

Graduate Courses » Fall 2009

517 Intro Logic Adv Students

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
COR	Wednesdays	9:00-11:50 AM	John Corcoran	Park 141	432386

This course provides the advanced student with the background concepts, goals, and results of modern mathematical and philosophical logic in sufficient breadth and depth to qualify the student to use logic in doctoral research (in philosophy, linguistics, cognitive science, etc.), to teach beginning logic courses, and to pursue more advanced courses having logic as a prerequisite. It also serves as an introduction to the axiomatic method presupposed by other courses. The intended audience includes intellectually mature graduate students with little or no previous logic and more advanced graduate students seeking mastery of fundamentals. Most examples come from geometry and number theory. Workshop-style lectures, notes, weekly reports, weekly exercises, student presentations, two (2) half-term exams. No final exam. No term paper.

No prerequisites—but graduate-level intellectual maturity and interest presupposed. Class participation expected. Mathematical maturity not required: no deep metatheorems will be proved.

Required Books: 1. Cohen & Nagel, *Introduction to Logic*, Hackett (paper). 2. Tarski, *Introduction to Logic and Methodology*. Dover (paper). 3. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (hardcover with CD-ROM). • ISBN:9780877798095

Optional Books (in order of relevance): 1. Lemmon, *Beginning Logic*. Hackett (paper). 2. Church, *Introduction to Mathematical Logic*. Princeton UP (paper). 3. Hughes, *Philosophical Companion to First-order Logic*. Hackett (paper). 4. Crossley, *What is Mathematical Logic?* Dover (paper). 5. Suppes, *Introduction to Logic*. Dover (paper). All available on Lockwood Reserve, from the UB Bookstore, and from Talking Leaves.

520 Philosophy of Science ("Natural Kinds")

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
WIL	Wednesdays	2:00-4:00 PM	Neil Williams	Park 141	103491

In this course we will consider issues concerning natural kinds as they arise in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, and medical science), with focused interest in questions of realism versus anti-realism, monism versus pluralism, and the competing accounts of natural kinds. Central among our concerns will be questions of the importance of natural kinds to scientific theory, the ontological status of kinds, and of natural kind terms. If time permits we will look at kinds outside of the natural sciences (human kinds and artefactual kinds).

531 Problems in Ontology

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
SMI	Arranged	Arranged	Barry Smith	Arranged	315793

This is a modular course, for which students can obtain up to 3 hours credit, by completing a corresponding number of modules from the following list:

* 1 credit hour for each of the following 2-day classes scheduled in conjunction with the International Conference on Biomedical Ontology (up to a maximum of 2 credits):

Randall Dipert and Neil Williams (University at Buffalo):
The Ontology of Events, Powers and Dispositions (July 20-21, 2009)

Thomas Bittner, Maureen Donnelly (Buffalo) and Fabian Neuhaus (NIST, Gaithersburg MD):
Spatial Ontology and Qualitative Reasoning (July 20-21, 2009)

Werner Ceusters (Buffalo), Alan Ruttenberg (Science Commons)
and Barry Smith (Buffalo):
From Basic Formal Ontology to the Information Artifact Ontology (July 22-23, 2009)

David Hershenov (Buffalo): Metaphysical Foundations of Biomedical Ethics

(July 22-23, 2009)

* 1 credit hour for attending a two-day Fall class taught by Barry Smith entitled "Introduction to Ontology." This class is scheduled on October 10-11, 2009.

* 1 further credit hour for writing a research paper in connection with any of the above.

<http://ncorwiki.buffalo.edu/index.php/Ontology_Class_2009>From Aristotle to the Universal Core: Ontology Training Event, Buffalo, NY, October 10-11, 2009

Details are provided at http://www.bioontology.org/wiki/index.php/Tutorials_and_Classes

To enroll in this course, students must be force registered. Please contact the department for more information regarding registration procedures, or visit the following website:

http://www.bioontology.org/wiki/index.php/UB_Student_Registration

For further information please write to phismith@buffalo.edu.

543 Topics Legal Philosophy

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
EHR	Mondays	9:00-11:40 AM	Kenneth Ehrenberg	141 Park	432922

What exactly is the law telling us to do and what justifies its doing so? Joseph Raz's "service conception" of authority holds that an authority telling people how to act is justified when it enables people to do better at following reasons that already apply to them (both moral and prudential) than they would on their own. It is this kind of authority that is claimed by the law (as Raz sees it). We will develop our own understanding of legal authority by using Raz's theory (and criticisms of it) as a foil.

549 Applied Ontology

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
BIT	Wednesdays	2:00-4:00 PM	Thomas Bittner	120 Baldy	457658

This class provides an introduction to the emerging field of Applied Ontology. Applied Ontology is understood as the application of formal ontological principles that were developed in philosophy to specific domains such as geography, medicine, biology, etc. Special attention is devoted to the development of ontologies for Geographic (Spatial) Information Science. This is an introductory class. The curriculum is conceived with no special prerequisites. The course will introduce the students to the foundations of formal ontology. The course will cover fundamental issues of the ontology of space and time as well as specific aspects of the ontology of geographic space, geographic objects, and the geography of the human body. Alternatively, the course will also introduce the students to ontology as a discipline of information science and knowledge representation. Every student is required to write a paper of approximately 8-10 pages and to present this paper in a 20 min talk in class. In their papers the students will present an ontology of some aspects of their area of expertise.

561 Plato

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
YU	Thursdays	1:00-3:00 PM	Jiyuan Yu	141 Park	457352

This graduate seminar is to achieve a critical understanding of the *Republic*. Selections from other Platonic dialogues that deal with related issues will also be discussed. Issues to be studied include Socratic elenchus, moral skepticism and certainty, the relation between virtue and knowledge, the unity of virtue, the division of the soul, the relation between morality and metaphysics, and the philosopher-king dilemma. Text: *Plato: Complete Works*, edited by John Cooper, Hackett, 1997

579 Philosophy of War

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
DPT	MW	12:30-1:50 PM	Randall Dipert	17 Clemens	203367

The main goal in this course is to introduce students to historical and contemporary ideas in the morality of war—when it is morally justified (if ever) to go to war, and if soldiers are already fighting in a war, which means are morally permissible and which aren't (such as torture, cruel weapons, killing civilians). These are the two main components of what been called Just War Theory, *Jus ad bellum* (morality in going to war) and *Jus in bello* (moral within war). The moral issues involving war are a subject of keen contemporary interest, since the U.S. is engaged in two wars, one of which was begun by a controversial strategy (preemptive war) and both of which involve complex moral judgments about prisoners of war, accidental killing of civilians, and torture. Among our readings will be parts of the U.N. Charter, the Geneva and Hague Conventions. We will study the relationship between the philosophy of morality and international law. The main questions in the philosophy of war, even more than the rest of morality, involve difficult questions about difficult concepts, such as nation-state, military forces, commands, threats, and especially intentional actions, sometimes events that cover whole continents. Consequently, we will devote approximately the first half of the course to the *ontology* of war: the exact definition of war and a careful examination of what kinds of entities are involved in wars. This would include theories of organizations, autonomous soldiers as agents, speech acts, weapons, destruction, harm, and civil reconstruction, as well as events: wars, battles, and so on. This will expose students to original research being done right here in Buffalo; in fact Buffalo is arguably the center of research in the ontology of the military and intelligence. The course will have two instructors: Randall R. Dipert, CS Peirce Professor of Philosophy, who has taught this subject, including at West Point, and has published and given lectures on the definition and ontology of war, preemptive war, and war and game theory. The second instructor did his PhD on the ontology of the military but has also been in the regular and reserve sections of the U.S. Army for over twenty years, in the Infantry and now Civil Affairs branches as a major. He is the Group Manager of the UB contract for the U.S. Army on military ontology. Requirements will involve essay and short-essay tests, as well as 1-2 papers. Those graduate students taking the course for graduate credit can expect some alternative instruction on advanced and specialized topics and must complete an original research paper.

596 Graduate Dissertation Seminar

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
WIL	Mondays	1:00-3:00 PM	Neil Williams	141 Park	030959

Arranged

598 Ecological and Environmental Restoration

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
SHO	Tuesdays	2:00-4:40 PM	Kenneth Shockley	1004 Clemens	248235

This course will examine humanistic, social, and technological dimensions of ecological restoration from Native American Ecocentric, multicultural and analytic perspectives. This examination will incorporate the inherently multidisciplinary nature of ecological restoration. The relationship between restoration and human ecology, including matters of culture, social context, and situated knowledge, will be emphasized. Current and recent case studies will be analyzed, and the applicability of policies associated with those case studies considered. The underlying notions of restoration, sustainability, adaptation, and ecosystem will be critically examined, both conceptually and normatively.

634 Topics: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
BEE	Tuesdays	5:00-7:00 PM	James Beebe	141 Park	390432

This course will provide a survey of the new, interdisciplinary movement known as 'experimental philosophy.' The movement involves philosophers and cognitive scientists using experimental methods to shed light on questions of perennial philosophical concern. Much of the work involves exploring intuitive judgments about actual and hypothetical cases that figure prominently in contemporary philosophical debate. We will cover the most prominent experimental results from this fledgling movement and prominent philosophical critiques of it as well. A graduate conference on experimental philosophy (Oct. 2nd) and an experimental epistemology workshop (Oct. 3rd) at UB will be incorporated into the course.

Bringing together philosophy and cognitive science should be uncontroversial, given that philosophers have long recognized the relevance of cognitive science to much of philosophy (especially, e.g., epistemology, moral psychology, philosophy of mind generally). However, various factors have combined to make experimental philosophy far more controversial than it needs to be. One is that some (but only some) experimental philosophers believe that traditional "armchair" philosophizing should be completely abandoned. This rejection of the methods traditionally employed by philosophers is why the burning armchair has become the official symbol of the movement. You should notice, however, that on the posters for the experimental epistemology workshop I will be hosting in the fall there are two armchairs—one burning, one not. The (possibly cheesy) symbolism here is that I think experimental philosophy (and cognitive science generally) can very usefully inform traditional philosophizing without putting an end to it. Some further details about experimental philosophy at UB can be found here: <http://eerg.buffalo.edu/>.

637 Contemporary Political Theory

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
COH	Wednesdays	4:00-6:00	Richard Cohen	141 Park	258986

As originally conceived, democracy as a bulwark against tyranny depends on an informed and responsible public. But in the age of secularism, mass communication, global Capitalism and multi-national States with hundreds of millions of citizens, new questions and challenges have arisen regarding the very nature of politics and the possibility of democracy. We will read works by 20th century political theorists such as Alexandre Kojève, Wilhelm Reich, Herbert Marcuse, Carl Schmitt, Jean Baudrillard, Jürgen Habermas Ernst Bloch, who have raised these questions and challenges.

COL 703 Interpretation: Philosophy, Art, and Literature

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
A	Tuesdays	7:00-9:00 PM	Jorge Gracia	640 Clemens	317444

This course will concentrate on three topics: one general and two specific. The general topic is interpretation as explored in current theories. One specific topic is the artistic interpretation of literature and another the philosophical interpretation of art. The general topic will be the locus for raising questions such as: What is an interpretation? What kinds of interpretations are there? How is an interpretation justified? What is the role of intention in interpretation? What is the object of interpretation? Are there definitive interpretations? Are interpretations relative, and if so, in what way? These questions will then be explored further in the context of the two specific topics. For example, the general question, How is an interpretation justified? will be recast as: What is an artistic interpretation of literature? and What is a philosophical interpretation of art? The general question, How is an interpretation justified? Will become: How is an artistic interpretation of literature justified? and How is a philosophical interpretation of art justified? And so on with the other questions. These topics will be explored through readings from a variety of recent authors that will probably include Margolis, Olsen, Carroll, Lamarque, Krausz, Elkins, Lopes, Danto, and Davies, and from more classical figures, such as Sartre and Foucault. Central to the course will be the UB Galleries art exposition, "Carlos Estevez's Images of Thought" (Nov. 5, 2009-Feb 6, 2010), and the project, "Painted Borges: Philosophy Interpreting Art Interpreting Literature." The first will be curated by Gracia and will be accompanied by a book: *Images of Thought: Philosophical Interpretations and Carlos Estevez's Art* (2009), and the second by a draft of a book manuscript on the artistic interpretation of Borges' stories. Students who wish a letter

grade will be required to write a paper and should register for section A. Students who want a pass/fail need only attend classes and participate in the discussion, and they should register for section B.

CSE 719 Seminar on Computational Theories of Consciousness

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	Reg Number
RAP	TBA	TBA	William Rapaport	TBA	079694

(to be continued as a 700-level CSE seminar, Spring 2010, under the direction of Prof. Stuart C. Shapiro)
This seminar is planned as the first of a 2-semester seminar on philosophical and computational theories of consciousness. Students do not have to register for both semesters. During the first semester, we will focus on philosophical theories of consciousness, especially those of Dennett and Chalmers, as well as looking briefly at the cognitive neuroscience of consciousness, all with an eye on the goal of implementing consciousness computationally.