Texas State University
Philosophy
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2016

Graduate Advisor:
Audrey McKinney
Texas State University
Philosophy, Comal 111
512-245-2047
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Chair of Philosophy:
Craig Hanks
Texas State University
Philosophy, Comal 102
512-245-1965
Ch25@txstate.edu
PHIL 5301 CRN# 11129
Applied Philosophy
TTH 9:30-10:50 a.m.
ED 4009

Instructor: Lijun Yuan, Ph.D
Description: We will read and assess classical and contemporary ethical theories regarding how to live a good life, but we will do so through applying them in contemporary moral controversies, such as, abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, affirmative action, capital punishment, torture, same-sex marriage, drugs, pornography, immigration, humanitarian intervention, and world hunger, etc.
Required Texts:
Email: Ly10@txstate.edu

PHIL 5302 CRN# 11136
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
Instructor: Eli Kanon, Ph.D

Description: Study of philosophical and ethical dimensions of technology including the nature of technology and technological progress, the relation of humans to the technological environment, whether technology is value-laden, and the social character of technology. This web-based course will endeavor to provide students with technical skills as well as acquaint them with historical and contemporary concepts regarding the philosophy of technology. Technical skills will assist students in their future employment; in particular, critical thinking, writing and computing skills such as blogging and wiki creation. The instructor-paced, on-line learning format will be beneficial to students who prefer cultivating their knowledge with a non-traditional process.

Required Texts:
Irwin, William and David K. Johnson (eds.). *Introducing Philosophy through Pop Culture*. Wiley/Blackwells.

Format: Faculty paced online course offered through Distance Education

Evaluation: Grading Policy:
Module Quizzes 130 points
Module Writing Assignments 130 points
Final Group Project 130 points

Grading Policy Continued:
Quizzes, Writing Assignments and Group Projects are of equal weight. The scores will be averaged and the final grade will be based upon the mean.

Final grades will be assessed on the following scale:

- 120 or higher results in an A
- 110 – 119 results in a B
- 90 – 99 results in a C
- 80 – 89 results in a D
- 79 or lower results in a F

Weekly Modules: Each week students will be expected to complete a learning module. This is required to pass the course.

Email: Ek17@txstate.edu
PHIL 5322 CRN# 17142
Professional Ethics
MW 2-3:20 p.m.
Derrick 111

Instructor: Nevitt Reesor, Ph.D
Description: We will begin with a quick survey of several classical ethical theories, such as virtue ethics (Aristotle), deontology (Kant), utilitarianism (Mill), and existentialism (Sartre). During the rest of the semester we will consider a number of questions within the domain of professional ethics such as the following. What is the good life, and what should be the relationship between one’s profession and the good life? What is the proper balance between personal integrity and loyalty to one’s employer? What is the proper balance between an organization’s interests, their customers’ or clients’ interests, and the public’s interests? When, if ever, is it ethical to lie in one’s professional capacity? The instructor does not intend to promote any particular view. Rather, he expects students to have read the material before class and to be prepared to work together to understand and evaluate it.

ISBN: 9780195326680
Publisher’s List Price to Students: $84.95
Format: seminar, some lecture
Evaluation: 2 tests, 10% each; 3 1200-1500 essays, 20% each; discussion participation, 10%; Reading Notes, 10%
Email: nreesor@txstate.edu

PHIL 5322 CRN# 16169
Professional Ethics
Online course

Instructor: Robert O’Connor, Ph.D
Description: This course will address perplexing ethical issues affecting professional life, especially the moral responsibilities and virtues of professionals in a broad range of fields. This class will begin by introducing students to the leading ethical theories in the Western tradition. Then we will apply these theories of moral agency to your responsibilities and rights as a professional in general and as a member of a particular profession. Besides the common issues that all professionals face, such as sexual harassment, discrimination, confidentiality, we will explore specific issues pertaining to engineering, health care, law, business, counseling, journalism, and education.

Required Texts: Ethics for the Professions, by Rowan and Zinach
Format: This online course will include lecture notes, written discussion questions, and forums based on the readings.
Evaluation: Grades will be based on written discussion questions, forums, and two essays.
Email: Ro15@txstate.edu
PHIL 5223 CRN# 19520
Environmental Ethics
TTH 2-3:20 p.m.
Comal 103

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"?

Email: am04@txstate.edu

PHIL 5328 CRN# 15847
Seminar in Ethics
TTH 5-6:20 p.m.
Comal 103

Instructor: Alejandro Bárcenas, Ph.D

Description: This course will focus on the ethical theories of Plato and Aristotle. We will explore their ideas based on a close reading of the original texts and placed them in conversation with several recent attempts to apply their insights to contemporary issues. In addition, we will examine and evaluate their respective approaches with regard to what it means to be human, the nature of reality and the knowledge needed to comprehend it.

Required Texts:

Format: Discussion, close reading, presentations, analysis.

Evaluation: 20% Presentations, 80% research papers.

Email: Ab75@txstate.edu
PHIL 5351 CRN# 11142
Philosophy of Education
TTH 9:30 -10:50 a.m.
Comal 116

Instructor: Jo Ann Carson, Ph.D

Description: In this course we will examine the nature, goals, and methods of education, with particular emphasis on the dynamics of learning and teaching. Although the primary focus will be on philosophical problems and themes that have influenced educational theory and practice, we will take an interdisciplinary approach, and will explore issues involving cognitive and developmental psychology, educational ethics, sociology, language acquisition, and social-political theory.


Evaluation: 40% exams; 40% papers; 20% class presentation

Format: Seminar

Email: jc28@txstate.edu

PHIL 5355 CRN# 11143
Philosophy Theory of Science
MW 12:30 -1:50 p.m.
Comal 103

Instructor: Peter Hutcheson, Ph.D

Description: There are several fundamental questions about the nature and practice of science. The course will consist of an examination of attempts to answer them. What is science? How does it differ from pseudoscience and from non-science? What makes evidence relevant to a claim? If someone accepts a scientific theory, is she committed to the major parts of the theory being (approximately) true? What are the actual major factors in scientists accepting or rejecting theories? How does a scientific explanation differ from other sorts of explanations? Is there a justification for induction?

Required Texts: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE, ed. Curd and Cover (first edition); PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE, Hutcheson

Format: Lecture and discussion

Evaluation: 3 or 4 short papers, two texts, and class discussion

Email: ph02@txstate.edu
PHIL 5388 CRN #18005
Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Philosophy of Economics
W 6:20 -9:20 p.m.

Instructor: Holly Lewis, Ph.D
Description: This course will examine the relationship between philosophy and economics and also encourage students to think philosophically about economic theories and their implications. What is money? Why do objects have value? How are wages determined? What is profit? What is a financial instrument? When, why, and how did natural resources become commodities? How does poverty and wealth come about? How have human economic relations changed since antiquity? What is the difference between slavery and free labor? Why has the economy become global? Is economics changed by culture? Does it change culture? What does it mean for an economic system to be sustainable? How do economic changes change our experience of time itself?

The course will cover these questions through a wide range of theories in historical context including: classical, neoclassical, Keynesian, Marxist, feminist, and indigenous economic perspectives. The course is designed to support students studying environmental ethics, sustainability, sociology, feminist theory, international relations, and history. It is economics through the lens of humanistic study and requires no advanced mathematical knowledge. I encourage all students who want to think critically about economics to join us.

Email: Hl18@txstate.edu

PHIL 5388 CRN# 18006
Special Topic:
An Interdisciplinary Introduction to Sustainability Studies
W 6:30 -9:50 p.m.
Comal 116

Instructor: Craig Hanks, Ph.D
Description: The seminar in sustainability is an opportunity for students to learn about issues of from a wide-ranging set of perspectives. The seminar is, by design, interdisciplinary. The course is required for all Sustainability Studies majors. Permission of Instructor required to register.

* This course requires departmental approval prior to registration. *

Email: ch25@txstate.edu
PHIL 5388 CRN# 18232
Special Topic: Philosophy, Culture, Science, and the Politics in the 20th Century
MW 12:30 -1:50 p.m.
Comal 114

Instructor: Ivan Marquez, Ph.D
Description: This course is a study of 20th Century intellectual projects and cultural movements that reaffirm the values of critique, commitment to truth, and an open society within the larger cultural, social, and political context of the times, especially, the crisis of European modernity. Specifically, we will look at analytic philosophy, logical positivism, ordinary language philosophy, Dadaism, surrealism, Bauhaus, and other intellectual and cultural manifestations.
Email: Lm18@txstate.edu

PHIL 5388 CRN #11145
Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Social and Political Philosophy
MWF 2 -3:20 p.m.
Comal 114

Instructor: Vincent Luizzi, Ph.D
Description: Study and evaluation of major theories and issues about the organization of society.
Required Texts: Social and Political Philosophy, edited by J. Somerville and R. Santori
Format: Seminar
Evaluation: Essay exams and papers
Email: vluizzi@txstate.edu

WS 5376 CRN # 19166
Images of Women
T 3:30 -6:30 p.m.

Instructor: Audrey McKinney, Ph.D
Description: We shall examine and critically reflect upon images of women prevalent in Western culture. Special attention will be paid to the fragmentary and conflictive character of the images. Examples will be drawn from films, literature, visual art, and popular music.

Note to MAAPE students:
WS 5376 can be credited either as a graduate philosophy elective or as one of the out-of-department elective courses for the MAAPE degree