

## DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER II 2017 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**PHIL 2300-001 Beginning Philosophy 10:00-11:50 MTWRF ENG/PHIL 150**

**Dr. Joseph Gottlieb**

This course is an introduction to philosophy via three themes: God, morality, and the nature of persons and our identity over time. We will read classic and contemporary sources on each topic. In addition to thinking hard about these challenging topics, an overarching course goal is to use these topics as a way to learn to how to read difficult texts, and develop the skills necessary for evaluating not just complex philosophical arguments, but more causal arguments that one

**PHIL 2310-001 Logic 10:00-11:50 MTWRF ENG/PHIL 164**

**Dr. Christopher Hom**

A central aspect of reasoning is the ability to give deductive arguments for one's conclusions. Logic is the formal representation of arguments, so mastering logic is essential for good reasoning. In this course, we will investigate the underlying, logical form of sentences and the deductive relations that hold between them, thus giving us deeper insight into the notion of inference from premises to conclusion. The course will present three logical systems, each in increasing expressive power: sentential logic, monadic quantificational logic, and polyadic quantificational logic. For each system, we will closely examine the syntax of the system, its relation to English, its particular semantic features, and the general properties of satisfiability, validity, implication and equivalence

**PHIL 2320-001 Introduction to Ethics 10:00-11:50 MTWRF ENG/PHIL 163**

**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.