

Philosophy Course Offerings, Spring 2019

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) (multiple sections): *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 1320: The Good Life (BHU) (Kleiner, MWF 1:30-2:20): *This course is an interdisciplinary course with readings drawn from history, literature, philosophy, and theology. Course readings focus broadly on the question of the good life for human beings, with a focus on the distinction between civilization and barbarism in the soul and in the polis.*

PHIL 2200: Deductive Logic (QI) (Steinhoff, MWF 12:30-1:20): *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 3110: Medieval Philosophy (Sherlock; T/Th 3-4:15): *We will study seminal philosophers in each of the three great monotheistic traditions of western civilization, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - e.g., Maimonides, Aquinas, and Avicenna.*

PHIL 3180: Contemporary European Philosophy (Kleiner, MWF 9:30-10:20): *This course explores trends in 20th century European philosophy through careful readings of Heidegger and the postmodern philosophers who follow in his wake, including Derrida, Levinas, and Marion. Themes include phenomenology, hermeneutics, anti-scientism, ethics, alterity, God, and the notion of the gift.*

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 3810: Philosophy of Art (DHA) (Wack, MWF 10:30-11:20): *What is distinctive about art as a type of experience? Why are experiences of art so valuable to us? We will examine the historical emergence of art as a distinct type of experience in order to investigate these and related questions. To do so, we will draw on readings from the philosophy of art, aesthetics, and art criticism and take up works of art from a variety of art forms, including painting, photography, film, music, and others.*

PHIL 3820: Theories of Sex & Gender (DHA) (Pismenny, MWF 2:30-3:20): *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, T 6-8:30 pm): *This term we investigate the nature of truth and representation, especially as they work within the form of documentary film: What is truth's role in thought? How can we represent an event, a person's life, or a form of life truthfully? We will pursue these and related questions by watching a number of films from the history of the documentary tradition and by reading a number of philosophical and critical texts about the nature of truth and documentary. This is a variable topic course; it may be repeated once with a change in topic..*

PHIL 4300: Epistemology (DHA) (Huenemann, T/Th 12-1:15): *What problems are there in sensory knowledge, and the conclusions we draw about the physical world? Is there a sure way to overcome skepticism? Can we build a systematic structure of knowledge? Is there any purely rational knowledge?*

PHIL 4310: Philosophy of Science (DHA) (Steinhoff, MWF 2:30-3:20): *Study of different views of the nature of science: the classical traditions of Hempel and Popper, Kuhn's subjectivism, and Feyerabend's anarchism. Topics include confirmation, induction, scientific realism, reductionism, and the growth of scientific knowledge.*

Phil 4500 – Virtue Ethics (DHA) (Holberg, T/Th 10:30-11:45): *How might human character serve as a foundation for ethical theory? This class will be a close reading of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, with discussions of moral education, practical wisdom, friendship and family relationships, and a deeper concept of happiness.*

PHIL 4530: Ethics and Biotechnology (DSC) (Sherlock, T/Th 1:30-2:45): *Critical evaluation of ethical issues of genetic engineering in biotechnology, including biological engineering and cloning of plants, animals, and humans. Presents basic science of genetic engineering and biotechnology. **NOTE: Students majoring in the humanities seeking DSC credit should sign up for this course as ADVS 3200 (same course, different prefix & number).***

PHIL 4990: Philosophy Capstone Seminar (Huenemann, T/Th 9-10:15): *This course is designed for Philosophy Majors near the completion of the degree. The focus is on **you** as a philosopher: write your philosophy! Or, if you want to spend more time thinking through a particular figure or problem, you can do that. Students complete a substantive research project, present to others, and provide feedback on other students' projects.*