

Philosophy Courses – Fall 2023

PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy

3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the study and the practice of philosophy. Through the analysis of historical and contemporary texts, class discussions and lectures students gain an understanding of philosophy both as a discipline and as a way of asking – and attempting to answer – fundamental questions about ourselves and the world. The emphasis is both on learning about philosophy and on doing philosophy.

Open to first- and second-year students or by permission of instructor.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirements.

PH 101-001 T/TH 9:40 – 11:00

R. Lilly

PH 101-002 M/W 2:30 – 3:50

L. Jorgensen

PH 101-003 T/TH 11:10 – 12:30

S. Kizuk

PH 101-004 T/TH 3:40 – 5:00

S. Kizuk

PH 203 Ancient Greek Philosophy

4 Cr.

Ancient Greek thinkers engaged in a continuous dialogue about core philosophical questions, such as: What is the nature of the cosmos and what place do human beings have in it? How do we attain knowledge about ourselves? What kinds of political communities provide the best opportunities to lead good lives? What is happiness and how do love and friendship contribute to it?

It will be our task to enter into that conversation and consider its relevance for our own lives. Special attention will be given to Socrates', Plato's and Aristotle's approaches to these questions.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirements. Counts toward Classics.

T/TH 3:40 – 5:30

S. Carli

PH 207 Introduction to Logic

4 Cr.

An introduction to the basic concepts and methods of modern symbolic logic, with a focus on their application to proper reasoning. Students learn how to represent sentences in logical notation, to reconstruct arguments in that notation, to assess arguments for validity and soundness, and to prove conclusions from premises using a system of natural deduction. Students also learn to recognize common argument forms and common mistakes in reasoning (fallacies), are introduced to philosophical issues related to logic, and learn how symbolic logic is the basis for the digital computer.

Fulfills philosophy major requirement; satisfies prerequisite for CS 106; counts toward Computer Science

M/W 2:30 – 4:20

P. Murray

PH 210 Philosophy and the Arts**3 Cr.**

Arguably more than any other human activity, the arts have been central to the origins and history of philosophical thought. This course will review the most important philosophies of art that have given us the 'tool box' for thinking about art, and will examine the emergence of philosophical thought in the 20th and 21st centuries as central to contemporary art and art criticism.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

T/TH 2:10 – 3:30

R. Lilly

PH 221 Memory & Retrospective Justice**4 Cr.**

A course focusing on memory, memorialization, and retrospective justice in the United States, focusing particularly on issues of race, taking as its case study the contested memory of the Civil War in the United States and the enduring systemic injustices that resulted from national efforts at reconciliation. *Retrospective justice* focuses on repairing historic wrongs, wrongs that resulted in serious and lasting harms and yet the primary actors are long dead. In this course, students will investigate the promises and limits of methods of responding to historic injustices, focusing in particular on three areas: (a) memorials, monuments, and memorial spaces; (b) truth telling and efforts at reshaping the narratives; and (c) reparations.

Fulfills Bridge Experience guidelines and Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

W/F 12:20 – 1:40 & M 12:20-1:15

L. Jorgensen

PH 223 Love & Friendship**3 Cr.**

An exploration of love and friendship as understood in a variety of contexts from ancient Greece to the contemporary world. Students will learn how a number of philosophers think about personal bonds, self-love, the effect of gender inequality in shaping intimate relations, the difference between infatuation and enduring affection, and the power of love and friendship to fuel political movements.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Cultural Diversity requirements.

T/TH 12:40 – 2:00

S. Carli

PH 307 Twentieth-Century Philosophy**4 Cr.**

The age of the 'truth hero,' struggling to get at the truth 'out there' waiting to be discovered has given way to an age in which the nature of truth and our relation to the true have been radically questioned. Drawing on 20th and 21st century thinkers, this course engages in a 'genealogy of the present' to understand how we have come to our current disposition regarding the true and truth with the hope that we may be better positioned to cultivate truth. Among the thinkers we'll read are Heidegger, Gadamer, Foucault, Derrida, Judith Butler and others.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement; fulfills the upper-level history of philosophy requirement in the major.

Prerequisites: PH 204 or permission of the instructor

W/F 10:10 – 12:00

R. Lilly

PH 330D-001 Contemporary Political Philosophy**4 Cr.**

This course examines current debates in political philosophy. Questions considered include the proper method for philosophizing about politics, the value and limits of democracy, problems of race, gender, immigration and ethnicity in multicultural societies, and the promise of justice in an age of capitalism, renascent authoritarianisms, and rapid environmental change.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

Prerequisites: One course in Philosophy or permission of the instructor

T/TH 2:10 – 3:30

W. Lewis

PH 330D-002 Recognition & Self**4 Cr.**

A self is constituted through others and in concrete social contexts. It exists only if it is recognized. Therefore, selves are not self-sufficient; rather, they attain independence by negotiating relations of dependence with others. These are the fundamental ideas of some of the most important continental theories of self and society. They also inform contemporary discussions in a number of fields, including ethics, moral psychology and politics. Both are the focus of this course, which examines the notions of recognition and self, and their use in a variety of contexts.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirements.

Prerequisites: One course in Philosophy or permission of the instructor

M 9:05 – 12:00

S. Carli

ID 351 Language and Thought**4 Cr.**

Language and thought are intimately connected in human beings, but how exactly are they interrelated? Does the specific language you speak change how you experience the world? Do humans think and experience the world differently than other animals because of our unique linguistic abilities? Are human language abilities in fact unique in the animal kingdom? In this class, we will look to both historical and contemporary psychologists and philosophers to interrogate the nuances of the relationship between language and thought. In particular, students will read, write, discuss, and think about how different cultures and species perceive and represent such concepts as gender, agency, time, space, number, and color.

Fulfills the Humanistic Inquiry and Practice requirement. Counts toward Philosophy and Psychology.

Prerequisites: PS 202 or any course in Philosophy

W/F 12:20 – 2:10

P. Murray and E. Wojcik