

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

2014 SUMMER SESSION I

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2300-001	Beginning Philosophy	10:00-11:50 MTWRF	ENG/PHIL
PHIL 2300-002	Beginning Philosophy	2:00 -3:50 MTWRF	ENG/PHIL

Dr. Francesca DiPoppa

This class will offer an overview of important questions and topics addressed in ancient and contemporary philosophical debates. Some of these questions are: what is the nature of knowledge? What is right and wrong, and how can we know? Is there a proof for the existence of God? What is a just society? What is a meaningful life? Readings include Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume and contemporary philosophers such as Armstrong, Nagel, Frankfurt and others.

PHIL 2310-001	Logic	10:00-11:50 MTWRF	ENG/PHIL
PHIL 2310-002	Logic	12:00- 1:50 MTWRF	ENG/PHIL

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	Intro to Ethics	12:00-1:50 MTWRF	ENG/PHIL
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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 5310-001	History of Aesthetics	10:00-11:50 MTWRF	ENG/PHIL
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Dr. Darren Hick

If someone declares a painting or a sunset or a body beautiful, is this the sort of statement that can be true or false? Or is beauty just in the eye of the beholder? How do we know the beautiful when we see it? Do we (or should we) assess the beauty of nature in the same way that we assess the beauty of art? In this course, we will explore the history of perennial philosophical questions about the nature of beauty and art, beginning with the Ancients, continuing through the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and up to the Modern period. Philosophers to be studied may include: Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine, St. Bonaventure, Leon Baptista Alberti, Marsilio Ficino, Francis Hutcheson, David Hume, Edmund Burke, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Schiller, Friedrich Wilhelm von Schelling, and GWF Hegel.