Texas State University
Philosophy
Graduate Course Descriptions
Spring 2016
PHIL 5301 Applied Philosophy  
TR 2:00 -3:20 PM, CMAL 114  
#37799

Instructor: Vincent Luizzi  
Description: Practical application of methods and teaching of philosophy to such major areas of human experience as religion, science, morality, politics, art, or literature. The study of one or more of these areas will demonstrate how philosophy contributes to the identification of issues as well as their resolution. May be repeated twice for credit.  
Required Texts: No textbooks are required.  
Format: Discussion, close reading, presentations, analysis.  
Office Hours: CML 110, M-R 3:30 -4:30, or by appointment  
Email: vl01@txstate.edu

PHIL 5302.251 Dialogue  
TR 12:30-1:50 PM, CMAL 116  
#32567

Instructor: Jo Ann Carson  
Description: This collaborative course 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.  
Required Texts: No textbook required. Readings posted on TRACS.  
Office Hours: CMAL 115C, TR 11:00 -12:00 & 2:30 -3:15 pm  
Email: Jc28@txstate.edu
PHIL 5314.251 American Philosophy  
MW 3:30 -4:50 PM, ELA 238-A  
#39111

Instructor: Olga Gerhart  
Description: American Philosophy is a survey course in the history of Western philosophy that stretches from the early 1700s to the present day. We will conduct a historical examination of the development of American philosophy, beginning with its origins in European thought. The texts for the course focus on the American themes of optimism, pluralism, and reform in metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, and social-political contexts.  
Evaluation: Responses to the assigned readings, due before every class; presentation on one of the assigned readings; two 8-12 research papers.  
Office Hours: CMAL 115E, Monday 3:30-4:20PM & Tuesday 12:30 -1:30 PM  
Email: Ogg3@txstate.edu

PHIL 5320.251 History of Ethics  
MW 5:00 -6:20 PM, CMAL 114  
#36891

Instructor: Alejandro Barcenas  
Description: This course is a survey of major ethical theories in the Western philosophical tradition.  
Required Texts:  
- Pierre Hadot, Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault. ISBN 978-0631180333  
- Luc Ferry, What is the Good Life? ISBN: 978-0226101385  

Format: Discussion, close reading, presentations, analysis.  
Evaluation: 20% presentations; 80% papers.  
Office Hours: DERR 222, Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-4:50 PM  
Email: Ab75@txstate.edu
PHIL 5322.251 Professional Ethics  
MW 2:00-3:20 PM, CMAL 201  
#36258

Instructor: Eli Kanon  
Description: This course addresses what it means to be a professional, considers various ethical models and investigates key issues such as deception, privacy, loyalty, social welfare, conflicts of interest and self-regulation with an emphasis upon trust.  
Goals: To acquaint students with theories of professionalism and professional ethics. To exam workplace ethical dilemmas  
Required Texts:  

Format: Seminar  
Evaluation: Reading comprehension and persuasive writing.  
Office Hours: CMAL 207B, MW 3:30-4:50 & TR 2:00-3:30 PM  
Email: ek17@txstate.edu

PHIL 5223.521 Environmental Ethics  
TR 3:30-4:50 PM, CMAL 114  
#32568

Instructor: Audrey McKinney  
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 assumptions about value and morality are embedded in the concepts of "wilderness management", "sustainability", "conservation", "stewardship" and "restoration"? On behalf of whom—or what—are conservation and preservation to be undertaken?  
Required Texts: No textbook required  
Office Hours: CMAL 111, TR 12:30-2:00 & Wednesday 3:00-4:00 PM  
Email: am04@txstate.edu
PHIL 5323.D01 Environmental Ethics
This online course requires an extensions studies application  
#37590

Instructor: Eli Kanon
Description: This is an online course that requires no on-campus class meetings. This web-based course will endeavor to provide students with technical skills as well as acquaint them with ethical concepts that will assist them in their future employment; in particular, critical thinking, writing and computing skills such as blogging and wiki creation. The instructor-paced format with content pertaining to critical thinking, moral reasoning, basic environmental science and contemporary business ethics will be beneficial to students who prefer cultivating their knowledge with a non-traditional process.
Required Texts:

Format: On-line
Evaluation: Weekly readings comprehension quizzes and writing assignments
Office Hours: CMAL 207B, MW 3:30-4:50 & TR 2:00-3:30 PM
Email: ek17@txstate.edu

PHIL 5326.251 Philosophy of Sport
TR 5:00-6:20 PM, DERR 111  
#38447

Instructor: Eric Gilbertson
Description: An examination of the philosophical issues that arise in sport. Topics include the social significance of sport, amateurism, the ethics of competition, the meaning of violence within sports, and other related issues.
Required Texts:

Office Hours: Comal 207D, Monday 10:00-12:00 & Wednesday 2:00-4:00
Email: eng18@txstate.edu
PHIL 5356.251 Philosophy of Knowledge  
MW 11:00 – 12:20 PM, CMAL 102  
#35407

Instructor: Peter Hutcheson  
Description: The course will consist in an examination of (almost exclusively) contemporary work in epistemology. The topics will be skepticism, epistemic closure, the definition of knowledge, epistemic justification, and perception.  
Required Texts:  
  - Hutcheson, EPISTEMOLOGY (course booklet available at University Bookstore only) 
Format: Lecture and discussion  
Evaluation: Four short thesis-defense papers and two tests.  
Email: ph02@txstate.edu Phone: 245-3146  
Office Hours: Comal 107H, MWF 11:00-11:30 AM

PHIL 5388.251 Problems in Philosophy  
Special Topic: Love and Truth  
MW 12:30 -1:50 PM, CMAL 103  
#32569

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 5388.255 Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Formal Logic
TR 2:00 -3:20 PM, CMAL 103
#32570

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 5388.257 Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: African American Philosophy
TR 3:30 -4:50 PM, CMAL 103
#32572

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 5388.289 Problems in Philosophy
Special Topic: Creativity and Knowledge
W 6:30-9:30 PM, CMAL 103
#34434

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