

Philosophy

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Philosophy courses provide the opportunity for the development of a critical and unified understanding of experience and nature. This is accomplished through their concern — from both historical and contemporary perspectives — with the ethical, social and political, aesthetic, religious, metaphysical, epistemological, and scientific dimensions of existence. All four-credit courses in philosophy meet the equivalent of three periods per week.

Distribution: Courses completed in philosophy apply to the humanities distribution area, except for Philosophy 200 and 488, which apply to quantitative analysis. Philosophy 260 may be applied to either humanities or cultural pluralism.

Total credits required to complete a Philosophy major: 32

Learning Goals: Upon graduation, a student will be able to:

- develop individual insights, pursue them with depth, and present them clearly in writing.
- develop individual insights and present these insights clearly and rigorously orally.
- understand the history of philosophy and be able to reconsider questions and problems as they are raised and transformed by a succession of thinkers.
- use philosophical tools for close reading, investigation, analysis, and argument.
- discover and question hidden assumptions in their own work and the work of others.

The Philosophy major: A minimum of 32 credits including two courses in Readings in the History of Philosophy (Philosophy 201 and 202), and one course from each of the three categories (Analytic, Continental, Ethics). No one course can be used to satisfy two categories. At least two courses must be taken at the 300 or 400 level. Those writing an honors thesis must complete a minimum of 36 total credits.

Readings in the History of Philosophy (eight credits): Majors will take a two-course sequence, Philosophy 201 and 202, in which texts from Plato to Kant will be read closely. These two courses should be completed before the end of the students' seventh semester.

Senior Assessment: Senior Assessment involves three components:

- i. The rewriting of a seminar paper from a 300- to 400-level course
- ii. A written comprehensive exam, which will be administered during the student's final semester and will focus on coursework completed in the major at Whitman.
- iii. An oral exam, which will focus on the student's revised seminar paper and answers on the written exam.

The Honors Thesis (a total of eight credits): Majors interested in writing an honors thesis must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman and a major GPA of at least 3.500, must complete at least 36 credits of coursework in philosophy and complete the following:

- i. Submit a proposal to the department two weeks before the end of the spring semester of their junior year
- ii. Get consent from a member of the department based on departmental approval of the proposal to conduct an independent study in the fall semester of their senior year
- iii. Upon completion of a successful independent study, submit a new honors thesis proposal for departmental approval by the beginning of the last week of classes in the fall semester of their senior year

year. If approved, then write the honors thesis in the spring semester of their senior year due the end of the first week in April

- iv. Successfully complete a public oral examination of the honors thesis before the end of the third week of April

The Philosophy minor: A minimum of 20 credits in Philosophy, including Philosophy 201 and 202. *Note:* Philosophy 479 may not be applied to the minor.

Courses in Analytic, Continental, and Ethics Philosophy

Analytic: Philosophy 107 *Critical Reasoning*, 117 *Problems in Philosophy*, 137 *Skepticism, Relativism, and Truth*, 210 *Epistemology*, 235 *Philosophy of Feminism*, 261 *Philosophy of Science*, 262 *Animals and Philosophy*, 270 *Self and World*, 320 *Contemporary Pragmatism*, 329 *Wittgenstein*, 332 *Reproduction*, 336 *Language and Meaning*, 337 *Philosophy of Mind*, 356 *Contemporary Philosophy of Science*, 488 *Symbolic Logic*.

Continental: Philosophy 105 *The Gift of Art*, 122 *Radical Thoughtlessness*, 205 *The Genealogy of Non-Violence*, 206 *The Hermeneutics of the Subject*, 215 *Ethics after Auschwitz*, 216 *Cosmopolitanism, Citizenship, and Belonging*, 221 *Phenomenology of Religious Experience, Philosophy*, 239 *Aesthetics*, 260 *Queer Friendship*, 300 *Emerson*, 302 *Heidegger and Architecture*, 318 *Hannah Arendt as Political Thinker*, 321 *Changing the Subject: Judith Butler and Philosophy*, 331 *Nietzsche and Heidegger*, 408 *Studies in American*, 410 *Special Topics in Continental*, 422 *Heidegger's "Being and Time"*.

Ethics: Philosophy 110 *Introduction to East Asian Philosophy*, 115 *Philosophy of Education*, 120 *Environmental Ethics*, 127 *Ethics*, 141 *Punishment and Responsibility*, 151 *Philosophy and Literature*, 205 *The Genealogy of Non-Violence*, 208 *Ethics and Food*, 215 *Ethics after Auschwitz*, 216 *Cosmopolitanism, Citizenship, and Belonging*, 217 *Bioethics*, 219 *Case Studies in Applied Ethics*, 222 *Education and Autonomy*, 227 *Concepts of Nature in Modern European Philosophy*, 251 *Chinese Philosophy and Contemporary Issues*, 262 *Animals and Philosophy*, 300 *Emerson*, 311 *Plato*, 312 *Aristotle*, 315 *Happiness*, 322 *Kant's Moral Philosophy*, 332 *Reproduction*, 351 *What is the Human Being?*, 360 *Asian Philosophy*, 400 *Values*, 461 *Global Health Ethics*.

Some Special/Variable Topics courses may be applied to the above categories. Any Special/Variable Topics courses applied to the above will be noted in the course descriptions.

105 The Gift of Art

Spring

T. Davis

4 credits

How is the logic of the gift native to the work of art? We will explore this question in light of the development of the logic of the gift in, for example, Nietzsche, as that logic informs art selected from such genres as landscape, the portrait, and social commentary, both in individual artists and in the creation of whole contexts such as Portland's Japanese Garden.

107 Critical Reasoning

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

Focuses on principles and standards applicable to thinking critically on any topic. Arguments and their analyses, the nature and use of evidence, fallacies both formal and informal, are included in the matters addressed in the course. Intended for first-year students and sophomores; open to juniors and seniors by consent only.

110 Introduction to East Asian Philosophy

Fall

Zhao

4 credits

This course provides a gateway for the students to engage with East Asian philosophies. The aim is to provide a broad overview of the major schools and central debates in China, Korea and Japan. We will read selections from Confucius, Mencius, Laozi, Zhu Xi, Toegye, Kobong, and Dōgen. May be taken for credit toward the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies major.

115 Philosophy of Education**Spring****Frierson****4 credits**

This course examines a variety of issues in the philosophy of education, ranging from the general nature and proper aims of education to a variety of specific issues in contemporary educational philosophy and policy such as the role and nature of diversity in education, moral education, testing and assessment, and the role of technology in education. We start with a historical survey of some central approaches to the philosophy of education from ancient Greece and China through modern Europe and then turn primarily to contemporary thinkers debating key issues. We end the course by engaging with the thought of one of the most important progressive educational thinkers of the twentieth century, the Brazilian philosopher Paulo Friere. Students will be required to participate in class discussion, to lead at least one debate over the course of the semester, and to write several short papers.

117 Problems in Philosophy**Spring****Clearfield****4 credits**

An introductory study of some of the major problems of philosophy. Among those general problems considered will be the nature of philosophy; problems of knowledge; metaphysical questions concerning materialism, idealism, and naturalism; and questions of ethics. Other problems may be considered as time permits. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; open to juniors and seniors by consent only.

120 Environmental Ethics**Fall****Frierson****4 credits**

Does the nonhuman world have any intrinsic value or is it valuable only because of its relation to human interests? That is, does anything besides humanity have “moral standing”? If so, what is its basis? Should we, for instance accord rights to all those creatures that are sentient? If we do, will we have gone far enough, morally speaking? What about those creatures that lack sentience? What about the environment in which all creatures, human and nonhuman, live? Does it have moral standing? In answering these questions, we will consider the works of Aldo Leopold, Peter Singer, Karen Warren, Arne Naess, and Julian Simon, among others. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; open to juniors and seniors by consent only.

122 Radical Thoughtlessness**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

In John Ashberry’s *Girls on the Run*, we find that “The unthinkable is common knowledge today.” Does it then follow that the unconscionable has become perfectly ordinary? We will pursue this question in light of David Foster Wallace’s cooked lobster and St. Augustine’s stolen pears to prepare us to examine the relation between Adolf Eichmann’s radical thoughtlessness and Elizabeth Costello’s inordinate knowledge in work by Hannah Arendt, J. M. Coetzee, and Stanley Cavell.

127 Ethics**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

Consists of the careful reading and discussion of several classical texts of moral philosophy. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; juniors by consent only; not open to seniors.

137 Skepticism, Relativism, and Truth**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

The existence of objective truth is hotly debated, both within popular culture and in academic circles. Whether it exists at all, and about which topics, seems to make a significant difference personally, politically, and intellectually. In this course, we will begin by looking at skeptical and relativistic challenges to the existence and attainability of objective truth in general. Then, we will examine a series of more specific challenges regarding the ability of science to reveal deeper objective truths about how the world works, regarding the possibility for genuine understanding and evaluation across languages and cultures, and regarding the existence of objective moral values. We will end by considering the potential value of truth itself, and the relationship between truth and genuine

happiness. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; open to juniors by consent; not open to seniors. Applies to the Analytic requirement for the philosophy major.

141 Punishment & Responsibility

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

Nationwide, over two million people are now in prison, including over 2,000 at the Washington State Penitentiary here in Walla Walla. Yet as a society, there is no clear consensus regarding the goal(s) or purpose(s) of sending someone to prison. How can it be right intentionally to cause someone suffering? What is the connection between having done wrong and being justifiably made to suffer? What kind of suffering can be justified, and under what circumstances? In this course we will critically examine some of the ultimate philosophical justifications of punishment, such as deterrence, incapacitation, retribution, and rehabilitation. We also will examine importantly related questions about personal responsibility and the conditions necessary for punishment to be appropriate. Finally, we will consider the relevance and impact of excuses and mitigating factors like mental illness, age, addiction, and socioeconomic status. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; juniors by consent; not open to seniors.

148 Philosophy of Religion

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

An introduction to some of the central arguments in the philosophy of religion, focusing on proofs for and against the existence of God and discussions of the nature of religious belief. This course is intended for first-year students and sophomores; open to juniors and seniors by consent only.

151 Philosophy in Literature

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

This course serves as an introduction to philosophy via literature. Students will read a selection of both literature (novels and/or short stories) and philosophy that is structured around a set of philosophically rich questions and issues. Authors read may include Philip K. Dick, Kobo Abe, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Julian Barnes, Franz Kafka, and Milan Kundera. Open to first years and sophomores; juniors and seniors by consent only.

177 Special Topics: Contemporary Problems for Thought

4 credits

How is philosophy a necessary resource for responding to the most complex personal and social problems facing us today? The temptation, most especially for “pragmatic” Americans, is to see philosophy as a mildly interesting but ultimately abstract self-indulgence, and certainly not to see it as a necessary resource for, first, understanding, and then adequately addressing the most important problems we face. This course will explore the philosophical response to one such problem. Any current offerings follow.

177 ST: Philosophy in Science Fiction

Fall

Jenkins

4 credits

Science fiction as a genre invites us to explore distinctly philosophical questions, including questions about the nature of existence, the nature of time, what it means to be a person, the possibility of free will, and our obligations toward others. In this course, we will engage with these sorts of questions, drawing both from philosophical texts and from sci-fi short stories, novels, and movies. Fulfills the Analytic category requirement for the major. May be taken for credit toward the Film and Media Studies major or minor. Distribution area: humanities.

200 Symbolic Logic

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

Symbolic logic attempts to capture certain features of human language and reasoning in a precise, systematic way. Logic is used in some branches of philosophy, as well as in linguistics, computer science, mathematics and statistics, and other fields. In this course, we will develop techniques for working with a logical “language,” translating between that language and ordinary English, and constructing formal proofs within that language following

specified rules from premises to conclusions. We will cover both propositional logic and first-order quantificational logic, as well as the basic concepts of set theory.

202 Readings in the Western Philosophical Tradition: Modern

Fall

Frierson

4 credits

A survey of key 17th and 18th century European philosophers and texts, from Descartes' *Meditations* through key works by Hume and Kant.

205 The Genealogy of Non-Violence

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

An examination of the origins and development of non-violence as a way of life. We begin with Hannah Arendt's examination of the inevitabilities of violence in human action. Then turn to how Socrates argues that it is better to suffer injustice than to commit it, and how Jesus introduces the proper response to violence as turning the other cheek. Gandhi then takes up both Jesus and the Bhagavad-Gita to develop Satyagraha as a way of life, including the specific form of resistance that he called "noncooperation." A final project will ask students to determine the relevance of Gandhian noncooperation for the practice of nonviolence today.

201 Readings in the Western Philosophical Tradition: Ancient

Fall

Jenkins

4 credits

This course is a survey of some of the central figures and texts in the ancient western philosophical tradition. Readings may include texts from Plato and Aristotle, from the Presocratic philosophers, the later Hellenistic schools (which include the Stoics, Epicureans, and Skeptics), and other Greek intellectuals (playwrights, historians, orators). May be elected as Classics 201.

206 The Hermeneutics of the Subject

Spring

T. Davis

4 credits

In 1923 Martin Heidegger gave lectures published as *Ontology: Hermeneutics of Facticity* that laid the groundwork for the development of a new understanding of the very act of understanding itself. And in 1981 Michel Foucault gave lectures published as *The Hermeneutics of the Subject* that redirected the Heideggerian opening into a radical reappropriation of the act of understanding integral to philosophy as a way of life as that way of life was practiced by the Greeks and Romans. This course will closely read selections from these two texts to examine the importance of the relation between the subject and truth in today's supposedly "post-truth" world.

208 Ethics and Food: What's for Dinner?

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

The primary way most of us interact with both the animal world and the environment is through our choices in regards to what we will eat. How, though, should we make these choices? Is it wrong to eat meat? What is sustainable agriculture? How should we value the pleasures of food?

210 Epistemology

Fall

Hanrahan

4 credits

Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that examines the nature of knowledge and justification. We will consider questions such as: What is knowledge? How is knowledge different from mere opinion? Can we really know anything at all? What should we believe? How can our beliefs be justified? In the process, we will also consider how these kinds of epistemological questions relate to questions in other areas of philosophy and to scientific inquiry.

211 Buddhist Ethics

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

What does it mean to be a Buddhist? How should a Buddhist act in a world that Buddhist doctrine defines as "*dukkha*," or "suffering?" What can Buddhist thought contribute to discussions of contemporary ethical issues, such as environmentalism, gender, poverty and violence? This course will introduce students to the study of Buddhist Ethics from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Our sources will include Buddhist philosophical and narrative

literature alongside ethnographic and historical studies of Buddhist attempts to map out and embody ethical ideals and practices in a changing world. Following these sources, we will engage with fundamental Buddhist concepts of action, selfhood, and cosmology while considering the effects of globalization and the formation of “Buddhist Modernism” as Buddhists respond to the challenges of colonialism and adapt to the concerns and presuppositions of Western Buddhists. May be taken for credit toward the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies major. May be elected as Religion 208.

215 Ethics after Auschwitz

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

This course examines the moral challenge of what it means to be ethical after Auschwitz. Using Hannah Arendt’s analysis of the concentration camp as a touch-stone, it includes readings from Primo Levi, Victor Klemperer, Kant, Agamben, Jaspers, and Levinas, as well as a selection of poems from Nelly Sachs and Paul Celan and the film *Son of Saul*. Open to Seniors by consent of instructor only. May be elected as German Studies 215.

216 Cosmopolitanism, Citizenship, and Belonging

Fall

Ireland

4 credits

With the recent resurgence of nativism across the globe, the concept of “world citizenship” has received renewed attention by philosophers and critical theorists. On the one hand, the notion of world citizenship has been invoked to combat nationalism and xenophobia; at the same time, however, it remains a site of contestation over what “world” itself means as a universal idea and self-evident image of commonality or belonging. The aim of this course is to examine how philosophers and contemporary theorists have understood world citizenship, cosmopolitanism, and belonging against the backdrop of current political crises. Readings draw from contemporary and canonical figures, and include Appiah, Kant, Arendt, Derrida, Benhabib and Judith Butler. The course is writing and discussion intensive; the final integrative essay applies conceptual resources to a current political event, e.g. immigration, the status of asylum cities.

217 Bioethics

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

This course introduces students to a selection of current debates in bioethics, including topics such as artificial reproductive technology, abortion, health care resource allocation, disability accommodation, genetic testing, end-of-life care, physician-assisted suicide, and clinical research. In the context of discussing these issues, we will consider various ethical theories, including theories that emphasize the primacy of character, rights, consequences, and care for others. The class will be discussion focused with an emphasis on philosophical argumentation and writing.

219 Case Studies in Applied Ethics

Fall

Clearfield

4 credits

The course will begin with a brief introduction to different ethical theories and frameworks. Then for the bulk of the semester, students will work in teams to develop and support proposed resolutions to specific case-studies that the class as a whole will select. The culmination of the semester will be a public exhibition where teams will present their competing resolutions. Students will also submit individually-written position papers about the cases. Note: Almost all course meetings will occur at the Washington State Penitentiary, and teams will consist of combinations of incarcerated and non-incarcerated individuals. Students must follow all rules and guidelines of the Penitentiary on these visits. All students in the course must submit to, and pass, a criminal background check in order to participate in the course. All semester, this course’s meeting time will be 5:00-8:15pm. May be repeated for a maximum of eight credits. Previous coursework in Philosophy is not expected, but consent of the instructor is required. Interested students are invited to contact the instructor prior to the beginning of the pre-Registration period. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

220 Special Topics: Philosophy and Literature**4 credits**

We will use texts from philosophy and literature to explore specific problems. Any current offerings follow.

222 Education and Autonomy**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This course focuses on a particular issue in the philosophy of education: how to both respect and cultivate the autonomy of one's students. Drawing primarily on Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Immanuel Kant, and Maria Montessori, we will explore autonomy-based approaches to education, from raising infants through developing mature adults.

227 Concepts of Nature in Modern European Philosophy**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This course explores a variety of philosophical conceptions of nature and the natural world in Modern European philosophy, from Francis Bacon to 20th century thinkers such as Heidegger. May be elected as Environmental Studies 227.

235 Philosophy of Feminism**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This course will introduce students to some of the questions explored within the philosophy of feminism, questions such as: What is it to be a woman? Are women oppressed? How do institutions of motherhood, marriage, and sex shape the lives of women? To answer these questions, we will read works by Marilyn Frye, bell hooks, Andrea Dworkin, Susan Bordo, and Christina Hoff-Summers.

239 Aesthetics**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

After developing a critical vocabulary through an examination of Hume's notion of taste, Kant's "reflective judgment," and Heidegger's reconceptualization of the work of art in "Building Dwelling Thinking," we apply this vocabulary to architecture using Karsten Harries' *The Ethical Function of Architecture* to help us critically assess the "aesthetic" governing Whitman's Penrose Library renovation project. Then moving from the "public" to the "private," we consider the sense of "aesthetics" at work in building your own home, using as a guide Witold Rybczynski's *The Most Beautiful House in the World*. May be elected as Art History 249.

251 Chinese Philosophy and Contemporary Issues**Fall****Zhao****4 credits**

This course explores major schools in Chinese philosophy and how they can be applied to think about contemporary issues. Part One surveys the fundamental concepts of the three main schools in the Chinese tradition, namely Confucianism, Daoism, and Chinese Buddhism. Part Two focuses on the theoretical and practical relevance of Chinese philosophy to contemporary issues. Part Two is divided into three themes: the self and family, community and extending care, and ideal governance. May be taken for credit toward the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies major.

260 Queer Friendship**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

Near the end of his life, Foucault gave an interview on "Friendship as a Way of Life" meant to reconsider the possibility of friendship between men. We will take up Foucault's prompt in three steps. First, we will examine Stanley Cavell articulation of the Heideggerian distinction between "predicates of identity" and "existentials of possibility" to introduce a new way to understand the nature of possibility. Second, we will reread classic Greek sources on the internal relation between *eros* and *philia*, moving from Anne Carson's *Eros the Bittersweet* to Aristotle's treatment of pleasure and friendship in the *Nicomachean Ethics* to the gay theorist Leo Bersani's examination in *Intimacies* of the "impersonal intimacy" at work in Plato's *Symposium* and *Phaedrus*. With this background, we will attend to the contemporary American gay poet Henri Cole's exploration of the difficult landscape of gay intimacy. May be taken for credit toward the Gender Studies major.

261 Philosophy of Science**Spring****Hanrahan****4 credits**

This course focuses on philosophical issues that arise in the context of modern science. We will start with problems related to science in general, such as the difference between science and pseudoscience, the problem of induction, the nature of scientific objectivity, feminist critiques of science, and the role of values in science. We will then focus on philosophical problems arising within particular sciences, with a special focus on the philosophy of biology.

262 Animals and Philosophy**Spring****Hanrahan****4 credits**

Our lives are intertwined with the lives of animals. We eat them, wear them, and experiment on them, and yet we also consider them family members. What are animals such that they can serve all of these purposes? We will engage this question through two interrelated pathways. We will try to understand the mental lives of non-human animals. And we will try to define the moral dimensions of our relationship to animals. Course was formerly Philosophy 345.

270 Self and World**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This course will examine the existence and nature of human selves and our relation to the external world. Central questions will include: What does it take for someone to remain the same person over time, and what kinds of changes would be equivalent to death? What kind of unity do we have at any one time? What is the relation between the mind and the body? What would it mean to act freely? Are we ever able to do that? In the process, we will touch on some other very basic philosophical issues about the nature of causation, existence, and truth, and we will consider the relationship between philosophy and science.

300 Emerson**Fall****T. Davis****4 credits**

A close reading of selected essays by Emerson with critical responses based on work by Nietzsche, Levinas, and Stanley Cavell.

302 Heidegger and Architecture**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

With their emphasis on place-making, Martin Heidegger's later essays, "Building Dwelling Thinking," "Poetically Man Dwells, and "The Thing," have informed the work of a generation of architects. This seminar uses Heidegger as a touchstone for exploring the relationship between space and dwelling, placing these essays into dialogue with Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*, Tanizaki's *In Praise of Shadows*, and Rybczynski's *The Most Beautiful House in the World*, as well as the work and writings of contemporary architects. The seminar is writing intensive and highly collaborative, and will include biweekly papers and responses, and a final portfolio design project and seminar presentation. May be elected as Art History 240. *Prerequisite*: Philosophy 202 or consent of instructor.

311 Variable Topics in Plato**4 credits**

Students will engage in an in-depth examination of one or more of Plato's dialogues. This examination may center on a particular dialogue, a particular question or set of questions, or a particular theme as it develops throughout the Platonic corpus. Students are encouraged to contact the professor for more information about the particular topic of the current iteration of the course. May be elected as Classics 311. Any current offerings follow.

312 Variable Topics in Aristotle**4 credits**

Students will engage in an in-depth examination of one or more of Aristotle's texts. This examination may center on a particular text, a particular question or set of questions, or a particular theme as it develops throughout the

Aristotelian corpus. Students are encouraged to contact the professor for more information about the particular topic of the current iteration of the course. May be elected as Classics 312. Any current offerings follow.

312 VT: Aristotle on Persons and Personhood

Fall

Jenkins

4 credits

This course is directed at answering one question: What, for Aristotle, does it mean to be a person? Aristotle's answer to this question is complex and draws from across his corpus, weaving together many of his most central metaphysical, epistemological, psychological, biological, ethical, and political commitments. In this course we will trace out his answer to this question, trying to better understand Aristotle's conception of personhood and, in so doing, better develop our own understanding of the concept. Texts we will read include selections from the *Metaphysics*, *Physics*, *De Anima*, *Posterior Analytics*, *Rhetoric*, *Nicomachean Ethics*, and *Politics*. Applies to the Ethics requirement of the Philosophy major. May be elected as Classics 312. Distribution area: humanities.

315 Happiness

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

This course is a focused exploration of the nature of happiness. In the course, we will look at the nature of happiness as it is articulated in both historical and contemporary contexts. In the first half of the course, we will look at ancient conceptions of happiness, focusing on the accounts offered in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* and Cicero's *On Moral Ends*. In the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to contemporary accounts of happiness, looking at treatments of happiness in both psychology and philosophy. Distribution area: humanities.

318 Hannah Arendt as Political Thinker

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

Hannah Arendt disavowed the title of philosopher, instead describing herself as a "political thinker." This seminar will investigate what Arendt means by this description, focusing in particular on the notions of "world," "natality," and what she calls the *vita activa*. Texts will include *Between Past and Future*, *The Human Condition*, and *Eichmann in Jerusalem* as well as selections from Arendt's work on Kant and aesthetics and cultural theory. Biweekly seminar papers and a final research paper will be required. May be elected as German 318. *Prerequisite*: one course in philosophy 300-level or higher.

320 Contemporary Pragmatism

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

Contemporary pragmatism largely defines itself in opposition to modern Western philosophy, which it sees as wrongly trying to establish a foundation for indubitable truth about a mind-independent and language-independent external world. This course will work through the views of some of the most important contemporary pragmatists, with particular focus on the writings of Richard Rorty.

321 Changing the Subject: Judith Butler and Philosophy

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

This course will examine the writings of contemporary philosopher and queer theorist Judith Butler in response to seminal texts from the European philosophical tradition. These texts will include selections from Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, the "Second Essay" from Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morals*, Kant's "What is Enlightenment?" as well as Foucault's reply to that essay, and Levinas' "Peace and Proximity." The seminar will focus on, first, the close reading of the primary source philosophical texts, placing those texts into dialogue with Butler's critical interpretation of them. Thematically, it will engage such themes as the constitution of the subject, critique, and the relationship to the Other; methodologically, it will explore Butler's deconstructive and rhetorical style of reading, using it as an exemplar for the theoretical appropriation of traditional philosophical texts. Bi-weekly seminar presentation papers will be required, as well a final presentation and researched paper. The seminar is writing intensive, and emphasizes structured peer feedback. May be elected as Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 321. *Prerequisite*: Philosophy 201, Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 230, or consent of instructor.

322 Kant's Moral Philosophy**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This course explores Kant's moral theory and recent appropriations of that moral theory in contemporary neo-Kantian ethics. *Prerequisite:* Philosophy 127 or consent of instructor.

329 Wittgenstein**Spring****Clearfield****4 credits**

Ludwig Wittgenstein was not one but two of the most important and original philosophers of the 20th century. Throughout his life, he emphasized the importance of understanding the nature of language, through which he addressed issues including logic, epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and ethics. However, he did so in two radically different ways early and late in his career. In this course, we will work carefully through works from both periods, supplemented by relevant secondary sources.

332 Reproduction**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

In this class, we will explore the ethical and metaphysical questions associated with reproduction. So, for example, do we have a right to have a child? If we do, is there ever a situation when we should forego acting on that right? What obligations do we have to our offspring? Do those obligations change as our offspring grows? What relationship should heterosexual sex have to reproduction? Does this relationship shape when and whether two people engage in this activity? Finally, how does reproduction impact our understanding of our genders?

336 Language and Meaning**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of language. The focus will be on the nature of linguistic meaning and the relationship between words and the world. We also will consider some of the implications of those issues on the nature of cognition and on our understanding of reality through language.

337 Philosophy of Mind**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

A study of the nature and function of mind and consciousness and their place in the world of physical stuff. Readings will include classical as well as recent and contemporary work.

338 Special Topics: Philosophers and Philosophical Movements**4 credits**

An examination of a philosopher or philosophical movement. Any current offerings follow.

340 Special Topics: Philosophical Problems**4 credits**

An examination of a philosophical problem. Any current offerings follow.

340 ST: Moral Emotions**Spring****Frierson****4 credits**

When is it appropriate or even morally necessary to feel anger, envy, or shame? What are the moral and emotional implications of forgiveness or resentment? Do emotions hinder acting morally, or help, or are they the foundations of moral action? In this course, we investigate a variety of issues surrounding the relationship between morality and the emotions. We discuss philosophers who make emotions central to moral life, and others who see them as threats to morality. We look at recent work in moral psychology on the relationships between emotions and rationality in moral motivation, and we consider the evolutionary basis for moral emotions. Finally, we consider what role, if any, so-called "bad" emotions like shame, envy, or resentment can play in a flourishing moral life. Applies to the Ethics major requirement.

Distribution area: humanities.

351 What is the Human Being?**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

In a set of lectures to his students, Kant claimed that all of philosophy could be reduced to the question, “What is the Human Being?” This course focuses on that question. Almost half of the course will be spent exploring Kant’s answer to the question, which also will provide an opportunity to explore Kant’s philosophy as a whole. The rest of the course will look at several contemporary approaches to the problem (including, for example, scientific — especially evolutionary—accounts of human beings and existentialism). *Prerequisite:* Philosophy 202 or consent of instructor.

356 Contemporary Philosophy of Science**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This course offers an advanced reading of several of the most important papers in contemporary philosophy of science, dealing with issues such as the nature of scientific “rationality,” whether scientific theories contribute to understanding what is real, the nature of scientific evidence and scientific laws, and specific philosophical issues in contemporary physics and biology. *Prerequisite:* one philosophy course or consent of instructor.

360 Asian Philosophy of Women, Gender, and Sexuality**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

This seminar course explores key systems of thinking about women, gender, and sexuality in Asian traditions. Can one be a Confucian feminist? What about a Daoist feminist? How do we evaluate these culturally situated views? And most importantly, how can Asian philosophies help us understand the following dualities: sex/gender, nature/nurture, and biological/constructed? Drawing upon studies in social anthropology, psychology, and neuroscience, this seminar course critically engages with gender issues in Asian philosophy. May be taken for credit toward the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies major.

400 Values**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

A substantive consideration of one or more values (such as justice, happiness, or charity), based on primary sources from Western philosophy. *Prerequisite:* Philosophy 127 or consent of instructor.

408 Special Topics: Studies in American Philosophy**4 credits**

A close reading of a text from the classic American philosophical tradition. Any current offerings follow.

410 Special Topics in Continental Philosophy**4 credits**

An examination of a text or problem from the Continental philosophical tradition. Any current offerings follow.

410 ST: Giorgio Agamben**Fall****T. Davis****4 credits**

A close reading of selected essays from Agamben’s collection *Potentialities* to prepare an even closer reading of *The Adventure*. Agamben is an increasingly important figure at the juncture of contemporary Continental philosophy and the resurrection of what the late Foucault termed the “spirituality” of the first 1000 years of the Western philosophical tradition. The readings from *Potentialities* will develop a conceptual language necessary for understanding Agamben’s attempt in *The Adventure* to recover the original sense of “adventure” initiated in Medieval poetry but lost through the same ultimately instrumentalist transformation in thinking that undid the commitment to “spirituality” in philosophy’s first 1000 years. This course will take up and extend Agamben’s attempt to recover a sense of adventurous possibility in the face of today’s hegemony of instrumental rationality. A mid-term oral examination will

prepare an extended final paper along with a final oral examination. Applies to the Continental major requirement. Distribution area: humanities.

422 Heidegger's Being and Time

Spring

Ireland

4 credits

Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time* (1927) is arguably one of the most groundbreaking works of philosophy published in the 20th century. This seminar is an intensive exploration of Heidegger's most important conceptual innovations in that work. These innovations include the relationship between Dasein, care, and world; the analysis of being-toward-death, anxiety, and the call of conscience; and the "destructuring" of the Western philosophical tradition. The seminar will be focused on the close reading of *Being and Time* supplemented by other primary and secondary sources intended to facilitate the understanding of basic terms and concepts. The course is writing intensive, and will include biweekly papers and responses, a final seminar presentation, and a final paper.

Prerequisite: Philosophy 201 or 202 or consent of instructor.

461 Global Health Ethics

Fall

Zhao

4 credits

This seminar course discusses normative concepts, questions, and principles surrounding global health care from an interdisciplinary perspective. Drawing upon studies of health care policy, social psychology, and medical anthropology, this course critically engages with ethical issues such as the social epistemology of health, fair distribution of health care resources, and cultural challenges to universal health care principles.

479 Philosophy Colloquium

Not offered 2019-20

1 credit

This one credit, team-taught seminar will be organized around a different theme each semester. Members of the Philosophy Department will rotate leading discussion about readings that approach that theme from their different philosophical backgrounds, methodologies, and interests. Its purpose is to foster dialog across the various areas of philosophy, and greater intellectual community among philosophy students. Requirements include attendance at all meetings and active participation in discussion. Graded credit/no credit. May be repeated but will only receive credit once. Open to junior and senior Philosophy majors; others by consent of instructor. *Note:* May not be applied to the Philosophy minor.

483, 484 Independent Study

Fall, Spring

Staff

1-4 credits

Study of selected philosophies or philosophic problems. *Prerequisite:* consent of and arrangement with instructor.

488 Tutorial in Symbolic Logic

Fall, Spring

Staff

4 credits

An introduction to the methods of symbolic logic, including the propositional calculus, quantification theory, and the logic of relations. Recommended for, and restricted to, advanced students who are considering graduate work in philosophy. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

498 Honors Thesis

Fall, Spring

Staff

4 credits

A course designed to further independent research or projects resulting in the preparation of an undergraduate honors thesis and including an oral defense of the central issues of the thesis to be taken during the second term of the student's senior year. Required of and limited to senior honors candidates in philosophy. *Prerequisite:* admission to honors candidacy.