Fall 2014
Department of Philosophy
Graduate Course Descriptions

http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/philosophy/grad-study/grad_courses.html

CANCELLED: PHI 519 (w/489) DIP **Topics in Logic: Phi Software** **Dipert, R**
(Special Topics)   #22597

After a rapid review of propositional and quantificational logic, including some alternative logics and alternative notations, we will study two important "extensions" of first-order logic, axiomatic formulations of mereology (part-whole theory) and axiomatic (Zermelo-Fraenkel) set theory.   We will discuss some of the philosophical issues that surround these theories but will mostly explore their deductive structure.   The last part of the course will be devoted to software tools for use in exploring logical theories: the computer language Prolog (and the paradigm of logic programming), software tools in Prolog, and then various "automatic" theorem-provers and reasoners, such as Prover9 and SNARK.   At the end of the course we will also look at logical formulations of metaphysics, in the form of characteristic axioms of the Basic Formal Ontology (BFO 2.0).

PHI 556 PWL **Topics in History of Philosophy** **Powell, L**
TH,   4:00-6:50 **Park 141** **#24196**

In this course, we will read Thomas Reid's Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense, as well as related works from John Locke, David Hume, George Berkeley and Mary Shepherd, as well as secondary literature on these figures. Thomas Reid's concerns in the work are centered around Epistemology, Perception, and the Philosophy of Mind.
Students will gain familiarity with some major early modern positions about epistemology and perception, and influential criticisms of those views.

The main text of our seminar, The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics, was originally a lecture Heidegger held during 1929/30. His major work, Being and Time, appeared only two years earlier, and his famous inaugural address at the University of Freiburg, "What is Metaphysics?", was delivered in 1928. It was a period of Heidegger's intensely critical thinking, concentrated on the problem of metaphysics. More specifically, it was an inquiry into the problem of how metaphysics inevitably emerges as an event, as phenomena, and what motivates and sustains it.

Heidegger certainly would not follow Aristotle, defining human being as "Rational Animal", because full-fledged animality and rationality are mutually exclusive and could exist as a unity of only a toned-down version of those two traits, which means it is a tertium that cancels out both characteristics.

On the other hand, taking the pre-philosophical, ordinary everyday understanding of the meaning of "being", however clear and firm, could not serve even as a tentative first step toward a metaphysical inquiry. Heidegger already pointed out such a futility of relying on a "doxic possession" of knowledge by quoting from Plato's Sophist. (Being and Time, p.1)

In The Fundamental Concepts, Heidegger employs the technique of "origin analysis" in much the same way as Husserl's phenomenology does. But Heidegger puts a greater stress on the "worldhood" as it exerts powerful attuning role via human moods. Being emotionally attuned to "boredom" means not only that we are passively swept into the mood (of solitude and finitude), but such sentiment serves also a certain enabling purpose. Was it not the mood of "anxiety" in Being and Time that not only wrapped us up with the veil of "anxiety", but somehow empowered us with it, to affirm a life of metaphysical finitude, to be oneself, but also to show a little bit of c a r e, to recognize different modes of being in the world.

Stressing the true meaning of "Being in the middle of the entities" (inter-esse), Heidegger extrapolated in his lecture some observations on organic forms of life, profoundly aware of what enormous rampage we humans have brought into the heart of living nature through their technological, mechanistic technological encroachments. Heidegger's turning toward other forms of life, like animals (though they are poor in world), rocks and stones (though they are worldless), and talking about the organic life in general, was not an excursion, an amateurish dabbling with some isolated events at the fringe of biological experiment. We are enabled to see

nature differently because we humans are not essentially only "anthropo-centric", but more fundamentally because we exist in a unique way with the question of "meta-physics" in the middle of being with other forms of life.

CANCELLED: PHI 579 (w/489) DIP Philosophy of War and Peace   Dipert, R
(Special Topics)   #24208

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. has recently been 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 in the course will be parts of the U.N. Charter, the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and U.S. military laws of warfare.
The instructor was a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and worked for a year with 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 579 KNG   *Topics in Ethics*   **King, A**
                                 (Special Topics)
Wed,   4:00-6:50   **Park 141**   **#22618**

This course will cover central issues in the debate about the 'ought implies can' principle. We will cover some of the historical underpinnings of the contemporary debate, including figures like Kant and W.D. Ross, then turn to the contemporary literature. There, we'll look at articles that focus on the principle itself, as well as ways in which the principle interacts with other neighboring issues. We'll discuss the connection between 'ought implies can' and, for example, the semantics of 'ought', pragmatics, free will, and justifications/excuses

PHI 596 WIL	Grad Dissertation Seminar	Williams, N
Mon, 7:00-9:50	Park 141	#22703

PHI 598 SMI	Ontological Engineering	Smith, B
Mon, 4:00-6:50	Clemen 322	#22690

This course will provide an introduction to the methods and uses of ontological engineering, focusing on applications in areas such as military intelligence, healthcare, and finance. It will provide an overview of how ontologies are created and used, together with practical experience in the development of ontologies using the (OWL) Web Ontology Language. It will also address some of the human factors underlying the success and failure of ontology projects, including issues of ontology governance and dissemination. The course will be built out of 3-hour sessions, each of which will involve 2 hours of lecturing and discussion and 1 hour of practical experience with ontology editing software and other Semantic Web technologies. The course will feature occasional guest lectures by leading ontologists from Buffalo and elsewhere. Further details are available at: http://ncorwiki.buffalo.edu/index.php/Ontological_Engineering

PHI 599 *All Faculty*	Graduate Tutorial	*All Faculty*
ARR	*ARR*	*Per HUB site*

PHI 605 DGS	Supervised Teaching	Williams, N
ARR	*ARR*	#17551

PHI 637 HER	Seminar on the Soul (Special Topics)	Hershenov, D
Wed, 1:00-3:50	Park 141	#22691

This seminar will deal with the question of whether human beings have souls. We will look primarily at contemporary philosophers who defend or attack Cartesian, Emergent Dualist or Hylomorphic conceptions of the soul. Some of the arguments in favor of the soul have to do with considerations of conceivability and modality, the unity of consciousness, identity over time, the problem of too many thinkers, and the alleged inability of materialists to explain qualia, intentionality, normativity, mental causation and free will. We will also look at those who deny the existence of the soul on the basis of considerations having to do with explanatory impotence, the neurological dependence of thought, puzzles of individuation, and various problems of causal interaction: pairing problem, conservation of energy, and closure of the

physical. Although the syllabus hasn't been finalized, I suspect papers by most of the following authors will be on the syllabus as required or recommended: Alvin Plantinga, William Lycan, Peter van Inwagen, Paul Churchland, Peter Geach, Howard Robinson, Daniel Dennett, Eleonore Stump, Patrick Toner, Jaegwon Kim, Dean Zimmerman,   Peter Unger, Will Bynoe and Nick Jones, Eric Olson, Adam Taylor, David Hershenov, W.D. Hart, Richard Swinburne, Charles Taliafero, James Ross, Edward Averill and Bernard Keating, Eugene Mills, William Hasker, Ernest Sosa, Gary Rosenkrantz and Joshua Hoffman.

PHI 637 WIL	**Proseminar: 1ˢᵗ Year Writing Seminar (Special Topics)**	**Williams, N**
Mon, 1:00-3:50	**Park 141**	**#24201**
PHI 701 *All Faculty*	**MA Thesis Guidance Tutorials**	*All Faculty*
ARR	*ARR*	*Per HUB site*
PHI 703 *All Faculty*	**Dissertation Guidance Tutorials**	*All Faculty*
ARR	*ARR*	*Per HUB site*

See HUB Registration site for Individual Tutorial Course Sections with Philosophy Department Faculty to be Arranged with Permission of Instructor:

PHI 599   Graduate Tutorials   (Arranged with Professor)
PHI 701   MA Thesis Guidance   (Arranged with Professor)
PHI 703   Dissertation Guidance Tutorials   (Arranged with Professor)

See Office of the Registrar for policy and registration requirements
http://registrar.buffalo.edu/schedules/index.php

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