

Spring 2012 CAS Department of Philosophy Undergraduate Courses

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

PHI 101 BEE	Intro. to Philosophy		Beebe, J
M	6:00pm - 8:40pm	Cooke 121	13444

This course will introduce students to some of the basic questions and methods of philosophy. We will begin by looking at the birth of Western philosophy in ancient Greece. We will read three of Plato's dialogues and will learn about the life of Socrates, the first great Western philosopher. We will then wrestle with philosophical questions such as the following: What must one do to be truly happy? Are there absolute truths? Is truth relative? Is it ethically permissible to clone human beings? Is euthanasia morally permissible? How is the mind related to the brain? Is it anything more than the brain? Can computers think? Do humans have free will? If so, what is the nature of that freedom? Is it rational to believe in God? Is the existence of evil incompatible with the existence of a wholly good God?

PHI 101 CHO	Intro. to Philosophy		Cho, K
MWF	9:00am-9:50am	O'Brian 109	15620

In addition to discussing the standardized introductory topics such as Reality, Knowledge, Ethics, Religion, Art, Mind and Body, based on the works of classical Western philosophers, the course is designed to make ourselves to be more critically inquisitive about what we normally take (in the Western world) for granted. For this purpose, a second textbook with sources from John Dewey and Confucius, is selected. Required texts: 1. R. Solomon, *Introducing Philosophy*, 10th edition, Oxford University Press. 2. Joseph Grange, *John Dewey, Confucius, and Global Philosophy*, 2004, SUNY Press

PHI 101	Intro. To Philosophy		Newhouse, D
MWF	9:00am-9:50am	Clemens 119	17897

Philosophy 101 is an introductory course for those with little or no background in the formal study of philosophy. However, since I think most everyone engages in philosophical reflection at some point in their lives, I suspect that most of you have some background in philosophy. One of the goals of this course is to cultivate your engagement in philosophical reflection. In order to accomplish this, we will examine some of the major topics that philosophers have raised in the past 2500 years. Some of the topics we will consider include the existence of God, the nature of justice, and the nature of ethics. Through our examination of these topics students will become familiar with historical and contemporary perspectives on particular questions that are fundamental to human existence.

PHI 107 DON

Tu/Th

Ethics

12:30pm-1:50pm

Donnelly, M

Baldy 101

15301

Nearly everyone assumes that some human actions are morally good while other human actions are morally wrong. However, there is often considerable disagreement over the moral worth of particular actions. The primary purpose of this class is to examine different proposals for distinguishing between morally acceptable and morally unacceptable actions. We will focus on moral principles which are based on substantial philosophical arguments and which purport to be independent of specific cultural practices. We will also consider: i) the extent of a person's responsibility for his or her actions and ii) what reasons can be given for choosing good actions and refraining from bad actions. Students should expect a substantial amount of reading from historical and contemporary sources. Grades will be based on regular class participation and examinations.

PHI 107

MWF

Ethics

11:00am-11:50am

Li, W

Baldy 101

17898

As an introductory course in ethics, this class will deal with a range of moral and ethical theories and issues. We will examine such timeless questions as: What makes some actions morally acceptable and others not? Should culture and society impact how one views issues of ethics? What is the relationship, if any, between human nature and morality? Do we have any moral obligations to nature and other nonhuman animals? As the emphasis of the class is on philosophy and ethics, students should not expect a set of guidelines and doctrines on how to be a good person. Instead, we will look at moral problems through the lens of arguments and reason. Course materials will include a sampling of historical and contemporary philosophical writings: Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Mill, Nietzsche, Sartre and much, much more.

PHI 115 BIT

Tu/Th

Critical Thinking

11:00am-12:20pm

Bittner, T E

Clemens 322

11462

PHI 115 NEW

MWF

Critical Thinking

12:00-12:50pm

Williams, N

Alumni 97

11460

This course is an introduction to deductive techniques used in appraising arguments. The primary focus of the course is to learn how to formalize and evaluate arguments of ordinary language. This will involve translations of ordinary expressions into symbolic form and truth table analysis of arguments. As part of our look at the logical machinery we will consider such notions as truth, validity, and soundness, as well as the structure and form of the arguments themselves. Formal and informal fallacies will be discussed, as will the notions of necessary and sufficient conditions. A portion of the course will be dedicated to the assessment of categorical statements and categorical syllogisms, including the use of Venn diagrams. In addition to serving as an

introduction to the argument structures found in philosophy and everyday reasoning, this course is an excellent aid to LSAT preparation.

PHI 129 EHR **Justifying Legal Authority** (Honors Seminar) **Ehrenberg, K**
Tu/Th 2:00pm-3:20pm Capen 108 24207

What can possibly legitimate the government telling you what to do? Sure, they can put you in jail if you don't do what they say, but that doesn't give them the RIGHT to order you around. The answer to this question involves both moral and political philosophy: an understanding of rights and duties and an understanding of what kinds of groups and organizations give rise to those rights and duties. We will discuss some classic texts from both areas of philosophy, and augment them with some modern ideas.

PHI 162 EHR **Law, Morality and Authority** **Ehrenberg, K**
Tu/Th 11:00am-12:20pm Baldy 110 24208

This class will be a survey of major works in moral and political philosophy. Our goal will be to discover the nature and limits of legal authority by investigating a variety of views about moral and political norms.

PHI 217 BAU **Professional Ethics** **Baumer, W H**
Tu/Th 12:30-1:50pm Clemens 119 16206

This course introduces central ethical issues and problems of various professions, *e.g.*, business, engineering, government, health care, law, and the sciences. The course uses case studies and essays presenting and discussing these issues. Course sessions combine lectures and discussion. Course requirements include three exams and a research essay. The goals of the course are to provide basic knowledge of approaches to ethics and to common ethical issues in professional activities, and ability to analyze and address these issues.
The course text is *Ethical Issues in Professional Life*, edited by Joan C. Callahan, Oxford U. Press, New York, ©1988 [paperbound].

PHI 298 SHO **Practical Ethics** **Shockley, K**
MWF 11:00am-11:50am Jacobs 122 23655

This introductory course is designed to introduce students to the role of ethical deliberation in a range of practical contexts. The class considers problems posed for professionals in light of managerial, economic, and environmental contexts. The tools found in ethical deliberation will be used to consider what principled options are available, how to weigh those options in a meaningful fashion, and how to render decisions that are based on the best available evidence. The class will emphasize the practical nature of ethics in a manner that both recognizes the specific context in which particular ethical problems occur, and the independence of ethical

deliberation from any particular social, national, or legal context. Rather than attempt to show what is the right thing to do, the goal of this course is to characterize and demonstrate the importance of ethical deliberation in accessing the optimal course of action.

PHI 315 KEA	Symbolic Logic		Kearns, J
MWF	10:00am-10:50am	Clemens 06	15946

In this course, we develop two logical theories to investigate the two fundamental languages of modern logic, the propositional language whose logical expressions are symbolic connectives, and the quantificational language of first-order logic with identity. In developing each theory, we will consider the truth conditions of sentences in the language, and develop techniques for determining when statements imply other statements, and when statements are incompatible. For the propositional language, these techniques involve truth-tables. For each theory, we will investigate a deductive system for exploring arguments and proofs which employ sentences in the logical language, and will gain proficiency in constructing such arguments.

PHI 320	Philosophy of Mind		Ray, P
M	6:00 - 8:40pm	Knox 14	15946

This course will address some principal topics of philosophy of mind: dualism, behaviorism, functionalism, identity theory, consciousness, and representational theory. The course text(s): John Heil, "Philosophy of Mind: A Contemporary Introduction" Routledge, 2nd edition. David Chalmers (ed.), "Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings" Oxford University Press. Prerequisites: Pre-Requisite: Student must have taken one PHI course in a prior term.

PHI 329 WIL	Metaphysics		Williams, N
MWF	11:00am-11:50am	Clemens 119	11105

Metaphysics is concerned with the most fundamental categories of existence. These include events, particulars, properties, persons, facts, and so on. The aim of metaphysical investigation is to provide a unified account of how these categories are connected with one another, in order to illuminate the basic structure of our world. Within this enterprise, certain relations and processes are of special importance to the metaphysician, these include: causation, persistence, composition, supervenience, and possibility. In some cases it might be argued that certain categories are empty (there is nothing of that type in our world), or that certain relations can be accounted for in terms of the others (they can be 'reduced'). Other times it might be argued that the categories or relations on offer are inadequate for dealing with the world as we know it, in which case new ones may be introduced.

The best way to approach metaphysics is through the consideration of certain problems; as one begins to think about how best to solve these problems, the connections between the many metaphysical problems become clear. With that in mind, this course will pay close attention to five major metaphysical issues (universals; particulars; time; causation; persistence) but in so doing we are likely to touch on most of the topics that fall within the range of metaphysics.

PHI 334 SHO
MW

Environmental Ethics
12:00-1:15pm

Clemens 17

Shockley, K
11457

Environmental ethics is an area of study that examines how humans ought to relate to and interact with their environment as individuals, through organizations, and as a species. This course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the key philosophical issues and arguments within this growing field. It will be of particular value not only to Philosophy majors and those concentrating in environmentally oriented disciplines, but also to those with a keen interest in humankind's complicated relationship with our natural environment.

PHI 337 HER
Tu/Th

Soc Eth Values in Medicine
11:00am-12:20pm

Cooke 121

Hershenov, D
11456

The course is designed both to provide moral guidance to future medical professionals as well to enable citizens to develop informed and reasonable positions on the most important bioethical issues of the day. Students will become familiar with the leading arguments on both sides of the following contemporary bioethical controversies: abortion, euthanasia, organ transplants, human cloning, commercial surrogate motherhood, advanced directives, informed consent, and the definition and criterion of death. The readings are chosen to provide opposing positions. Each topic covered will have a second author arguing against the position defended in the first reading, usually commenting on the very author and essay just read. Even if students don't switch sides on an issue due to the course readings, lectures and discussions, the hope is that they will not only be able to give a stronger defense of their own positions but will also come to better appreciate the considerations that favor the opposing side. This might play a small role in making public debate more civil and reasonable. The methodologies employed in the class should make students more aware of their own basic values, perhaps revealing to them commitments of which they were previously unaware. Students will learn how to construct philosophical arguments and critically read philosophy essays. All the required reading will be made available through the library electronic course reserve.

PHI 337 TA1
MWF

Soc Eth Values in Medicine
11:00am-11:50am

Clemens 322

Koch, P
16495

This course will examine ethical problems in medicine from a philosophical perspective. Among the issues to be addressed are: abortion, stem cell research, physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, defining death, organ transplants, human cloning, deceiving patients and informed consent. At the end of the course, students will gain a basic understanding of the rigorous philosophical method that bioethics utilizes and some of the fundamental questions asked by bioethicists.

PHI 337 TA2
MWF

Soc Eth Values in Medicine
9:00am-9:50am

Kimball 108 (S. Campus)

Spencer, M
11461

This course will introduce students to basic ethical principles and to how these principles are applied to problems in contemporary medical ethics. This course is intended for students who do not have a background in philosophy but need or want a knowledge of issues in medical ethics. This section of this course is intended especially for nursing students. We shall begin with a survey of important contemporary ethical theories. We shall then consider ethical principles which are important for bioethics, such as informed consent, autonomy, and beneficence. Next, we shall apply these principles and theories to specific ethical issues including abortion, stem cell research, euthanasia, and organ procurement. We shall examine opposing positions on each of these issues. There will also be articles and class sessions devoted to issues related to ethical problems which are important for nurses to understand, and issues regarding the role of a nurse. A key focus of this course is the importance of these issues to understanding what we are as human persons. Upon completion of this course students should have a basic understanding of important ethical principles and issues, an ability to consider and understand the various positions on medical issues, and an ability to clarify their own opinions on these issues.

PHI 337 TA3
Tu/Th

Soc Eth Values in Medicine
11:00am-12:20pm

Clemens 04

Potter, J
11463

This course introduces students to current issues of applied ethics that are relevant to medical and health services professions. 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 issues 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.

PHI 345 KOR
Korsmeyer, C

Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art

Tu/Th

9:30am-10:50am

Baldy 110

24210

This course will be an immersion in aesthetics and the philosophy of art. We shall cover such topics as: the role of art in society and the potential for danger in the arts and entertainment; the nature of artistic creativity and expression; the experience of beauty and of the sublime; the paradoxical enjoyment of tragedy and horror; and the aesthetics of food and drink. Because the concepts of art and aesthetic value develop historically and vary culturally, we shall consider historical material alongside contemporary theories. Not only standard artworks but also popular entertainment, food, and art forgeries will be considered.

PHI 360 YU

Ancient Philosophy

Yu, J

Tu/Th

12:30pm-1:50pm

Clemens 19

17796

This course will cover the development of Greek philosophy from Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, to the Hellenistic period. Students are expected to learn and understand the basic assumptions, methods, terminologies, and doctrines of Greek philosophy that have so deeply shaped the whole Western culture. Course sessions will combine lectures, presentations, and in-class discussions. Textbook: *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*, eds. by Reeve and Miller (Hackett, 2006)

PHI 398 DIP

Philosophies of War and Peace

Dipert, R

Tu/Th

9:30am-10:50am

Park 141

24213

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to historical and contemporary thinking about the philosophy of war and especially about the morality of war—when it is morally justified (if ever) to go to war, and when soldiers are already fighting in a war, which means are morally permissible and which aren't (such as torture, cruel weapons, or killing civilians). As always in philosophy, we are concerned mainly with carefully developing *reasons* why certain positions might be correct. 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, use of automated or remotely controlled weapons (drones), and torture. A recent topic of considerable interest that we will discuss is the ethics of cyberwarfare—what should be the moral considerations in nation-on-nation attacks on computer systems, such as via the internet. Among our readings will be parts of the U.N. Charter, the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and U.S. military laws of warfare.

The likely textbook is Brian Orend's *The Morality of War* (2006) as well as several essays published in the last 10 years. The instructor was a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and is currently a member of an inter-agency research group at the U.S. Naval Academy studying the ethics of cyberwarfare.

It would be helpful if students have had a previous course in philosophy, especially in ethics or political philosophy, but this is not a requirement.

PHI 398 DON

Tu/Th

Philosophy through Film

11:00am-12:20pm

Clemens 06

Donnelly, M

24212

The purpose of this course is to examine philosophical issues as explored through film. Among other issues, we will consider how different films address questions concerning personal identity, ethics, and knowledge. In addition to studying the philosophical issues raised within specific films, we will also consider the special advantages or disadvantages of film in general as a medium for the presentation of philosophical ideas. For this part of the course, we will read and discuss philosophical writings about film. We will consider the role of emotion in film viewing, the potential for fictional films to convey objective knowledge about the world, and the extent to which films might be morally praiseworthy or blameworthy. Students should be prepared for regular reading and writing assignments. **STUDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO WATCH SOME OF THE ASSIGNED FILMS ON THEIR OWN OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME.** Grades will be based on short written assignments, class presentations, and one paper.

PHI 489 DIP

Tu/Th

Metalogic

11:00am-12:20pm

Park 141

Dipert, R

15195

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 489 KOR

Th

(Combined with PHI 698)

Simone de Beauvoir

1:00pm-3:30pm

Park 141

Korsmeyer, C

24534

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.

PHI 498 BEE
ARR

Undergraduate Research Activity
ARR

Beebe, J
16106

Individual Course Sections with Philosophy Department Faculty

Permission of Instructor Required:

PHI 402 Philosophy Honors Tutorial (Arranged with Professor)

PHI 499 Undergraduate Tutorial (Arranged with Professor)