



Texas State University
Philosophy
Graduate Courses
Spring 2017

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PHIL 5301.275 CRN# 38448

Applied Philosophy

TTH 5-6:20 p.m

Comal 103

Instructor: Amelie Benedikt, Ph.D

Description: In this section designed for graduate students class, PHIL 5301 will meet with Philosophy 4301, described as follows:

Before philosophy is applied to living a good and meaningful life, philosophy must argue to defend life itself. Therefore, in this class, we will apply philosophy to the protection of human life, animal life and the environment.

Human Life: our topics will include readings about the concept of political rights, the existential freedom, the conditions of worker rights in America and international workers rights, the protection of prisoners of war, enemy combatants and local populations in the Geneva Convention, and the United Nations Declaration of 30 fundamental Human Rights.

Non-Human Animal Life: we will study essays by Peter Singer, Tom Reagan, James Rachels, and Temple Grandin. We will evaluate the goals and methods of PETA and the Humane Society. And

Deep Ecology: we will study the writing of Arne Naess and George Sessions, examine the goals of permaculture, reflect on thinking globally and acting locally, and consider some upcoming environmental frontiers.

Unique to PHIL 5301: In addition to the required readings, lecture topics and written essays for PHIL 4301, graduate student enrolled in PHIL 5301 will be responsible for a class presentation over one of our assigned readings. Graduate students will be required to participate in service learning with a volunteer organization that protection of human, animal or environmental life. "Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, promote civic and personal responsibility, and strengthen communities." - from the Texas State University Student Involvement website

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PHIL 5301.276 CRN# 38460
Applied Philosophy
Online course

Instructor: Robert O'Connor, Ph.D

Description: This course will focus on ethics, which is a branch of philosophy that addresses issues of right and wrong, good and bad, as well as virtues and vices. In this class we will address perplexing questions critical to today's world. What are the correct standards of right and wrong? Should everyone have the same moral standards? How do we know right from wrong? Why is there so much disagreement about the morality of abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, capital punishment, the environment, animal rights, warfare, global responsibilities, and so forth? This class will begin with a critical exposition of classic ethical theories in the Western tradition, focusing on ethical relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, Kantianism, natural law and natural rights, virtue ethics, and feminist ethics and the ethics of care. Then in the second part of the course we will apply these theories to some contemporary moral dilemmas, such as those mentioned above, that we face individually and collectively.

Required Texts: Barbara MacKinnon, Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues, (8th Edition)Cengage. Besides a print copy in the bookstore, eBook and rental options are available online at the Cengage website.

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PHIL 5302 CRN# 32322
Dialogue
TTH 12:30 -1:50 p.m.
Comal 116

Instructor: Jo Ann Carson, Ph.D

Description: Dialogue is a collaborative course that is a part of the Philosophy Dialogue Series. The class will explore dialogical and dialectical reasoning, with emphasis on both philosophical conversation and philosophical writing. Each student will research and conduct at least one dialogue and will contribute to others through discussion. There are three parts to the course: Part I: Background of dialogical and dialectical reasoning in philosophy; Part II: Open dialogues led by members of the class; Part III: Paper writing.

Required Texts: Readings posted on TRACS

Format: interactive discussion

Evaluation: 30% Dialogue; 30% Quizzes; 30% Papers; 10% Class Participation

Email: Jc28@txstate.edu

PHIL 5304 CRN# 39548
Philosophy of Writing
MW 3:30 -4:50 p.m.
Derrick 118

Instructor: Greg Moses, Ph.D

Description: In this inaugural voyage of the Philosophical Writing course we will seek to elevate our consciousness about the structures, styles, and graces of philosophical prose. First, we will do some reading of philosophical materials with a view toward compositional form. Second, we will review some time-honored guidelines for writing and re-writing English prose. Third, we will consider what contemporary teachers have to say about forms and processes of academic writing today. Throughout the semester, of course, we will write.

Do you have a philosophical interest that has not yet fit into your coursework assignments, something you wish you had more time to write about? Do you have a paper that you would like to rewrite for professional presentation, publication, or as a writing sample? Do you have an interest in exploring alternative forms of philosophical writing styles? Whether philosophical writing is something you enjoy greatly or not so greatly, this course will attempt to help you do it better for the satisfaction of writer and reader alike.

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PHIL 5314 CRN# 38443
American Philosophy
TTh 3:30 -4:50 p.m.
Derrick 111

Instructor: Craig Hanks, Ph.D

Description: This course is an examination of contributions of Americans to perennial philosophical issues, including the tradition of American Pragmatism.

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PHIL 5320 CRN# 35727

History of Ethics

MW 5 – 6:20 p.m.

Derrick 111

Instructor: Alejandro Barcenas, Ph.D

Description: This course is a survey of major ethical theories in the Western philosophical tradition.

Required Texts:

- Reeve, C. D. C. and Patrick Lee Miller. *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek And Roman Philosophy*. Hackett, ISBN 978-0872208315.

- Immanuel Kant and Allen W. Wood. *Basic Writings of Kant*. Modern Library, ISBN 978-0375757334.

- Frederic Lenoir. *Happiness: A Philosopher's Guide*. Melville House, ISBN: 978-

1612194394. - Luc Ferry. *What is the Good Life?* University of Chicago Press, ISBN: 978-0226101385.

- Alain De Botton. *The Consolations of Philosophy*. Vintage, ISBN 978-0679779179.

- Pierre Hadot. *Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault*. Wiley-Blackwell, ISBN 978-0631180333.

- William B. Irvine. *A Guide to the Good Life: The Ancient Art of Stoicism*. Oxford University Press, ISBN 978-0195374612.

- Bertrand Russell. *The Conquest of Happiness*. W.W. Norton, ISBN 978-0871406736.

- Alasdair MacIntyre. *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory* (3rd. Edition). University of Notre Dame Press, ISBN 978-0268035044.

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PHIL 5322.251 CRN# 35247

Professional Ethics

MW 2 – 3:20 p.m.

Comal 114

Instructor: Vincent Luizzi, Ph.D

Description: Study of the major topics in business and professional ethics, including what a profession is, whether it differs from business, and what is involved with the the moral education, social responsibilities, and ethical standards of professionals and people in business.

Required Texts: Camus's *The Stranger*, Tolstoy's *Death of Ivan Ilych*, & online readings

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PHIL 5322.252 CRN# 38462

Professional Ethics

Online course

Instructor: Trey Brant, Ph.D.

Description: Study of major topics in business and professional ethics, including what a profession is, whether it differs from business, and what is involved with moral education, social responsibilities, and ethical standards of professional and business people

PHIL 5323.251 CRN# 32323

Environmental Ethics

TTh 2-3:20 p.m.

Comal 114

Instructor: Audrey McKinney, Ph.D

Description: We shall critically examine the developing field of environmental ethics and pay particular attention to the following questions: What is an environmental ethic? What obligations do humans have to "preserve and conserve" the environment, and what is the ethical grounding for these obligations? On behalf of whom—or what—are preservation and conservation to be undertaken? What assumptions about value and morality are embedded in the concepts of "wilderness management", "sustainability", "conservation", "stewardship" and "restoration"?

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PHIL 5323.D01 CRN# 36269

Environmental Ethics

Online Course

Instructor: Eli Kanon, Ph.D

Description: This web-based course will provide students with ethical concepts that will assist them in their future employment; in particular, critical thinking, writing and computing skills. This instructor-paced format with content pertaining to moral reasoning, basic science and contemporary business ethics in relation to the nature, use, preservation, and restoration of the environment will be beneficial to students who prefer cultivating their knowledge in a non-traditional process.

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PHIL 5327 CRN #38451
Medical Ethics & Bio Ethics
MW 12:30 -1:50 p.m.
Comal 103

Instructor: Olga Gerhart, Ph.D

Description:

- Introduce students to interpretations of the patient experience, to several classical accounts of illness, and to the important dynamic of compassionate care in the healing relationship between patient and health-care provider;
- Introduce students to interpretations of the health-care provider experience, to health-care provider narratives and other meaningful forms of expression; and
- Introduce students to interpretations of the experience of aging and dying.

We will explore these issues through a variety of approaches, including argumentation, poetry, prose, film, photography, and painting. There will be guest lectures and optional travel to places of interest, such the San Marcos community cemetery.

Required Texts: The readings will all be provided on TRACS.

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PHIL 5329 CRN #39547
Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Food Ethics
MW 11 -12:20 p.m.
Comal 114

Instructor: Robert Fischer, Ph.D

Description: Eating raises hard moral questions. This course explores those questions as well as potential answers. Standard topics include the nature of the food system, global hunger, food justice, consumer ethics, industrial agriculture and its alternatives, the plight of workers, overconsumption, and public health.

Required Texts: *Food, Ethics, and Society: An Introductory Text with Readings*, Anne Barnhill, Mark Budolfson, and Tyler Doggett

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PHIL 5340 CRN# 38446
Philosophy of Logic
TTh 3:30 -4:50 p.m.
Comal 103

Instructor: Audrey McKinney, Ph.D

Description: We shall study the semantics and syntax of both sentential and predicate logic. Emphasis will be placed both on mastering formal techniques (e.g., constructing derivations) and on understanding the conceptual foundations of logics. Why are logics constructed? How well do they fulfill their purpose? What are the philosophical applications of logics?

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PHIL 5356 CRN# 34693
Philosophy of Knowledge
MW 11 – 12:20 p.m.
Comal 103

Instructor: Peter Hutcheson, Ph.D

Description: We shall study a few topics in the philosophical theory of knowledge, including skepticism, the nature of knowledge, epistemic justification, and perception.

Required Texts: Sosa, Kim, Fantl, & McGrath, eds., EPISTEMOLOGY (2nd ed.)

Blackwell, 2008. ISBN 978-1-4051-6966-0. Hutcheson, EPISTEMOLOGY (course booklet available at University Bookstore only)

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PHIL 5388 CRN# 33913
Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Feminist Theory
TTh 5- 6:20 p.m.
Comal 114

Instructor: Holly Lewis, Ph.D

Description: This graduate survey course covers a wide-range of feminist theory and philosophy, its intellectual origins, and debates surrounding its application. The course uses a historical approach and covers competing feminist theories and problematics including: various periods of Western feminism, Black feminism, African-American 'womanism', Xicanisma, Marxist-feminism, liberal/individualist feminism, transnational feminism, intersectional feminism, radical feminism, cultural feminism, queer theory, and trans-inclusive feminism.

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PHIL 5388 CRN #35411
Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Moral Psychology
MW 2 -3:20 p.m.
Comal 103

Instructor: Isaac Wiegman, Ph.D

Description: This course begins and ends with curiosity about the mental processes that underlie moral judgments and actions: Why do good people do bad things and bad people do good things? What is the relationship between peoples' reasoning, emotion, and action? How do emotions influence moral judgment and action? How do unconscious processes influence peoples' moral lives? How responsible are people for unconscious influences on their feelings, judgments and actions? The point of the course is not only to follow our curiosity about these questions (among others); it is also to explore the territory about which they inquire and to get a feel for the various ways that philosophers and psychologists have begun to map out this terrain with their theories and observations. We conclude with more questions, for this intellectual terrain is vast and largely unexplored.

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PHIL 5388 CRN #38454
Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Latin American Philosophy
MW 12:30 -1:50 p.m.
DERR 111

Instructor: TBD

Description: Study of ancient Latin American thought, including Mayan, Aztec, Toltec, and Incan, pre- and post conquest Latin American philosophy, contemporary Latin American philosophy, and the thinking of Latin Americans in the U.S. Prerequisite: PHIL 1305 or permission of the instructor.