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky, Solle).

Requirements:

For graduate students.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL774601

Rawls' Political Philosophy

David Rasmussen

W 4:30-6:50

Level G – Graduate Elective

Description:

In my view the greatness of the Rawls' thought is to be found in his attempt to redefine the task of political philosophy by taking seriously the phenomenon of pluralism, which characterizes modern democratic culture. His work from *The Theory of Justice* onward can be read in light of that attempt. In this course we shall attempt to reconstruct the process that led from *The Theory of Justice* to the writing of *Political Liberalism* and *The Law of Peoples*. We shall also consider some of the significant secondary literature on Rawls' later work.

Readings:

Requirements:

Familiarity with the Works of John Rawls.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL775901

Kant's Transcendental Deduction

Marius Stan

TH 4:30-6:50

Ronald Tacelli, SJ

Level G – Graduate Elective

Description:

A very close reading of the most crucial section of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason.

Readings:

Requirements:

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL776501

German Idealism I

John Sallis

T 4:30-6:50

Level G – Graduate Elective

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.

Requirements:

For M.A. and Ph.D. students only.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL779801

Hermeneutics of Trauma: Eros & Thanatos

Richard Kearney

W 4:30-6:50

Level G – Graduate Elective

Description:

This seminar will involve a critical discussion of the philosophical readings of Freud's formative text on trauma, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*. The readings range from the hermeneutic and phenomenological to the feminist and deconstructive. Particular attention will be paid to the interpretations of the game of fort/da as a crossing of story and history, fantasy and reality, the imaginary and symbolic. Students will be evaluated in terms of class participation and a final research paper.

Readings:

Requirements:

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL796401 Philosophy of Religion: New Frontiers in Philosophy and Theology

Emmanuel Falque

Level 1 – Undergraduate/Graduate Elective

Description:

The frontiers between philosophy and theology have been greatly shifted today, at least in France. The task here is not to rejoice in this or lament it, but rather to interrogate the relation between disciplines beginning with the philosophical and theological tradition. I argue that a “Passage of the Rubicon” is to be won today. Perhaps it is no longer enough for phenomenology to explain theology (infinity and God (Levinas); the flesh and incarnation (M. Henry), the gift and the Eucharist (J.-L. Marion), the word and prayer (J.-L. Chrétien), the world and the liturgy (J.-Y. Lacoste)) but is also necessary to measure the “shock of return” to theology itself through phenomenology (corporeity and incarnation, relation and alterity, theophany and phenomenology, infinity and the meaning of limit, etc.) By relying on the great figures of patristic and medieval philosophy (Irenaeus, Tertullien, Saint Augustine, Scotus Eriugena, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas), this course aims to make the disciplines meet rather than oppose them. The leitmotif according to which “the more one theologizes, the better one philosophizes” does not return to a confrontation of fields, but on the contrary takes each back to their specificity inasmuch as they can mutually enrich each other.

Requirements:

Students registered for this course might find it helpful to also take the complementary course “Introduction to Phenomenology” to consider the contemporary dimensions of this debate.

Readings:

God, the Flesh and the Other (Northwestern University Press, 2015)

Crossing the Rubicon, The Borderlands of Philosophy and Theology (Fordham University Press, 2016)

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL880501

Inaugural Sermons and Questions

THEO881601

W 12-2:25

Stephen Brown

Level G – Graduate Elective

Description:

A graduate introduction to Inaugural Sermons and Questions in the Arts and Theology faculties of the medieval universities. This course will require the edition of unedited Latin texts or English translations of previously edited Latin texts. The Sermon content illustrates the various senses of Scripture; the Question content deals with the difficult doctrinal questions arising from the study of the literal sense of Scripture. In the Theology faculty these debates are often disputations of those moving up to the level of Master with their fellow classmates.

Readings:

Materials will be provided by the professor.

Requirements:

Edition of an unedited text or an English translation of edited texts. Each will require an essay on the theological or philosophical content of the text edited or translated.

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL881301

Medieval Theories of Cognition

Jean-Luc Solere

Th 3-5:30

Level G – Graduate Elective

Description:

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, nature of the intellect, abstraction process, semantics and concepts. Through the study of some landmark thinkers, such as Avicenna, Averroes, Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham, we will 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.

Readings:

Requirements:

Fall AY 2016-2017

PHIL887101

Aquinas: Summa Theologiae

Peter Kreeft

T TH 3*

Level G – Graduate Elective

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)