UIC PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

FALL 2020 | COURSE BROCHURE

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PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy

The course is intended to introduce students to some basic problems in Philosophy: for example, whether we have free choice, whether there is a moral standard that everyone should adhere to, whether God exists, and whether we can know anything about anything. Along the way, students will develop their ability to read critically and think critically. *(Gen. Ed.: This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.)*

Professor Georgette Sinkler | TR 9:30-10:20AM; F 10 or 11

PHIL 100 Life on Earth: Philosophy & the Environment

Human beings are both a product of and a dominant influence on the physical and biological world we live in. What can we learn about ourselves by understanding our relation to the rest of our world? What implications does this relationship have for how human societies should be organized? Should human beings care about the earth itself and the non-human life on it? We will discuss topics like global warming, human-caused mass extinction, and the role of disease in human biological and cultural evolution. *(Gen. Ed.: This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.)*

Professor David Hilbert | MW 12-12:50PM; F 11 or 12

PHIL 101 Critical Thinking

Critical thinking will enable you to better understand, evaluate, and defend the beliefs that make up your worldview, as well as the competing beliefs offered by others. We will learn how to analyze, evaluate and criticize arguments. We will then apply these skills to various forms of reasoning offered in academic and non-academic contexts. These are the skills you need to do well in college and to ace tests like the MCAT and the GRE. *(Gen. Ed.: This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.)*

Professor John Whipple | MW 11-11:50AM; F 10, 11, 12 or 1

PHIL 102 Introductory Logic

Information is all around you. It is stored in books, on computers, in the rings of a tree, in your brain. Logic is the study of the most basic property of information: that you can put pieces of information together to make a new piece of information. This process is called inference and it is at the heart of what it means to be a thinker. In logic, we study inference by establishing precise rules for what makes a good inference. In this course you will learn principles of inference that will be useful to you in any activity that requires thought. You will improve your ability to make and evaluate arguments, and you will gain a greater appreciation for precision in language. (*Gen. Ed.: Natural World - No Lab course; also fulfills LAS Quantitative Reasoning requirement.)*

Professor Aidan Gray | MW 10-10:50AM; F 9, 10, or 11
Instructor TBD | M 6PM-8:30PM

PHIL 104 Introduction to Political Philosophy

An introduction survey of topics in political philosophy that bear on U.S. society. Readings will usually be drawn from both classical and contemporary sources. (*Gen. Ed.: This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement and the US Society requirement.)*

Instructor TBD | TR 5-6:15PM

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PHIL 110 Philosophy of Love and Sex

What is it to love someone as a lover rather than a parent, sibling, or friend? What is the nature of sexual desire; how does it relate to love, to sexual activity and sexual pleasure? Among the topics discussed are sexual intercourse, trans-gender identity, homosexuality, prostitution, pornography, incest, and rape. (*Gen. Ed.: This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.)*

Professor Anne Eaton | MW 12-12:50PM; F 9, 10, 11, 12, or 1

PHIL 116 Medical Ethics

Moral issues as they arise in medical contexts, including such topics as abortion, euthanasia, paternalism, allocation of medical resources, and psychiatric issues.

Instructor TBD | MW 8-9:15AM

PHIL 201 Theory of Knowledge

How do we know what we know? What does it take for a belief to constitute knowledge? How are claims to knowledge justified? We will look at various answers to these questions in both historical and contemporary contexts. *Prerequisite: One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of instructor.*

Instructor TBD | MWF 11-11:50AM

PHIL 202 Philosophy of Psychology

Almost everyone agrees that we have minds and we have bodies. What's less clear is exactly how our minds and bodies are related. Is there really just one thing with two ways of describing it? Or are there two very different things that may or may not interact with each other? We will look at a range of answer to questions concerning the relation between mind and body. We will also focus on questions concerning individual senses from both a scientific and a philosophical perspective. *Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy; or junior or senior standing in the physical, biological, or social sciences; or consent of instructor.*

Professor Daniel Sutherland | MW 9AM-9:50AM; F 8 or 9

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DID YOU KNOW? PHILOSOPHY MAJORS ARE ACCEPTED AT A HIGH RATE TO MEDICAL SCHOOL!

PHIL 204 Philosophy of Science
Science is our best source of knowledge of the world and how it works, but what is the nature of that knowledge and its reliability? We will address questions like: What is science? What is the scientific method? How reliable is the knowledge granted by science? How do fallible, sometimes irrational scientists generate reliable knowledge? *Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy; or junior or senior standing in the physical, biological, or social sciences; or consent of instructor.*
Instructor TBD | MWF 1-1:50PM

PHIL 206 Intro to the Philosophy of Language
Philosophical issues concerning meaning, the relationship between language and thought, how language is to be distinguished from other forms of communication, and how truth relates to meaning. *Recommended background: PHIL 102.*
Professor Mahrad Almotahari | MW 9:30-10:45AM

PHIL 210 Symbolic Logic
The focus of this course will be first-order quantification theory. We will begin by reviewing truth-functional logic, treating it in a somewhat more abstract and rigorous way than in PHIL 102. We will then introduce quantifiers and their use to symbolize English sentences. We will set up a natural deduction system for first-order logic and consider meta-theoretical questions that arise about such a system —in particular, its soundness and completeness. *Prerequisite: PHIL 102 or consent of instructor. (Gen. Ed.: Natural World - No Lab course.)*
Instructor TBD | MW 3-4:15PM

PHIL 223 History of Modern Philosophy I: Descartes and His Successors
Sometimes referred to as the father of modern philosophy, Rene Descartes was one of the most important figures in the early modern period. In this course we will strive to understand the revolutionary character of Descartes' philosophy. We will also consider early modern criticisms of his views by Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Nicolas Malebranche, Pierre Bayle, John Locke, and G. W. Leibniz. The questions that we will be considering include: What is the relation between science and philosophy? What are the limits of human knowledge? What is the nature of physical substance? What is the nature of the mind? What is the relation between my mind and my body? Is it possible to prove that God exists? *Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.*
Professor John Whipple | MW 9:30AM-10:45AM

National statistics show that philosophy students outperform all others on the LSAT, GRE, and GMAT!
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PHIL 227 Continental Philosophy 1: Existentialism Anxiety and Rebellion
"Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom," wrote Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, seen by many as the father of existentialism. In this course, we will try to understand what existentialism is—both as a historical movement in philosophy and as a way of thinking philosophically in the present—while practicing the skills of philosophical writing. We will do this by reflecting on the following questions: What does anxiety have to do with freedom? Does being true to oneself require acts of rebellion? What does it mean to have a self, and can one have a self without depending on others? In addition to Kierkegaard, we will read works from Dostoevsky, Kafka, Camus, Frantz Fanon and Simone de Beauvoir. *Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. Note for Phil Majors: this course will count as Group 5 in the History of Philosophy.*
Prof. Zach Welman | MW 4:30-5:45PM

PHIL 232 Sex Roles: Moral and Political Issues
What are sex and gender? Is one's sex and gender identity a personal choice, or a social institution? What sorts of disadvantage and injustice have a basis in gender? How do these intersect with disadvantages and injustices based on other forms of social identity such as sexual orientation, race, class, and ability? This course aims to provide you with conceptual tools that will help you to develop your own informed, nuanced views. *Cross-listed as GWS 232.*
Prof. Alessandro Moscaritolo | MW 4:30-5:45PM

PHIL 300 Fundamentals of Philosophical Discourse
Do you ever feel, while writing a paper, that you don't really know what you are doing, or what, exactly, your teachers are looking for? Then this course is for you. Learn to write with purpose and confidence. Learn to present abstract ideas and arguments with clarity. Get detailed weekly feedback and coaching on your writing, and all aspects of writing philosophy papers. *Prerequisite(s): Major in philosophy; junior standing or above or departmental approval.*
Professor Tony Laden | TR 9:30AM-10:45AM

PHIL 402 Philosophy of Mind
This course is about the nature of our minds, and their relationship to our bodies and to the world around us. We'll ask the following questions: 'what is a mind?', 'what is the relationship between our minds, our brains and our bodies?', 'what is consciousness, and what is its role in our minds?', and 'how do our minds represent the world around us?'. *Prerequisite: one non-logic 200-level course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.*
Professor Mahrad Almotahari | W 3:30PM-6PM

PHIL 404 Philosophy of Science
Selected works on the aims and methods of science; the status of scientific theories, natural laws and theoretical entities; the nature of scientific explanation. Course Information. *Prerequisiite(s): One non-logic 200-level course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: PHIL 102.*
Instructor TBD | T 3:30PM-6PM

PHIL 429 Special Studies in the History of Philosophy
The course will focus on various topics which engaged philosophers in the West prior to the Early Modern Period--topics which sprang from the idea that human beings are rational animals who in virtue of that rationality have certain cognitive abilities as well as certain moral responsibilities. In other words, the course will focus on topics in Epistemology, Logic, and Ethics.
Prerequisite(s): One non-logic 200-level course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. Note for Phil Majors: this course can count as either Group 1 or Group 2 in the History of Philosophy.
Professor Georgette Sinkler | TR 12:30PM-1:45PM

Need advice about philosophy courses?
Contact:
-Your favorite teacher
-Director of Undergraduate Studies Professor John Whipple **jwhipple@uic.edu**
-Departmental Advisor Albert Hernandez
ahern093@uic.edu