

Philosophy, Fall 2022

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (BHU) (Gentry, Robison, three 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) (Otteson, two 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 2200: Deductive Logic (QI) (Robison, T/Th 10:30): *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) (Ashfield, two 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 3010: Survey of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (CI) (Otteson, MWF 12:30): *This course is a survey of core philosophical theories developed over the ancient and medieval periods (500 BCE to 1500 CE). Figures may include the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, Augustine, Averroes, Avicenna, Aquinas, and Maimonides.*

PHIL 3530: Environmental Ethics (DHA) (Ashfield, T/Th 1:30): *Environmental ethics is the study of ethical relationships between humans and other entities, primarily the environment and non-human organisms. It also includes the study of theories of value and how they apply to our moral relationships. In this course, we will assess the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of normative ethical theories and theories of value, including theories like holism and deep ecology that have had a substantial impact on environmental ethics. Ethics benefits strongly from an applied component, so a substantial portion of the course will focus on applying the theories we discuss to key debates in environmental ethics, including sustainability, animal rights, environmental justice, climate change, and rapid technological advancement.*

PHIL 3580: Ethics and Economic Life (DHA) (Otteson, MWF 2:30): *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) (Ashfield, MWF 12:30): *This course examines the content, rationality, and nature of religious beliefs. We'll begin with the question of how to define terms like 'religion.' Next, we'll examine the development of classical theistic beliefs, primarily through the interaction between Greek philosophy and Christian and Islamic thinkers, together with some of the arguments advanced in support of the existence of God. In so doing, we'll consider two venerable methodological traditions: perfect being theology and natural theology. Then, we'll examine some of the central problems vexing the rationality of classical theism, and we'll put classical theism into conversation with the LDS (or "Mormon") conception of God, as well as Buddhist and Hindu perspectives on suffering. Finally, we'll consider a range of issues, which raise questions about the nature of religious belief or commitment itself.*

PHIL 3990: Philosophy and Pop Culture: Superheroes (DHA) (Robison, T/Th 1:30): *We live in a time at which superhero narratives are omnipresent in popular culture. People often identify intensely with these narratives. Storytellers use superhero tropes to explore fundamental human values and psychological assumptions. In this course, we will explore some of the most dominant and impactful themes of superhero narratives through comic books and other primary sources, along with historical and contemporary philosophical literature. Questions we will ask and attempt to answer in this course include: What does it mean to be a hero? What is a villain? What is an anti-hero? Are Manichean narratives depicting the world as a struggle between good and evil productive? What is the nature of justice? Are retributive or even vengeful approaches to responding to wrongdoing consistent with justice? How are women portrayed in superhero narratives and what are the feminist critiques of those portrayals? How is oppression and minority experience dealt with in superhero narratives? Final projects for this course will involve a number of creative options including producing a philosophical comic book, a philosophical short superhero film, or a traditional philosophical paper.*

PHIL 4250: Tolkien and Lewis (Kleiner, MW 3:00-4:15): *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 4400: Metaphysics (Gentry, MWF 11:30): *If the cells in your body change so that no part of your physical body remains the same, where is your identity—in short, what is a self? If physical theories like Relativity Theory and Quantum Mechanics are right, there is no space and time—at least not of the sort we imagine—so what are these things we call space and time? Finally, it seems like we are free to act in moral and non-moral ways—and we hold each other accountable for the things we do. But if the physical world is causally determined, are we really free? Metaphysics discusses these abstract ideas—ideas that exist in the space between science and philosophy.*

PHIL 4410: Philosophy of Mind (DHA) (Gentry, MWF 1:30): *What is the mind? Is the mind different from the brain? How does the mind relate to the body? What is artificial intelligence and can it become conscious? This course will consider classic theories of mind as applied to current studies on Artificial Intelligence. It will include readings in both philosophy and science on mind and consciousness, which will be paired with companion movies and short stories.*