

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Revised May 19, 2010

Course Descriptions

Summer 2010

FIRST SESSION - J (May 17 - June 25)

| Reg # | Course | Days | Time | Instructor | Room |
|------------------------|-----------------|------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 105073 | PHI 107J Ethics | TR | 6:30p-9:40p | Robert Earle | Knox 104 |

This course is intended to introduce the major ethical works and debates in the history of Western philosophy. Major attention will be given to Plato's early dialogues, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism*. Lectures will focus on elucidating the principles, distinctions, historical foundations, and application of these philosophers' ethical theories. Throughout the course the students will be asked to think critically about the implications of each of these accounts of morality. Moreover, toward the end of the term, students will be presented with contemporary issues in the field (such as abortion, environmental value and animal rights, and capital punishment), which will require them to apply the principles of these major historical texts. There are no prerequisites for the course. However, attentive reading and quality contributions to discussion will be expected.

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|------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 342901 | PHI 115J Critical Thinking | MTWRF | 11:20a-12:35p | Frederic Tremblay | Clemens 102 |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|

This course is designed to introduce the student to some of the basic methods of scientific methodology and logical reasoning. It is divided into four parts: (1) Classification: In this part we study the scientific method of classification into taxonomies using the theory of genus, species, and differentia and learn how to use this method to provide scientific definitions. (2) Arguments: In this part we introduce a method for dissecting and analyzing arguments, namely the diagramming method, and we look at a few fallacies of reasoning. (3) Deductive reasoning: In this part we learn some of the basic rules of classical deductive logic and practice deductive operations by applying these rules. (4) Inductive reasoning: In the last part we examine some of the kinds of inductive reasoning, such as inductive generalizing and inductive analogy, and learn how to make strong inductions. The course combines lectures and in-class exercises. Textbook: David Kelly, *The Art of Reasoning*, 3rd ed., W.W. Norton & Company, 1998

[356816](#)

PHI 337J Social & Ethical
Values in Medicine

TR

6:30p-9:40p

Joel Potter

Park 141

This course introduces students to current issues of applied ethics that are relevant to the medical profession. These issues include: abortion, commercial surrogacy, criteria for death, euthanasia, organ procurement, patient care, patient autonomy, and stem cell research. Students taking this course learn to identify the major positions taken on these issues and the merits of some of the most significant arguments offered in their defense. Students also become acquainted with major ethical theories like virtue ethics, deontology, and consequentialism, and metaphysical topics like personal identity and ontology, as these relate to issues in medical ethics. The class sessions will consist in an even balance of lecture and discussion. Upon completion of this course students should have a basic understanding of important ethical principles and issues, and an ability to consider and understand the various positions on medical issues.