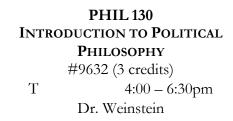## PHIL 101
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
#9817 (3 credits)
T/R   2:00 – 3:15pm
Mr. Beltz

This course is designed to provide students with a rich understanding of the ideas and issues that have guided human history. This course will provide a survey of the major themes and problems that generations of students (and philosophers) have struggled to find solutions to. How do I know what is right? How do I know that there is anything out in the world? How do I know what is beautiful? What does it mean to know something? This course will take a thematic approach to philosophy, focusing on a cross-section of philosophic topics and readings. Essential Studies: Humanities.

PHIL 120
INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS
#7587 (3 credits)
M/W   2:30 – 3:45pm
Dr. Stone

In this course students will study major ethical theories and then apply those theories to concrete dilemmas that they are likely to face in their careers and in all aspects of their lives. In this section, special consideration will be given to the challenges that emerging technologies pose to ethical reasoning and decision-making.   Essential   Studies: Humanities.

PHIL 130
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
#9632 (3 credits)
T   4:00 – 6:30pm
Dr. Weinstein

Don't you wish there were a way to talk about politics without fighting about Democrats or Republicans? Shouldn't there be a way to settle issues by appealing to something more than just people's opinions? Well, there is! Political philosophy is a way of talking politics while focusing on the big questions instead of the policies that make everyone so angry. We ask about the nature of justice, whether government is good or bad (and whether it should be big or small), whether we can morally take away people's rights, and whether we need authorities to tell us what to do. Ultimately, we ask whether people in a democracy really can make decisions for themselves. Introduction to Political Philosophy is a fun, discussion-oriented class with minimal homework. It is technology heavy and focuses on peer-to-peer interaction while minimizing lecture time. It will make politics enjoyable even as everyone around us is going crazy. *This is a collaborative class with no major exams or papers, minimal homework, and lots of discussion. It requires no prerequisites!* Essential Studies: Humanities.

PHIL 221
SYMBOLIC LOGIC
#17832 (3 credits)
M/W/F   1:25 – 2:15pm
Mr. Beltz

This course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts and achievements of modern logic. Symbolic logic is the application of formal, mathematical methods in the study of reasoning. Beyond its central role as a tool in philosophical inquiry, deductive logic is also important in the foundations of mathematics and computer science, and in linguistics and psychology. The material covered in this course will include such topics as the nature and general features of deductive arguments, logical form, argument validity and soundness, symbolization, truth-functional logical connectives, and using truth-tables to check argument validity. The bulk of the course will be devoted to the development of two artificial formal languages (that of sentential logic and that of quantificational logic) that capture certain formal aspects of our talk and thought. We will study the techniques for constructing formal deductive proofs in these languages and for evaluating such proofs as valid or invalid.

PHIL 251
ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE
#7595 (3 credits)
M/W/F   10:10 – 11:00am
Mr. Beltz

At some point in our lives, we become involved in the health care system. Whether we are patients, nurses, doctors, or family members of patients, we must understand how the decisions we make about health care are ethical decisions. This course focuses on understanding the ethical responsibilities of professionals, the rights of patients, the nature of moral decision making, and applying ethical frameworks to concrete situations. Drawing on case studies, ethical dilemmas, and real-world scenarios, this course examines the significance of informed consent, abortion, euthanasia, organ transplant policy, professional standards, assisted suicide, vaccine mandates, drug screening, national health care policy and reform. The rights and responsibilities of professionals and patients will be examined through contemporary ethical theories and through codes of professional ethics. Essential Studies: Humanities.

PHIL 254
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS ETHICS
#17834 (3 credits)
T/R   11:00am – 12:15pm
Mr. Beltz

Unmanned Aircraft Systems has moved from the realm of science fiction to our daily lives. This shift has caused society to reevaluate many of its core assumptions about security, privacy, and control. This course aims to explore the various ways that drones impact our social existence. We will explore the ethical implications of these changes. We will explore how UAS work has changed military engagement, police work, archeology, wildlife management, transportation, and much more. This course uses case studies, real-life scenarios, and personal accounts to explore the professional obligations of UAS operators and designers. It also examines the ways that drones shape the social expectations of all people in this exciting field. Essential Studies: Humanities.

PHIL 300
HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY
"ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY"
#21168 (3 credits)
M/W 4:00 – 5:15pm
Dr. Stone

Ancient Greek philosophy arose as a direct response to an immediate social-political-medical crisis. Plagued by constant war, political corruption, widespread disease, and other seemingly inescapable conditions of human life, ancient Greek thinkers began to question the efficacy of religious thinking and other longstanding institutions of power. Rather than having blind faith in traditions and authority, they sought to apply the human capacity to reason in the service of answering life's questions and arriving at better ways of living. Thus, the philosophers distinguished themselves from the Sophists—who advanced the art of persuasive speech in order to obtain power and wealth—by pursuing truth, wisdom, ethics, more effective means of communication, logic, education, and establishing a polity in which citizens could pursue 'the good life.' Special emphasis will be given to the influential philosophies of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. *NB: This course is repeatable for up to 6 credit hours. Thus, students who have previously taken PHIL 300 on a theme different than the one being offered this semester—Ancient Philosophy—can enroll and earn full credit for this course.* Essential Studies: Humanities.

PHIL 342
ADVANCED ETHICS
"MORAL PURITY AND TOXICITY"
#17833 (3 credits)
M/W 2:30 – 3:45pm
Dr. Rozelle-Stone

Many people who are interested in living ethically often find themselves seeking a kind of moral purity—a life without blemish, stain, or compromised principle. This course will examine the quest for purity and the associated fear of toxicity/moral contamination, but it will also raise questions about the implications of yearning for ethical purity, especially in an interconnected, capital-driven, contemporary global context in which we are often unavoidably complicit in the suffering of others. In this discussion-based class, we will explore our impulse for ethical purity and classification, especially in the context of issues like: colonialism; cancel culture; ethical consumerism; environmental toxicity; species-interdependency; mindful eating and entangled suffering; and gender/disability/identity instabilities. Essential Studies: Humanities.

PHIL 480
PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY
#3128 (3 credits)
T/R 12:30 – 1:45pm
Dr. Weinstein

Did you ever want to write philosophy for a blog, magazine, on Twitter or Reddit, or make a philosophical comment on a Twitch stream? Do you want to make philosophy content for social networks like Instagram and TikTok? If so, this course is what you are looking for. It provides you the opportunity to take philosophy out of the classroom and into the world around you. It focuses on writing blog entries, social network posts, and evaluating existing public philosophy books and articles. First and foremost, it is a writing course that will help you refine your composition skills to better communicate ideas and "translate" them into more accessible media, including video for those who want to. Best of all, YOU get to choose what you write about, not the professor. No subject is off limits. *This is the Philosophy department's capstone course but is open to all students with at least 75 credit hours. It fulfills ES capstone requirements for many majors beside philosophy's.* Essential Studies: Advanced Communications.

PHIL 575
DATA SCIENCE ETHICS
#3128 (3 credits)
Asynchronous Online
Dr. Weinstein

We are not human beings; we are data. At least, this is what researchers, marketers, and Artificial Intelligence think of us. Yet, despite what they will have us believe, there is no neutral way of evaluating this data. Everyone has an agenda. Everyone has a point of view. And lots of people are bigots, even if they don't know it. In this course, we will look at the history of data misuse and the ways it is currently abused, to develop an ethical theory that applies to new technology and research methods. We will engage with both the theory and practice of data ethics, to see if the great ethical theories still apply. *This is a graduate seminar open to advanced undergraduates. It is not a technical course. No experience with computers science or data software is required. All the reading is accessible and intended for philosophical readers, not just data scientists.*

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Spring 2024

Philosophy & Ethics

Course Offerings

No Prerequisites

Most Courses Fulfill Essential Studies Requirements