

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER I 2018 COURSE

PHIL 2300-001 **Beginning Philosophy** **10:00-11:50** **MTWRF**
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 at

PHIL 2310-001 **Logic** **2:00-4:00** **MTWRF**
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 use logical tools to help us understand and evaluate arguments built up out of ordinary English sentences. We will also develop an understanding of important philosophical concepts, such as truth and meaning. Overall, we will learn to use mathematical logical reasoning to evaluate the validity of an argument. Assessment will be by exams and homework, which will apply various tools and techniques in making such evaluations.

PHIL 2320-D01 **Introduction to Ethics** **12:00-2:00** **MTWRF**
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 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: utilitarianism, virtue theory, and deontology. While each of these schools sheds 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 the founding texts of each of the ethical theories as well as reading some modern re-interpretations and criticisms. In the last part of the class, we will seek to apply these theories to three test cases: abortion, animal rights, and global climate change. 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**
Dr. Francesca DiPoppa

Is abortion always immoral? Is euthanasia? Are these morally permissible under certain circumstances, or may they be? Everyone has an opinion about this. But there is a big difference between feeling a certain way about abortion, 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 3334-001 **Philosophy of Biology** **10:00-2:00** **MTWRF**
Dr. Joel Velasco

This course will examine a range of philosophical questions that arise within the study of evolutionary biology and its application to the human sciences. We'll first discuss questions concerning selection, fitness, adaptationism, and explanations. We'll then look at Sociobiology and Evolutionary Psychology with an eye toward thinking about human nature. We will then ask how we can (and should) study human behavior and finally, we will ask if huma

PHIL 5310-001

History of Aesthetics

10:00-11:50 MTWRF

Dr. Francesca DiPoppa

We will read philosophical texts from Plato to Croce discussing issues such as the nature of art, art and morality

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