

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER I 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2300-101	Beginning Philosophy	10:00-12:15	PHIL 260
Dr. Anna Ribeiro		MTWR	
<p>We all want to live a good life. But what is a life well lived? Some of us want lots of money. Others want success. Others want to play video games or watch Netflix all day long. How do we find out what is best? Philosophers have been grappling with this question for thousands of years. It takes us into many directions, including the question as to what makes us human, how we should make moral choices, whether we are free to choose, what we should believe, what love is, and what it is to be a full-fledged person. We will tackle these in turn, concluding the course with perhaps the biggest question of all: what is the meaning of life?</p>			

PHIL 2310-D01	Logic	ONLINE	ASYNCHRONOUS
Dr. Christopher Hom			
<p>A central aspect of reasoning is the ability to give 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.</p> <p>This is an online course, so all lectures, handouts, assignments and exams will be on Blackboard. Exams require a regular computer (Windows/Mac computer or laptop). You cannot take exams from mobile devices (e.g. iPhone, iPad, Android devices, etc.). You also need a working webcam and microphone, and your computer will need the</p>			

PHIL 2320-D01	Introduction to Ethics	ONLINE	ASYNCHRONOUS
Dr. Justin Tosi			
<p>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</p>			

PHIL 3301-D01	Classical Greek Philosophy	12:00-1:50	SYNCHRONOUS
Dr. Howard Curzer		MTWRF	ONLINE
<p>Contemporary society rests upon technology; technology rests upon science; and science rests upon philosophy. Or so the story goes. The truth is more complex. Science, its fruits, and its assumptions surround us so completely that (like the music of the spheres) we don't even notice them. We take science for granted. Yet science has not always been with us. The origins of science are entangled with the origins of philosophy and technology. In this class, we will study the emergence of the philosophy of science and technology (more broadly: the philosophy of explanation and production) in the golden age of Greece.</p>			

PHIL 3325-D01

Environmental Ethics

ONLINE

ASYNCHRONOUS

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER II 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2300-D01 Beginning Philosophy ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS
Dr. Joseph Gottlieb

This course is an introduction to philosophy. Questions to be entertained include: Does God exist? How can we have knowledge? What is morality, and why should we be moral? What sort of changes can we survive? We will read classic and contemporary sources on each question. In addition to thinking hard about these challenging topics, an overarching course goal is to use these topics to learn to how to read difficult texts and develop the skills necessary to argue effectively for our views on matters of importance.

PHIL 3325-D01 Environmental Ethics ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS
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