

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER II 2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2300-101	Beginning Philosophy	12:00-1:50	MTWRF	PHIL 163
Douglas Westfall				

This class will take seriously the questions that have bothered you since childhood. Questions like: What can we know? Do I have a soul? Free will? Is there a God? How should I live my life? What is justice? etc. This class will focus on classic texts in order to shed light on these problems while providing an introduction to the philosophic cannon.

PHIL 2320-D01	Introduction to Ethics	ONLINE	ASYNCHRONOUS
Dr. Justin Tosi			

What makes a human life go well? Can I be wrong about what is good for me, or is it just good to get what I want? Is figuring out the right thing to do in any case just a matter of figuring out what would do the most good, or are there some things we should not do no matter how much good results? And isn't all of this just subjective anyway? This course surveys some of the main philosophical views on these issues. Along the way we'll apply what we've learned to contested moral questions about issues like abortion, poverty relief, and freedom of expression.

PHIL 3322-D01	Biomedical Ethics	12:00-1:50	MTWRF	ASYNCHRONOUS
Francesca di Poppa				ONLINE

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 3325-101	Environmental Ethics	10:00-11:50	MTWRF	PHIL 260
Douglas Westfall				

We will discuss the conceptual and moral questions surrounding human population and consumption of resources, loss of biodiversity and wilderness areas, and human use of nonhuman animals by focusing on questions like: Since we probably can't live without harming the environment in some way, is there a way to reduce or offset that harm? How do we decide between competing harms? Is there a moral justification for eating meat? What do we do if our obligations to present and future people conflict? A surprising variety of questions are inextricably linked to environmental concerns and we will try to understand the implications of various positions by using the concepts and methods of inquiry introduced in this course. You will be encouraged to explore and refine your own positions by familiarizing yourself with some contemporary arguments in these areas and making a recommendation for action with your final assignment.

PHIL 3341-101	Philosophy and Literature	2:00-3:50	MTWRF	PHIL 264
Anna Ribeiro				

What kinds of texts are literary works'? Is a work identical with its text'? How do we interpret literary works'? How do we evaluate them'? Is it irrational to feel emotions for fictional characters? Do we acquire knowledge by reading poems or novels that we could not have acquired by other means'? We will discuss these and other questions relating to literature as they have been investigated by contemporary analytic philosophers as well as Plato, Aristotle, David Hume and others.