

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Spring Semester January 25 – May 7, 2021

[PHI 528 Philosophy of Language](#)

Professor David Braun
Monday, 1:00 PM – 3:40 PM
Delivery mode – online: real time and recorded
Class #: 24374

Course description will be forthcoming at a later date.

[PHI 556 Special Topics: Adam Smith on Moral Sentiment](#)

Professor Lewis Powell
Wednesday, 1:00 PM – 3:40 PM
Delivery mode – online: real time and recorded
Class #: 22475

Though it is frequently overshadowed by his better known “Wealth of Nations,” Adam Smith’s “Theory of Moral Sentiments” was a significant contribution to early modern philosophy of emotion, moral theory, and social/political philosophy. In this course, we will be focusing primarily on this text (though we will also read some additional primary and secondary sources), in order to better understand Smith’s views, and their place in the history of the early modern period.

[PHI 634 Relativism and Antirealism in Philosophy](#)

Professor James Beebe
Friday, 1:00 PM – 3:40 PM
Delivery mode – online: real time and recorded
Class #: 24820

This course will examine various forms of relativism and antirealism in ethics, epistemology, and philosophy of science. In particular, we will discuss indexical relativism and truth relativism in ethics and epistemology and will briefly look at expressivism in both domains. In the philosophy of science, we will examine instrumentalism and (to a lesser extent) constructivism. Each of these views takes some important domain of statements to have truth values that vary across contexts or to fail to have truth values in any straightforward sense. Thus, in one way or another, they either deny that these statements are objectively

true or false or take them to have truth values in ways that conflict with more traditional forms of realism.

Courses like Introduction to Philosophy or Introduction to Ethics often present simplistic and implausible forms of relativism or antirealism early in the semester as perspectives that need to be decisively refuted before serious philosophical discussion and learning can begin. However, the forms of relativism and antirealism mentioned above are all viewed as serious philosophical contenders by researchers in these areas. There is thus a mismatch between the way these views are often treated in survey courses and how they are treated in scholarly debate. If they are reasons to give serious consideration to well-developed versions of these views in philosophical research, there should be reasons to give them serious consideration in the classroom as well, which is what we will do. We can obtain a proper understanding of what realism in ethics, epistemology, or philosophy of science is and what reasons there are for endorsing realism only if we have a good understanding of the kinds of genuine alternatives realism should be contrasted with.

We will probably read *Relativism* by Maria Baghramian and Annalisa Coliva (Routledge, 2020) and either *Resisting Scientific Realism* by K. Brad Wray (Cambridge, 2018) or *The Instrument of Science: Scientific Anti-Realism Revitalised* by Darrell P. Rowbottom (Routledge, 2019), together with some other articles. A final decision about course readings will be made at a later date.

PHI 634 Topics in Metaphysics & Epistemology: Metaphysics

Professor Neil Williams

Tuesday, 1:00 PM – 3:40 PM

Delivery mode – online: real time and recorded

Class #: 24378

Course description will be forthcoming at a later date.

Individual Tutorial Course Sections

See [HUB Registration site](#) for Individual Tutorial Course Sections with Philosophy Department Faculty, to be arranged with permission of instructor:

PHI 599 Graduate Tutorial

PHI 702 MA Thesis Guidance Tutorials (Arranged with Professor)

PHI 704 Dissertation Guidance Tutorials (Arranged with Professor)