

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHILOSOPHY

Symbol: PHI

- 501 An introduction to graduate work in philosophy, emphasizing philosophical methodologies and current professional practices in the field.
- 502 History of Western Ethics (3) This course involves the study of the branch of philosophy called ethics, and will pay specific attention to the development of ethical ideas and approaches in Western thought throughout its history. The course will cover some of the major contributions to moral thought by Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant, and Mill, as well as other vital figures. These figures will cover the four major ethical approaches of Virtue Theory, Natural Law Theory, Deontology, and Consequentialism. Restricted to those with minimal preparation in philosophy.
- 512 Ethical Theories (3) An inquiry into the meaning, interpretations, and function of ethical theory in people's lives. The course will explore some combination of classic, modern, and contemporary ethical theories.
- 513 Aesthetic Theories (3) History of aesthetics, as seen in classic interpretations. Psychological and sociological origins of art; the role of art works in the enrichment of life.
- 514 Philosophy of Religion (3) Dominant trends in religious philosophy of the Western world. Religious language, reason and faith, science, the nature of man, the existence of God, and mysticism.
- 515 Existentialism (3) Background and themes of current existentialism, as reflected in Kierkegaard, Jaspers, Marcel, Heidegger, and Sartre. Evaluation of existentialism and its impact on contemporary literature, drama, art, and society.
- 520 Philosophy of Mind (3) The human mind, according to representative views. Presuppositions and implications, both scientific and philosophic, traced and analyzed. The mind-body problem, perception, memory, and the implications of depth psychology.
- 521 Philosophy of Law (3) Consideration of the philosophical foundations of law. Topics may include the nature of law and its relation to rights, liberties, duties, liability, responsibility, and privacy; the nature of judicial reasoning; concepts of responsibility and liability; theories of punishment; causation in the law; discrimination and equality; the relation of law and morality; civil disobedience.
- 522 Philosophy of Science (3) The course begins with case studies in science and derives general principles from them. Scientific law, analogy, models, variant theories, confirmation, and interpretation.
- 525 Epistemology (3) This course provides an introduction to the major issues in contemporary analytic epistemology. Though epistemology has a long history in philosophy, contemporary epistemology has brought a modern scientific worldview and psychological accounts to bear on articulating the nature and justification of knowledge and belief. In the 20th century many philosophers began to investigate the social factors (including race and gender) and values on an understanding of knowledge. Among the topics to be examined are skepticism, epistemic contextualism, defining knowledge, foundationalism and coherentism, epistemic externalism, naturalized epistemology, and feminist and social epistemology.
- 531 Asian Philosophy (3) Central figures and classic teachings of Eastern philosophy and religion: Islam, This course examines central figures, concepts, and classic teachings of Asian philosophies and religions, providing an understanding of Asian culture, religions, and cosmology while challenging Western assumptions. *This course may be taken again for credit. Typically offered in Fall.*

536 Symbolic Logic (3) Basic principles and methods of symbolic logic. Practice in determining validity of sentential and quantificational arguments. The algebra of classes.

551 Religion and Ecology (3) This course explores contemporary environmental issues from the perspectives of different religious traditions through a postcolonial interreligious lens. We will compare spiritual and religious views of the ecosystem, its meaning, and its relation to human beings. Students will be asked to critically examine these efforts and also explore issues of environmental injustice. Furthermore, this course introduces postcolonial ecocriticism that promises to make new contributions to the analysis of how imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism create basic conditions of inequality between the colonizer and the colonized. This high level online course is offered for both graduate and undergraduate students. Pre / Co requisites: PHI 551 requires a prerequisite of one PHI course. Distance education offering may be available. Typically offered in Fall

570 Bioethics (3) Philosophical analysis of ethical issues in medicine, research, and biotechnology.

580 Business Ethics (3) Examination of ethical theory and its application to issues in business and management.

581 Philosophy of Human Rights (3) An examination of theories of human rights and the bearing of these theories on public policy issues such as legitimacy of war and terrorism, economic justice, and whether future generations have rights. Topics include whether there are basic human rights, and if so, what they are, what is their nature or basis, and what arguments can be brought to bear upon these questions.

590 Independent Studies in Philosophy (3) *This course may be taken again for credit.*

599 Philosophic Concepts and Systems (3) Basic concepts of the philosophic enterprise: form, matter, the categories, cause, and purpose. Relation of premises to method and conclusions. Rival theories are compared for justification and adequacy. *This course may be taken again for credit.*

610 Thesis (3-6) By permission of thesis adviser.

640 Seminar (3) Study and evaluation of the major works of one philosopher, such as Plato, Aquinas, Kant, or Wittgenstein. *This course may be taken again for credit.*

The following undergraduate courses may also be taken for graduate credit, when properly approved: PHI 405 Feminist Theory, PHI 480 Environmental Ethics, PHI 482 Social Philosophy.

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