

Philosophy at USU • Fall 2020

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, MW 1:30-2:45): *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) (Robison, 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) (MWF 10:30): *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) (Robison, MWF 9:30): *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) (MWF 8:30): *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 3700: Political Philosophy (DHA) (TR 1:30): *We will explore the nature of a just society, political obligation, and the justification and proper limits of political power.*

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 3990: Philosophy and Pop Culture: Philosophy of Magic (DHA) (Huenemann, TR 10:30): *In this class we'll examine the metaphysics and epistemology of magic, ranging from venues like Harry Potter, Dungeons and Dragons, and The Lord of the Rings, to the historical practices of magic and alchemy, to the phenomenon of stage magic (like Houdini).*

PHIL 4250: Tolkien and Lewis (Kleiner, MW 3-4:15): *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 (DHA) (Huenemann, TR 1:30): *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?*