

## Spring 2012 - CAS Department of Philosophy Graduate Courses

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

**PHI 519 DIP**

Tu/Th

(combined with 489 DIP)

**Metalogic**

11:00am-12:20pm

Park 141

**Dipert, R**

24235

The course will assume knowledge of material in PHI 315 (Symbolic Logic). Anyone who has not successfully completed this course at UB must receive the permission of the instructor. We will survey in the first three weeks deductive theories of propositional and first-order predicate logic, but emphasize alternative systems (such as axiomatic and differing “natural deductive” formulations), alternative notations and connectives, and alternative propositional logics (such as 3-valued logics). The majority of the course will be devoted to a discussion of the major metalogical results about these logics: their completeness, consistency, decidability and undecidability, and various conjectures and proofs about computability (as well as more recent results about computational complexity and tractability). We will discuss extensively some elements of the proofs of, and the exact meaning of, the Löwenheim-Skolem Theorem and the two Gödel Incompleteness Theorems.

The likely texts are George Boolos, Richard Jeffrey et al., *Computability and Logic* (5th edition 2007) and Theodore Sider’s *Logic for Philosophy* (2010).

**PHI 525 KEA**

Friday

**Philosophical Analysis**

1:00pm-3:00pm

Park 141

**Kearns, J**

24236

This course will focus on the philosophy of John Searle. We will begin by considering J.L. Austin’s *How to Do Things With Words*, then move on to Searle’s major works, from *Speech Acts* through *The Construction of Social Reality*. Searle remains one of the most important living philosophers, and may well have a major impact on philosophy in the Twenty-First Century. We will survey his work, to determine what it contains of permanent value. It is a prerequisite of this course that students be familiar with (have read) the major works concerning reference and proper names. These include Frege’s “On Sense and Reference,” Russell’s “On Denoting,” Strawson’s “On Referring,” Russell’s “Reply to Mr. Strawson,” and Kripke’s *Naming and Necessity*.

**PHI 528 BRN**  
Monday

**Philosophy of Language**  
2:00pm-4:00pm

Park 141

**Braun, D**  
24237

This will be an advanced course in philosophy of language. The most likely topic will be questions, answers, and knowledge-wh, including knowledge-how, but it is also possible that the topic of the seminar will be contemporary contextualism and relativism. The exact topic will be announced a few weeks before the first day of class. I will assume that all students in the seminar have taken a course equivalent to our Philosophy 328 (Philosophy of Language) and Philosophy 315 (Symbolic Logic). It will be useful to have taken the equivalent of our Philosophy 519 (Topics in Logic) or Philosophy 619 (Modal Logic). This course will be open to matriculated graduate students in philosophy. All others must have my permission to enroll.

**PHI 575 WJR**  
Wednesday

**Intro to Cognitive Sci**  
2:00 – 3:50pm

ARR

**Pfordresher, P**  
11129

An introduction to cognitive science, an interdisciplinary approach to the study of thought as it exists in any thinking agent (typically humans, but extending to non-human animals and machines). We will consider methodology, assumptions, and research problems of cognitive science and such cognitive-science disciplines as anthropology, artificial intelligence, linguistics, neurosciences, philosophy, and psychology. In particular, we will consider how research efforts that combine aspects of multiple disciplines can facilitate our understanding of cognition. This course will be centered around the colloquia sponsored by the Center for Cognitive Science. When the center sponsors a guest speaker, that speaker's talk will function as a guest lecture, and the class will attend the lecture and also engage in a special discussion with the guest afterwards. On weeks where there is no guest, the class will take on the more familiar context of a graduate level lecture-discussion.

**PHI 578 LAW**  
Tuesday

**Kant's Ethics**  
1:00pm-3:30pm

Park 141

**Lawler, J**  
24238

Kant's ethics occupy a central place in his three critiques. The first Critique prepares the metaphysical space for the second. If deterministic science is true of reality, then morality, with its crucial assumption of free will, is an illusion. So it was necessary for Kant to "to deny knowledge, in order to make room for faith" as he says in the Preface to the Critique of Pure Reason. Since knowledge is limited to appearances, although we cannot know that we have free will, we can still believe that our will is free. Kant's faith-related moral philosophy therefore occupies this metaphysical space opened up by the critique of scientific knowledge. It is important to keep in mind this perspective in considering what Kant says about morality. To focus exclusively on the role of reason in Kant's ethics is to miss the significance of this initial framework, with its critique of knowledge and its grounding of a moral faith. Moreover, it is not enough to understand what is morally right; it is necessary to realize one's moral duties, the culminating ideal for which is the creation of a just society, what Kant calls "the highest good." Kant's third critique, the Critique of Judgment, develops a teleological conception that complements the mechanism of science but is open to incorporating the

perspectives of morality. In this perspective of the realization of the moral ideals, both Kant's aesthetics and his historical and political essays provide essential components for the understanding of morality.

The second critique therefore makes complete sense only within the frameworks provided by the first and the third critiques. In the light of the system of three critiques, the course focuses primarily on Kant's small but intricate work, the Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals. Lectures and supplied reading materials will provide sufficient information regarding Kant's three critiques and relevant essays.

In addition to regular attendance and participation in lecture discussions, a final 15-20 page paper, incorporating both research in Kant scholarship and the essential ideas of the course, will be required.

<b>PHI 579 YU</b>	<b>Stoicism</b>		<b>Yu, J</b>
Tuesday	3:35pm-5:35pm	Park 141	24239

This seminar examines the major themes of the Stoic philosophy, including physics, epistemology, logic, theology, determinism, political philosophy, but the central focus will be on the stoic ethics. We seek to understand what it is to be a Stoic and why be a Stoic, trace the relation between Socrates and the stoics, and explores the Stoic contributions to contemporary ethical debates.

Texts: A. A. Long and D. N. Sedley, 1987, The Hellenistic Philosophers 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [1987]. You can also have Inwood and L. Gerson, Hellenistic Philosophy 2nd ed. [Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1997], but it does not have commentary and does not contain Greek. Since the sources of our knowledge about Stoicism are fragmentary, interpretations have been various and contested. I will supply the most influential papers on each topic we cover.

<b>PHI 598 CHO</b>	<b>Heidegger in Perspective (incl. East-West dialogue)</b>		<b>Cho, K</b>
Monday	12:00-2:00pm	Park 141	24240

The seminar is concerned with the following three major questions:

- (1) Heidegger's view of the "beginning of philosophy" in the West
- (2) The End of Philosophy and the Task of Thinking
- (3) The Significance of Heidegger's "Engagement" with Eastern tradition

Heidegger's own Introduction (ca. 50 pages) to Being and Time will be discussed during the first two weeks to offset the uneven background of the participants.

Reading materials will be selected from:

- (1) D. F. Krell, ed. Martin Heidegger, Basic Writings, Harper & Row
- (2) Graham Parkes, ed. Heidegger and Asian Thought, University of Hawaii Press
- (3) Some handouts

<b>PHI 604 BAU</b>	<b>Teaching Philosophy</b>		<b>Baumer, W H</b>
Monday	4:00pm-4:50pm	Park 141	16207

**PHI 640 TR1**

Wednesday

**Graduate Research Ethics**

5:00pm-7:40pm

NSC 228

**Smith, S**

11341

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the field of ethics of scientific research and will satisfy all Federal requirements for education and exposure of graduate and post-doctoral students.

Commencing with an overview of the underlying philosophical approaches to ethical behavior the course will provide a background of the nature of science and the scientific method . The issue of whether science is value-neutral and whether there are areas of science that should not be explored will be discussed as well as the moral responsibilities of scientists who undertake research that may be used for destructive purposes.

Following this comprehensive introduction the course will deal with the nature of fraud, plagiarism and other unacceptable behavior in research, the ethics of scientific publication, the role of whistleblowers in science and intellectual property and scientific integrity, Human subject research will be discussed from the medical, social, and behavioral aspects, including cultural issues, and the roles of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). The role of animals in medical research will be analyzed with particular emphasis on animal well-being and the benefits and drawbacks to animal research. Contemporary issues in biotechnology, including stem cell research, cloning, genetic screening, genetic enhancement, will be discussed and whether they represent the key to “eternal life or the opening of Pandora’s box”.

**PHI 698 KOR**

Thursday

(combined with 489 KOR)

**Simone de Beauvoir**

1:00pm-3:30pm

**Korsmeyer, C**

Park 141

24241

Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) was an existentialist philosopher, feminist theorist, and prize-winning novelist. Although her work has long been overshadowed by that of her associate Jean-Paul Sartre, recent scholarship has begun to reveal the extent of her independence and originality of thought. This course will consider Beauvoir’s ideas as they appear in her philosophical treatises, stories, and novels. We shall read *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, the moral philosophy that she developed in response to criticisms of Sartre’s *Being and Nothingness*; and her most influential book, *The Second Sex*, which advances a systematic analysis of gender and sexual difference. We shall also read from her late work, *Coming of Age*, and from her fiction to discover how her philosophical and her literary writings are mutually illuminating. Videotaped interviews with Beauvoir and discussion of her influence on contemporary philosophy will also be considered.

**GEO 655 BIT**

Th

**Advanced topics in Geographic Info Systems**

6:30pm-9:10pm

Wilksn 145C

**Bittner, T E**

16058

**Individual Course Sections with Philosophy Department Faculty  
Permission of Instructor Required:**

PHI 599 Graduate Tutorial (Arranged with Professor)  
PHI 702 MA Thesis Guidance (Arranged with Professor)  
PHI 704 Dissertation Guidance (Arranged with Professor)