

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE COURSES

PHIL 6075: TOPICS IN 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY

TR 2:15-3:30

JESSICA BERRY

Beyond Good and Evil: This course will focus on the nineteenth-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's critique of morality, as he develops it in the two companion books *Beyond Good and Evil* and *The Genealogy of Morality*, which are often considered the core of his mature philosophical corpus. We will examine the indispensable role that psychological observation plays in Nietzsche's thought and consider, among other things, in what sense Nietzsche is a "naturalist," how his critique anticipates various evolutionary accounts of morality, and what his work means for the very future of moral philosophy.

PHIL 6090: TOPICS IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

TR 9:30-10:45

SEBASTIAN RAND

Heidegger's Being and Time. Heidegger's first book has been influential since its publication in 1927. Against the background of his interpretation of philosophy's history, Heidegger uses existentialist and phenomenological insights to motivate a new program concerning "fundamental ontology," beginning with an analysis of the specifically human mode of being. At the core of this program lurks a radical understanding of time and history, which will be our focus. No special prerequisites, though 3010 (Ancient) and 3020 (Modern) are strongly recommended.

PHIL 6100: EPISTEMOLOGY

MW 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

The course covers classical and contemporary discussions regarding knowledge and justified belief. The first portion is a survey of classical and contemporary topics. These may include, e.g.: the problems of the external world and induction, the Gettier problem, skepticism, foundationalism, coherentism, naturalized epistemology, reliabilism, contextualism, and theories of truth. The second portion of the course focuses on a recent work in epistemology, such as, Paul Boghossian's, *Fear of Knowledge: Against Relativism and Constructivism*.

PHIL 6130: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

TR 12:45-2:00

ANDREA SCARANTINO

Our philosophical reflections on science will touch upon three foundational issues: (1) What makes science different from non-science? (2) Does science progress towards the truth over time? (3) How are scientific theories confirmed by evidence? Once we have covered these three general topics, we will ask two further questions: (4) Which categories carve nature at its natural joints? (5) How can we measure unobservable entities?

PHIL 6340: PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE

TR 7:15-8:30

NEIL VAN LEEUWEN

How is information organized in the mind/brain? This course explores the idea of modularity, which holds that the mind/brain is organized into specialized systems, each with different content domains and processing. Some hold, for example, that the senses--hearing, vision, etc.--involve separate modules, as Jerry Fodor argues in *The Modularity of Mind*. But other potential examples would be the various intuitive systems in the mind/brain that process other sorts of information: intuitive physics, intuitive biology, and intuitive psychology. Thus, the goals of the course are to understand modularity, to explore its theoretical applications, and to evaluate those applications.

PHIL 6700: ETHICS

MW 12:30-1:45

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

Normative ethics is the study of what we should *do* and how we should *be*. In this course we will explore some leading theories in contemporary normative ethics, including contractarianism, Kantianism, contractualism, utilitarianism, virtue theory and the ethics of care. We will consider how the theories we study can best be formulated and examine the arguments for and against them. Readings will include work by David Gauthier, Immanuel Kant, Barbara Herman, T.M. Scanlon, Bernard Williams, Peter Railton and Rosalind Hursthouse.

PHIL 6820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

MW 2:00-3:15

S. M. LOVE

In this course, we will consider a number of questions at the intersection of philosophy and law. Beyond the question of what law itself is, we will consider philosophical issues in specific areas of law. Among others, we will look philosophically at issues like affirmative action, abortion, contracts, and environmental justice, considering each issue from multiple perspectives. There will be a special focus on issues of racial justice.

PHIL 8030: SEMINAR IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY**TR 11:00-12:15 ALLISON PIÑEROS GLASSCOCK**

Plato's Epistemology. The central focus of this course will be the nature of knowledge (*epistēmē*) and belief (*doxa*) in Plato's dialogues. Sub-topics will include whether there is a single theory of knowledge in the dialogues; the relationship among kinds of knowledge; and the role of perception. In keeping with the emphasis that Plato places on the relationship between knowledge and virtue, we will also consider how Plato's epistemology intersects with his ethics. We will pay special attention to the value of knowledge and the importance of self-knowledge. Main readings will likely include the *Meno*, *Charmides*, and *Theaetetus*.

PHIL 8130: SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**T 4:30-7:00****DAN WEISKOPF**

Philosophy of Neuroscience. This seminar will cover recent philosophical work on neuroscience from a practice-oriented approach. We will focus on unpacking how the field's epistemic, technological, representational, and social practices contribute to our understanding of complex systems such as the mind/brain. Topics addressed may include: causation, explanation, and experimentation; the strengths and weaknesses of mechanistic, dynamical, and network modeling; reductionism, anti-reductionism, and the unification of neuroscience with psychology; the scope and limits of neuroimaging; the rise of "big data" in neuroscience; the roles of instruments and tool development; "brain reading," neuroprediction, and the sociopolitical implications of neuroscience.

PHIL 8330: SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**R 4:30-7:00****JUAN PIÑEROS GLASSCOCK**

Skill and Know-How. We shall investigate the nature of skill and know-how beginning with work by ancient Greek and Asian philosophers. This will serve as background for the ongoing dispute between intellectualists and anti-intellectualists, starting with Gilbert Ryle's classic discussion. Our ultimate aim will be to critically assess cutting-edge research that draws from resources in linguistics, neuroscience, and psychology to elucidate the nature of the target notions, paying particular attention to work on skill-acquisition. A more general aim will be to examine how best to integrate insights from such different fields with traditional philosophical methodologies to better understand how our minds work.

PHIL 8700: SEMINAR IN ETHICS**F 9:30-12:00****ANDREW J. COHEN**

Toleration and Free Speech. We will read historical texts (Locke, Mill, Williams) advocating specific limits to toleration as well as contemporary work about free speech. The historical authors were concerned with tolerating (or not) different religious views and practices. The contemporary authors (TBD) are concerned with tolerating (or not) different speech acts. The former should help us think about the latter as we attempt to determine the appropriate limits of speech.

PHIL 8855: SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY**W 12:30-3:00****PETER LINDSAY**

This course looks at the major political works of Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, J. S. Mill and Marx. In so doing, it examines the questions that inform much of modern thinking: Why should people obey political authority? What is the purpose of a state? What are its legitimate powers? What distinguishes a good state from a bad one? In looking at how each of these thinkers answers these questions, students will consider what distinguishes good answers from bad ones, and, ultimately, the answers that *they themselves* would defend.