



Texas State University
Department of Philosophy
Graduate Course Descriptions
Spring 2018

Philosophy Department
Texas State University
Comal 102
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Applied Philosophy
PHIL 5301 CRN# 36594
TR 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.
UAC 310

Instructor: Amelie Benedikt, Ph.D.

Description: In addition to applying philosophy to living a meaningful and **GOOD LIFE**, philosophy must defend the value of **LIFE** itself. In this course of study, we will apply philosophy to the protection of human life, non-human animal life, and the ecological context of those lives.

Human Life: we will study how Contractarians, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, defend Life as a legal Right, how the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights elaborates on protecting human life more fully, how Just War Theorists attempt to limit the life-destructive effects of war, and how the Geneva Convention seeks to protect the vulnerable lives of prisoners of war and civilians during war.

Non-Human Animal Life: we will read selections from Utilitarian, Peter Singer, Animal Welfarist, Tom Regan, and Animal Behaviorist, Temple Grandin, in order to consider a range of possible reforms for animal industries that can improve the lives, save the lives, or reduce the suffering of non-human animals .

Deep Ecological Life: we will study some of the basic writings of deep-ecologists, Arne Naess, Bill Devall, and George Sessions as they moved beyond environmental ethics and towards an ontology informed by Baruch de Spinoza.

Applied Philosophy
PHIL 5301 CRN# 36594
Online Course

Instructor: Robert O'Connor, Ph.D.

Course 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.

Dialogue
PHIL 5302 CRN# 11003
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

American Philosophy
PHIL 5314 CRN# 36579
MW 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.

Instructor: Olga Gerhart, Ph.D.

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. We will spend a significant amount of time discussing classical American pragmatism, the paradigmatic American philosophical tradition. The texts for the course focus on the American themes of optimism, pluralism, and reform in metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, and social-political contexts.

Professional Ethics
PHIL 5322 CRN# 34373
TR 2 – 3:20 p.m.
CMAL 116

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 moral education, social responsibilities, and ethical standards of professionals and people in business.

Professional Ethics
PHIL 5322 CRN# 38580
Online Class

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. Required Texts: Ethics for the Professions, by Rowan and Zinach (Wadsworth Cengage) ISBN: 978-0-15-506-999-2

Environmental Ethics
PHIL 5323 CRN# 32109
TR 2 – 3:20 p.m.
CMAL 114

Instructor: Audrey McKinney, Ph.D.

Description: Study of ethical issues associated with the environment including the nature, use, preservation, and restoration of the environment.

Philosophy of Logic
PHIL 5340 CRN# 33252
TR 3:30 – 4:50 p.m.
CMAL 103

Instructor: Audrey McKinney, Ph.D.

Description: The course is an examination of the conceptual frameworks of and philosophical challenges to classical and alternative logics. Special attention will be paid to the use of the logics within metaphysics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and meta-ethics.

Philosophy of Knowledge
PHIL 5356 CRN# 33968
TR 11 – 12:20 p.m.
CMAL 103

Instructor: Peter Hutcheson, Ph.D.

Description: Do we know anything at all? If we do, how do we know it? The course will consist of attempts to answer these and related questions with rational arguments.

Themes in Africana Philosophy
PHIL 5373 CRN# 38578
MW 3:30 – 4:50 p.m.
TBA

Instructor: Greg Moses, Ph.D.

Description: In this course students will examine philosophy and philosophical practice as it emerges from the historical experiences of African Americans and the African Diaspora. Participants in the course will evaluate how the African-American philosophical tradition alters conventional philosophical accounts of subjectivity, knowledge, time, language, history, embodiment, memory, and justice. This section will be organized around three geographical themes: Africa and the origins of Africana philosophy, the Caribbean diaspora, and the diaspora of North America.

Philosophy of Conspiracy
PHIL 5388.269 CRN#36596
TR 3:30 – 4:50 p.m.
DERR 326

Instructor: Eli Kanon, Ph.D.

Description: I see this as an upper division applied philosophy course, specifically applied epistemology. The semester will begin with an examination of what constitutes knowledge. Evidence, Justification, Defeaters and their role in establishment of knowledge will be the focus. In addition, we will consider belief fixation methods and refresh our recognition of fallacies. The underlying theme of our application is to isolate how knowledge claims act upon our belief systems which in turn result in action or behavior. The application will occur through the following controversial topics: What is fake news and does it occur? Did we land on the moon? Did Oswald act alone? Was 911 an inside job?