

Philosophy Department Course Descriptions Spring 2013

1300. An Introduction to Critical Thinking. Learning to analyze, evaluate and present information in order to better assess one's own beliefs and to persuade others more effectively.

001	MWF	1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	HYER0111	Professor Hiltz
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1301. Elementary Logic. An introductory course in symbolic logic. Logic provides a means for determining whether the purported conclusion of an argument really does follow from the premises. In symbolic logic, mechanical procedures are developed for determining whether a given argument is valid. The techniques and skills acquired through logic have important applications not only within other academic areas such as the sciences and humanities, but may be of use within various professional areas, including law.

001	TR	9:30 AM - 10:50 AM	HYER0204	Professor Ehring
002	MWF	10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	HYER0110	Professor Barnes

1305. Introduction to Philosophy. A general introduction to the central questions of philosophy; topics include the theory of knowledge, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, ethics and political philosophy. Typical questions might include: Can we know the world outside our minds? Is it rational to believe in a God who allows evil to exist? Do the laws of physics allow for human freedom? Is morality more than a matter of opinion? Can there be unequal wealth in a just society? Readings will include classical authors such as Plato, Descartes, Locke, Hume and Mill, as well as contemporary philosophers. The focus of the course will be on arguments for and against proposed solutions to key problems of philosophy.

001	TR	9:30:00 AM - 10:50 AM	HYER0110	Professor Daley - Hilltop Scholars
002	TR	11:00 AM - 12:20 PM	HYER0111	Professor Fisher
003	TR	2:00 PM - 3:20 PM	HYER0204	Professor Howell
004	TR	3:30 PM - 4:50 PM	HYER0111	Professor Chuard
701	MW	6:30 PM - 7:50 PM	HYER0201	Professor Thompson

1316. Introduction to Ethics. This course is an introduction to philosophical ethics focusing on questions in ethical theory. Topics vary, but the following are representative. What would be best for an individual, or would make her life go, for her, as well as possible? What makes right acts right? Why are morally right acts morally right? And why are morally wrong acts morally wrong? Why be moral? If the demands of morality conflict with one's own self-interest, why should one comply with them?

001	TR	12:30 PM - 1:50 PM	HYER0111	Professor Robinson
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1317. Business Ethics. A discussion of the moral and political issues surrounding a free enterprise system. Students will be introduced to basic moral theory. Further topics will include

distributive (or economic) justice, the moral prefer ability of capitalism and socialism, and selected concrete moral issues such as truth in advertising, worker safety and affirmative action.

001	MWF	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	HYER0110	Professor Popovic
002	MWF	9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	HYER0107	Professor Daley
003	MWF	10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	HYER0201	Professor Daley
004	MWF	2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	HYER0201	Professor Hiltz
701	W	6:30 PM - 9:20 PM	HYER0102	Professor Popovic

1318. Contemporary Moral Problems. An introduction to philosophical ethics focusing on questions in applied ethics. Students will explore ethical theories, philosophical methods, and their application to some of the most controversial and pressing issues confronting contemporary society. Topics vary, but the following are representative: abortion, animal rights, affirmative action, capital punishment, economic justice, euthanasia, sexuality, war and terrorism and world hunger. Class discussion is an important component of the course, as is reading and writing argumentative essays about these issues.

001	TR	8:00 AM - 9:20 AM	HYER 111	Professor Gollop
002	MWF	10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	HYER0111	Professor Hiltz
003H	MWF	11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	HYER0110	Professor Sverdlik - Honors
004	MWF	12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	HYER0110	Professor Popovic
005	MWF	1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	HYER0201	Professor Daley
701	M	6:30 PM - 9:20 PM	HYER0110	Professor Popovic

3310 – Advanced Topics: The Self. “I think therefore I am” is probably the most famous sentence in philosophy. Decartes' found it important in part because it was indubitable, and indeed this basic sort of self-knowledge is as certain as it gets. But what is this self that is known? Is it a physical thing, or not? And why is knowledge of it so certain? These are a few of the questions we will discuss in the class. Others include connections between the self and freedom, and potential challenges that new technologies pose for the standard conception of the self.

001	TR	12:30 PM - 1:50 PM	FOSC0153	Professor Howell
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3310 – Advanced Topics: Causation: This course will involve an intensive investigation of the metaphysics of causation. We will examine regularity theory, counterfactual theory, probabilistic theory as well as “process” theories.

002	TR	12:30 PM - 1:50 PM	HYER0200	Professor Ehring
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3310 – Advanced Topics: Philosophy of Law- This course examines central questions in philosophy of law. Topics vary but may include the nature of law and legal systems; the relationship between law and morality; whether judges may or must make value judgments in

deciding what the law is; whether “legislative intent” or “original meaning” can or should constrain judicial interpretation of statutes or constitutional provisions; what should and should not be criminalized; whom we punish, why we should punish them, and how much we should punish them.

003 TR 3:30 PM - 4:50 PM HYER0204 Professor Robinson

3313. Knowledge and Skepticism. What is knowledge? Can we really know anything? How? We assume we do know things, but epistemic skeptics have devised powerful arguments proving that this is wrong. Can we resist such arguments? This course surveys a range of issues surrounding the nature of knowledge and the evidence we might have in support of our beliefs, as well as questions about rationality and how to acquire knowledge.

001 TR 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM HYER0107 Professor Chuard

3315. Philosophy of Mind. This course provides a survey of central issues in contemporary philosophy of mind. We will investigate such questions as: What is the relationship between the mind and the brain? Are they identical? Is the mind something non-physical? How do mental states come to represent things out in the world? What is the nature of consciousness? Can consciousness be explained physically? Are our mental states fully determined by “what’s in the head”, or do our minds in some sense extend outside those boundaries? Can a machine or computer have a mind?

001 MW 5:00 PM - 6:20 PM HYER0201 Professor Thompson

3316. Minds, Brains and Robotics. Students build and program Lego Mindstorms robots to gain hands-on practical experience with the topics we'll be covering, including neural networks, artificial intelligence, perception and action, consciousness, robotics, dynamical systems, embodied cognition, game theory, and the evolution of cognition. Prerequisites: Two courses in cognitive-science related fields (Philosophy, Computer Science/Engineering, Psychology, Linguistics, Biology or Anthropology)

001 TR 3:30 PM - 4:50 PM HYER00G1 Professor Fisher

3352. History of Western Philosophy (Modern). This is a survey course in the history of modern philosophy. The modern period as we are considering it begins with Descartes, Includes Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke and Hume, and ends with Kant. Many seminal writing on central areas of philosophy occurred in this period, and this course provides an introduction to, and background for, these areas. We will be examining key writings from major figures on such issues as: rationalism and empiricism; the nature of external reality and our knowledge of it; the existence and nature of God; the relation between mind and body; causation; induction; rationality and rational action; and the nature of morality and moral action. This course satisfies one part of the history requirement for philosophy majors; and may be used to satisfy the history requirement for philosophy minors.

001 TR 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM HYER0106 Professor Gollop

3363 (CF 3308). Aesthetic Experience and Judgment. A good deal of attention is devoted to these questions: What is beauty? What is art? Are there any standards or rules concerning what is good or valuable art? Why is art an important part of human culture? This year the course will devote special attention to some issues in the visual arts, especially photography.

001C MWF 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM FOSC0152 Professor Sverdik

3371 (CF 3342). Social and Political Philosophy. The course will examine three contemporary conceptions of what an ideally just society would be like. After a survey of their historical antecedents in the writings of Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Mill and Marx, attention will be focused on Robert Nozick's libertarian defense of the minimal state, the contractarian account of the foundations of the welfare state developed by John Rawls, and democratic socialist ideas on the classless society

001C MWF 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM HYER0110 Professor Hiltz

3375 Advanced Topics in Moral Philosophy: Procreation and Parenthood

This course will explore the ethics of reproduction and parenting: Is there a duty to have children? Not to have children? Is it wrong to reproduce through cloning? With the assistance of surrogate mothers and donated eggs? Should we avoid having children with disabilities? Should we use genetic screening or genetic engineering to have the "best" kids we possibly can? Is gender selection ethical? What are the duties of parents to their children? What are the rights of children? How much autonomy are children entitled to? What are their duties to their parents? We'll explore these and many other questions.

001 MWF 1:00:00 PM - 1:50:00 PM HYER0110 Professor Kazez

3382 – 20th Century European Philosophy. An Examination of some methods and principles of European philosophies in the 20th century. Philosophical schools studied: phenomenology, existentialism, Neo-Kantianism, life-philosophy, hermeneutics, and Neo-Marxist critical theory.

001 MWF 11:00:00 AM - 11:50:00 AM HYER0111 Professor Bartlett