Texas State University
Philosophy Undergraduate
Special Topic Courses
Spring 2016

Undergraduate Advisor:
Rebekah Ross
Texas State University
Philosophy, Comal 112
512-245-1394
Rf08@txstate.edu

Chair of Philosophy:
Craig Hanks
Texas State University
Philosophy, Comal 102
512-245-1965
Ch25@txstate.edu
PHIL 4388.255.251 Problems in Philosophy  
Special Topic: Love and Truth  
MW 12:30 -1:50 PM, CMAL 103  
#35827

Instructor: Ivan Marquez  
Description: Philosophy comes from philosophia which is a type of love, philia, of a type of truth, sophia or wisdom. This course will explore the different kinds/senses/concepts of love and the different kinds/senses/concepts of truth. Also, it will explore the connections between love and truth at the conceptual and practical levels.  
Required Texts:  
Office Hours: DERR 219, MW 8:30-10:50 AM  
Email: lm18@txstate.edu

PHIL 4388.253 Problems in Philosophy  
Special Topic: Formal Logic  
TR 2:00 -3:20 PM, CMAL 103  
#33849

Instructor: Audrey McKinney  
Description: We shall study the syntax and semantics of first order logic and its extensions (including modal and temporal logics). Emphasis will be placed on mastering formal techniques and on understanding the conceptual foundations and limits of logic.  
Required Texts: No textbooks required.  
Office Hours: CMAL 111, TR 12:30-2:00 & Wednesday 3:00-4:00 PM  
Email: am04@txstate.edu
PHIL 4388.251 Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: African American Philosophy
TR 3:30 -4:50 PM, CMAL 103
#32565

Instructor: Greg Moses
Description: Self-respect, empowerment, freedom, justice, and equality are some of the values engaged and contested during several centuries of philosophy created by African Americans such as Cornel West, Maulana Karenga, Angela Davis, or Frederick Douglass. In this course we will explore how crucial values were critically conceived and communicated under general conditions of struggle during the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries. Our class will also host a campus visit by Dr. Leonard Harris of Purdue University, editor of our Philosophy Born of Struggle reader, and organizer of numerous national and international conferences dedicated to the ongoing critical development of African American philosophy.

Required Texts:

Format: Frequent presentations, discussions, and workshops will encourage an interactive engagement with course materials and questions.
Office Hours: Comal 115A, MW 2:30-3:20 PM & TR 1:20-1:50 PM
Email: rm95@txstate.edu

PHIL 4388.289 Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Creativity and Knowledge
W 6:30-9:30 PM, CMAL 103
#39270

Instructor: Holly Lewis
Description: Creativity and Knowledge is an advanced applied philosophy course where students will explore the relationship between creative activity and knowledge production. In addition to reading relevant philosophy, students will embrace a spirit of experimentation by undertaking a new creative activity of their choice and reporting to the class about their own experiences of this relationship.

Required Texts: No textbook required.
Office Hours: Comal 107D, MW 3:30-5:00 & 6:30-7:00 PM
Email: hl18@txstate.edu
Instructor: Natasha Mikles

Description: Who are you? What is the core of your “self”? Where is it located? What does it look like? What does “you” from ten years ago have to do with “you” now? Your body, mind, and personality have changed so much in ten years, where is the continuity? What is the relationship between the beliefs and thoughts of one man 2,500 years ago and those of a 500 million-person religious community today? Where can we pinpoint the essence of that community? Does it matter if we can’t?

Originating in 5th-century BCE India and Nepal, Buddhism has wrestled with these questions and their implications. Together we’ll explore the world of Buddhist thought to consider what answers they have provided throughout historical time and geographical space. We’ll also examine how this tradition of Buddhist thought was enacted through the formation of religious institution and practice. Understanding the religious world Buddhists inhabit will also us to explore the controversies Buddhism encountered as it spread out of India and throughout Asia—eventually appearing in America. Framing the specific historical, social, and philosophical situations Buddhism inhabits will ultimately allow us to understand the unique answers Buddhism provides to what are, ultimately, universal questions.

Required Texts: