

LAFAYETTE

PHILOSOPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FALL 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 Gildenhuys MWF 8:00-8:50 am

02 Gildenhuys MWF 9:00-9:50 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]

Schmidt TR 9:30-10:45 am

Panichas TR 11:00-12:15 pm

(*students in classes of 2022 & 2023 only)

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 MW 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]

Jezzi MW 12:45-2:00 pm

PHIL 225: PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

A general introduction to the philosophy of mind, focusing on the mind-body problem. Other topics may include the possibility of artificial intelligence, the nature of persons, the nature of some psychological concepts, and the relationship between neuroscience and philosophy. [H]

Schmidt TR 11:00-12:15 pm

PHIL 240: PHILOSOPHY OF ART: FOCUS ON FACES

We will look at such fundamental questions as what makes something art? How should art be interpreted and evaluated? What is the nature of artistic representation? What is the role of expression, and what the role of form, in our appreciation of artworks? The course especially focuses on the theme of photographic portraiture, on which the students engage in hands-on activities, creating their own photographs. Readings are from both classical and contemporary philosophy. [H,V]

Giovannelli TR 1:15-2:30 pm

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 310: 20th CENTURY ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

A survey of the philosophical systems of Frege and Russell, with analysis of the implications of that work for the development of analytic philosophy in the 20th century. Readings drawn exclusively from primary texts. [H] (Pre-requisite: PHIL 200, or instructor permission)

Shieber MW 2:45-4:00 pm

PHIL 355: EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

This course concerns the implications for philosophers of experiments aimed at discovering the attitudes of non-philosophers to traditional philosophical problems. The course concerns the methodology of philosophy, in particular the role of pre-theoretical intuition in debates over normative matters. It also concerns several traditional philosophical issues, such as of moral luck, free will, happiness and intentionality. [W]

Gildenhuis 11:00-12:15 pm

PHIL 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (TBA) [W]

PHIL 495: HONORS (TBA) [W]