

LAFAYETTE

PHILOSOPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SPRING 2019

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 JEZZI MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am

02 JEZZI MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

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 MASTO MW 12:45 – 2:00 pm

02 PANICHAS TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

HIL 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]

SCHMIDT TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

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 11:00 – 12:15 pm

PHIL 245: 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,W]

SCHMIDT TR 12:45 – 2:00 pm

HIL 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 MW 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 270: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY

An examination of issues in feminist philosophy including its critique of traditional Western philosophy and its contribution to major areas of philosophy such as ethics, social and political philosophy, theories of knowledge and reality. [GM1, H, V]

MASTO MW 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 272: SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY & RACE

This course investigates the implications of an egalitarian interpretation of social justice for addressing difficult topics of contemporary moral, legal, and political concern. These include: equality of opportunity and welfare, affirmative action, and black reparations. A critical analysis of Locke and Mill on equality and slavery launches the course, but the emphasis is on contemporary thinkers beginning with John Rawls and proceeding to recent theories of distributive justice, especially those referred to as "luck egalitarianism." [H,V]

Prerequisites: Either PHIL 102 or 250, or Permission of Professor. PHIL 260 is especially helpful, but not required.

PANICHAS W 7:00 – 9:50 pm

PHIL 350: METAETHICS

This advanced course in the philosophical study of moral properties, moral motivation, moral reason, and moral knowledge considers questions such as: whether moral properties exist and, if so, whether they are natural or non-natural properties; whether contemporary accounts of supervenience or explanation can provide the foundations for moral realism; the relationship, if any, between moral judgement and moral motivation; whether moral requirements supply reasons for action, and whether moral knowledge is possible [H, V]]

JEZZI 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. [H, V] **Prerequisite: Philosophy 102 or 250 or permission of instructor**

PANICHAS TR 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 366: GOD

A philosophical investigation into the existence of God, attributes of God, and theism's possible implications in metaphysics, ethics, and epistemology. The course should appeal to students with a serious interest in clarifying the concept of God, answering the question of whether God exists, and understanding what further philosophical commitments might be involved in an acceptance of theism or atheism. [H]

Prerequisite: At least two prior courses in philosophy or one prior course in philosophy and instructor's permission.

MCLEOD T 7:00-9:50 pm

PHIL 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY

PHIL 496: THESIS