

Philosophy Spring 2024 Course Descriptions

Undergraduate Electives

PHIL 3650: Early Modern Philosophy

Dr. Michael Olson MW 2:00 PM 3:15 PM

We will read and discuss some of the most prominent authors and questions in early modern (i.e., seventeenth- and eighteenth-century) European philosophy. The rise of modern natural science raised far-reaching questions about the structure of the material world, the place of human life within it, and the promise and limits of our capacity to respond to these questions. We will thus consider the historical roots of longstanding philosophical debates about the nature of matter and causation, whether we have a genuinely free will, and how we should understand the implications of physiological differences in human populations.

PHIL 4470 Philosophy of Science

Dr. Peter Burgess TuTh 2:00 PM 3:15 PM

In what sense does science arrive at truth? Does science refer to real phenomena? This course examines the major positions on the metaphysical status of the sciences: realism, anti-realism, and empiricism. Should doing science influence how we understand science? This course considers a perspectivist approach to the practices of sciences (instruments, mechanisms, and models), that problematizes the realism debate.

PHIL 4931 Justice, Freedom and the Arts

Dr. Theresa Tobin & Alex Gambacorta

Th 6:00-8:30pm (with travel time, 5-9pm)

This seminar explores human freedom and its relationship to justice through philosophy and the arts. Civil and human rights movements have worked for justice and freedom. How does freedom relate to justice in these movements? Is justice a route to freedom? Or might struggling for freedom be how we realize justice? How can the arts foster human freedom and more just communities? This course examines Simone de Beauvoir's conception of human freedom, its relevance for contemporary social justice movements, and the role of creative expression in practices of freedom. Together we'll pursue these topics by critically engaging philosophical texts and visual and poetic arts, participating in class dialogue, and examining our collective responsibility to create just and thriving communities. **This course runs through Marquette's Education Preparedness Program (EPP). Marquette students enroll in this course alongside students who are incarcerated at RCI. Class sessions are held off campus at Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)—a medium security prison for men. To take this class, your schedule must accommodate 45 min travel time to and from RCI on class days.

Phil 4943 Classical Rationalist Philosophy in the Lands of Islam

Dr. Richard Taylor TuTh 12:30 PM 1:45 PM

Philosophy in the Lands of Islam or Islamic Philosophy in the Classical Period, while richly stimulated by Greek Philosophy in Arabic translation, has its own distinctive nature as an intellectual discipline developed in the context of Islamic revelation. In this cultural context philosophy has to engage with Islamic revelation in a coherent fashion while retaining its own distinctive philosophical and scientific methods and focus. This Seminar will address philosophical thought and doctrines in the 9th to 12th centuries in key translations into Arabic and also in thinkers such as al-Kindi, al-Farabi, Ibn Sina and al-Ghazali from the Middle East and such as Ibn Rushd and Maimonides (a Jewish thinker working largely in the Islamic philosophical tradition) in Andalusia (the Iberian Peninsula). Topics will include the metaphysics of God and created being, the philosophical psychology of human soul and intellectual knowledge, the relation of philosophy and religion, the nature of happiness and related topics.

Graduate Courses

PHIL 6610 Aristotle

Dr. Owen Goldin MW 2:00 PM 3:15 PM

In this class we will study Aristotle's thought, especially his metaphysics, epistemology and aspects of his psychology through study of selections from *Posterior Analytics*, *De Anima*, and *Metaphysics*, as well as engagement with some of the most important secondary literature. The revised Oxford Translations are available through the database Past Masters, but buying your own copy of the Collected Works (Princeton) is recommended. Grading will be on the basis of class participation and two seminar papers.

PHIL 6660 KANT

Javier A. Ibanez-Noe TuTh 2:00 PM 3:15 PM

The main objective of this course is to provide a careful reading of two groundworks of modern philosophy, the *Critique of Pure Reason*, and the *Critique of Practical Reason*. Emphasis will be placed on mastering the structure and arguments of both books, but an attempt will also be made to situate Kant's thought within the history of modern philosophy. TEXTS: *Critique of Pure Reason*, *Critique of Practical Reason*; Recommended: Allen Wood, *Kant*.

Phil 6710 – Political Philosophy: Alienation

Dr. Javiera Perez Gomez W 4:00 PM 6:45 PM

Alienation has long been understood as a problematic separation between two objects that properly belong together: specifically, between an individual and the society around her, or between an individual and herself (see, e.g., Marx's analysis of alienated labor). This course examines this classic notion of alienation through both classic and contemporary readings. The course will be centered around the question of whether there is a distinctive type of alienation that emerges in societies like ours: that is, societies ruled by problematic social categories that invite essentializing beliefs about people in virtue of their membership in some social group. Some of our guiding questions will be: Is alienation necessarily caused by wicked social conditions, or can it take place even in the absence of such conditions? Can a person be alienated from others without knowing it? Is negative affect a necessary component of alienation? Is harmony always good or might there be value in dissonance? Does alienation always undermine one's capacity to flourish, or might there be instances in which it strengthens one's capacity for autonomy? What are the precise harms of alienation, and do they involve epistemic harms? Might members of marginalized groups be particularly prone to the harms of alienation?

PHIL 6959 Text/Seminar on 20th Century Philosophy: Lacan

Dr. James South TuTh 12:30 PM 1:45 PM

A seminar on the thought of the French thinker Jacques Lacan. While providing an overview of his thought in the first half of the semester, through close readings of essays from *Écrits* and some of the earlier seminars, in the second half of the class, we will work through the recently published English version of *Anxiety* (Book X of The Seminars of Jacques Lacan), which has been called one of the most important philosophical texts of the 20th century. Relevant background to Freudian texts will be supplied in class as necessary.