

LAFAYETTE

PHILOSOPHY

Spring 2022 Course Offerings

PHIL 101.01 Intro to Philosophy MW 8:00 – 9:15 am Professor Shieber

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]

PHIL 101.02 Intro to Philosophy TR 9:30 - 10:45 am Professor Giovannelli

PHIL 101.03 Intro to Philosophy TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Professor Giovannelli

An introduction to philosophical reasoning, through an examination of some of the issues that have been central to the history of philosophy. By looking at classical and contemporary readings, the course discusses such traditional philosophical problems as the rationality of religious beliefs, the possibility of knowledge, the nature of the mind and personal identity, and the possibility of freedom of the will and ethical responsibility. [H]

PHIL 102.01 Basic Social Questions TR 1:15 – 2:30 pm Professor Masto

PHIL 102.02 Basic Social Questions TR 2:45 – 4:00 pm Professor Masto

PHIL 102.03 Basic Social Questions MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am Professor Schmidt

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]

PHIL 155 Environmental Ethics TR 8:00 – 9:15 am Professor Gildenhuys

This course will begin with a brief presentation of prominent ethical theories and concepts important to debates in environmental policy. We will apply these theories and concepts to a range of environmental issues, including population growth, sustainability and our responsibilities to future generations, animal rights, food ethics, and climate change. [H, V, W]

PHIL 216 Modern Philosophy MW 2:45 – 4:00 pm Professor McLeod

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]

PHIL 225 Philosophy of Mind TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Professor Masto

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]

PHIL 230 Theories of Knowledge MW 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Professor Shieber

A detailed examination of the concept of knowledge, nature of beliefs, justification of beliefs, relationship between knowledge and beliefs, truth, perception. [H]

PHIL 240 Philosophy of Art TR 1:15 – 2:30 pm Professor Giovannelli

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, V]

PHIL 250 Ethics MW 1:15 – 2:30 pm Professor McLeod

We often judge that some action is morally right or morally wrong, but we don't often ask: what *makes* an action right or wrong? Is it simply a matter of society's rules, or are there objective, society-independent standards for rightness and wrongness? If there are, what might those standards be, and how can they be explained? This course explores these and related questions about the nature of morality. [H, V]

PHIL 257 Asian Philosophy MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am Professor Schmidt

An examination of the development and interrelations between eastern philosophical traditions including Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism, and Chan Buddhism. Rather than attempting to read and analyze classical eastern philosophical writings independent of a western perspective, this course will make that bias explicit in the hopes of moving beyond it by comparing examples of methodologies and conclusions of Asian and Western philosophers. Comparisons will be analyzed in areas of Ontology, Epistemology, and Axiology, including, but not limited to, issues of gender and class. [GM2, H, V]

PHIL 305 Sex, Sexuality, and Gender W 7:00 – 9:50 pm Professor Andler

In this course, we'll explore various philosophical issues related to sex, sexuality, and gender. Topics include sexual consent, sexual orientation, masculinity, as well as naturalist, constructionist, and identity-based theories of gender. [H,V]

PHIL 335 Experimental Philosophy TR 9:30 – 10:45 am Professor Gildenhuys

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]