

Revised April 18, 2011

Fall 2011 - CAS Department of Philosophy Graduate Courses

<http://www.philosophy.buffalo.edu/courses>

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| PHI 539 EHR | Philosophy Of Law | | Ehrenberg, K |
| W | 10:00am-12:50pm | Park 141 | 32638 |

This is a 'great books' survey of 4 (or 5) classic texts of modern legal philosophy, the theories contained in which are collectively at the core of just about every discussion in general jurisprudence today. H.L.A. Hart's Concept of Law, Lon Fuller's Morality of Law, Ronald Dworkin's Law's Empire, and John Finnis' Natural Law and Natural Rights. If we are very ambitious we may also read Joseph Raz's Morality of Freedom.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|
| PHI 544 KOR | Aesthetics | | Korsmeyer, C |
| M | 1:00-2:50pm | Park 141 | 37302 |

This year the graduate seminar in aesthetics will probably concentrate on three themes: (1) The nature of aesthetic properties, a subject that covers issues of subjectivity and objectivity, perception, and evaluation; we shall also revisit the old problem of 'taste' with a look at new materials, including some that deal with the literal, gustatory sense of taste. (2) Emotional arousal by art and its role in apprehending the meaning of works of art. (3) Challenges to notions of intention and creativity that certain new media, such as computer-generated art, raise to traditional concepts governing in the area. At appropriate points some historical background will be covered to orient us to contemporary issues.

At this writing exact texts to cover have not been determined, but they are likely to include Jenefer Robinson, Deeper than Reason: Emotion in Literature, Art, and Music, and Dominic McIver Lopes, A Philosophy of Computer Art, as well as a set of essays on the subject of aesthetic properties. Students are advised to check with the instructor later for a final set of readings.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| PHI 549 BIT | Applied Ontology | | Bittner, T |
| W | 3:00-4:50pm | Frnczk 454 | 26806 |

This class is an introduction to formal and applied ontology with focus on problems in 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 the philosophy of geography. 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

PHI 634 HER
T

Metaphysical Foundations of Bioethics
1:00-3:50pm

Park 141

Hershenov, D
37306

The course will be concerned with the metaphysical foundations of bioethics. We will examine how Neo-Lockean, dualist, animalist, four-dimensionalist, constitutionalist, Hylomorphic and brain-sized conceptions of the person bear upon issues such as abortion, embryonic stem cell research, informed consent, advanced directives, organ procurement, ownership of body parts, and the definition and criterion for death. The various theories have different implications about the origins and endings of those beings confronted in medical settings. As a result, there will sometimes be disagreements between the views about whether there exists a subject who could possibly be wronged or benefited by various medical procedures. We'll also consider the possibility that the metaphysics of identity is irrelevant to most of the above issues, all the work being done by moral and psychological considerations. One strain of this idea is due to Derek Parfit's famous claim "that identity isn't what matters to us in survival," rather, what is important is our being psychologically connected to a future individual. So even if an individual is identical to a certain future being, the extent of any earlier interests of that individual in avoiding future harms and obtaining future benefits depends upon the degree of that individual's psychological connections to the future in question. This might mean that while a medical procedure like abortion deprives an individual of a future, it doesn't harm that individual because of her lack of psychological connections to the future in question. Another recurring theme will be how well the different theories of personal identity deal with what Sydney Shoemaker labeled the 'Too Many Thinkers Problem.' If there are overlapping beings each capable of thought (e.g. persons, animals, brains etc.), this will have significant implications for whether medical care can be autonomously chosen by each thinker and whether their interests could conflict.

Individual Course Sections with Philosophy Department Faculty

Permission of Instructor Required:

<http://registrar.buffalo.edu/schedules/>

PHI 599 Graduate Tutorial (Day/Time Arranged with Professor)

PHI 700 Thesis Guidance (Day/Time Arranged with Professor)

PHI 701 MA Guidance (Day/Time Arranged with Professor)

PHI 703 Dissertation Guidance (Day/Time Arranged with Professor)

