

Fall 2010 – CAS Department of Philosophy Graduate Courses

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

PHI 519 HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC - [Prof. Corcoran](#)

W 9:00-11:50 am 141 Park [244344](#) COR

This 10-meeting full-credit seminar will meet 3 hours each week instead of the usual two. It develops the background, skills, and methods involved in reading the classic articles that have come to constitute the textual foundation of modern logic. Focusing on Aristotle, Boole, Frege, Tarski, and Gödel, logic is construed, first narrowly, as the study of the underlying logics of the various mathematical sciences and, then more broadly, as the study of the ontic and epistemic presuppositions of mathematical practice. Much of the seminar will treat selections from the writings of the professor, John Corcoran. Most graduate students who intend to do doctoral research in logic or in logic-related fields will benefit from this material. Weekly reports, weekly exercises, two one-hour half-term exams, two publishable 300-word ASL-type abstracts, one publishable 10-page paper. Corcoran will be available for consultation on drafts of all assignments.

Prerequisites: one graduate logic course or two undergraduate logic courses.

PHI 528 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE - [Prof. Braun](#)

W 1:00-3:00 pm 141 Park [257816](#) BRN

This will be an advanced course in philosophy of language. Among the possible topics will be non-referring terms and semantics; questions, answers, and knowledge-wh, including knowledge-how; and contemporary contextualism and relativism. The exact topic(s) will be announced on the first day of class. I will assume that all students 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 is open to graduate students only.

PHI 579 PHILOSOPHY OF EXISTENCE - [Prof. Cohen](#)

W 5:00-7:00 pm 141 Park [474013](#) COH

What profound intellectual and spiritual changes are pronounced or registered when contemporary philosophy comes to take “existence” seriously? At the least it overturns and challenges our civilization’s longest and deepest commitments, not merely producing a mirror image. It signifies the revival of the body and imagination in the face of mind, of mortality and worldliness in relation to infinity, of history and contingency instead of necessity, and of time and change at the expense of eternity. These developments begin with the philosophy of Henri Bergson, and continue in Heidegger, Ortega, Merleau-Ponty, Foucault, Levinas, Habermas and Deleuze, among others, of whom we will study selected texts.

PHI 548: BIOMEDICAL ONTOLOGY PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

[Prof. Barry Smith](#) AND [Prof. Mathias Brochhausen](#)

M 4:00-6:00 pm 141 Park [392274](#) BS

The focus of this course is the question: What is a disease? Topics to be addressed will include: the special problems of mental disease; what is it to be biologically normal?; the ontology of pain and other symptoms; the role of genes and environment. We shall also address more general ontological problems in biology, including: What is a species? What is a biological function?

Preliminary reading:

Neil Williams, The Factory Model of Disease, http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/gi_0199-8835041/The-factory-model-of-disease.html

PHI 549 INTRODUCTION TO FORMAL AND APPLIED ONTOLOGY - [Prof. Bittner](#)

W 3:00-5:00 pm 141 Park [016291](#) BIT

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 objects, and the geography of the human body. Alternatively, the course will also introduce the students to ontology as a discipline of information science and knowledge representation.

PHI 589 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

TOPICS IN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY: PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY - [Prof. Cho](#)

M 11:00-1:00 pm 141 Park [044115](#) CHO

Toward the end of Critique of Pure Reason, Kant raised the three questions: 1)"What can I know?", 2)"What should I do?", 3)"What may I hope?".

The concept of philosophical anthropology effectively harks back to the 4th, final question with which Kant summed up all three preceding questions: "What is Human Being?".

Our seminar shall examine the major facets of this question and seek their underlying unity on the basis of the following selected materials:

Max Scheler, Man's Place in Nature

John Dewey, Human Nature and Conduct

Ernst Cassirer, An Essay on Man

Arnold Gehlen, Man in the Age of Technology

J.P. Sartre, Existentialism is Humanism

Martin Heidegger, Letter on Humanism

PHI 596 GRADUATE DISSERTATION SEMINAR - [Prof. Williams](#)

F 11:00-1:00 pm 141 Park [235285](#) WIL

This course is a required course for all philosophy graduate students who have completed their coursework and are now either preparing a thesis topical or writing thesis chapters. Students may enroll more than once, and are encouraged to do so, but if space is limited (14 max.) priority will be given to students who have recently defended or are working on Topicals, typically in their 4th year of graduate studies. The aim is to help students complete their dissertations in a more timely manner, and achieve greater success with career placement.

Offered in the Fall of each year, this course is a writing intensive course with a central presentation component. Course content is entirely dictated by the dissertation topics students are engaged in—students will be presenting original work in preparation for thesis prospectus or dissertation chapters. All students will get exposure to the issues covered by their peers, and gain useful presentation skills and practice. Students will be instructed in how to improve their presentation skills, and will receive oral feedback from their peers, and oral and written feedback from the instructor. Attendance is mandatory (within reason); all students will present at least once, more times if enrollment permits. The course will be graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U).

Individual Course Sections for Philosophy Faculty:

PHI 599 Graduate Tutorial (Arranged with Professor)

PHI 700 Thesis Guidance (Arranged with Professor)

PHI 701 MA Thesis Guidance (Arranged with Professor)

PHI 703 Dissertation Guidance (Arranged with Professor)

