

Philosophy at USU • Fall 2018

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (BHU) (multiple sections): *an introduction to the biggest questions of philosophy. What is real? What do we know? What is justice? What are our obligations? Does God exist?*

PHIL 1120: Social Ethics (BHU) (Holberg, TR 12:00): *Conversation in a democracy involves listening carefully to, fairly evaluating, and critically engaging with arguments made by others. This class provides practice in the skill of democratic conversation as we discuss contemporary ethical conflicts together.*

PHIL 1500: The Examined College Life (BHU) (Kleiner, MWF 10:30): *What sort of education should a student pursue, and what sort of education should a university provide? This course will explore the aims of liberal education, as well as exploring various voices who are opposed to it. Considered along the way will be the relationship between education and human flourishing, work and leisure, transcendence, and the common good.*

PHIL 2200: Deductive Logic (QI) (Steinhoff, MWF 3:30): *Study of deductive arguments and techniques for evaluating their validity, including construction of proofs. Recognizing formal fallacies in reasoning. Symbolizing English sentences and arguments to make their meanings precise. Propositional and predicate logic.*

PHIL 2400: Ethics (BHU) (multiple sections): *How should we live our lives? How should we treat other people? What makes an action right or wrong - and a person good or bad? We'll explore these questions and others through the lenses of Virtue Ethics, Deontology, and Utilitarianism.*

PHIL 3100: Ancient Philosophy (CI) (McGonagill, MWF 1:30): *Development of philosophical thought in the Ancient Greek world. Readings from the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, and Epicureans.*

PHIL 3530: Environmental Ethics (DHA) (multiple sections): *Key issues in the treatment of nature, such as: the value of wilderness, animal rights, comparative views of nature, and moral issues in economic approaches to the wilderness.*

PHIL 3580: Ethics and Economic Life (DHA) (Kleiner, MWF 1:30): *The course will examine various ways to organize our political economy. The question is being asked philosophically, so we will engage the question in view of various theories of the human person and the human good. Questions considered along the way will include the moral limits of markets, the relationship between love and exchange, ownership and estrangement, individual and communal goods, and the nature and place of work in a well-lived life.*

PHIL 3600: Philosophy of Religion (DHA) (Sherlock, TR 3:00): *Problems in defining "religion" and the existence of God; the problem of evil; the immortality of the soul; religious experience; faith; alternatives to theism; religious language.*

PHIL 3710: Philosophies of East Asia (Steinhoff, TR 3:00): *Study of Confucianism, Buddhism, Zen Buddhism, and Taoism. We will read the Analects, Mencius, Lao-Tzu, Nhat Hanh, Shunryu Suzuki, and other sources. Emphasis on class discussion. Includes much assigned reading every week.*

(over, please)

PHIL 3800: Philosophy in Literature (DHA) (Sherlock, TR 12:00): *Study of philosophical concepts, problems, and issues as they have been presented and dramatized in works of literature and cinema. Discussion of issues concerning ethics, epistemology, ontology, and logic. Students read or view works from a variety of media, including novels, short stories, and films.*

PHIL 3820: Theories of Sex & Gender (DHA) (Holberg, TR 10:30): *What is the best way for thinking about gender and sex? as chosen identities? as embodied difference? as social structure? none of the above? What are the relations between sexualities and subjectivity? Why do discussions of power dominate some kinds of work on sex and gender? Is there immoral sex? What would make sex ethical or unethical?*

PHIL 3990: Philosophy and Pop Culture (DHA) (Wack, MWF 8:30): *This term we investigate the kinds of practical thinking used in understanding any movie. Our focus will be on the history of Hollywood movies and the different ways in which possibilities for action have been imagined in popular movies; in addition, we will draw on a number of texts from the history of philosophy, art and film criticism, and film theory. This is a variable topic course; it may be repeated once with a change in topic.*

PHIL 4250: Tolkien and Lewis (Kleiner, MWF 9:30): *Philosophical study of myth and fairy tales. Topics include the relation of myth to truth, symbolic language and the limits of natural reason, and the role of imagination in belief.*

PHIL 4410: Philosophy of Mind (Huenemann, TR 1:00): *We will examine the nature of consciousness, both philosophically and from insights drawn from the sciences. We will also explore questions regarding selves, as in: are there any?*