PHIL 4600/5600 -M01: Philosophy of Religion
MTWR 12:30pm-4:20pm
This course introduces students to the philosophy of religion through classic texts, from Plato and St. Anselm, to twentieth-century thinkers like Freud and Wittgenstein. We will have opportunity to study what philosophers have called “natural religion” (i.e., arguments as to God’s existence, God’s nature, etc.), as well as other key concepts in the philosophy of religion—for example, faith, religious belief, the problem of evil, etc. The course will then culminate in a fieldwork project that integrates observations of some contemporary religious practice with some of the philosophical literature that we have discussed in class. Cross-listed with RLST 4060/5060, HUMN 5600, SSCI 5600.

PHIL 1012-001: Relationship of Individual to World
T/R 10:30am-1:00 pm
An introductory course in philosophy which focuses on some of the central questions of philosophy. For example: theories of reality and the nature of knowledge and its limits. The knowledge of these areas of philosophy is essential to the student for informed participation in the resolution of contemporary problems in today’s society.

PHIL 1012-E01: Relationship of Individual to World
Online
This introductory course will examine the position of five major philosophers (Plato, Epicurus, the Stoics, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche) on perennial philosophical conundrums: What is the good life? Is there life after bodily death? In addition to reading and discussing the philosopher’s original writings that deal with the “Big Questions,” we will read Alain de Botton’s The Consolations of Philosophy that demonstrates how Philosophy can help us with the “small questions.” Does it require a lot of money to be genuinely happy? How can one calmly and pleasantly deal with life’s daily frustrations? How can one deal philosophically with a broken heart?

PHIL 1020-001: Introduction to Ethics and Society
M/W 10:30am-1:00pm
In this course we will not only examine the major ethical theories (e.g., Utilitarian, Deontological) but we will also consider some practical strategies that will allow us to effectively carry out our ethical decisions. Among the strategies for overcoming weakness of will are the tools developed by the ancient Stoics and the often overlooked one of Self-Hypnosis. (Pam Mills, director of Denver School of Hypnotherapy, will demonstrate hypnosis to the class.) Finally, this course will apply ethics to social issues. I am particularly interested in ethical issues related to hypnosis. For instance, do advertisers literally hypnotize vulnerable consumers (such as children and adolescents) into desiring expensive products that are actually harmful to them? How much of the current obesity epidemic is due to hypnotic ads for unhealthy products?

PHIL 2441-001: Logic and Language
M/W 10:30am-1:00pm
The aim of this course is to learn how to construct precise, rational arguments, as well as to critique arguments put forth by others. Our assessment of the key elements that constitute proper argumentation will include the examination of the functions of the basic parts of an argument, the recognition of logical fallacies, and the understanding of the formal structure of arguments.

PHIL 4812/5812: Free Will and Addiction
Sa/Su 9:00am-5:00pm
This course will cover seminal human issues that affect us all, in one way or another. We will use texts from philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience, to attempt to gain a deeper understanding about what is meant by ‘free will’ in both ordinary and metaphysical senses, and the mutually implicative relationship between free will and responsibility. Ultimately we will apply these concepts to the phenomenon of addiction, analyzing that notion and similar ones, to come to some conclusions about how we should understand the thinking of addicted individuals, and whether and/or how we might approach instigation of change in that situation.

PHIL 4650/5655: Differing Concepts of God
Sa/Su 10:00am-5:00pm
God, gods and goddesses have been imagined in many different modes, forms, aspects and guises throughout human history. This class will investigate Paleolithic models of God, the Great Goddess of the Neolithic era, the Gods of mythological traditions, the Biblical God, the abstract God of the philosophers, the God of the pantheists, the deists, and the God of the mystics. (Only graduate students may sign up under RLST 5400/PHIL 5655). Cross-listed with RLST 4400/5400.