

LAFAYETTE

PHILOSOPHY

Spring 2023 Course Offerings

PHIL 101.01 Intro to Philosophy: Global Perspectives WF 11:00 am- 12:15 pm Professor Shieber

Introduction to Philosophy: Global Perspectives will introduce students to classic philosophical topics using readings from major cultural traditions across the globe, including representative texts from ancient Greece, the Indian subcontinent, China, Africa, and 17th and 18th century Europe. Topics covered will include the nature of the self, the mind-body problem, knowledge and skepticism, the structure of reality, and the meaning of life. [H]

PHIL 101.02 Intro to Philosophy MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am Professor Jezi

This course is conceived as a general introduction to topics and methods in contemporary western philosophy. Special attention will be devoted to questions in metaphysics and epistemology. These will include, but are not limited to, the following: Does God exist? What is the nature of ultimate reality? Could we be systematically deceived about this? Do we have free will? What is the nature of time? Is time travel possible? [H]

PHIL 102.01 Basic Social Questions TR 9:30 – 10:45 am Professor Masto

PHIL 102.02 Basic Social Questions TR 1:15 – 2:30 pm Professor Masto

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 Gildenhuis

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]

PHIL 200 Logic WF 8:00-9:15 am Professor Shieber

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]

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

Formerly entitled 'Modern Philosophy', this course is 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 220 Metaphysics WF 1:15 – 2:30 pm Professor Shieber

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] (*Pre-requisite: PHIL 101 or permission of instructor.)

PHIL 225 Philosophy of Mind T 7:00 – 9:50 pm Professor Schmidt

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 236 Science, Reason, and Reality TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Professor Gildenhuys

The course covers theories of scientific method, the nature of scientific explanation, and the evaluation of scientific theories. [H]

PHIL 250 Ethics MW 11:00 am – 12:15 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 R 7:00 – 9:50 pm 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 271 Topic: Philosophy of Race W 7:00 – 9:50 pm Professor Andler

In this course, we'll explore various topics in the philosophy of race, including naturalist, social constructionist, and error-theoretic accounts of race, intersectionality, integration, communication in oppressive contexts, as well as the racial dynamics of anger, trust, and hope. [GM1, H, V]

PHIL 350 Metaethics MW 11:00 am- 12:15 pm Professor Jezzi

This advanced course in the philosophical study of moral properties, moral motivation, moral reasons, 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 judgment and moral motivation; whether moral requirements supply reasons for action; and whether moral knowledge is possible. [H, V] (*Pre-requisite: PHIL 250 and 1 other PHIL course, or instructor permission.)

PHIL 371 Knowledge, Power, and Justice TR 2:45 – 4:00 pm Professor Masto

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 the 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 Jose 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. [H, GM1, V, W] (*Pre-requisite: one previous philosophy course or permission of instructor.)