PHILOSOPHY COURSES FALL 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 section): 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 11:30): 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 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 3120: Early Modern Philosophy (Huenemann, TR 10:30): We'll explore the fundamental questions and problems that have shaped modern philosophy, with attention to Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Hume, and other figures who deserve to be better known!

PHIL 3500: 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) (Wack, MWF 8:30): How is value created and sustained? What role does exchange play in value’s creation? In this course, we explore the relation between value and exchange in order to analyze contemporary, historical, and cross-cultural practices involving debt, money, and other forms of value.

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 3700: Political Philosophy (DHA) (Holberg, TR 1:30-2:45): We will explore the nature of a just society, political obligation, and the justification and proper limits of political power.

PHIL 3990: Philosophy and Pop Culture (DHA) (Wack, MWF 9:30): 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 4400: Metaphysics (Steinhoff, TR 3:00): Study of fundamental problems of existence, including mind and its relation to the body, determinism and human freedom, fatalism, idealism and realism, truth, and our knowledge of the world.

PHIL 4600: Philosophy of Law (Huenemann TR 1:30): What makes law? Is it just any set of prescriptive rules for a society - or are there certain features (possibly including moral ones) any system of laws must have? What are the aims of law, and do they change as societies change? Also: justifications for punishment, and conditions for liability.

PHIL 4950: Senior Thesis in Philosophy: Students work closely with a faculty member to produce a substantive senior thesis on a figure, topic, or problem in philosophy.