philosophy

Undergraduate Course Offerings
Spring 2018
Basic Philosophical Questions  This prerequisite to all other philosophy courses gives you an initial understanding of what philosophy is, the range of questions philosophers take up, and how they deal with those questions.

UCOR 132  22 sections

Logic  Valid reasoning, logical fallacies, types of definitions, important informal aspects of arguments in ordinary discourse, and the formal logic of inferences involving simple and compound statements.

PHIL 106  2 sections

Philosophical Ethics  Ethics deals with questions like: What is happiness? What are virtue and vice? Can virtue be taught? How do we make decisions regarding good and bad, right and wrong? This course is an opportunity to delve into the ethical ideas that inform our lives, by looking at a selection of classic works from the Western philosophical tradition, including texts by ancient, modern, and contemporary thinkers.

UCOR 151  4 sections

Philosophy & Film  This course explores the philosophical implications of elements of film art: What, for example, does film editing tell us about the nature of perception? What do flashbacks say about memory? What do close-ups reveal about emotion? Are there ethical reasons why some images should not be made or shown, or why other images ought to be preserved? We read philosophers, directors, and film critics, and watch clips for all sorts of films.

PHIL 206  TR 9:25–10:40  Dr. Lampert

Philosophy of Sex  An introduction to basic themes and texts, both traditional and contempo-
rary, in the philosophical study of sexuality. An open arena in which students are free to address their concerns and express their views about sexual issues, this course argues that sex is essentially good. Among the topics are sex and love, sexual equality, sex and violence, cybersex, safe sex, erotica versus pornography, unifying sensuality and spirit, and the art of loving.

PHIL 214	TR 12:15–1:30	Dr. Keyes

African American Philosophy This course will focus on the historical development of the American black intellectual tradition, beginning with Equiano, Douglass, Garvey, and Anna J. Cooper, and concluding with the Civil Rights Movement: the philosophies of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Angela Davis.

PHIL 218W	MWF 10–10:50	Dr. Bjalobok

Epistemology The theory of knowledge, suitable objects of knowledge, how we go about gaining knowledge, and possible limits of knowledge.

PHIL 221	TR 1:40–2:55	Dr. Arenson

Yoga Philosophy & Practice Is the practice of yoga a form of philosophy? How do Western and Eastern traditions understand and make use of the mind and the body? We will investigate these questions by looking at classical yoga texts and contemporary philosophy of the body, dividing our time equally between classroom discussion and studio practice. No previous experience with yoga is necessary.

global diversity

PHIL 237	TR 3:05–4:20	Dr. Harrington

Health Care Ethics Ethical questions in medical care and research, e.g., doctor–patient relations,
informed consent, euthanasia, and the definitions of health, person, and death.

**UCOR 254**  
2 sections

**America & Antiquity**  This course begins with the Constitution of the U.S.A. and the thinking of the founders who wrote it (especially in the *Federalist Papers*). It then shows their debt to ancient Greek and Roman authors (Plato, Aristotle, Polybius, Cicero, Plutarch, and Tacitus, among others). One goal is to appreciate the intellectual history that influenced the founders; another is to understand and assess the philosophical principles they sought to enshrine.

**PHIL 257**  
TR 9:25–10:40  
Dr. Miller

**Philosophy and Star Trek**  *Star Trek* has traditionally focused on topics of extreme philosophical interest. We will investigate several in detail: each week, you will watch an episode from one of the television series and read contemporary or historical philosophical texts discussing the issues raised. We will focus primarily on topics in moral philosophy, including social and political philosophy, although we will also consider issues in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and other areas.

**PHIL 259**  
TR 12:15–1:30  
Dr. Vogelstein

**Philosophy of Law**  A study of major legal traditions with consideration of such topics as justice, ethics and law, legal reasoning, and philosophical issues in evidence and procedure.

**social justice**

**PHIL 260**  
MWF 1–1:50  
Dr. Bjalobok

**Special Topics: Meaning of Life**  A quest to decide what the meaning of our lives should be, in criti-
cal dialogue with the visions of a meaningful life given by great books of the Western world.

*Spring Break Away: Athens*

**PHIL 269-B01 TR 3:05–4:20 Dr. McCurry**

**Philosophy of Aging**  This course will examine aging in terms of its meaning, the experience of aging, and ethics of aging. The course will examine retirement, health care, and the trans-humanist project of extending life expectancy. We will also address the major theories of aging and the distinction between geriatrics and gerontology.

**PHIL 314 MWF 2–2:50 Dr. Bjalobok**

**Thomas Aquinas**  An introduction to the philosophical thought of St. Thomas, focusing on such topics as God, nature, knowledge, language, the problem of evil, and the relation between faith and reason. Besides learning where Thomas stood on these matters, you will be equipped to interpret his writings and thereby to explore the full range of his thought.

**faith & reason**

**PHIL 315W MWF 11–11:50 Dr. Bonin**

**Metaphysics**  An introduction to basic issues in metaphysics, focusing on unity and multiplicity, actuality and possibility. Some of our concerns are abstract, e.g. relations between universals and particulars, substance and quality, or being and becoming. Others are relevant for understanding human action, such as free will and determinism, or theory and practice. All are important for understanding the kinds of reality that make up our lives. We will begin with Aristotle, continue with Leibniz's rationalist and Heidegger's existentialist metaphysics, and conclude with some recent alternative forms of metaphysics: Carnap's analytic challenge to the very idea of metaphysics, Mbiti's
discussion of African philosophies of time, and Deleuze’s post-structuralist method of inventing concepts.

PHIL 319W  TR 1:40–2:55  Dr. Lampert

**Islamic Philosophy**  A survey of major philosophers from the classical period of Islamic thought. Among those whose works we will sample are al-Kindī, al-Fārābī, Ibn Sīnā, al-Ġazālī, Ibn Ruşd, and Ibn Bajja. We will give special attention, as did they, to the relation between philosophy and prophecy and that between philosophy and theology, to Islamic occasionalism, and to the nature and destiny of the soul.

**faith & reason**

PHIL 450W  MW 3–4:15  Dr. Bonin

**Queer Theory and Transgender Studies**  Two major figures said to have launched the movement now called ‘queer theory’ are Michel Foucault and Judith Butler. The course will begin with an examination of important selections of their works. We will then turn to subsequent key texts in queer theory and transgender studies, looking especially at the alliances and crucial differences between these two movements. Concepts such as sexuality, gender, embodiment, discourse, and institutionalized power regimes will be central to our discussions of the texts.

PHIL 496  TR 12:15–1:30  Dr. Rodemeyer

For many courses, more details will be posted outside the Department (303 College Hall) and on our web site.

duq.edu/philosophy