

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE COURSES

PHIL 6070: MARXISM

MW 2:00-3:15

JESSICA BERRY

In 1848, Marx and Engels announced that “a specter is haunting Europe—the specter of Communism.” Since then, that specter has been transformed from a looming, terrifying threat into a lingering, embarrassing ghost. What exactly is left of this “defeated” and “surpassed” moment in the history of Western thought? How can this specter still haunt us when we’ve so thoroughly disposed of the body? In this course we will examine central and enduring strains of Marxism across its history, from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, to V. I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Georg Lukács, Herbert Marcuse, Rosa Luxemburg, and the contemporary writer G.A. Cohen.

PHIL 6075: TOPICS IN 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY

TR 9:30-10:45

SEBASTIAN RAND

Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit. The *Phenomenology of Spirit* is Hegel’s most influential work. In it Hegel attempts to demonstrate the self-correcting movement of our thinking and thereby to set up his attempt (in later works) to show the self-grounding nature of human reason, institutions, and culture. This demonstration requires a philosophical treatment of the entirety of (what Hegel regards as) the modern Western human experience and its history. We will start at the beginning of the book and see how far we get.

PHIL 6100: EPISTEMOLOGY

MW 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

This course covers great issues in classical and contemporary epistemology. These may include an examination of the possibility of knowing that there is a God and a study of the foundations of knowledge in everyday life and the sciences. These may also include the concepts of knowledge and justification, skepticism, relativism, social constructivism, the problems of the external world and other minds, among others.

PHIL 6800: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

TR 12:45-2:00

ANDREW J. COHEN

There are many disputes about both the nature of justice and its requirements. We will discuss both, beginning by considering the nature of justice and the various factors that are relevant to achieving justice in ordinary life. From there, we will discuss, in more depth, equality—and its many forms—and why it (in some form) matters when it does (and, perhaps, why some forms do not matter). We will end by considering several issues regarding race and what justice requires given the history of race in the US (likely: reparations, affirmative action, hate speech, and racial profiling).

PHIL 6820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

TR 2:15-3:30

ANDREW I. COHEN

This course explores the nature, justification, and proper scope of law. Using some case law and the works of legal philosophers, we will think philosophically about the foundations, structure, and legitimate applications of law. Topics may include: natural law and positivist theories of law, the foundation and limits of contract, political authority and the U.S. Constitution, civil disobedience and the duty to obey the law, theories of punishment, causation and theories of liability, ethical foundations of various criminal defenses, liberty and privacy, restitution/compensation for injustice.

PHIL 8030: SEMINAR IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY**F 9:30-12:00****TIM O'KEEFE**

Ancient Ethics. This course will focus on some of the ethical theories of the Ancient Greeks and Romans: Plato, Aristotle, the Epicureans, the Stoics, and the Pyrrhonian skeptics. We will examine how these thinkers address the following sorts of questions: what is happiness (eudaimonia), and how does one achieve it? How does happiness relate to human nature? What is the place of other people and of friendship in a happy life? What is the relationship between happiness and virtue? What attitude should we take toward death?

PHIL 8330: SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**R 4:30-7:00****ANDREA SCARANTINO**

The Psychology and Philosophy of Motivation. Why do humans and animals do what they do? We discuss several 20th century constructs to make sense of behavior, including reflexes, instincts, drives, needs, fixed action patterns, reinforcement, beliefs and desires, motivation and emotion. Our objective is to familiarize ourselves with the main options for explaining behavior, understanding each in the context of a historically situated research program (e.g. behaviorism, ethology, Freudian psychology, folk psychology, etc.). At the end of this course, students will have a deeper appreciation of how physiological, cognitive, affective and social factors interact to propel and sustain goal-seeking behavior in a range of domains.

PHIL 8340: SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE T 4:30-7:00**NEIL VAN LEEUWEN**

Philosophy of Mind Meets Formal Epistemology: The Case of Belief. The notion of belief figures in both contemporary philosophy of mind and in formal epistemology. One might hope both sub-disciplines are talking about the same thing. But inspection reveals apparently deep differences. Philosophy of mind gravitates toward empirical literatures, which often paint unflattering portraits of belief formation. Formal epistemology portrays beliefs as coming in degrees ("credences") from 0 to 1 that update in Bayesian fashion, and formal epistemology is more from the arm chair. To what extent are the two sub-disciplines actually talking about the same thing? What can they learn from each other? And which is more useful for other philosophical purposes we might have?

PHIL 8810: SEMINAR IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**W 4:30-7:00****CHRISTIE HARTLEY**

Equal Citizenship. In this course, we will consider what is required for all persons to be equal citizens in a liberal democratic state. Among the questions we will consider include: Does equal citizenship fundamentally concern all citizens having a particular distribution of certain goods or is it about the relationship among citizens? How much inequality in income and wealth is consistent with equal citizenship? How far can the state go to eliminate racial inequality and gender based inequality when equal citizenship is at stake?