PHIL 1012 - Introduction to Philosophy: Relationship of the Individual to the World

001 MW 9:30am-10:45am B. Lisle

In this course we will survey some of the most well-known texts and authors in the history of Western philosophy. We’ll begin with an examination of the ancient Greeks – including the presocratics – and work our way through some of the most influential movements and thinkers in Western thought: from Plato and Aristotle to Augustine, Descartes, Hume and Kant; ending with the 19th and 20th century movements heralded by Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard and Sartre. Since this course is a survey course that emphasizes the close reading and critical interpretation of canonical texts, it is designed to help each student develop and sharpen the kind of critical and interpretive reading and writing skills required within academia.

002 TR 12:30pm-1:45pm M. Tanzer

This course will examine fundamental philosophical issues, primarily, although not exclusively, in the theory of knowledge and in ethics. The first half of the course, focusing on the theory of knowledge, will examine the thought of Plato and of David Hume; while the second half of the course, focusing on ethics, will look at the ethical theories of John Stuart Mill and of Immanuel Kant. This section of the course will also look at how the ethical theories of Mill and Kant have been applied to the problem of animal rights, by Peter Singer and Tom Regan.

003 MW 12:30pm-1:45pm B. Lisle  See section 001 for description

004 TR 9:30am-10:45am B. Lisle  See section 001 for description

005 MW 2:00pm-3:15pm R. Metcalf

This course introduces students to philosophy through a careful study of some classic and controversial works in the history of philosophy: Plato’s Euthyphro, Apology and Crito; Thoreau’s “Civil Disobedience” and other writings resisting war and the institution of slavery in the U.S.; John Stuart Mill’s On Liberty; and finally, Simone DeBeauvoir’s The Second Sex. Students will hone their skills at reading challenging material, thinking critically about the material, and communicating effectively in class discussion, in writing assignments, and by way of an in-class presentation.

006 MW 11:00am-12:15pm G. Zamosc

This course aims at helping students develop their skills at interpreting texts, critical thinking, and argumentation, while introducing them to a series of fundamental problems in philosophy. We will study (1) Knowledge and skepticism about the external world; (2) free will and moral responsibility; (3) the nature of morality; (4) arguments for the existence of God; and, if time permits, (5) the problem of personal identity.

007 TR 2:00pm-3:15pm M. Talero

Philosophy is the activity of exploring essential questions of radical importance to human life. In this class we will investigate four essential questions: What makes life worth living? Is human nature fundamentally good or bad? What is the best moral system? Is a better world possible?

The study of philosophy helps foster three basic skills that, unfortunately, many people never get a chance to develop: 1) Reading difficult, insightful texts packed full of wisdom 2) Thinking carefully and making good judgments 3) Having lively, deep, life-changing discussions with others

In this course, we will be working together to practice each of these life-enriching, vital skills. By the end of this class you will think more deeply, you will have new tools for understanding your life, and you will see the world and others around you in a new way.

PHIL 1012 courses continued on next page...
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 a manner that is both understandable and relevant. In addition to reading the philosophers’ writings, we will read Alain de Botton’s *The Consolations of Philosophy*.

**PHIL 1020- Introduction to Ethics & Society: The Person and the Community**

001 TR 2:00pm-3:15pm S. Walker

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with useful tools for solving ethical problems. We will investigate major positions from the philosophic tradition of ethics from Plato to Sartre. We will work toward the understanding of moral terminology and the development of moral reasoning through the examination of contrasting ethical theories. We will consider such issues as virtue, rights, and our obligations to others.

003 MW 11:00am-12:15pm Z. Walter

This course will be oriented toward reading, writing and discussion of some of the basic themes and issues in the philosophy of ethics. In this class we will be dealing with questions such as "What does it mean to live a good life?", and "Why should I be moral?". We will also be engaging in depth, issues around the will and morality, and some epistemological frameworks of moral reasoning. We will further explore and develop a mastery of different types of moral and ethical reasoning, most notably virtue ethics, stoicism, utilitarianism, deontology, pragmatism, and existentialism. The reading in this class will primarily be oriented toward some canonical writings in the philosophy of ethics, beginning with some ancient philosophy (Pre-Socratic, Plato, Aristotle, Seneca), on through to the modern period (Hume and Kant) and finally to the late 19th and 20th century (Nietzsche, James, and Beauvoir). The goal of this study overall is to examine, interpret, and ultimately to infuse the philosophy of ethics into our lives as a way of making sense and thinking about the world we live in.

005 MW 12:30pm-1:45pm A. Hughes

This course will focus primarily on two issues: (i) what contributes to the value to us our own lives and (ii) what morality requires that we do. We'll investigate these issues by examining abstract ethical theories, as well as more concrete issues such as abortion, drug use, sexual morality, consumerism, and the moral standing of animals. Our goal will be to gain a better understanding by reading, thinking, and talking carefully and critically.

006 TR 9:30am-11:00am D. Reeves

This course will provide a journey into moral reflection. Its aim is to invite students to subject their own views about ethics to critical examination. We will work towards three goals. The first is to explore several moral issues that raise questions about ethics and justice in today’s diverse and complex society. We will ask how a just society might distribute the things we prize – income and wealth, duties and rights, powers and opportunities, offices and honors in the right way; how ought each person be awarded her or his due. The second goal will be to understand and evaluate the role of philosophy and critical thinking in addressing issues such as financial bailouts, affirmative action and the death penalty. We will ponder three central ideals or ways of thinking about ethical issues: virtue, freedom and welfare. The third goal is for students to engage in constructive discussion of the issues presented. A subset of this goal will to exposed students to diverse views while exploring and developing their own positions.

*PHIL 1020 courses continued on next page...*
E01 ONLINE W.D. Mehring

In this Ethics course we do three things: First, we will examine the major ethical theories that Philosophers have proposed for answering moral dilemmas: Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism, Deontology, Stoicism, Virtue Ethics, and Existentialism. Second, students will read and review some current popular Ethical Writers such as Stephen Covey and Tom Morris on current ethical problems. Finally, each student will draw on the material covered in this course and write her own personal code of ethics.

PHIL 2441- Logic, Language, and Scientific Reasoning

001 TR 2:00pm-3:15pm W.D. Mehring
002 TR 9:30am-10:45am W.D. Mehring

This course aims at understanding how to construct sound, well-reasoned, persuasive arguments and how to detect and refute false or fallacious arguments. One important type of reasoning this course will explore is scientific thinking or “abductive reasoning”, i.e., testing alternative hypotheses and reasoning to the best explanation. A crucial tool in logic is the ability to listen to our opponents so we truly understand their argument before we critique it. An entertaining portion of the class is devoted to identifying and analyzing 26 common logical fallacies likely to be encountered in daily life. In addition, we will cover strategies for defining a concept so that we may avoid confusion and pointless semantic arguments. All students will read and review a popular book on logic and reasoning such as Jamie Whyte’s Crimes Against Logic.

003 TR 12:30pm-1:45pm M. Bauer

This course concentrates on enhancing students’ capacity to reason well. The aim, in short, is for you to be sharper and smarter when you finish this course! Students will learn to distinguish argumentative from non-argumentative passages in ordinary language, to analyze the form of an argument, as well as how to recognize and avoid argumentative errors and mistakes. Students will also learn how to employ several techniques for determining the acceptability of an argument. Further, students will be introduced to the basic structure of scientific inquiry, including standards of evidence, the argumentative function of hypothetical construction and experimentation, as well as the limits of scientific conclusions. Students will learn as well why the structure of scientific inquiry makes it a distinctively powerful form of inquiry into the natural world.

E01 ONLINE B. Hackett

This course introduces the study of formal logic and its applications in argument evaluation; studies culminate by the end of the semester on one particularly important application of logic: the use of inductive reasoning in the sciences. We begin the semester by distinguishing various modes of reasoning (deductive, inductive, and abductive), and basic methods for representing and evaluating arguments are introduced. Next, we zoom in on deductive styles of reasoning by mastering one particularly powerful and reliable method for testing deductive arguments for logical validity. Finally, we shift our focus to scientific reasoning by studying how probability works within inductive arguments. In an effort to encourage the mastery of skills throughout the course, we will practice methods on actual (often very simple) English arguments.

PHIL 3022- Modern Philosophy

001 MW 9:30am-10:45am C. Shelby
002 MW 2:00pm-3:15pm C. Shelby

The period of Western philosophy commonly referred to as “modern” (roughly the end of the 16th century to the end of the 18th century) is often presented as a period narrowly focused on questions of epistemology: questions concerning the nature and extent of human knowledge. In our course we will examine some of these basic
epistemological themes, while attempting to broaden that scope a bit by also surveying some of the metaphysical themes that modern thinkers inherit from classical and medieval philosophy. (Description continued on next page...) We will be reading and discussing texts by Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, and Kant. Some of the basic questions we will be addressing are as follows: how does the strictly causal realm of matter in motion relate to the mental, subjective character of knowledge, and what can we claim about the nature of subjectivity within that relation? Similarly, can philosophy establish a foundation for knowledge that can save scientific inquiry from the challenges of skepticism?

PHIL 3200- Social & Political Philosophy
001 MW 9:30am-10:45am S. Walker

We will consider major issues in the history of political philosophy. In particular we will consider the impact different conceptions of human nature have on both the choice of political philosophy the method for its development. We will read such philosophers as Plato, Hobbes, Marx, Sartre, Nozick, Rawls, and Jagger.

PHIL 3440- Introduction to Symbolic Logic
001 TR 11:00am-12:15pm M. Bauer

This course is an introduction to formal or symbolic logic. In formalizing logic, we aim to construct “mechanistic” models for different types of reasoning systems. The techniques involved in formalizing rationality play a role in a diverse set of fields, e.g., cognitive psychology, philosophy, linguistics, mathematics, computer science, artificial intelligence research, and genetics. The logics covered include two-valued propositional, predicate, and modal propositional as well as a brief introduction to three-valued propositional variants. The aim of the course is for you to become proficient in those logics by semester’s end.

PHIL 3500- Ideology and Culture: Racism and Sexism
001 TR 2:00pm-3:15pm C. Kautzer

Although race and gender are notoriously difficult concepts to get a handle on, the racial and gender dimensions of identity are some of the most potent in our social world, contributing to social, political, and economic inequality and discrimination. Indeed, one of the reasons that race and gender defy final definition is because they are continually contested, reconstructed, and intersecting—unbound by biology. In this course we investigate the dynamic of material and ideological forces, social movements, and individual actions at work in the formation of racial and gender identities. Through contemporary readings, we will also learn the philosophical tools necessary for ideology critique and enhanced individual and collective self-determination.

002 TR 11:00am-12:15pm S.K. Tyson

This course will examine the concepts of ideology, culture, racism and sexism. Rather than treating racism and sexism as failures of culture or the remnants of defeated ideologies, we will explore how racism and sexism have been and continue to be integral to dominant ideologies and cultural formations in the US. We will begin by exploring the concepts of ideology and culture and then turn our focus to racism and sexism. In this course, we will not only engage with some of the most important theoretical work on these topics, but will also reflect on the formation of our own lives, practices, beliefs, and values. That self and group reflection will also bring us into contact with the limits of such work and what those limits mean for ideological and cultural change.

E01 ONLINE B. Goodrich

How is it that a particular social perspective, serving particular interests, can be propagated throughout a culture and become accepted, internalized, even by those it harms most? In this course we'll examine several accounts of what ideologies are, how they are developed and maintained, and what functions they serve in their societies. These accounts will range from Marx's classic theory to more recent theories, influenced by recent psychological studies. Throughout the course we'll also explore a few case studies of the ideologies of sexism and racism, and possible ways to combat them with more helpful strategies.
PHIL 4260/5260 - Philosophy of Law
001 M 5:30pm-8:20pm D. Moon

What is a law? Is legal validity rooted in morality, or merely in social facts? When interpreting the law, are judges limited to the plain meaning of its written text? One aim of this course is to examine these sorts of questions about the nature of law. Its other primary aim is to discuss the proper content of law. Among other things, we’ll look at justifications for government surveillance, criminalization, property ownership, and redistribution of wealth through taxation. This portion of the course will challenge students to apply concepts from theoretical readings to their discussion of pieces of actual law (judicial opinions, statutes, etc.).

PHIL 4790/5790 - Nietzsche
001 MW 12:30pm-1:45pm G. Zamosc

In this course we will examine the thought of Friedrich Nietzsche through some of his most important and influential works. Some of the texts we will read include: The Birth of Tragedy, The Untimely Meditations, The Gay Science, Beyond Good and Evil, The Genealogy of Morals and Twilight of the Idols. One explicit aim of the class will be to explore whether and how Nietzsche’s thought changed during the course of his intellectual development. Another goal will be to try to understand not just Nietzsche’s various criticisms of the philosophical tradition but his positive contributions to it as well: that is, the ideals and values he sought to promote.

PHIL 4810/5810 - Aristotle
001 W 5:30pm-8:20pm R. Metcalf

This course will cover some of the most important texts from Aristotle's corpus: from a reconstruction of the Protrepticus, through the so-called 'Organon' and his writings on nature, particularly De Anima, and concluding with the Nicomachean Ethics and Politics. Our focus will be the philosophical significance of logos for Aristotle across these various texts.

PHIL 4812/5812 - Special Topics: Prison Punishment
001 T 5:30pm-8:20pm S.K. Tyson

What is the role of prisons in the US? Are they necessary? Are they effective? Are there alternative ways to address crime? In this course, we will explore the history of prisons and their contemporary forms in the US. We will use the critical tools of philosophy to think about what prisons do, how they shape the world we live in, and what alternatives might be.

PHIL 4812/5812 - Special Topics: Critical Theory
002 R 5:30pm-8:20pm C. Kautzer

What is Critical Theory? The purpose of this course is to work through a number of influential texts in the critical theory tradition, beginning with early Frankfurt School theorists, such as Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, and Herbert Marcuse, as well as contemporary figures, such as Jürgen Habermas and Axel Honneth. In the second half of the course we turn to late twentieth-century developments in this tradition, from black feminism and queer theory to Latin American and environmental philosophy. Some topics covered include historical materialism, communicative rationality, social
The lasting appeal of Existentialism as a literary, philosophical and artistic movement has much to do with its overall approach to basic human questions, such as: how to live in a seemingly absurd world full of incomprehensible forces and events. For example, when one lives during a time of war, it becomes tempting to conclude that life is absurd, that justice is an impossible ideal, and that beauty is only a temporary distraction. This course is an investigation of some of the central themes in the Existentialist tradition, including some of the most famous 19th and 20th Century Existentialist writers who wrote philosophy texts as well as plays, novels and short stories. We will be focusing on the philosophical writings of figures such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, and de Beauvoir. No prerequisites are necessary to take this course, but some familiarity with the history of philosophy will prove helpful.

PHIL 5020-   Elements of Social Thought
001   T  5:30pm-8:20pm   M. Bookman

This course introduces students to the disciplines (philosophy, sociology, philosophy of history, political theory, classical psychology, etc.) and key texts that comprise and influence the social sciences. Most of the readings are drawn from the classical works that form the intellectual core of social thought and provide the necessary tools for understanding the social and political infrastructure of contemporary society. Newer readings demonstrate the current relevance and persistence of questions, as well as providing refutations and critique. Readings include Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Dewey, Habermas, Rawls, and Irigaray, among others.