PHIL 4388-001, Topics in the History of Philosophy, Dr. Kenneth Williford
SUMMER I: M-Th 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
This course is a historical introduction to the Design Argument for the existence of an intelligent designer/creator, its pre-Darwin criticism in David Hume’s *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (1779), and its recent, post-Darwin criticism in Elliot Sober’s *Evidence and Evolution: The Logic Behind the Science* (2008). We’ll discuss the main lines of evidence for evolution, the principles of probabilistic inference that undergird all scientific theories, and some of the more common misunderstandings of the concepts of natural selection, common descent, and adaptation. We’ll discuss basic issues in the philosophy of science (science vs. non-science vs. pseudo-science, observation vs. theory, reductionism vs. holism, the explanatory scope of a theory). We’ll discuss classic issues in the philosophy of religion that are relevant (e.g., the problem of suffering (human and animal) and the best explanation of it, naturalistic vs. non-naturalistic theories of religion). We’ll also discuss the historical, cultural, and ideological factors that have contributed to resistance to the acceptance of the theory of evolution and the history of decisions by courts and religious institutions in relation to the theory (e.g., the Scopes Trial, *Kitzmiller et al. v. Dover Area School District et al.*, Papal encyclicals).

**Texts:** David Hume’s *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* & Elliot Sober’s *Evidence and Evolution: The Logic Behind the Science*

**Requirements:** Attendance, quizzes, one take-home exam, and an in-class final or term paper.

**No prerequisites:** This course may be of interest to students in Biology, Anthropology, Sociology, Geology, History, Political Science, Criminal Justice, Psychology, and, of course, Philosophy.

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Fall 2012

Philosophy

PHIL 1301 Fundamentals of Reasoning, Dr. Charles Nussbaum
Section 001: TuTh 9:30-10:50

Reasoning is thinking in accordance with principles. Logic makes these principles explicit. As a consequence, this is a course on elementary logic. Good reasoning is indispensable for maintaining the integrity of our legal as well as our natural- and social-scientific institutions. It is also indispensable for the preservation of the open society that makes free inquiry possible. In this course we will develop criteria of good reasoning,
giving special attention to the logical concepts of deduction, induction, validity, soundness, strength, and cogency. Topics discussed will also include informal fallacies, as well as elements of classical syllogistic and inductive reasoning.


**Requirements:** A series of in-class exams and a final in-class exam.

**PHIL 1301, Fundamentals of Reasoning, Dr. Harry Reeder**
Section 002: TuTh 11:00-12:20

An extremely practical course based in the basic logical structures of critical thinking, and of the logical and rhetorical nature of the living process of argumentation. An excellent course for helping students in their studies and in their daily life.


**Requirements:** Three in-class exams plus a final exam.

**PHIL 1304, Contemporary Moral Problems, Dr. Charles Hermes**
Section 001: 10-10:50 MWF, Section 002: 11-11:50 MWF

In this course we will explore many different moral issues including: war and terrorism, abortion, the legalization of drugs, human sexuality, cloning/stem cell research, animal rights, affirmative action, and world hunger. While everyone has already thought about and talked about some of these issues, the approach we will take in this course will provide a unique method for making more progress in these discussions. By exploring the logical structure of arguments on both sides of these debates, students will discover a method for producing friendlier and more fruitful discussions on these topics. A main emphasis of this course will be exploring why it is essential to charitably explore one's opposition in order to fully understand one's own position.

**Text:** *Ethics in Practice*, Hugh Lafollette

**Requirements:** The course grade will be determined by
10 quizzes
2 exams
2 papers (5-7 pages)
Each section of the grade will count for 20%
Philosophy 1310, Philosophical Perspectives, Dr. Lewis Baker
Section 001: TuTh 9:30-11:00; Section 002: TuTh 11:00-12:30

Most college students have never had a philosophy course, but they began asking themselves philosophical questions even before they entered elementary school. What kind of world do I live in? What is the purpose of life? What constitutes a good life? Throughout history philosophers have revisited these questions, and their answers have shaped our civilization as dramatically as the world’s political, military, and economic leaders. "Philosophical Perspectives" offers a broad survey of philosophical ideas, using the methods students are already familiar with from their history and literature courses: examining the writings of major philosophers in their historical context, and the way one idea led to another.

Texts:
Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates
Epicurus, Letters, Principal Doctrines, and Vatican Sayings
David Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding
René Descartes, Discourse on Method
Henri Bergson, Creative Evolution

Requirements:
This course will be built around the readings and class lectures. Students should complete all assigned readings by the date listed in the Readings Schedule below. Class discussions of the readings will be used to answer questions and discuss selected aspects of the texts, and will not provide an adequate substitute for reading them. Regular attendance is expected. Preliminary freshman reports will be based on my evaluation of your participation in class, including an evaluation of your class notes.

Grades will be based on two exams given during the semester and a cumulative final exam. Students will be expected to describe the major philosophers and philosophies covered in the lectures and readings, the historical interaction of these philosophies with one another, and the logical relations between these philosophies. Outstanding students will themselves engage in the philosophical debates raised by the philosophies we study. We will discuss these exams more specifically in class. You may drop the course in accordance with University rules.

PHIL 2300, Introduction to Philosophy, Dr. Miriam Byrd
Section 001: MWF 9-9:50

This course provides an interactive approach to the study of philosophy. Not only will students learn about important philosophical figures, movements, and methodology, but they will be encouraged to identify their own philosophical positions and consider how these positions relate to those of the philosophers we’ve studied. Students are also encouraged to consider how particular philosophical issues have been important in their own lives and to discuss philosophical problems with friends and family outside of class.
Representative topics covered in this course include epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. Discussion of these topics will give rise to such questions as ‘what do I really know?’, ‘am I free?’, ‘am I morally responsible for what I do?’ ‘is there an afterlife?’ ‘how should I treat others?’ and ‘what should I do with my life?’

At the end of the course, students will be able to explain key philosophical concepts and the positions of major figures and will demonstrate skill in philosophical argumentation. Finally, students will have awareness of their own philosophical positions and the evaluative skills needed for building and improving upon their overall worldview in the future.

Text:

Requirements: Grades will be based on quizzes, short written assignments, and three exams. Attendance is required.

**Phil 2300, Introduction to Philosophy, Dr. Charles Nussbaum**
Section 002: TuTh 2-3:20

Philosophy is distinguished from all other disciplines in that it is the only discipline that is thoroughly self-reflective. Nothing at all, be it first principles, method, logic, or rationality itself, need be taken for granted or assumed without examination. Everything is potentially up for grabs (though not everything at the same time!). Philosophical reflection moves in both an analytic and a synthetic direction: when we philosophize, we attempt to clarify our concepts and principles, but we also take a comprehensive view of our cognitive and practical endeavors, and ask how they fit together. In the modern tradition, philosophy consists of three principal areas of inquiry: ontology and metaphysics (the study of the fundamental categories and structure of existence), epistemology (the study of the scope and limits of human knowledge), and ethics (the search for moral justification). We shall touch on all three and more.

**Texts:**
- Frankfurt: On Bullshit
- Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy
- Hume: An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding
- Wielenberg: Value and Virtue in a Godless Universe
- Greene: “The Secret Joke of Kant’s Soul”

**Requirements:** three in-class exams and a final exam.

**PHIL 2311, Logic, Dr. Keith Burgess-Jackson**
Section 001, TuTh 8-9:20
Reasoning—also known as inference—is the process by which conclusions are drawn from premises. Like any other human activity, it can be done well or poorly. The aim of this course is to help you do it better. There are two types of reasoning. In **theoretical** reasoning, one decides what to believe. In **practical** reasoning, one decides what to do. There are two types of study of reasoning. Those who conduct **empirical** studies seek to understand the processes by which human beings reason (whether theoretically or practically). This is the province of science. Those who conduct **normative** studies seek to distinguish, in a principled way, between good and bad reasoning. This is the province of logic. Logic is either formal or informal, depending on whether the reasoning being studied is expressed in artificial or natural language. This is a course in **formal** logic, so you will be learning several new languages: the language of categorical logic, the language of propositional logic, and the language of predicate logic. Students who wish to study **informal** logic should take PHIL 1301 (Fundamentals of Reasoning, formerly known as Critical Thinking). A student may (and in my opinion should) take both Fundamentals of Reasoning and Logic. The order in which they are taken does not matter.


**Requirements:** Three in-class examinations, equally weighted. Attendance is required; poor attendance will result in a lower grade.

**PHIL 3301-001, History of Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy, Dr. Miriam Byrd**

Section 001: MWF 10-10:50

This course provides a survey of ancient Greek philosophy from the Presocratics to Aristotle. After studying key figures such as Thales, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Pythagoras, and Democritus, we shall read Plato’s *Apology*, the *Republic*, and brief selections from other dialogues. The course concludes with selections from Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*, *Physics*, *De Anima*, *Nicomachean Ethics*, and *Politics*. Topics of emphasis include the nature of reality, moral psychology, the best human life, and how the political community should be structured.

**Texts:**

**Requirements:** Quiz, two short papers (4 to 5 pages in length), midterm, final (both in-class essay exams). This class has an attendance policy.

**PHIL 3330, Social and Political Philosophy, Dr. Keith Burgess-Jackson**
Section 001: TuTh 9:30-10:50

An in-depth examination of five normative political theories: liberal egalitarianism, libertarianism, utilitarianism, radical egalitarianism, and conservatism.

Texts:

Requirements: Two in-class examinations, equally weighted. Attendance is required; poor attendance will result in a lower grade.

**PHIL 4381, THEORIES OF INTERPRETATION, Professor Harry Reeder**
Section 001, TuTh 11:00-12:20

Philosophical hermeneutics--the theory or study of interpretation--dates back at least to Aristotle and grew in the 20th century from a focus upon written texts to an analysis of the interpretation of every human act and idea. This course traces the history of the problems of interpretation from Aristotle to the present, with emphasis on the 20th Century.

Texts: Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time* will be available in the bookstore. Other texts will be available either on reserve in the library or as files on Blackboard.

Requirements: Grades will be based on questions based upon the readings each week (15%), a take-home exam (25%), and a term paper (60%).

**PHIL 4386, Metaphysics, Dr. Charles Hermes**
Section 001: MWF 1-1:50

In this course we will explore questions including: What am I, how can I persist through time, is time travel possible, and do we have free will. While the majority of the class will explore philosophical papers on these issues, we will also examine a few science fiction stories related to the philosophical issues.

Text: *Arguing About Metaphysics*, Michael Rea

Requirements: The course grade will be determined by
10 short assignments
2 exams
2 papers (5-7 pages)
Each section will count for 20% of the overall grade
Philosophy 4388, Twentieth Century French Thought. Spiritualism, Existentialism, Structuralism and Beyond, Dr. Lewis Baker

Section 001: TuTh 12:30-2:00

This course will survey late nineteenth and twentieth century French thought, focusing on the philosophical issues that shaped French thinking in a variety of fields, including history, literature, religion, linguistics, the social sciences, and philosophy of science. Authors covered will include Henri Bergson, Ferdinand de Saussure, Georges Dumézil, Rémy de Gourmont, Marcel Proust, Andre Breton, Marc Bloch, John-Paul Sartre, Claude Levi-Strauss, Michel Foucault, and others.

Texts:

Henri Bergson, *Creative Evolution*

Georges Dumézil, *The Destiny of a King*

Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*

Jean-Paul Sartre, *The Imaginary*

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane*

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Requirements: This course will be built around the readings and class lectures. Students should complete all assigned readings by the date listed in the Readings Schedule below. Class discussions of the readings will be used to answer questions and discuss selected aspects of the texts, and will not provide an adequate substitute for reading them. Regular attendance is expected.

Grades will be based on two exams given during the semester and a cumulative final exam. Students will be expected to describe the major writers and theories covered in the lectures and readings, the historical interaction of these theories with one another, and the logical relations between them. Outstanding students will themselves engage in the philosophical debates raised by the works we study. We will discuss the exams more specifically in class. You may drop the course in accordance with University rules.
CLAS 1300, Classical Mythology, Staff
Time TBA

A bracing introductory survey of the most influential classical myths as represented in words and images by the Greeks, Romans, and subsequent generations, including our own. Course readings will be lavishly illustrated by slides and film excerpts. Sex, violence, heroes, monsters, and more!

LATN 1441/42, Latin I and II, Staff
MWF 10-12:00
Concurrent enrollement required.

Latin is one of the most important languages to Western culture: it is an important root of the vocabulary and structure of Romance languages and English, and the Roman culture surrounding the language has remained influential on human thought for two thousand years. This class will introduce the students to the fundamentals of the Latin language and prepare them to begin reading original Classical texts.