

The average person will change careers 5-7 times in their life.
Major in Philosophy and be prepared for all them!

"Great wisdom is generous; petty wisdom is contentious" - Zhuangzi

Spring 2020 Philosophy Courses

PHIL 213 History of Modern Philosophy Meets MWF 1:00 to 1:50 pm

Dr. Chris Lauer

The period of modern philosophy opened up questions about the relationship of mind and body, how it's possible to know anything, and why there is something rather than nothing. If you've ever stayed up late pondering one of the mysteries of life, chances are you were thinking about one of the ideas developed by the modern philosophers. This will be a discussion-oriented class in which students will have ample time to work through life's deepest questions.

PHIL 220 - Social Ethics Meets: T, Th 11-12:15pm

Dr. Celia Bardwell-Jones

This course will introduce students to a range of ethical theories and its application in topics such as environmental issues, gender and sexuality, race and racism, and issues concerning Global Justice. Social ethics seeks to challenge students in assessing their own beliefs and assumptions regarding controversial ethical issues through logic, reason and argument. Moreover, social ethics can be viewed as a form of ethical inquiry, which informs community engagement. We will learn from a variety of community leaders in how they incorporate ethical inquiry in their organizations and community groups.

PHIL/WS 307 - Theories of Knowledge Meets: T, Th 3:30pm-4:45pm

Dr. Celia Bardwell-Jones

This course will examine various theories of knowledge, truth and power. We cover classical topics in epistemology ranging from: What is knowledge? Is Knowledge even possible? How might we overcome the possibility of skepticism? What is the structure of knowledge? What is naturalized epistemology? What is truth? How can knowledge be socialized? Discussion will be framed around the relationship between knowledge, social experience and power.

PHIL 329: Environmental Ethics MWF 12-12:50pm

Dr. Tim Freeman

This course will provide an in-depth introduction to the field of environmental ethics. The course will cover a range of issues including the relationship between the human and nonhuman world, whether or not nonhuman nature has inherent rights, the problems posed by climate change, the decline of biodiversity, the loss of wilderness, the production of food, overpopulation, economic policy and globalization. We will examine a number of key texts in the development of environmental ethics from a range of philosophical perspectives in Western and Asian traditions of philosophy.

PHIL 345 - Symbolic Logic meets TR 8:00-9:15am

Dr. Ben Zenk

In this lively and entertaining introduction to the basic principles of symbolic logic, students will learn to identify and avoid bad arguments. Specifically, students will examine validity, soundness, and consistency, as well as a number of informal fallacies. In addition to helping students protect themselves from bad arguments and produce good ones, the study of logic offers specific benefits to students of a wide range of disciplines such as computer science, mathematics, business, pre-law, and philosophy. The course is designed to accommodate both beginners and more advanced students to the subject of symbolic logic.

PHIL/WS 416 - Science, Technology and Values Meets: T, Th 12:30-4:45pm

Dr. Celia Bardwell-Jones

This course seeks to interrogate the values embedded within science and technology. Hence, we will examine how traditional philosophy impacts the concerns and practices in science. We will ask questions such as what is the role of science and technology in addressing questions of what is human? What is knowledge conceived within a scientific framework? How might science intersect with questions of race, class and gender? How might non-western and/or indigenous science challenge or integrate the claims made within the Western tradition of science and technology? We will examine an applied context to science and technology and consider questions in food ethics and agricultural ethics.

PHIL 430: Philosophy of Zen MW 3-4:15pm

Dr. Tim Freeman

This course provides an in-depth introduction to the philosophy of Zen. Zen is one of the major traditions of Mahāyāna Buddhism. Zen flourished in Japan and greatly influenced many aspects of Japanese culture, from architecture, the visual arts, calligraphy, the tea ceremony, Noh drama and Samurai culture. The unique characteristic of Zen Buddhism is that it developed in China, bringing together Mahāyāna Buddhism from India with Chinese philosophy, especially Daoism. This course will thus review the origins of Zen in India and China, its development in Japan and more recently in the West. Since coming over to the West from Japan in the 19th and 20th centuries, Zen has also had considerable impact on art, literature and philosophy.