

LAFAYETTE

PHILOSOPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SPRING 2017

PHIL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

An introduction to the methods of philosophy including logical analysis and traditional philosophical problems such as the nature and extent of knowledge, the dilemma of freedom and determinism, the justification of the belief in God, personal identity, and the mind-body problem. [H]

01 SHIEBER MWF 8:00-8:50 am
02 MASTO TR 9:30-10:45 am
03 GIOVANNELLI MW 12:45-2:00 pm

PHIL 102: BASIC SOCIAL QUESTIONS

An examination of conceptual and moral questions associated with selected contemporary social issues. Topics can include: the morality of abortion, the justification of preferential treatment, the permissibility of same-sex sex and marriage, and prostitution. [H, V]

01 PANICHAS TR 11:00 am-12:15 pm
02 MASTO TR 1:15-2:30 pm

PHIL 145: BIOETHICS

This course concerns the moral and social controversies arising in medicine, biomedical research, and the life sciences. Topics may include: human cloning; genetic engineering; stem-cell research; reproductive technology; surrogate motherhood; euthanasia; informed consent, etc. [H,V]

GILDENHUYS TR 8:00-9:15 am

PHIL 155: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

This course will examine conceptual and moral questions regarding the relationship between humans and their environment. Topics include these: population growth and consumerism, sustainability and our responsibilities to future generations, animal rights, food ethics, and climate change. [H,V]

GILDENHUYS TR 11:00-12:15 pm

PHIL 216: MODERN PHILOSOPHY

A critical survey of European philosophy from 1600 to 1800, a period during which enormously influential contributions were made to the philosophical study of knowledge, reality, and the nature and limits of philosophy itself. Philosophers to be studied include Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. [H]

MCLEOD MW 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 220: METAPHYSICS

A detailed examination of substance, universals, mind-body, personal identity, freedom of the will, causality, space, and time. Contemporary and traditional solutions are presented. [H]

Prerequisite: Philosophy 101 or permission of instructor.

SHIEBER MWF 9:00-9:50 am

PHIL 240: PHILOSOPHY OF ART

An examination of the fundamental philosophical questions about the arts, including: What is art? Are there standards in the evaluation of artworks? Do the arts require or convey knowledge, and if so, what kind? What is the connection between art and emotion? What are the possible relationships between art and morality? Readings are drawn from both classical and contemporary philosophical writings. [H]

GIOVANNELLI MW 11:00 am -12:15 pm

PHIL 250: ETHICS

A critical investigation of some of the main theories of morally right action, with special emphasis on Mill's utilitarianism, Kant's categorical imperative, and W.D. Ross's moral pluralism. Other topics usually include the nature of justice, value, and moral worth. sources. [H,V]

MCLEOD MW 12:45-2:00 pm

PHIL 360: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

An examination of conceptual and normative issues related to law and legal systems. Topics can include: the nature of law; legal systems and legal obligation; constitutional interpretation; liberty and the limits of law; and the justification of legal punishment. [W]

Prerequisite: Philosophy 102 or 250 or permission of instructor

PANICHAS TR 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 361: MEANING OF LIFE

A philosophical examination of the question of whether human life has meaning. Topics include what "meaning" in this context might mean; whether divine purpose, immortality, intrinsic value, happiness, or some other thing might make human life meaningful; and what the ethical implications might be if human life has (or has no) meaning.

Prerequisite: at least two prior courses in philosophy or one prior course in philosophy and instructor's permission. [H]

MCLEOD T 7:00-9:50 pm

PHIL 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY

PHIL 496: THESIS