Texas State University
Philosophy Undergraduate Special Topic Courses
Spring 2016

Undergraduate Advisor:
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Chair of Philosophy:
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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

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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 L. Mikles

Description: This course provides an introduction to the religious tradition of Buddhism throughout historical time and geographical space by examining how the tradition of Buddhist thought was enacted through the formation of both religious institution and practice. Understanding the religious world Buddhists inhabit also allows students 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 allows students to understand the unique answers Buddhism provides to what are, ultimately, universal questions. Beyond these content-specific learning goals, this course also actively targets students’ writing skills through weekly reflection papers and a guided process of producing a research paper with close input from the professor on research, outlining, and paper composition.

Required Texts:


Format: Discussion, close-reading, textual analysis, group presentations

Evaluation: Mid-semester presentations, final semester research papers, learning portfolios