

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER I 2023 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2310-D01 **Logic** **ONLINE** **ASYNCHRONOUS**
Dr. Christopher Hom

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.

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 Google Chrome web browser.

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 3301-D01 **Classical Greek Philosophy** **12:00-1:50** **SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE**
Dr. Howard Curzer

Of the many contributions to Western civilization made by the Greeks, none is more significant than **GREEK TRAGEDY**. A tragedy is a disaster that destroys one's happiness. Greek philosophers explore the relationship between happiness and luck. They struggle to find a way to make happiness less dependent upon the whims of fortune without straying too far from common sense.

Yet theatrical tragedy depends upon fate, the very antithesis of luck. Tragedy is the inevitable result of actions that flow naturally from the character of the protagonist, the so-called "tragic flaw." Greek philosophy strives to understand the ways in which our character is responsible for our actions, and our actions are responsible for our character.

Theatrical tragedy arises because the protagonist is aware of the surface appearance of things, but not the underlying reality. Greek philosophy strives to penetrate past the way things merely seem, to understand the way things truly are. It also strives to grasp how to best grasp the way things truly are.

Finally, theatrical tragedy concerns a clash of values. The protagonist is trapped between equally legitimate, yet mutually incompatible perspectives. Sometimes personified by different gods or encapsulated in descriptions of different virtues, none of the clashing values can be ignored, yet all cannot be honored. Greek philosophy strives to reconcile various competing values.

We will use Greek tragedy as a starting point for the study of Greek philosophy. We will examine the following dichotomies: tragedy/happiness, luck/fate, necessity/choice, nature/culture, change/permanence, and appearance/reality.

PHIL 3325-201 **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.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SUMMER II 2023 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2300-D01 **Beginning Philosophy** **ONLINE** **ASYNCHRONOUS**

Joe 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 and making a recommendation for action with your final assignment.