Fall 2011 - CAS Department of Philosophy Graduate Courses

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

PHI 539 EHR	Philosophy Of Law		Ehrenberg, K
W	10:00am-12:50pm	Park 141	32638

This is a 'great books' survey of 4 (or 5) classic texts of modern legal philosophy, the theories contained in which are collectively at the core of just about every discussion in general jurisprudence today. H.L.A. Hart's Concept of Law, Lon Fuller's Morality of Law, Ronald Dworkin's Law's Empire, and John Finnis' Natural Law and Natural Rights. If we are very ambitious we may also read Joseph Raz's Morality of Freedom.

PHI 544 KOR	Aesthetics		Korsmeyer, C
М	1:00-2:50pm	Park 141	37302

This year the graduate seminar in aesthetics will probably concentrate on three themes: (1) The nature of aesthetic properties, a subject that covers issues of subjectivity and objectivity, perception, and evaluation; we shall also revisit the old problem of 'taste' with a look at new materials, including some that deal with the literal, gustatory sense of taste. (2) Emotional arousal by art and its role in apprehending the meaning of works of art. (3) Challenges to notions of intention and creativity that certain new media, such as computer-generated art, raise to traditional concepts governing in the area. At appropriate points some historical background will be covered to orient us to contemporary issues.

At this writing exact texts to cover have not been determined, but they are likely to include Jenefer Robinson, Deeper than Reason: Emotion in Literature, Art, and Music, and Dominic McIver Lopes, A Philosophy of Computer Art, as well as a set of essays on the subject of aesthetic properties. Students are advised to check with the instructor later for a final set of readings.

PHI 549 BIT	Applied Ontology		Bittner,T
W	3:00-4:50pm	Frnczk 454	26806

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 556 MCG	Topics in History of Phil		McGlone, M
W	2:00-3:50pm	Park 141	37303

This graduate seminar will focusing on topics in the history of early analytic philosophy. More specifically, it will focus on Frege's and Russell's views regarding propositions and related topics. Readings from Frege will include "Function and Concept", "On Sense and Reference", "On Concept and Object", "Thoughts", "Negation", and "Compound Thoughts". Readings from Russell will include "On Denoting" and selections from *The Principle of Mathematics, Principia Mathematica, The Problems of Philosophy*, and *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*.

РНІ 589 СОН	Contemporary Philoso	phy	Cohen, R
W	4:00-5:50pm	Park 141	37304

An examination of the ethical philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas focusing on politics and justice. What is the right relation of politics to justice? Of politics to morality? Of these to religion? For Levinas justice without morality is tyrannical, and morality without justice is merely sentimental. Contra Hobbes, Spinoza and Hegel (and Foucault), he defends an explicitly "u-topian" politics of social democracy: regulating the coercive powers of the State by justice, a justice itself regulated by morality. What is the role of religion in this complex? With Kant's *Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone* in mind, we will ask what is the right role of religion in relation to the State within the limits of morality?

PHI 596 WIL	Grad Dissertation Seminar		Williams, N
F	1:00-2:50pm	Park 141	24968

PHI 598 KS	Perspectives on Ecological Restoration		Shockley, K
Tu	2:00-5:00pm	Clemens 1004	28125

This course will examine humanistic, social, and technological dimensions of ecological restoration from Native American Ecocentric, multicultural and analytic perspectives. This examination will incorporate the inherently multidisciplinary nature of ecological restoration. The relationship between restoration and human ecology, including matters of culture, social context, and situated knowledge, will be emphasized. Current and recent case studies will be analyzed, and the applicability of policies associated with those case studies considered. The underlying notions of restoration, sustainability, adaptation, and ecosystem will be critically examined, both conceptually and normatively.

PHI 605 BAU	Supervised Teaching		Baumer, W
ARR	ARR	ARR	25332

PHI 634 HER	Metaphysical Foundations of Bioethics		Hershenov, D
Т	1:00-3:50pm	Park 141	37306

The course will be concerned with the metaphysical foundations of bioethics. We will examine how Neo-Lockean, dualist, animalist, four-dimensionalist, constitutionalist, Hylomorphic and brain-sized conceptions of the person bear upon issues such as abortion, embryonic stem cell research, informed consent, advanced directives, organ procurement, ownership of body parts, and the definition and criterion for death. The various theories have different implications about the origins and endings of those beings confronted in medical settings. As a result, there will sometimes be disagreements between the views about whether there exists a subject who could possibly be wronged or benefited by various medical procedures. We'll also consider the possibility that the metaphysics of identity is irrelevant to most of the above issues, all the work being done by moral and psychological considerations. One strain of this idea is due to Derek Parfit's famous claim "that identity isn't what matters to us in survival," rather, what is important is our being psychologically connected to a future individual. So even if an individual is identical to a certain future being, the extent of any earlier interests of that individual in avoiding future harms and obtaining future benefits depends upon the degree of that individual's psychological connections to the future in question. This might mean that while a medical procedure like abortion deprives an individual of a future, it doesn't harm that individual because of her lack of psychological connections to the future in question. Another recurring theme will be how well the different theories of personal identity deal with what Sydney Shoemaker labeled the 'Too Many Thinkers Problem.' If there are overlapping beings each capable of thought (e.g. persons, animals, brains etc.), this will have significant implications for whether medical care can be autonomously chosen by each thinker and whether their interests could conflict.

Individual Course Sections with Philosophy Department Faculty

Permission of Instructor Required:

http://registrar.buffalo.edu/schedules/

PHI 599	Graduate Tutorial	(Day/Time Arranged with Professor)
PHI 700	Thesis Guidance	(Day/Time Arranged with Professor)
PHI 701	MA Guidance	(Day/Time Arranged with Professor)
PHI 703	Dissertation Guidance	(Day/Time Arranged with Professor)