

# DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## 2016 SUMMER SESSION I

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

<b>PHIL 2300-001    Beginning Philosophy</b>	<b>10:00-11:50 MTWRF</b>	<b>ENG/PHIL 163</b>
<b>Dr. Darren Hick</b>		

This is a general introduction to philosophy, designed to acquaint students with certain significant problems as they are considered by major philosophical figures. These are not esoteric questions but instead ones central to ordinary human experience. Students will be encouraged to formulate and defend their own answers to these questions, using the concepts and methods of inquiry introduced in the course. This process will help improve students' abilities to think more critically and to communicate with greater clarity and precision.

<b>PHIL 2310-002            Logic</b>	<b>12:00- 1:50 MTWRF</b>	<b>MCOM 163</b>
<b>Dr. Christopher Hom</b>		

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.

<b>PHIL 2310-D01            Logic</b>	<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Dr. Jonathan Dorsey</b>		

This course focuses on the syntax, semantics, and derivation system for sentential logic and predicate logic. The student will learn not only the formal theory of logic but also how to use it to assess the validity of arguments in natural language.

<b>PHIL 2320-001            Intro to Ethics</b>	<b>10:00-11:50 MTWRF</b>	<b>ENG/PHIL 164</b>
<b>Dr. Jeremy Schwartz</b>		

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.

<b>PHIL 2350-260            World Religions and Phil.</b>	<b>International TTU MTWRF</b>	<b>Seville, Spain</b>
<b>Dr. Mark Webb</b>		

This course is a study of seven major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. We will study the doctrines and practices of each of these religions; then, for each religion, we will critically examine some element of doctrine or practice to see if it can be justified. For example, we will critically examine the doctrines of karma and reincarnation, the doctrine of monotheism, the problem of evil, and the doctrine of the incarnation. This course satisfies the multiculturalism requirement.

<b>PHIL 3322-001    Biomedical Ethics</b>	<b>2:00-3:50 MTWRF</b>	<b>ENG/PHIL 264</b>
<b>Dr. Francesca DiPoppa</b>		

Everybody has an opinion about abortion or euthanasia. But are they philosophically informed opinions? Can you tell? This class will teach you how to form and analyze philosophical arguments on a number of controversial issues in bioethics, including, but not limited to, abortion, euthanasia, health care resources, stem cell research, and informed consent.

**PHIL 3324-260 Philosophy of Religion International TTU MTWR****Barcelona, Spain****Dr. Jonathan Dorsey**

This course provides an overview of key topics in philosophy of Western religion via a mixture of classic and contemporary readings. Part one of the course concerns arguments for the existence of God as well as the problem of evil. Part two of the course covers other key topics, including i) the role of faith and reason in forming one's beliefs, ii) God's nature, iii) miracles, iv) death and mortality, and v) religion as it relates to science. In addition to our philosophical reflections on religion we will also visit important sites of religious interest in and around Barcelona to experience firsthand the amazing historical and cultural influences of religion in the region for the past two millennia.

**PHIL 4323-260 Phil of Art in Barcelona International TTU MTWR****Barcelona, Spain****Dr. Anna-Christina Ribeiro**

Aesthetics is the philosophical study of art and beauty. Barcelona is a city renowned for its vibrant artistic culture and the natural beauty of its surroundings, nestled as it is between mountains and the Mediterranean Sea. In this course we will study four central concepts in the philosophy of art (definition of art, ontology of artworks, aesthetic experience, and aesthetic and artistic value). We will also discuss philosophical accounts of several art forms, such as architecture, the visual arts, music, dance, and popular art. Finally, we will look at two recent developments in aesthetics, environmental aesthetics and standpoint aesthetics. Throughout the course, we will visit some of the most famous cultural sites in Barcelona, and discuss them in light of the texts we read.

*This course satisfies the Texas Tech Multicultural Core Requirement, and counts toward the major or minor in philosophy.*

Course prerequisites: One course in philosophy and a minimum 2.5 GPA or permission from the instructor