

**Expanded Course Descriptions
UC Davis Philosophy Department
Spring, 2005**

PHILOSOPHY 1

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Robert Cummins

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., 3 Kleiber

CRNs: 66173-66178, 72867 & 72868

TEXT:

Readings available on course web page.

COURSE CONTENT:

The course is divided into four sections: (i) Philosophy of Religion - The nature and justification of religious belief, (ii) Ethics - the nature and justification of morality, (iii) Theory of Knowledge – how do we justify our beliefs about the external world, other minds, the past, scientific theories? (iv) Philosophy of Mind - Are persons simply material things? Are minds just computers? Does disembodied existence make sense? What makes you the same person you were when you were five? Emphasis throughout will be on learning to critically analyze and assess basic concepts and convictions, and to articulate positions and arguments with clarity and precision.

REQUIREMENTS:

3 take-home examinations and a short quiz that will be used to determine borderline grades only.

PREREQUISITE:

None

G.E. CREDIT:

Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience.

PHILOSOPHY 15

BIOETHICS

Ben Rich

TR 9:00-10:20 a.m., 2 Wellman

CRNs: 66183-66188

TEXT:

Contemporary Issues in Bioethics, Beauchamp and Childress

COURSE CONTENT:

A study of the ethical issues that arise in the provision of health care and the conduct of biomedical research. Among the issues likely to be covered are informed consent, reproductive rights, end-of-life decision

making, the rights of research subjects, and access to health care.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades will be based on a final examination and two short papers. The final will count for 40% of the grade and the two papers for 30% each.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Art & Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 22N

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: EARLY MODERN

G.J. Matthey

MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m., Temp. Classroom #3

CRNs: 66189 & 66190

TEXTS: *Readings in Modern Philosophy*, Vols. I & II, Ariew and Watkins
Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Kant

COURSE CONTENT: The course will survey the main trends and thinkers in the first two centuries of the modern period. Most of the course will be devoted to Descartes, Locke, Hume, and Kant. Other philosophers to be covered in less detail are Spinoza, Leibniz, and Berkeley. The main issues arising in this period include the nature and extent of human knowledge, the composition of the physical world and of the human mind (and the relation between the two), the existence of God, and human freedom. Readings will be from the original writings of the philosophers. Papers will require exposition and interpretation of those writings.

REQUIREMENTS: Two 5-page papers, final examination, discussion participation.

PREREQUISITE: None

GE CERTIFICATION: Arts and Humanities Breadth, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 30

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Paul Teller

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 a.m., 126 Wellman

CRNs: 66191-66194

TEXT: Course Reader, Teller, P.

COURSE CONTENT: Have you ever wondered what science is? This course will treat science as “the science of science”, seeking to understand the nature of scientific theories, explanations, theoretical terms, confirmation, and reduction. The course will examine approaches to these issues proposed by the positivist movement and the difficulties which we have discovered in these approaches. We will then survey various reactions to positivism in the work of Kuhn and others.

REQUIREMENTS: Students will write a short paper, based on assigned reading, every other week; and they will take a midterm and final examination.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy or a science background recommended.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities or Science and Engineering, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 103

PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Robert Cummins
MWF 1:10-2:00, 212 Wellman
CRN: 66227

TEXTS: Readings available on course web page.

COURSE CONTENT: This course will focus on the last three decades of work on the mind-body problem and the theory mental representation. The readings will be contemporary journal articles and books by such authors as Putnam, Fodor, Block, Haugeland, Dennett, Searle, Stich, Cummins, and Burge. Topics include behaviorism, identity theory, functionalism, intentionality and representation, and (maybe) consciousness.

REQUIREMENTS: Three short papers.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Art & Humanities, Writing Experience.

PHILOSOPHY 111

PHILOSOPHY OF SPACE AND TIME

Paul Teller

MWF 12:10-1:00, 212 Wellman

CRN: 72869

TEXT:

Introducing Time, Craig Callender and Ralph Edney
Course Reader

COURSE CONTENT:

This course will examine questions about the nature of space and time. Is space a “thing”, or a collection of “objective places”, and if so, what kind of a “thing”, or what kinds of things are these “places”? Or, as Leibniz argues, do the facts about space involve only facts about spatial relations between physical objects? What implications does our best theory of the nature of space and time, Einstein’s theory of relativity, have for our understanding of the nature of space and time? Einstein’s theory has implications for the old questions and introduces many new ones.

We will begin with some questions about time connected with the subjective feeling that there is a radical difference between “now”, the “past”, and the “future”. Are these objectively different, or is the impressions of difference an artifact of the subjectivity of one’s present thoughts? The text for this part of the course is a comic book!!!

We will then spend two weeks introducing the basic ideas and surprising implications of relativity theory. No prior work in physics will be assumed, and (I hope!) the exposition will be accessible to everyone. Then we will use this understanding of relativity in examining the discussion of the nature of space and time.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will write a short paper every other week, take an in-class midterm and an in-class final.

PREREQUISITE:

One upper division philosophy course.

G.E. CREDIT:

None

PHILOSOPHY 119

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

Connie Rosati

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m., 176 Everson
CRNs: 72879-72885

TEXT: *On Liberty*, John S. Mill
A Rulebook for Arguments, Anthony Weston
Course Pack

COURSE CONTENT: Law plays a predominant role in the regulation of social life. It regulates, among other things, how and when we may drive, what we may say or be subject to penalties, when and whom we may marry, how we conduct our business affairs, how our homes are to be built, who may be licensed to practice certain professions, what may be sold, what substances we may ingest, and what will happen to us in the event that we choose to disregard—willfully or otherwise—what the law requires. Law characteristically claims the authority to regulate our conduct in these ways and to do so by the use of coercive force. In this class, we will examine a number of the many fascinating philosophical issues about law. Is there a moral obligation to obey the law? Is civil disobedience ever justified, and if so, under what circumstances? When may the State justifiably interfere with the liberty of individuals? What justification might be given for State-imposed punishment? We will consider along the way a number of concrete moral issues including whether and when the State may prohibit physician-assisted suicide, regulate free speech, and impose the death penalty. Our aim will not be to settle these issues! Rather, it will be to reach a better understanding of the array of considerations in favor of competing views, so that you will be in a better position to begin to decide for yourself what it makes sense to believe.

REQUIREMENTS: I take class participation very seriously—you won't learn what you need to in this course unless you attend class and talk! Requirements for the course will thus include active participation, as well as a final essay exam and a paper or papers (number and length yet to be decided).

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy or consent of instructor.

G.E. CREDIT: Social Sciences, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 125

THEORY OF ACTION

George Wilson
MWF 11:00-11:50a.m., 140 Physics/Geology
CRN: 72870

TEXT: Coursepack

COURSE CONTENT: This course will examine some fundamental issues concerning the nature of human action. How and why do we draw some of the basic distinctions between kinds of actions, e.g., intentional, voluntary, deliberate? What makes a piece of behavior into a genuine intentional action? Is it simply the fact that the behavior is produced by suitable intentions? Or is it required that the agent wills or tries to perform the action and his willing or trying must be an appropriate cause of the behavior? What is the character of common sense explanations of actions? What is it to have a reason for acting? What is it to act upon such a reason? Are explanations of actions in terms of reasons ordinary causal explanations? Or are they conceptually of some other kind? And can we expect that common sense reason explanations will be compatible with future cognitive science or neuroscience explanations of behavior? Finally, we will take a look at the question of freedom of action.

REQUIREMENTS: One midterm paper (about 7 pages) and one final paper (about 15 pages)

PREREQUISITE: One previous course in philosophy

G.E. CREDIT: Arts and Humanities, Writing

PHILOSOPHY 127

THEORY OF FILM

George Wilson
MWF 2:10-3:00p.m., 103 Wellman
CRN: 66231

TEXT: Coursepack

COURSE CONTENT: This course will deal primarily with the general aesthetic and interpretative dimensions of film. Readings will be from classic and recent writings on

the relevant topics. For example, we will ask: What is the medium of film? and To what extent does the film medium then define the kinds of artistic possibilities available to filmmaking practice? Does the photographic character of the film medium make film, in some sense, an intrinsically 'realistic' art form? We will also want to address theoretical questions about the meaning or significance of the individual films we will watch. However, films are normally the collaborative product of many kinds of participants. Therefore, it seems that no one person stands to the finished film as the author of a novel stands to his literary work. Does this mean that we cannot define the meaning of a movie in terms of someone's expressive or communicative intentions? And, if intentions are not the basis of meaning in film, what is? Does film as a narrative form have a distinguish language—a language governed by a cinematic grammar. These and a range of other theoretical questions about film will be addressed in the class, but they will always be addressed in terms of the viewing of movies each week and our discussion of them.

REQUIREMENTS: Students will write three short papers in the course of the term and take a final.

PREREQUISITE: None, although at least one prior film class is strongly recommended.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 134

MODAL LOGIC

G. J. Matthey

MW 10:00-11:50 a.m., 235 Wellman

CRNs: 72871

TEXTS: On-line course materials.
philosophy.ucdavis.edu/matthey/phi134/index.html

COURSE CONTENT: Main systems of modal logic, including K, T, 54 and 55, in sentential and predicate versions. Natural deduction techniques and possible world semantics. Applications to logical implication, representation of knowledge, belief, time, obligation, and logical implication.

REQUIREMENTS: Midterm, final examination, short paper.

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 112 or Mathematics 108

G. E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 145

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Victor Caston
TR 10:30-11:50 a.m., 7 Wellman
CRN: 72872

TEXT: *On the Free Choice of the Will*, Augustine
The Consolation of Philosophy, Boethius

COURSE CONTENT: An introduction to medieval philosophy through the examination of certain themes, which may include: the existence of God, divine foreknowledge and freedom of the will, the problem of evil, the debate over universals, substance, and the nature of mind and knowledge

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers

PREREQUISITES: Philosophy 21 or consent of instructor.

G.E. CREDIT: Art and Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 161

PLATO

Jan Szaif
TR 9:00-10:20 a.m., 192 Young
CRN: 72873

TEXT: *Complete Works of Plato*, J. Cooper

COURSE CONTENT: An introduction to the writings of Plato through the examination of a given theme, such as Plato's theory of forms; the nature of knowledge, the moral life; or the ideal state.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers.

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 21 or consent of instructor.

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 162

ARISTOTLE

Victor Caston
TR 1:40-3:00 p.m., 141 Olson
CRN: 72874

TEXT: *Aristotle, Selections*, Irwin & Fine
Aristotle the Philosopher, J. L. Ackrill

COURSE CONTENT: This course will combine a brief introduction to Aristotle's philosophy with a close examination of one of his central texts. This year's focus will be on his treatise *On the Soul* and his other psychological writings.

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers (5-7 pp.) and a final.

PREREQUISITES: Philosophy 21 or consent of the instructor.

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 194HA/HB HONORS RESEARCH PROJECT

The Staff (Chairperson in Charge)
To be announced.

TEXTS: Depends on course content.

COURSE CONTENT: Students ordinarily will take a graduate seminar in philosophy, though an individual project may be developed in consultation with a faculty member. (In any case students must enroll in Philosophy 194HA or 194HB if 194HA has been completed.)

PREREQUISITE: Enrollment is restricted to members of the honors program in philosophy. Consent of instructor.

HONORS PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the honors program in philosophy requires meeting the following criteria:

1. major in philosophy,

2. completion of at least 135 units,
3. cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 in the courses counted toward the major.
4. cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 in the upper division philosophy courses taken.
5. approval by the major adviser, Dr. G. J. Matthey (752-0609).

PHILOSOPHY 214

Seminar in Ethics: Personal Good

Connie Rosati

W 2:10-5:00 p.m., 2275 SSH

CRN: 72875

TEXT:

A set of readings for the course will be made available in the department office.

COURSE CONTENT:

I am writing a book on the nature of personal good, and so my current plan (which is subject to change) is to use the seminar as a forum for testing out ideas and work in progress. I will be looking for your help, then, in thinking through a number of issues. Although I haven't made final decisions, I anticipate taking up the following questions, which will ultimately be addressed in the book: is *good for* a coherent notion distinct from the notion of *good*; what is it for something—a relationship, pursuit, activity, or undertaking—to be good for a particular person P; what makes for a good life on the whole; what is the relationship between well-being, or what I prefer to call "personal good," and autonomy or self-governance; does the normativity of personal good rest on the value of persons, and if so, why believe persons have value; and, finally, what is the relationship between a good life and a meaningful life. Those of you who took the welfare seminar two years ago will find some overlap. But whereas in that seminar, we tried to get an overview of competing theories of welfare and the issues raised by them, in this seminar, my aim is to develop a positive alternative view. So I will take a rather different approach to the material, and we will address a number of issues that we did not explore in the earlier seminar. I will ask you to read a mix of literature, but will also subject you to some of my own work.

REQUIREMENTS:

TBA, but those of you who enroll for regular credit will likely be asked to write an 18-20 page term paper and

to submit a draft of the paper for comments before you finalize your written work for the course. There will be a reading assignment for our first meeting. I will post it and also send it to all graduate students by email.

PREREQUISITES: This is a graduate level course. Undergraduates may enroll only with special permission from the instructor.

PHILOSOPHY 261

PLATO

Jan Szaif
T 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 72876

TEXT: Plato, *Sophist*, transl., with introd. and notes, by N. P. White

Recommended (for Greek readers only): *Platonis Opera*, vol. 1, E. A. Duke

COURSE CONTENT: This is an advanced seminar designed for analysis of arguments, doctrines, and texts from one or more of Plato's works.
This year's focus will be on the *Sophist* – one of Plato's later dialogues and his major work on the concepts of being and not-being and on related problems in metaphysics, theory of truth and philosophy of language.

REQUIREMENTS: One substantial research paper.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

PHILOSOPHY 275

KANT

Henry Allison
R 3:10-6:00p.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 72877

TEXTS: *Critique of Pure Reason*, Kant
Kant's Transcendental Idealism (2004 edition), Allison

COURSE CONTENT: This seminar is intended as a graduate level introduction to the first Critique. We shall concentrate on the Aesthetic and central portions of the Analytic. Prior study of Kant's theoretical philosophy is highly

desirable but not absolutely essential. A basic knowledge of the history of modern philosophy will, however, be presupposed.

REQUIREMENTS: Three short papers.

PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
