

SUMMER '09 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**University of Washington****Department of Philosophy****PHIL 100A Intro to Philosophy Benchimol Daily 1:10-3:20 5 cr**

This course is a topical introduction to major issues in Western philosophy. We'll attempt in-depth exploration of foundational readings in philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind, free will and moral responsibility, and what is commonly called "The Good Life".

A TERM

TEXT: *Philosophical Problems: An Annotated Anthology*, Baker, BonJour

PHIL 102A Moral Problems Fredericks Daily 12:00-1:00 5 cr

This course in applied ethics is designed to introduce students to philosophical reasoning by considering a number of moral problems that individuals in contemporary society grapple with daily. Your skills in philosophical reasoning will be developed and tested in three ways: (1) Reading Comprehension: involves carefully, closely reading all the assigned philosophical texts (2) Philosophical Writing: involves completing a variety of written assignments designed to teach you how good philosophical writing differs from writing you may have done in other contexts (3) Class discussion: involves actively, respectfully engaging with your peers about controversial issues that are intimately related to our flourishing as individuals and as a society

Both the second and third elements of the class will require you to understand the reasoning used by others, to evaluate and critique those arguments, and to defend your own views with arguments. **FULL TERM**

TEXT: *Living Ethics: An Introduction*, Minch, Weigal

PHIL 102B Moral Problems Gee Daily 3:30-5:40 5 cr

This course is an introduction moral philosophy through an examination of some contemporary moral issues. We will learn about different normative theories like Kantian Deontology, Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics as we examine moral issues surrounding topics ranging from free speech, war, terrorism, and the environment. Students will have the opportunity to critically evaluate what others have argued with regard to these topics as well as construct their own arguments and evaluate their own beliefs. **B TERM**

TEXT: *Disputed Moral Issues*, Timmons,

PHIL 114A Philosophical Issues in the Law Scarbrough Daily 10:50-11:50 5 cr

Analysis and critical assessment of various philosophical issues in law and legal reasoning. Material drawn from actual law cases, as well as writings by contemporary philosophers of law and lawyers. Topics include criminal responsibility, civil disobedience, abortion, enforcement of morals. Special legal or philosophical training not required. **FULL TERM**

TEXTS: *Legal Reasoning*, Golding; *Philosophical Problems in the Law*, Adams, *The Philosophy of Law: A Very Short Introduction*, Wicks

PHIL 115A Practical Reasoning Aufrecht Daily 1:10-3:20 5 cr

This course is an introduction to logical reasoning emphasizing concepts and methods useful for practical analysis of arguments in everyday contexts. We will learn about argument structure, meaning, informal fallacies, inductive reasoning, causation, probabilities, and statistical inference. **A TERM**

TEXT: *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, Hurley

PHIL 120A Introduction to Logic Ricci Daily 1:10-2:10 5 cr

This course is an introduction to formal deductive systems and their applications. It will feature formalized deductions in sentential and quantified predicate systems; truth tables of the sentential system and finite models of the quantified system; translations from colloquial English to formal syntax. Suitable for nonmajors. Course requires weekly homeworks, quizzes, and a sense of humor. **FULL TERM**

TEXT: *Logic: Techniques of Formal Reasoning*; Kalish, Montague and Mar

PHIL 240A Introduction to Ethics Barr Daily 10:50-11:50 5 cr

This course serves as a broad introduction to the field of normative ethics. Normative ethics is a branch of philosophy that attempts to answer such questions as “What, if anything, is intrinsically valuable?”, “What ultimately explains why some acts are right and others wrong?”, “What sort of person should I endeavor to be”?, and “What sort of life is worth living?”. The content of this course consists primarily of the examination of the set of theories in normative ethics that are dominant in the philosophical literature. We will cover such normative ethical theories as Divine Command Theory, Moral Relativism, Natural Law Theory, Classical and Contemporary Utilitarianism, Kantian Deontology and Virtue Ethics. **FULL TERM**

TEXTS: *Three Methods of Ethics*, Baron, Pettit, Slote; *Moral Theory*, Timmons

PHIL 267A Intro to Philosophy of Religion Enden Daily 9:40-10:40 5cr

Can the existence of God be proven? Can the non-existence of God be proven? What are miracles, and can they occur? Is it rational to believe in God? Is God required for morality? Is there life after death? These questions and many others will be explored. No previous experience with philosophy or religion required. **FULL TERM**

TEXT: *A Thinker's Guide to the Philosophy of Religion*, Stairs, Bernard

PHIL 338A Philosophy of Human Rights Olsen MWF 12:00-1:40 5cr

This course is designed as an introduction to and exploration of issues in the philosophy of human rights. Throughout the quarter, we will discuss how one ought to conceive of and justify human rights, guided by a close examination of various themes and controversies that surround these issues. Among other lines of inquiry, we will consider whether rights should include positive rights (roughly, rights to be provided something) or only negative rights (roughly, rights to not be harmed or interfered with), we will address pluralistic challenges to human rights theories – both domestic (e.g., issues of multiculturalism) and international (e.g., issues of cultural relativism and/or the International Criminal Court) – and we will question whether rights can be extended to groups as well as individuals. In general, our approach will be topic-based, drawing on theory as appropriate to help us make sense of the problems and conflicts we encounter.

Students will have the option of doing service learning with a Seattle-based human rights organization in conjunction with this course. This course meets the I&S requirement, and students will be able to receive Writing Credit for the course. **FULL TERM**

TEXTS: *The Philosophy of Human Rights*, Hayden

PHIL 345A Moral Issues of Life and Death Remow Daily 12:00-1:00 5cr

In this course we will read various historical and contemporary texts about moral issues of life and death. Topics to be examined include the sanctity & meaning of life, suicide, euthanasia, abortion, human cloning, capital punishment, war, & world hunger.

FULL TERM

TEXTS: *Life and Death: A Reader in Moral Problems*, Pojman

PHIL440A Ethics Talbott Daily 1:10-3:20 5 cr

This course will focus on contemporary discussions of important issues in philosophical ethics. In the first half of the course, the main issue to be discussed will be: What are we doing when we make a moral judgment? This will lead to a discussion of the question: What are we doing when we make judgments about what it is rational to do? This will lead to a consideration of various types of moral and normative realism and anti-realism. In the second half of the course, we will discuss various substantive ethical theories, including utilitarian ethics, social contract ethics, virtue ethics, and feminist ethics. Each student will write one 5-page paper. There will also be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam. No prerequisites, but PHIL 240 or at least one other course in philosophy is recommended. **Meets I&S Requirement. B TERM**

TEXTS: *Ethical Theory*, Pojman and a photocopied reader.

PHIL 445A Philosophy of Art Conroy Daily 10:50-1:00 5cr

This course is a general introduction to the full range of philosophical problems and issues connected with art, artistic creativity, and aesthetic experience. We will take up the general question of how the realm of the artistic/aesthetic constitutes a distinctive sphere of value and meaning through careful investigation of both historically important texts in aesthetics and contemporary classics. The major questions we will treat are: Is art a product of biological forces that have been at work for thousands of years, or is it a relatively new development that has emerged from particular cultural circumstances? What distinguishes a work of art from any other artifact? Does the aesthetic appreciation of a work of art or a natural landscape require the adoption of a special psychological stance – an aesthetic attitude? To what extent, if any, are an artist's intentions about her work relevant to its meaning? How can we make sense of our seemingly paradoxical emotional responses to works of art? What connection, if any, is there between aesthetic value and moral value? Evaluation for the course will consist of two in-class examinations. Previous experience in philosophy (at least one philosophy course *other than* Phil 115 or Phil 120) strongly recommended. **A TERM**

TEXTS: *The Philosophy of Art*, Davies; *Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology*, Cahn, Meskin