



Texas State University  
Undergraduate Upper Level  
Course Descriptions  
Spring 2017

Philosophy Department  
Texas State University  
Comal 102  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
Phone: 512-245-2285  
Fax: 512-245-8335

**PHIL 3314 CRN# 38442**  
**American Philosophy**  
**TTH 3:30 – 4:50**  
**DERR 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.

Email: [ch25@txstate.edu](mailto:ch25@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 3315 CRN# 35724**  
**Contemporary Philosophy**  
**MWF 10 -10:50**  
**CMAL 201**

Instructor: Dean Geuras, Ph.D.

Description: Contemporary Philosophy will examine major philosophical concepts and theories that are prevalent in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, although some nineteenth-century philosophers, such as Kierkegaard and Nietzsche will be included as background. Topics will include Existentialism, Analytic Philosophy, philosophy of language, and philosophy of mind. Concepts to be discussed include authenticity, the absurd, performative utterances, private language, dualism, materialism, epiphenomenalism, and supervenience. Philosophers studied will include Sartre, Camus, Russell, Austin, Kripke, Kim, and Chalmers.

Email: [Dg06@txstate.edu](mailto:Dg06@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 3322.251 CRN# 35246**  
**Professional Ethics**  
**TR 2- 3:20**  
**CMAL 103**

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

Email: [VI01@txstate.edu](mailto:VI01@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 3322.252 CRN# 38444**  
**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 the moral education, social responsibilities, and ethical standards of professionals and business people.

Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor.

**PHIL 3333 CRN# 36815**  
**Feminist Theory**  
**MWF 11 – 11:50**  
**DERR 111**

Instructor: Rebekah Ross

Description: This course will examine major feminist theories including liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, radical feminism, and post-modernist feminism with an eye especially to revealing the complexity and diversity of contemporary feminist thought.

Email: [Rf08@txstate.edu](mailto:Rf08@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 3340 CRN# 38445**  
**Symbolic Logic**  
**TR 3:30 -4:50**  
**CMAL 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?"

Email: [Am04@txstate.edu](mailto:Am04@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4301.252 CRN# 38447**

**Applied Philosophy**

**TR 5-6:20**

**CMAL 103**

Instructor: Amelie Benedikt, Ph.D.

Description: 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 Regan, 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.

Email: [Ab53@txstate.edu](mailto:Ab53@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4301.255 CRN# 38449**

**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.

Email: [R015@txstate.edu](mailto:R015@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4302 CRN# 32317**

**Dialogue**

**TR 12:30 -1:50**

**CMAL 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

Email: [Jc28@txstate.edu](mailto:Jc28@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4327 CRN# 38450**

**Bioethics**

**MW 12:30-1:50**

**CMAL 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.

Email: [Ogg3@txstate.edu](mailto:Ogg3@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4350 CRN# 32318**  
**Philosophy of the Arts**  
**MW 3:30 -4:50**  
**DERR 111**

Instructor: Alejandro Barcenas, Ph.D.

Description: A critical and historical analysis of the nature of aesthetic experience and creative genius.

Required Texts:

- Steve Cahn and Aaron Meskin. *Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology*. Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN 978-1405154352

- Umberto Eco. *History of Beauty*. Rizzoli. ISBN: 978-0847835300

- E. H. Gombrich. *The Story of Art*. Phaidon Press. ISBN 978-0714832470.

Email: [Ab75@txstate.edu](mailto:Ab75@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4355 CRN# 35726**  
**Philosophy Theory of Science**  
**TR 11-12:20**  
**DERR 111**

Instructor: Burkay Ozturk, Ph.D.

Description: Study of the major theories concerning the nature and value of science and the scientific method. Repeatable for credit with different emphasis.

Email: [Bt09@txstate.edu](mailto:Bt09@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4356 CRN# 35495**  
**Philosophy of Knowledge**  
**MW 11-12:20**  
**CMAL 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) *THE PROBLEM OF EVIL (HONORS)*

Course Content: Is it reasonable to believe that there is an all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-good God, despite the appearance of pointless evil? The course consists in attempts to answer this question with rational arguments.

Texts: Robert and Marilyn Adams, eds., *THE PROBLEM OF EVIL* (Oxford University Press, 1990) ISBN-10: 0198248660. *JOURNAL ARTICLES* (available online).

Email: [Ph02@txstate.edu](mailto:Ph02@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4370 CRN# 38452**  
**Metaphysics**  
**TR 12:30-1:50**  
**CMAL 201**

Instructor: Johnathan Surovell, Ph.D.

Description: We will survey several fundamental metaphysical questions, including:

- Is the mind distinct from or identical to the body?
- Given that roses and cherries are both red, is there, in addition to roses and cherries, also redness—that is, are there, in addition to particulars, universals that can be exemplified by multiple particulars?
- Philosophy is rife with claims about what is necessary, possible, or impossible. For example, mathematical and moral truths are said to be necessary. But what does it mean to say that something is necessarily, as opposed to contingently, true?
- What is it to commit oneself to the existence of a given kind of thing?
- When a statement is true, is it made true by a peculiar kind of entity, viz. a “truthmaker”?
- Is the existence of some entities (the mind, e.g.) grounded on the existence of others (the brain, e.g.)? If yes, is the grounded entity anything over and above the things that ground it?

These questions are “fundamental” in that many debates in other areas of philosophy presuppose answers to them.

Required Texts: All readings will be available for free on our TRACS site.

Email: [Jrs294@txstate.edu](mailto:Jrs294@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4371 CRN# 32319**  
**Asian Philosophy**  
**TR 9:30-10:50**  
**CMAL 114**

Instructor: Lijun Yuan, Ph.D.

Description: This course covers mainly Indian and Chinese philosophy, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism, and Islamic philosophy. The course combines a historical and a topical approach to the subject of Asian philosophies: looking in detail at key debates and figures in their historical and cultural context, as well as focusing on specific areas of debate such as ontology and epistemology. How do people in the East look at the meanings of life: the nature of the world and their place in the world? The Asian philosophy should shed light on these issues.

Email: [Ly10@txstate.edu](mailto:Ly10@txstate.edu)

**PHIL 4372 CRN# 38453**  
**Latin American Philosophy**  
**MW 12:30 – 1:50**  
**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.

**PHIL 4388 CRN# 38455**  
**Problems in Philosophy**  
**Special Topic: Moral Psychology**  
**MW 2 – 3:20**  
**CMAL 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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