

Philosophy classes, Fall 2023

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.*

HNRS 1320: Living in a Brave New World (BHU) (Robison, MWF 11:30-12:20): *Emerging technology in the past two centuries has fundamentally changed the relationship between human beings and the world. Things move faster, are more convenient, and are also, in certain ways, more dangerous and existentially unsettling. In this course, students will explore with the instructor and with one another the philosophical implications of emerging technology. We will talk about challenges posed by the internet and social media, art, creativity, and meaning in life, technology and the environment, technology in the criminal justice system, and technology and warfare.*

PHIL 2200: Deductive Logic (QI) (Huenemann, T/Th 10:30-11:45): *We will study various approaches of determining whether a claim follows from some given information, including syllogistic logic, propositional logic, truth tables, truth trees, and predicate logic. We will also work toward providing clearer, valid arguments in writing.*

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 Aristotle's Virtue Ethics, Kant's Deontology, and Mill's Utilitarianism.*

PHIL 2988: Ethics Bowl: (Robison) *Students should enroll in this course **for one credit** if they are interested in competing in the Ethics Bowl which is an ethics debate competition. Students will form teams and work together to construct cases in preparation for the regional competition in November. This is a one credit hour class that will culminate in the competition.*

PHIL 3010: Survey of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (CI) (Otteson, MWF 12:30-1:20): *This course covers the history of Western philosophy from its inception in Ancient Greece through Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. We will begin by sampling the works of Plato and Aristotle, and then trace their influence through the works of later philosophers such as*

Augustine and Boethius. We will then read selections from Muslim and Christian philosophy in the Middle Ages which built upon the work of the older philosophical tradition.

PHIL 3530: Environmental Ethics (DHA) (Robison, T/Th 1:30-2:45): *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, MW 3:00-4:15): *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 12:30-1:20): *Problems in defining "religion" and the (non)existence of God; perfect being theology; natural theology; arguments for the existence of God/gods; problems of evil across religious traditions; religious disagreement and pluralism; religious experience; the rationality and nature of religious commitment; religious trauma.*

PHIL 3700: Political Philosophy (DHA) (Otteson, MWF 11:30-12:20): *This course will use the life and writings of George Orwell as a springboard to discuss the contours of contemporary political philosophy. We will cover issues of justice, fairness, and the common good in the context of normative political theory.*

PHIL 4400: Metaphysics (Robison, T/Th 10:30-11:45): *This course will focus on questions related to free will. Is determinism true and, if so, does that fact undermine the existence of free will? Is there such a thing as agent causation? Does free will require the ability to choose from among multiple options? What is the relationship between free will and personhood? What is the relationship between free will and moral responsibility? Students will be asked to read both historical and contemporary writers on this topic.*

PHIL 4410: Philosophy of Mind (DHA) (Gentry, MWF 1:30-2:20): *What is the mind? Is the mind different from the brain? Are we more our mind or our body? What is artificial intelligence and can it become conscious? What does it mean to be conscious and how would you test to determine if a machine was conscious? This course will consider classic theories of mind applied to current studies on Artificial Intelligence. It will include readings in both philosophy and science on mind and consciousness—and these readings will be paired with companion movies and short stories.*

PHIL 4900-001: The Enlightenment: Good, Bad, and Ugly (Huenemann, T/Th 9:00-10:15): *We will begin by studying key texts from the European Enlightenment, and then we will explore its dark side, with its reliance on slavery, colonialism, and the subjugation of women. Finally, we*

will make our own assessments of the Enlightenment: should we still pursue its ideals, once we correct all its problems? Or is Enlightenment just rotten to the core?

PHIL 4900-002: History and Philosophy of Ancient Religions (McGonagill, MWF 10:30-11:20): *We will compare ancient cosmogonies and other works about nature's nature from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, and Greece, culminating in Plato's philosophical cosmogony, Timaeus. The main concern will be discovering what each culture's understanding of the nature of nature was, humanity's role in it, and the relation of both to the divine. (Cross-listed with HIST/RELS 3430)*

PHIL 4990: Philosophy Capstone (Huenemann, W 3-4, 1 credit): *This course is required for philosophy majors near the completion of the degree. Students reflect on their philosophical education and prepare for their next phase.*