

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER I 2018 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2300-001 **Beginning Philosophy** **10:00-11:50** **MTWRF** **ENG/PHIL 163**

Dr. Jonathan Drake

This course introduces students to the philosophical treatment of significant issues. Such issues include:

- How should we live, and why? What should we do?
- What is it to be rational? What is knowledge? How can I get it?
- Does God exist? What is God like? Can we prove it?
- What is it to have a mind? To be conscious? How is subjective experience possible?
- What is it to be a person? What is it to be *me*?

We will get acquainted with philosophy by trying to understand what some of the great philosophers have said about some of these questions, and by talking about these questions together.

PHIL 2310-001 **Logic** **12:00-2:00** **MTWRF** **PHIL 163**

Dr. Joel Velasco

This course is an introduction to formal logic focused on two artificial languages, propositional logic and first-order logic. By studying these languages (and translating sentences of natural language--sentences of English--into them), we will develop some tools to help us understand and evaluate arguments built up out of ordinary English sentences. We will also develop a better understanding of important philosophical concepts, such as truth and meaning. Overall, we will learn to use mathematical and logical reasoning to evaluate the validity of an argument. Assessment will be by exams and homework, which will require you to apply various tools and techniques in making such evaluations.

PHIL 2320-D01 **Introduction to Ethics** **12:00-2:00** **MTWRF** **PHIL 164**

Dr. Jeremy Schwartz

How should we live? What is a good life? Ought I to forgo my own interests for the interests of another? Is it sometimes permissible to kill innocent human beings? Is it permissible to kill animals for food? Ethical philosophy attempts to answer these sorts of questions through reason and reflection. Within current ethical philosophy, there are three major schools of thought on how these sorts of questions should be answered: utilitarianism, virtue theory, and deontology. While each of these attempts to shed light on all of these questions merely through reason and reflection, each of them arrives at very different answers to these questions. In this class, we will investigate utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue theory in some detail by closely reading both the founding texts of each of the ethical theories as well as reading some modern re-interpretations and criticisms. In addition, in the last part of the class, we will seek to apply these theories to three test cases: abortion, animal rights, and global poverty. The application to test cases should both shed light on our intuitions about these morally contested issues but also shed light on the ethical theories themselves.

PHIL 3322-H01 **Biomedical Ethics** **2:00-3:50** **MTWRF** **ENG/PHIL**

Dr. Francesca DiPoppa

Is abortion always immoral? Is euthanasia? Are these morally permissible under certain circumstances, or maybe always? Everyone has an opinion about this. But there is a big difference between feeling a certain way about abortion, or euthanasia, or stem cell research, and having a philosophically informed opinion. This class will offer you the tools to be a philosophically informed participant in some of the most important debates in bioethics today.

PHIL 5310-001 **History of Aesthetics** **10:00-11:50** **MTWRF** **ENG/PHIL 264**

Dr. Francesca DiPoppa

We will read philosophical texts from Plato to Croce discussing issues such as the nature of art, art and morality, art and society, the nature of artistic talent, aesthetic experiences, and others.