

UB Winter Session, January 4 - 24, 2017

**Department of Philosophy**  
**Undergraduate Course Descriptions**

<http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/philosophy/undergrad-study/ug-courses.html>

**Course Descriptions**

**PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy**

On-line Only

Class #10187

Instructor: John Beverley

This course introduces three central topics of philosophy: Free Will, Knowledge, and the Existence and Nature of God. Some of the questions considered include: Do humans have free will, and if so, is free will compatible with science? Are we justified in claiming knowledge about domains of inquiry? Is knowledge merely true belief? Can I know there are other minds? Is it possible for a human to survive death? Are there valid arguments for the existence of God? Is the existence of evil compatible with the existence of God? We will consider several arguments for and against positions on these topics. In considering these arguments, we will learn to extract, evaluate, and explain arguments. At NO time will this course require students to be on campus.

**PHI 105 Contemporary Moral Problems**

On-line Only

Class # 10288

Instructor: Jake Monaghan

This course philosophically examines contentious moral issues of the day. Among the topics that may be discussed are, abortion, capital punishment, affirmative action, obligations of wealthy nations to poor nations, duties to non-human animals, vegetarianism, sex workers, pornography, legalized gambling and lotteries, gun control, drone warfare, human enhancements through drugs and prostheses, homosexual marriage, racial profiling and legalization of currently illegal drugs. At NO time will this course require students to be on campus.

**PHI 107LEC - Ethics**

On-line Only

Class # 10141

Instructor: Robert Kelly

This course introduces you to some of the central topics, questions, and thinkers in moral philosophy as well as the basic method for analyzing and constructing philosophical arguments. We will move through the main areas within ethics (value theory, normative ethics, metaethics, and applied ethics) and focus on developing the skills needed to read, discuss, and write about different issues within moral philosophy. We'll address questions like: Is anything intrinsically good for us? What makes an action morally right? Is morality just subjective? Is abortion morally wrong? Is torture ever morally

permissible? Occasionally, the readings/topics will be supplemented with relevant empirical work pertaining to the issues that are discussed. The coursework consists in daily readings, weekly reading questions, discussion posts (4/week), three short essays, and two short tests.

At NO time will this course require students to be on campus.

### **PHI 115 LEC Critical Thinking**

On-line Only

Class #10039

Instructor: Botan Dolun

Examines techniques of problem solving, decision making, and evaluating pros and cons of an issue; organizing data; forming strategies and giving reasons; perceptual, cultural, emotional, intellectual, and expressive blocks to thinking; and simple inductive reasoning and statistical fallacies.

At NO time will this course require students to be on campus

### **PHI 237 Bioethics; Social and Ethical Values in Medicine**

On-line Only

Class #10227

Instructor: J. Neil Otte

This course will survey issues in social and medical ethics, particularly issues at the margins of life (e.g. embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, abortion, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, death, and organ donation) and issues pertaining to the relationship between patients and healthcare providers (e.g. patient autonomy, informed consent, advanced directives, the nature and goals of medical practice, and conscientious objection). We will also look at arguments concerning how technological advances in medicine (e.g. embryo selection, serotonin inhibitors) affect how we think about ourselves and respond to others."

At NO time will this course require students to be on campus.