



Texas State University
Department of Philosophy
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2018

Texas State University
Philosophy Department
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MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**Responsible Conduct of
Research and Research of Ethics**

PHIL 5101 CRN#17640

W 1 – 1:50

CMAL 102C

Instructor: Craig Hanks, Ph.D.

Description: Researchers can find themselves in complex ethical situations created by the collaborative and competitive nature of scientific research. How will authorship on a paper be decided and who will be considered first author? Should private companies sponsor research? Do researchers have an obligation to give the sponsors of their research the results they seek? Can researchers who stand to profit from research manage their conflicts of interest and be an impartial investigator? To what extent should socio-political factors influence research outcomes? To what extent can researchers use non-human animals in their research? How much information about the research do researchers owe their human subjects? To what extent can researchers manipulate data and photographs?

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Note: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) now require training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR). The Office of Research Integrity defines RCR's core areas to include human subjects research, research on non-human animals, mentoring, collaboration, data management, authorship, peer review, conflicts of interest, and research misconduct. This course is designed to cover those core areas and meets the requirements of the NIH and NSF. Students who pass the course with a grade of "B" or better and attend at least 75% of course meetings will be considered by Texas State University to have met the RCR requirement and will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

Applied Philosophy
PHIL 5301 CRN# 10910
TR 9:30 – 10:50
CMAL 103

Instructor: Lijun Yuan, Ph.D.

Description: We examine many of the major issues and questions that philosophers have raised in the past 2500 years. We will be exploring on questions of human nature, the nature of the Self, the nature of justice and goodness, and various ethical issues through the contemporary debates. 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.

Dialogue
PHIL 5302 CRN#10917
TR 12:30-1:50 p.m.
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

Format: Interactive discussion

Evaluation: 30% Dialogue; 30% Quizzes; 30% Papers; 10% Class Participation

Philosophy of Technology
PHIL 5303 CRN# 19100
Online Class

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.

Professional Ethics
PHIL 5322 CRN#13987
Online Class
Reserved for BAAS
Majors

Instructor: Robert O'Connor, Ph.D.

Description: Ethics is the branch of philosophy that addresses issues of right and wrong, good and bad, and virtues and vices. In this class, we 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, including utilitarianism, Kantianism, and virtue ethics.

Then we will apply these theories of moral agency to your responsibilities and rights as a professional in general and as a member of your profession. Besides the common issues that all professionals face, you will face certain special issues in relation to your work. The same basic principles apply, but the cases we will study should help you see with greater clarity how they do. Traditionally, professional ethics focused on a few professions, especially engineering, health care, law. Today, not only has it expanded into many other fields, such as business, counseling, and journalism, but also most companies have ethics policies covering such topics as sexual harassment, discrimination, confidentiality, and informed consent. We will cover many of these fields and topics. Finally, although we will focus on professional ethics, the concepts that we learn apply to your personal life as a moral agent.

Environmental Ethics
PHIL 5323 CRN# 16342
MW 2 – 3:20 p.m.
CMAL 114

Instructor: Vincent Luizzi, Ph.D.

Description: Conceptions of the environment, its preservation and restoration, our ethical obligations to it, and their connection with living ethically.

Required Texts: None

Medical Ethics & Bio Ethics
PHIL 5327 CRN # 19157
MW 3:30 – 4:50
ED 3069

Instructor: Keisha Ray, Ph.D.

Description: In this course we will discuss ethical theory and its application to medicine, health care, and the human sciences using readings and case studies. We will discuss topics such as, but not limited to end of life care, euthanasia, just allocation of medical resources, racialized medicine, and the business of health care. We will also look at contemporary issues in clinical settings and contemporary issues in health care law.

Philosophy of Education

PHIL 5351 CRN# 10922

TR 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.

CMAL 116

Instructor: Jo Ann Carson, Ph.D.

Description: In this course we will examine the nature, goals, and methods of education, with 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.

Philosophical Theory of Science

PHIL 5355 CRN# 17636

MW 12:30-1:50 p.m.

CMAL 114

Instructor: Peter Hutcheson, Ph.D.

Description: Philosophy of Science will consist in the study and analysis some of the fundamental concepts of science, as well as an examination of arguments for various positions. Topics will include the definition of science, relevant evidence, rationality of science, scientific realism, and explanation.

Ethics and Dementia

PHIL 5360A CRN#16764

Online Course

Instructor: Olga Gerhart, Ph.D.

Description: The goal of this course is to learn about some important ethical issues individuals and care partners face with the diagnosis and progression of dementia. Some issues covered include telling the truth, rights, driving, sexuality, caring for professional and family care partners, decisions about end-of-life, and the art of dying.

Moral Psychology
PHIL 5360B CRN#17642
MW 5- 6:20 p.m.
CMAL 114

Instructor: Lori Gallegos de Castillo, Ph.D.

Description: Philosophers have traditionally held that reflection, deliberation, and conscious choice are required for establishing moral responsibility and exhibiting autonomy. This course examines three interrelated challenges to this view. First, we'll consider the questions: What should we make of the automatic or unconscious features of cognition, like emotions, instincts, intuitions, and gut reactions? We might think that they simply get in the way of our ability or tendency to be moral. Some scholars, however, have demonstrated the significant extent to which implicit and automatic processes may actually be required for our agential moral judgment and decision-making. This would explain why people often describe those who react without thinking to save another person's life as heroes. Second, we'll consider the question: Can people even be held morally responsible for things like unconscious biases? After all, if we can't directly control them and we aren't even aware of when they are affecting our perception, judgments, and behavior, perhaps we shouldn't be blamed for them. Third, we'll examine how conditions of social inequality shape the moral psychology of both those with privilege and those who face conditions of deprivation. We'll consider the questions: Can people who unknowingly contribute to systems of oppression be blamed? What about oppressed people who act in accordance with social norms that undermine their own wellbeing? Are they acting as autonomous moral agents? Broadly, then, this course centers on identifying the individual and social factors that make moral agency possible, as well as those that might limit it. The course brings together empirical and theoretical research from psychology and cognitive science, along with works in critical philosophy of race, feminist ethics, and psychoanalysis.

History of Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 5362A CRN# 17638
MW 11 – 12:20 pm
CMAL 201

Instructor: Ivan Marquez, Ph.D.

Description: This is a survey course in analytic philosophy, broadly construed, from 1879 to 1975. We will study classic texts by Frege, Russell, Early and Late Wittgenstein, the logical positivists, such as Schlick, Carnap, and Neurath, J. L. Austin's ordinary language philosophy, Popper's fallibilism, and Feyerabend's epistemological anarchism. These writings will be read within the larger intellectual and cultural context of the times.

Problems in Philosophy

PHIL 5388 CRN# 17174

W 6:30 – 9:20

CMAL 201

Instructor: Holly Lewis, Ph.D.

Description: This graduate philosophy course is tailored for practitioners of the literary arts—novelists, short story writers, poets, narrative essayists, memoirists, and experimental journalists—and those who aspire to practice these arts. The course may be of interest to philosophy students interested in Continental views on the relationship between language, experience, consciousness, and knowledge. Please note, this is a philosophy workshop for writers; it is not a workshop on how to construct better philosophical arguments.

Course topics will include:

- Phenomenology, hermeneutics, and the paradox of poetic meaning
- ‘World-building,’ fantasy, and narrative utopias
- Analyzing fiction and non-fiction in terms of truth and falsity
- Ethical issues involving voice, character creation, and description.
- The effects of a writer’s experience/location on their writing style and content.
- The role of knowledge and knowing in the narrative writing process
- Writing and theories of the mind (especially theories of consciousness, recollection, memory, and creativity).

Course readings will include philosophical and literary works, including literary works written by philosophers. Students will be expected to submit three documents: a final literary work (fiction, poetry, or non-fiction), an outline of philosophical influences, and one philosophy paper on a relevant topic.

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