

LAFAYETTE

PHILOSOPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FALL 2018

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 Masto MW 12:45-2:00 pm

02 Masto MW 2:45-4:00 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]

Panichas TR 11:00-12:15 pm*

Jezzi MW 11:00-12:15 pm

***Open to 2021 & 2022 Classes**

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]

Schmidt M 7:00-9:50 pm

PHIL 200: LOGIC

An investigation of the principles of correct reasoning through the use of formal techniques. By employing these techniques, students will learn to assess the validity of arguments and to find counterexamples to invalid arguments. Formal languages studied include propositional and predicate logic, and may also include languages of modal and deontic logic. Some metalogic may also be covered, including proofs of the soundness and completeness of some of the deductive systems studied. [Q]

Shieber TR 8:00-9:15 am

PHIL 214: THE FIRST PHILOSOPHERS

A survey of the philosophical systems of Plato and Aristotle, with occasional excursions into pre-Socratic and post-Aristotelian thought. Readings drawn exclusively from classical texts. [H]

McLeod TR 1:15-2:30 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 TR 9:30-10:45 am

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. [H,V]

McLeod TR 9:30-10:45 am

PHIL 260: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

A critical examination of the traditional theories of liberty, equality, justice, and political obligation as found in philosophers such as Hobbes, Locke, Marx, and Rawls. [H, SS, V]

Panichas TR 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 320: PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

A survey of the most influential philosophical theories of linguistic meaning. The course will include a discussion of the implications of those theories, both for other areas in philosophy and for the study of language in other disciplines, particularly linguistics. [H]

Shieber TR 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 371: KNOWLEDGE, POWER, AND JUSTICE

This course is an examination of some of the many ways in which what we know, and what knowledge we are able to share with others, are shaped by individual, structural, and institutional power relations. We hope to discover the conditions of epistemic justice and means for making knowledge acquisition and knowledge transmission more equitable. Readings will include books by Miranda Fricker and José Medina and others' commentary, criticism, development, and application of their accounts. Throughout, we will explore the implications of epistemic injustice for social inequality, democratic institutions, and individual flourishing. [GM1, H, V, W]

Masto W 7:00-9:50 pm

PHIL 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (TBA) [W]**PHIL 495: HONORS (TBA) [W]**