

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Ancell

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 011, Monday & Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Is it unfair that some CEOs earn more money in a year than the average worker earns in a lifetime? Can computers really think or understand anything? Is morality just subjective? Should countries open their borders to more immigrants? The primary aim of this class is to teach you how to think through these and other questions carefully and critically using the tools of philosophy. In that regard, this is a course on the foundations of good reasoning and ethical analysis.

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Will Barnes

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 017, Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 p.m. -4:50 p.m.

Section 018, Tuesday & Thursday 5:00 p.m. -6:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introduction to philosophical problems will be primarily author oriented and will focus on Ethical, Social, and Political Philosophy. 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. The course will be in three parts. Part one will focus on the foundations of political philosophy, including Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, and Cicero. The second part will focus on Ethical and Political Philosophy from modernity to the 19th century, including Hobbes, Rousseau, Locke, Kant, Mill, and Marx. We will finish in part 3 with a look at 20th century Social and Political philosophy including Arendt, De Beauvoir, Slavoj Žižek, and Judith Butler. The course will allow us to ask: What is real? What is true? What is a good life? What is duty? What are Human Rights? What is Justice? What is equality? What is Gender? What is citizenship? What obligations do we owe to ourselves, our country, and our species? We will think deeply about these questions and see their relevance for our everyday lives. You will be engaging thoughtful critical analysis of complex philosophical ideas; this will involve close reading, in class discussion, and imaginative 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 is no required text). You will be assessed by your participation and attendance, two short papers, a longer final paper, and 3 in-class quizzes/exams.

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Stephen Campbell

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 009, Monday & Thursday 2:00 a.m. -3:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course helps students develop their capacity to think critically, rationally, and creatively about fundamental questions concerning the nature of our universe, the meaning of human life, and our moral obligations to each other. In the first portion of the course, students will acquire some fundamental skills in logic and critical thinking (e.g. identifying valid arguments and informal fallacies). We will then examine a range of philosophical debates over such topics as God's existence, free will, ethical theory, and applied ethical issues related to the environment, medical practice, technology, and business.

(Spring 2020)

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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.

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Hesdsam Dehghani

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 006, Monday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Section 007, Monday & 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.

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Daniel Doneson

TO BE OFFERED:

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

Section 008, Monday & 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.

(Spring 2020)

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?)

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Pengbo Liu TO

BE OFFERED:

Section 014, Tuesday & Friday 9:30 a.m. -10:50 a.m.

Section 015, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 a.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 contemporary *moral issues*, such as animal rights, capital punishment, abortion, genetic enhancement, and many more.

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Michael

Mazza TO BE OFFERED:

Section 010, Monday & Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

Section 012, Monday & Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 6:20 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 019 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 some 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 013, Tuesday & Friday 9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Section H01, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Section 016, 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.

(Spring 2020)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry Steinhofer

TO BE OFFERED:

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

Section 020, Tuesday 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)