

The Dialectic

Classics & Philosophy Newsletter
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Philosophy & Humanities, UTA
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Greetings to all philosophy and classics majors, minors, and alumni. Finally it's here: Your official copy of the Fall, 1999, Classics and Philosophy Newsletter. I hope not only that you find it interesting and pleasant to read, but also that it makes you a more well-informed person. Read on to discover what all the cool guys and girls in philosophy and classics are doing this semester. Find out all about the exciting upcoming courses, earth-shattering events, our new alumni news feature, and generally what's going on these days on the third floor of Carlisle Hall. And finally, if you have any questions or comments, you can e-mail me at the following address:

jbrignac@yahoo.com

Cordially,
Jeffrey Brignac

Alumni news: C.J. Schexnayder Makes Good!

Since graduating in 1995, philosophy alumnus C.J. Schexnayder has left the aesthetic pleasures of philosophy for the more worldly pursuit of journalism.

Schexnayder is currently a public safety reporter for *The Press-Enterprise* in Riverside, California. In the past five years, he has covered prison corruption, serial killers, high-profile neglect cases, several natural disasters and countless auto accidents. He got his start in journalism at the UTA campus paper, *The Shorthorn*. He was one of a team at that paper that won the Society of Professional Journalists 1996 Freedom of Information Act Award for their work covering the University's administration.

Since that time he has gone on to work as a reporter at several newspapers across the country, beginning as a rewrite clerk for *The Dallas Morning News*. Schexnayder then did year-long stints at *The Arlington Morning News* and *The Daily Advertiser* in Lafayette, Louisiana.

It was at the latter paper where he won the Louisiana Bar Association's Excellence in Legal Journalism Award and the Thomson Newspapers Award of Excellence in deadline writing.

He currently resides in Corona, California.

2nd Annual Classics & Philosophy Open-House "Pizza Feast"

This year's "pizza feast" is being co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department and the new UTA Honors College. Classics and philosophy majors,

minors, and fellow travelers and members of the Honors College are invited to the open house fall extravaganza on Friday, October 22nd. *Free pizza and soft drinks* will be served in the main department office, 305 Carlisle Hall, from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. From 1:30 until 2:00 p.m., Charles Chiasson, Associate Professor of Classical Studies at UTA, will give a *freewheeling talk* in the Honors Library, Suite 100, College Hall: "Hermaphrodites on Horseback? Scythian Seers and Eunuchs in Early Greek Ethnography." See you there!

Fall Philosophy Lecture Announced

The Philosophy Club is pleased to co-sponsor this fall's lecture which is being given by Professor Adrian Cussins of the philosophy department at the University of Illinois — Urbana-Champaign. He works in the philosophy of mind and language, as well as the philosophy of psychology. His lecture, scheduled for Monday, October 25th, is entitled, "Why a Closed, Rule-governed, Digital System, Need Not Be a Formal System: An argument concerning the ancient game of Go, the nature of computation and the distinction between intelligent creatures and mere brutes." What a title! As you can probably tell, this lecture promises to be of interest to students of philosophy, linguistics, computer science, and psychology.

It provides an excellent opportunity for UTA students, and fellow travelers, to explore the cutting-edge philosophy of Professor Cussins. The lecture will take place in the San Saba Room, located on the second floor of the University Center, at 4:00 p.m. Remember that, as always, there is no charge for these lectures and they are open to the public.

Philosophy Reading Group Continues with Fodor, Anticipates Future Reading Topics

The Philosophy Reading Group is still working on Jerry Fodor's recent book, *Concepts: Where Cognitive Science Went Wrong* (Oxford, 1998). Except for having taken a few weeks off in September, this dynamic group has been continuing to run all of the philosophical mileage they can get out of the book.

Seriously, after the group finishes reading the Fodor book and a couple of articles critical of Fodor's position in that book, they are planning to read a series of articles by Fodor on the fascinating topic of recognitional concepts including color concepts. This

series of articles makes an excellent transition to their next book-length project – Clyde Hardin’s classic, *Color For Philosophers: Unweaving the Rainbow* (Hackett, 1986).

The group still meets on Fridays at about 12:30 p.m. on the cozy couch in 305 Carlisle Hall. From there they decide on an eating establishment and let the philosophical discussion begin. Remember, it’s still not too late to get a piece of the coolest philosophical action in town. Those who wish to start attending the meetings on Hardin should locate a copy of *Color For Philosophers* as soon as possible. If you have any further questions you can e-mail Professor Denny Bradshaw at the following address: bradshaw@uta.edu.

Spring 2000 Course Line-up

Now, just when you thought that life couldn’t get any better, the philosophy department has just announced the spring 2000 course line-up!

Professor Julia Dyson is teaching **Women in the Ancient World** (CLAS 2307). The course will explore images of women in ancient Greece and Rome from many often contradictory sources: visual art, comedy, tragedy, love poetry, satire, oratory, epic, letters, legal and medical texts, and inscriptions. It is open to all who seek to understand more about the ancient world and about the status of women, then and now.

Professor Susan Hekman is teaching an undergrad humanities course in the department, **Social and Political Theory** (HUMA 4302). Her course will examine the central issues in 20th century political thought and their philosophical roots, beginning with the two pivotal political theories of the 19th century that set the stage: liberalism and Marxism. The course will then trace the evolution of these two theories in the 20th century through an analysis of modern contract theory and critical theory.

The European philosophers of the 19th century exhibit diverse tendencies and varied interests. In Professor Nussbaum’s course in **19th and Early 20th Century Philosophy** (PHIL 3304) the focus is on two areas of vigorous philosophic activity: the debate in

moral philosophy motivated by Kant's deontological theory and Mill's consequentialist theory, and the German idealist metaphysics and philosophy of history deriving from Kantian transcendental idealism.


Although we mentioned it already last spring, be sure to keep in mind that Dr. Bradshaw is offering **Intermediate Logic** (PHIL 3317). It is more a course about logic than it is a course in logic. However, logic (PHIL 2311) is a prerequisite for this course. With any luck, the class will culminate by being able intelligently to discuss Gödel’s first incompleteness theorem. Wow!



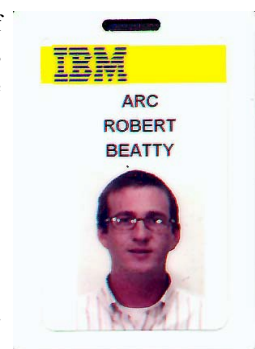
The practice of medicine and the conduct of biomedical research

raise moral questions, the study of which is known variously as bioethics, medical ethics, and **Biomedical Ethics** — the topic of Professor Burgess-Jackson’s course (PHIL 3319). One aim of the course is to examine the history of biomedical ethics. The other, and larger, aim is to expose students to some of the issues, concepts, and methods that constitute the field.

For centuries, scholars have studied the very difficult process of interpreting written and spoken texts. In the 20th Century, philosophers have realized that all cultural artifacts and all human behavior also must be interpreted, resulting in what is now called Philosophical **Hermeneutics**. Professor Reeder’s course (PHIL 4388) will study the historical background of philosophical hermeneutics and its developments in the 20th Century.

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This just in:

Missing person spotted – after having “gone corporate” in Colorado!!!



<i>ALUMNI NEWS FORM</i>	
NAME (PLEASE PRINT):	
Last: _____	First: _____ MI: ____ Class Year: ____ Major: _____
WHAT IS YOUR NEWS? _____	

<i>Please return to Department of Philosophy & Humanities, Box 19527, UTA, Arlington, TX 76019.</i>	