

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Ancell

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 009, Monday & Wednesday 5:00 p.m. -6:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a course on the foundations of critical thinking and moral reasoning. You will learn how to use the tools of philosophy to evaluate arguments, assess ideas, and develop answers to difficult questions. The first part of the course focuses on logic and critical thinking. We'll talk about what makes arguments good and bad, common reasoning mistakes, and how to evaluate various kinds of evidence. The second part of the course focuses on moral reasoning. We'll talk about what makes actions good or bad and what makes a society just or unjust.

(Spring 2020)

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INSTRUCTOR: Will Barnes

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 015, Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 p.m. -4:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introduction to philosophical problems will be primarily author oriented, sampling a few of the great thinkers in the Western tradition of ethical, social, and political philosophy, acquainting students with the main historical currents of social and political philosophy. It will focus on such thematic issues as the parallels between society and the individual; views about human nature and the forms of government that result from these views; "the state of nature" and the social contract; the meaning(s) of various views of the state plus related issues: rights and freedom; distributive justice, liberation, and participation, individualism and communitarianism; and the nature of the subject.

The purpose of the course is to encourage thoughtful engagement with philosophical ideas; this will involve close reading, in-class discussion, and imaginatively written argumentation. This course will, therefore, require you to read, understand, and respond argumentatively to a variety of challenging texts, excerpts, and commentaries that will be made available on Blackboard. There may be some required texts and movies if open-source versions are unavailable, but this course will not require expensive textbooks. You will be assessed by two shorter papers and a longer final paper, as well as in-class quizzes.

(Fall 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Debra Candreva

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 002, Monday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. -9:20 a.m.

Section 003, Monday & Wednesday 9:30 a.m.- 10:50 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a basic introduction to philosophy and to ethics. Using a historical approach, we will look at the way philosophers in different time periods have responded to the question, "How we should live?" Related themes include the value of philosophy; the nature of knowledge; the concept of freedom; and the meaning of justice. Particular attention will be given to the key elements of ethical theory as found in Aristotle, Kant, and Mill. We will also use contemporary thinkers to examine some theoretical and practical challenges to those views.

Over the course of the semester, students will develop their abilities to think critically; to analyze arguments clearly; and to present their views persuasively.

(Fall 2020)

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INSTRUCTOR: Hessem Deghgani

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 004, Monday & Wednesday 9:30 a.m.- 10:50 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course in Problems of Philosophy is a course in ethics, understood as one's responsibility toward others. We examine some of the most important philosophical explanations of the relationship between the ethics of responsibility on the one hand and freedom and individuality on the other hand. At issue is the constitution of society from the "state of nature" and the philosophical understanding of the relationship between laws, rights, duties, and responsibilities. Finally, we are going to pay a special attention to the constitution of these ideas and concepts in America, especially in the light of technological advances during the past several decades. We will philosophically investigate the roots of such human problems as racial and social discrimination, climate change, consumerist and celebrity culture, migration and violence, etc. in this country.

(Fall 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Daniel Doneson

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 005, Monday and Thursday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 p.m.

Section 006, Monday and Thursday 12:30 p.m. -1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course seeks to help the student think rationally and critically about basic questions concerning the meaning of human life and our place in society and the universe, and to recognize the bearing of these questions on contemporary social issues. This course exposes students to both classical and contemporary philosophical problems. Among problems for possible discussion are the existence of God, freedom and responsibility, human nature and happiness, appearance and reality, ethics and the environment, abortion and individual rights, affirmative action and equality, love and sex, and law and authority.

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jesse Hughes

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. -9:20 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a broad introduction to philosophy, in which we will touch on many traditional subjects. We will begin with a section on epistemology (What stuff can we know and how?) and metaphysics (What stuff is there anyway?). Our second section is an overview of classical ethical theories (What should one do? Why should one try to be good anyway?), and our final section discusses certain problems of applied ethics (Is abortion morally acceptable? What moral duties apply in a state of war?)

(Fall 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Pengbo Liu

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 012, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 a.m.

Section 014, Tuesday & Friday 12:30 p.m. -1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How should we live? What makes a good life? What considerations make our actions right or wrong? How can we *justify* our moral beliefs? You must have pondered over these questions at some point in your life; and, unsurprisingly, they are also among the oldest and biggest questions in philosophy. In this class, we will examine philosophers' attempts to answer these questions and the *reasons* they give.

We will begin with *normative ethics*, and examine different *moral theories* of right and wrong, such as cultural relativism, consequentialism, and deontology. Along the way, we will apply these theories to some practical ethical issues, such as animal rights, capital punishment, and abortion. Next we will explore different conceptions of the good life in Western and Eastern traditions.

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Mazza

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 007, Monday & Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Section 008, Monday & Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course seeks to help the student think rationally and critically about basic questions concerning the meaning of human life and our place in society and the universe, and to recognize the bearing of these questions on contemporary social issues. This course exposes students to both classical and contemporary philosophical problems. Among problems for possible discussion are the existence of God, freedom and responsibility, human nature and happiness, appearance and reality, ethics and the environment, abortion and individual rights, affirmative action and equality, love and sex, and law and authority.

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PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jason L. Megill

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 016 Tuesday & Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will study several of the core areas of Philosophy, though there will be a special emphasis on Ethics. We start by examining most of the major ethical theories: Utilitarianism, Kant, Aristotle, Ethical Subjectivism, and Divine Command Theory. We then consider various topics in Applied Ethics, including abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, genetic enhancement, and just war theory. We will also cover some topics in Political philosophy (e.g., how should wealth be distributed), Philosophy of Religion (e.g., does God exist), and Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind (e.g., could a machine think?).

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jessica Payson

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 010, Tuesday & Friday 9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Section 011, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Section 013, Tuesday & Friday 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What is a “problem” and what does it mean to resolve it? How does one anticipate a problem and identify a solution? This section of Philosophy 101 examines the concept of “problems” from two perspectives – epistemological and ethical. In the first half of the course, we examine problems as errors in reasoning. What does good reasoning look like, and what kinds of flaws might disrupt it? In the second half of the course, we consider problems as moral harms. What makes something “bad” in the moral sense? What should be done in response to various kinds of moral harms? By addressing these and related questions, the course will introduce students to influential philosophical theories and ancient, modern, and contemporary texts.

(Fall 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry Steinhofer

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 017, Wednesday 6:30 p.m. -9:10 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Seeks to help the student think rationally and critically about basic questions concerning the meaning of human life and our place in society and the universe, and to recognize the bearing of these questions on contemporary social issues. Exposes students to both classical and contemporary philosophical problems. Among problems for possible discussion are the existence of God, freedom and responsibility, human nature and happiness, appearance and reality, ethics and the environment, abortion and individual rights, affirmative action and equality, love and sex, and law and authority.

(Spring 2020)