

Department of Philosophy

Professor: *Congleton (Chair), McIntyre^A, Menkiti*

Associate Professor: *de Warren, McGowan*

Assistant Professor: *de Bres, Marshall^{A2}, Wearing*

One of the marks of philosophy, and one of its strengths, is that it identifies and examines assumptions that we make in our ordinary lives or that are made in other areas of study. Many would also accept a definition of philosophy as the attempt to answer, or at least to better understand, very basic questions about the universe and our place in it. A striking thing about these assumptions and questions is that many of us live as if we were clear about them even though we have never even asked about them. We accept one belief and dismiss another without asking what it takes for a belief to be worthy of acceptance. We decide whether an act is right or wrong without even asking what the difference is between right and wrong. A famous passage by the philosopher David Hume, written when he was about 25, expresses the impulse to philosophize: "I am uneasy to think I approve of one object, and disapprove of another; call one thing beautiful, and another deformed; decide concerning truth and falsehood, reason and folly, without knowing upon what principles I proceed." The clarity, depth and rigor encouraged in philosophy courses are useful not only in philosophy, but also in any other area of study, and it is a major that is welcomed by graduate programs in many fields, as well as by employers and professional schools.

Goals for the Major

Majoring in philosophy will acquaint one with important developments in ancient and early modern philosophy and how these developments influence contemporary philosophical debates. Moreover, because philosophy is in the business of critically evaluating the reasons offered to support hypotheses, factual claims and evaluative judgments, majoring in philosophy will develop or sharpen the following skills:

The interpretation of dense and challenging texts

The ability to formulate and consider alternatives to commonly accepted views

The construction and defense of coherent, well-considered positions

The ability to offer reasoned responses to the ideas and objections of others

PHIL 103 Self and World: Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology

Marshall, McGowan

This course introduces basic philosophical methods and concepts by exploring a variety of approaches to some central philosophical problems. Topics covered include the existence of God, the relation between reason and faith, skepticism and certainty, theories of knowledge, the relation between mind and body, and the compatibility of free will and causal determination. Readings are drawn from historical and contemporary texts. Discussions and assignments encourage the development of the student's own critical perspective on the problems discussed.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 104/ASTR 104 The Stars and the Sages: Philosophy and the Cosmos

de Warren and French (Astronomy)

This First Year Seminar explores the changing views of the universe from the ancient Greeks, through the emergence of the scientific revolution to the startling advances in cosmology during the twentieth century, and includes visits to the Special Collections Library and observations from the Whittin Observatory; no particular competence in mathematics is required. We begin with readings from Plato, Aristotle and ancient Greek astronomers and their concern to understand the inherent rationality of the universe. We next turn to the discoveries of Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton. Our exploration of philosophy and astronomy will then address Einstein's theories of special and general relativity, evidence for the Big Bang, and contemporary perplexity regarding the presence of dark matter and dark energy. *Students may register for either PHIL 104 or ASTR 104 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: None. Only open to first-year students.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 106 Introduction to Moral Philosophy

de Bres, Menkiti

A study of central issues in moral philosophy from ancient Greece to the present day. Topics include the nature of morality, conceptions of justice, views of human nature and their bearing on questions of value, and competing tests of right and wrong.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 201 Ancient Greek Philosophy

Congleton

Study of writings of Plato and Aristotle that are particularly influential still today, including Plato's *Symposium and Republic* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. In addition to studying the "essentialist" approach to nature and to ethics that Aristotle accepted from his teacher Plato, we will consider differences between Plato and Aristotle. For Plato, this will include his "theory of forms," his presentation of Socrates and the dialogue form of his writings. For Aristotle, it will include his development of the philosophical vocabulary that became standard for subsequent Western philosophy up until the Renaissance. We will discuss how Plato's and Aristotle's views relate to contemporary questions such as "stereotyping" in social thought, whether women and men are or are not essentially different, and whether scientific and ethical reasoning are fundamentally the same or different.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 202/AFR 202 Introduction to African Philosophy

Menkiti

Initiation into basic African philosophical concepts and principles. The first part of the course deals with a systematic interpretation of such questions as the Bantu African philosophical concept of Muntu and related beliefs, as well as Bantu ontology, metaphysics, and ethics. The second part centers on the relationship between philosophy and ideologies and its implications in Black African social, political, religious, and economic institutions. The approach will be comparative. *Students may register for either PHIL 202 or AFR 202 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 203 Philosophy of Art

de Warren

What makes an object an art object? How does art reflect on the human condition? Why is there art rather than not, expression rather than silence, a gesture rather than stillness? A philosophical approach to art is primarily interested in clarifying the problem of aesthetic value, the special activities that produce art, and the claim to truth which finds expression through artistic creation. The aim of this course is to explore these questions, among others, by examining the positions of major philosophers and twentieth-century artists.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 204 Philosophy and Literature

Menkiti

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course considers the questions: what sort of object is the literary text and what are the ontological issues raised by acts of literary interpretation? It also examines the complex relationship between fiction and fact, and between fiction and morality. The treatment of commitment to self and others, of self-knowledge and self-identity, and of individual and social ideals will also be explored. We end the course by looking at poetry—how it has meaning despite an inbuilt element of ambiguity and how it succeeds not only in shaping, but also healing the world.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 206 Normative Ethics

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. Can philosophers help us to think about moral issues, such as what to do about poverty and hunger, or racism and sexism? What is the good life and how could we know that it is good? We will look at the attempts of some contemporary philosophers to provide answers, or at least guides to finding answers, to these and similar questions. We will compare and contrast several approaches to evaluating an action: placing major weight on its consequences, or on whether it conforms to a moral rule, or whether it is the sort of thing a virtuous person would do.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 207 Philosophy of Language

McGowan

This course will explore a variety of philosophical issues concerning language: the different ways in which spoken language functions and conveys information, the alleged difference between speech and action and how it relates to freedom of speech issues (e.g., pornography and hate speech), the general problem of how words get attached to their referents, and criticisms of traditional conceptions of meaning and reference.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy, and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 208 Theories of Knowledge

Wearing

We usually assume that we know a lot about the world around us. But how can we be sure that our beliefs reflect what the world is really like? In this course, we will investigate the nature of knowledge and the conditions under which we can be said to have any. We will explore answers to the following questions: What distinguishes knowledge from mere opinion? What makes someone justified in holding a particular belief? What is the connection between what we do believe and what we should believe? How is self-deception possible? We will conclude by examining the contributions of feminism and cognitive science to the discussion of these questions.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy, and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 209 Scientific Reasoning

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This is a reasoning course that emphasizes the practical importance of critical thinking. Topics covered will include the basic forms of scientific inference, the basics of probability, issues of data collection, the difference between correlation and causation, and the theoretical and practical difficulties associated with establishing causal claims. Students will also gain an appreciation of the political and ethical importance of critical thinking by evaluating cases of sexist and racist science.

Prerequisite: Fulfillment of the basic skills component of the Quantitative Reasoning requirement.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition. Fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning overlay course requirement.
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 210 Philosophy of Business

Congleton

This course looks at philosophical aspects of U.S. corporate business and of the role of the corporate executive, beginning with the form of the corporation in the early U.S. and following the evolution of its powers to the present day. We will also follow related phenomena, including the transition of the U.S. from a rural to an urban industrial society, the emergence of the urban wage laborer and unions, the emergence of government regulations, such as the Sherman Antitrust Act, and the transformation of the U.S. into a consumerist nation, including the expanding role of marketing. We will consider assumptions involved in some current ways of talking about corporations and executives, including assumptions about gender, economics and poverty.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 211 Philosophy of Religion

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. Religion is a ubiquitous phenomenon of human existence. What distinguishes religion as a set of beliefs, practices and worldview? Is there a specific religious claim to truth and meaning? What is the relationship between philosophical reflection and religious speculation? Indeed, what is religion? This course undertakes a critical and philosophical study of central topics in religion including the distinction between the sacred and the profane, the problem of evil, the relation between faith and reason, immortality and salvation, the significance of sacrifice and arguments for the existence, but also for the death, of God. Readings will draw from the rich heritage of philosophical discourse, including: Plato, Augustine, Pascal, Kant, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Bataille and Levinas.

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or by permission of the instructor.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 213 Social and Political Philosophy

de Bres

Why should we obey the government? Are there limits to what the state may demand of us? Does social justice require equality? Is taxation—or wage labor—theft? This course addresses these and other questions of social and political morality, through the lens of the major theories of Western philosophy. Topics will include Plato and Aristotle on the best form of government, Locke on individual rights, Rousseau on popular sovereignty, Mill on freedom of speech, Marx on equality and Rawls and Dworkin on distributive justice. We will study each of the theories in its historical context, as well as apply them to contemporary issues such as affirmative action, censorship, and welfare policy.

Prerequisite: Open to seniors without prerequisite and to juniors and sophomores who have taken one course in philosophy, or by permission of the instructor.
Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 215 Philosophy of Mind

Wearing

What is a mind? How is it related to a person's brain and body? These two questions have driven centuries of work in the philosophy of mind, and we will take them as our starting point. After considering a variety of answers, we will pursue several topics that challenge our best accounts of the mind: consciousness, mental representation, the emotions, free will, and the possibility of thinking machines. Our goal will be to connect central philosophical perspectives on these issues with contributions from psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience.

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy, psychology, or cognitive science, or permission of the instructor.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 216 Logic

McGowan, Wearing

An introduction to formal logic. Students will learn a variety of formal methods—methods sensitive only to the form of arguments, as opposed to their content—to determine whether the conclusions of arguments follow from their premises. Discussion of the philosophical problems that arise in logic, and of the application of formal logic to problems in philosophy and other disciplines. Some consideration of issues in the philosophy of language.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 217 Philosophy of Science: Traditional and Feminist Perspectives

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course will survey various issues in the philosophy of science surrounding the debate over scientific realism. Issues include: What constitutes adequate evidence? Exactly what does accepting a scientific theory involve? Does science discover the single objective way that the world is or does it partially construct the world around us? How do cultural attitudes (e.g., gender) affect scientific practice?

Prerequisite: Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 218 Gender, Knowledge & Science

Wearing

What, if anything, does gender have to do with knowledge? This course investigates ways in which gender might influence our conception of knowledge and our practices of seeking it. We will examine how gender might situate and affect a knower, in order to investigate whether our practices of inquiry have systematically disadvantaged or excluded women (and other subordinated groups). We will consider three proposals for reforming those practices: feminist empiricism, feminist standpoint epistemology, and feminist postmodernism. Our investigations will also explore several questions about science: Do feminist (or any other) values have a legitimate role to play in scientific inquiry? Is our conception of objectivity or of rationality gendered? Is science inherently sexist or is it a feminist's ally?

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 221 History of Modern Philosophy

Marshall

A study of central themes in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy, concentrating on Descartes, Hume, and Kant. More limited readings of such figures as Spinoza, Locke, Ann Conway, Leibniz, and Berkeley. Among the topics: the relationship between mind and body; the limits of reason; determinism and freedom; the bearing of science on religion.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students in their second semester and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Historical Studies
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 222 American Philosophy

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. The development of American philosophy from colonial times to the present. Among the topics: European justifications of colonization and conquest; the spiritualist metaphysics of Berkeley and Jonathan Edwards; philosophical underpinnings of the revolution and the republic; slavery and abolition; transcendentalism (Emerson, Thoreau); justice and civil disobedience; feminism. We will concentrate in particular on pragmatism, America's unique contribution to world philosophy, with readings from Peirce, James, Dewey, Quine, Richard Rorty, and Cornel West. The course is intended for students of history, literature, and American Studies as well as for students of philosophy.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or
Historical Studies
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 224 Existentialism

de Warren

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course will study basic themes in existentialism by focusing on the theoretical and theatrical works of key existentialist writers such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Antonin Artaud, Samuel Beckett, Albert Camus, and Eugene Ionesco. In taking the human condition as its primary question, existentialism redefines the meaning of theory as a philosophical reflection or "seeing" of the human condition, as well as the significance of theatre as a "seeing" or "manifestation" of features of the human condition that otherwise remain hidden from view. Special emphasis will be placed on the themes of boredom, death, bad faith, anxiety, suffering, freedom, and inter-subjective relationships.

Prerequisite: One philosophy course or permission of the instructor.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or
Historical Studies
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 225 Phenomenology and Hermeneutics

de Warren

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. Phenomenology attempts to reclaim the richness of human experience for philosophical analysis. An important movement of twentieth-century philosophy, phenomenology represents an original approach to traditional philosophical questions based on the investigation of how "lived experience" animates the various ways in which the world is meaningful for human beings. As an introduction to the phenomenological movement, including the hermeneutic turn of phenomenological philosophy, this course will focus on the work of Husserl, Heidegger, Lévinas, and Merleau-Ponty.

Prerequisite: One philosophy course or permission of the instructor.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 230 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy

de Warren

This course will study selected themes in nineteenth-century philosophy. Readings from Kant, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche will address central issues such as the status of reason, the irrational and the unconscious, modernization and the meaning of history, and the significance of religion and art for human existence. Other important figures of nineteenth-century thought such as Darwin, Comte, Mill, and Schleiermacher may also be addressed.

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or
Historical Studies

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 233 Environmental Philosophy

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. A study of conceptions of the natural world and our place in it, from the pre-Socratics and the *Book of Genesis* to the deep ecologists and ecofeminists of the present day. Readings in the history of philosophy (Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, Newton, Rousseau, and Hume, among others), in Emerson and Thoreau, and in contemporary nature writers and natural scientists. Discussion of ethical issues and of Third-World critics of Western environmentalism.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 235 Democracy

de Bres

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course provides an introduction to past and present work on the normative theory of democracy, and discusses how that work bears on some important issues in current affairs. We will explore significant historical contributions to democratic thought; consider contemporary work on issues such as procedural versus substantive accounts of democracy, democratic deliberation, democratic participation, legislative representation and constitutionalism; and address present public debates concerning campaign finance reform, democracy at the supra-state level and the "exporting" of democracy overseas.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy or political science, and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics and Moral Philosophy

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 236 Introduction to Global Justice

de Bres

An introduction to recent work in political philosophy on the ethics of international relations. The course will begin with a survey of some of the main theoretical approaches to the topic: realism, cosmopolitan egalitarianism, political liberalism, utilitarianism and nationalism. We will then consider how these different approaches might be applied to some specific moral controversies in international politics, such as those relating to global poverty, human rights and humanitarian intervention, immigration, climate change, and global governance.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students who have taken one course in philosophy or political science, and to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics and Moral Philosophy

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 239 The Owls of Minerva: Kant and German Idealism

de Warren

Perhaps no other period in the history of philosophy since its Greek origins has witnessed as much creativity and substance as the years spanning the bloom of German Idealism (1781–1832). Beginning with Kant's "Copernican Revolution" of the *Critique of Pure Reason*, this course critically explores the diverse veins of German Idealism and Romanticism: Fichte, Schelling, F. Schlegel, Novalis, Hölderlin, and Hegel. Themes will include: the relation between philosophy and poetry; the problem of idealism and the reality of the external world; the constitution of self-consciousness in its relation to Others; the relation between nature and aesthetics; the emergence of language as a primary philosophical concern; the relationship between faith and knowledge; and the significance of historical consciousness and the formation of culture. In addition to exploring the impact of German Idealism on nineteenth-century English Romanticism, we will also consider engagements with the legacy of German Idealism among contemporary European and American philosophy.

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Historical Studies

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 245 Agency and Motivation

McIntyre

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. An examination of the capacities important to moral agency, drawing on work in philosophy as well as research in social psychology, evolutionary biology, and cognitive science. Topics to be examined include: theories of motivation; the moral significance of sympathy and empathy; guilt, shame, regret, and other traits central to moral accountability; differing conceptions of free will and the nature of autonomy; and issues involving self-control and self-knowledge.

Prerequisite: Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PHIL 249 Medical Ethics*Menkiti*

A philosophical examination of some central problems at the interface of medicine and ethics. Exploration of the social and ethical implications of current advances in biomedical research and technology. Topics discussed will include psychosurgery, gender surgery, genetic screening, amniocentesis, and euthanasia.

Prerequisite: Open to all students without prerequisite.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 300 Seminar in Modern Philosophy*McIntyre***NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.**

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy above the 100 level.

Distribution: Religion Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 301 Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy: Spinoza, Mind, and Nature*Marshall*

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This seminar will investigate the thought of Baruch Spinoza, a seventeenth-century Dutch rationalist. Our focus will include Spinoza's mechanistic view of mind, its embodiment, and the relationship between the individual and society. We will explore Spinoza's striking claim that mind and body are one, his views on the possibility of action against one's better judgment, and his reflections on the nature of human virtue and well-being. Readings will include several of Spinoza's works, a few excerpts from his contemporaries, and the interpretive work of some recent commentators.

Prerequisite: PHIL 221 or permission of the instructor

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Historical Studies
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 310 Seminar. Ancient and Medieval Philosophy*Congleton*

Topic for 2009-10: Plato and Aristotle on Government and Politics. We will consider Plato and Aristotle's views on government and politics by discussing primarily the following texts: Plato's *Republic*, *Statesman* and *Gorgias* and Aristotle's *Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics*. Some comparison will be made with medieval continuations of Plato and Aristotle's "essentialist" approach as illustrated by excerpts from the twelfth century philosophers Ibn Rushd and Maimonides. We will also give some attention to the emergence of contrasting modern views as illustrated in selections from John Stuart Mill's *Considerations on Representative Government* and *On Liberty*. We will be interested in what these texts can contribute to our own thinking about "democracy," considering such questions as whether highly educated citizens should have responsibilities toward citizens with little education, and what Aristotle's notion of "deliberation" might contribute to our thinking about political discourse.

Prerequisite: Previous study of Plato's *Republic* or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Historical Studies
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 313 Seminar. Metaphysics*McGowan*

Topic for 2009-10: Constructionism. This course will survey various ways in which we make facts about our world. That certain facts are constructed (e.g., speed limits and checkmates) is uncontroversial. Substantive philosophical issues arise, however, when delineating the precise manner in which such facts are constructed and drawing a defensible line between that which is constructed and that which is not. Constructionist speech, the social construction of gender and certain global constructionist theses will be considered. The diverse work of such contemporary analytic philosophers as Elgin, Goodman, Haslanger, Hacking, Lewis, Putnam, and Searle will be discussed.

Prerequisite: Open to students who have taken two courses in philosophy.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 323 Seminar. Continental Philosophy*de Warren***NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.**

Prerequisite: One 200-level philosophy course or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 326 Philosophy of Law*Menkiti*

A systematic consideration of fundamental issues in the conception and practice of law such as the nature and function of law, the limits of law, the nature of judicial reasoning, and the relationship of law to morality. We will assess how alternative theories of law explain rights, duties, liability and responsibility. We will also focus on philosophical issues raised in court cases associated with liberty, privacy, justice, responsibility, causation and punishment. Readings include selections from legal theory and a variety of contemporary court decisions.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors without prerequisite and to sophomores who have taken one course in philosophy.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

PHIL 340 Seminar. Moral Philosophy*de Bres*

Topic for 2009-10: Well-Being and Morality. Some of the oldest and most perplexing questions in ethics concern the nature of well-being and its relationship to our moral duties. What is it that makes a life go well for a person? What role does well-being play in morality? What role should it play in social policy? What difficulties arise in measuring welfare across time and across persons? This seminar will consider a range of recent answers to these questions, including those of Sumner, Sen, Hurka, Railton, Parfit, Broome, and Scanlon. We will also consider the ancient antecedents of these views, and discuss how contemporary empirical work on the sources of happiness might shed light on them.

Prerequisite: Open to seniors without prerequisite and to juniors and sophomores who have taken one course in philosophy, or by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PHIL 342 Seminar. Political Philosophy*de Bres***NOT OFFERED 2009-10.**

Prerequisite: Open to students who have taken one 200-level course in philosophy, political science, international relations or economics or by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics and Moral Philosophy
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 345 Seminar. Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Psychology and Social Science*Wearing*

Topic for 2009-10: Language and Thought. This seminar will investigate three ways in which language and thought might be related: The "language of thought" hypothesis, that thinking itself must take place in a language; the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, that speaking a particular language, be it Chinese, Hungarian, or Swahili, influences how you perceive and think about the world; and the hypothesis that language "sets us apart" from other creatures by making possible thoughts that could not be entertained unless we spoke a language. We will examine arguments and evidence for and against each of these proposals, with the goal of understanding the role(s) of language in our mental lives.

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy, psychology, or cognitive and linguistic science, or by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 349 Seminar. Speech Acts*McGowan*

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This seminar will survey various philosophical issues and applications of speech act theory. Particular attention will be paid to utterances that enact facts about what is permissible for others, the role of authority in this, and indirect speech acts. Recent applications of speech act theory to free speech (e.g., hate speech and pornography) will also be discussed.

Prerequisite: 207 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PHIL 350 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors by permission.

Distribution: None
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 350H Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors by permission.

Distribution: None
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 0.5

PHIL 360 Senior Thesis Research

Prerequisite: By permission of department. See Academic Distinctions.

Distribution: None
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

PHIL 370 Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: 360 and permission of department.

Distribution: None
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

Courses for Credit Toward the Major

Department Information

The philosophy department divides its courses and seminars into three subfields:

(A) the history of philosophy: [150], 201, [220], 221, 222, [223], 224, 225, [226], 230, 300, 301, [302], [303], 310, [311], [312], [319], 323 (when the topic is appropriate), 239, 349 (when the topic is appropriate);

(B) value theory: 106, 202, 203, 204, 206, 210, 211, 213, [214], [227], [232], 233, [234], 235, 236, 249, [303], 310, [312] (when the topic is appropriate), 323 (when the topic is appropriate), 326, [332], 340, 342, 349 (when the topic is appropriate);

(C) metaphysics and theory of knowledge: 103, 202, 207, 208, 209, [211], 215, 216, 217, [218], [232], 233, [234], 239, 245, 300 (when the topic is appropriate), 301, [302], [304], 313, [314], 323 (when the topic is appropriate), [327], 345, 349

Requirements for the Major

The major in philosophy consists of at least nine units. PHIL 201 and 221 are required of all majors. In order to assure that all majors are familiar with the breadth of the field, every major must take two units in each of subfields B and C. Majors are strongly encouraged to take a third unit in subfield A. Students planning graduate work in philosophy should take PHIL 216 and acquire a reading knowledge of Latin, Greek, French, or German. In order to assure that students have acquired some depth in philosophy, the department requires that each major complete at least two 300-level units; these units must be in different subfields of philosophy and at least one of the 300-level units must be a philosophy seminar (as opposed to 350 Independent Study, or 360 or 370 Honors Thesis).

Requirements for the Minor

The minor in philosophy consists of five units. No more than one of these units may be at the 100 level; PHIL 201 or 221 is required of all minors; at least one of the five units must be at the 300 level.

Honors

Honors in the Philosophy major may be earned by writing a thesis or a set of related essays, and passing an oral examination.

To be admitted to the thesis program, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work in the major field above the 100-level; the department may petition on her behalf if her GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. Members of the department also *prefer* to see the following criteria satisfied by the end of the junior year:

1. 201 and 221 completed
2. at least six philosophy courses completed
3. at least one 300-level seminar that demonstrates the ability to work independently completed with a grade of A or A-.

Transfer Credit

The department participates in exchange programs with Brandeis and MIT. Both schools have excellent philosophy departments, and students are encouraged to consult the respective catalogs for offerings.