

**Expanded Course Descriptions  
UC Davis Philosophy Department  
Winter, 2007**

**PHILOSOPHY 1            INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

Brendan Jackson  
MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., 2 Wellman  
CRNs: 56585-56592

TEXT:                    *Reason and Responsibility* (12th edition), J.  
Feinberg & R. Shafer-Landau

COURSE CONTENT: The course will introduce students to philosophy through an examination of some of the most important writings in the Western tradition concerning reality, knowledge and morality. Students will learn how to read a philosophical text, so that they can comprehend philosophical theories and evaluate the argumentation supporting them. There will be significant writing assignments in which these skills will be put to use.

REQUIREMENTS:    Two papers and two exams

PREREQUISITE:        None

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 5            CRITICAL REASONING**

Christian Coons  
MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m., 1322 Storer  
CRNs: 65244-65249

TEXT:                    *Critical Thinking*, Moore and Parker

COURSE CONTENT: Emphasis will be on the development of various critical skills, e.g., identifying the

structure of arguments, recognizing deductive or inductive validity of various arguments, detecting fallacies, and applying critical reasoning in everyday life and across various fields (e.g. science, philosophy, politics, and ethics). Special emphasis is placed on practical techniques for identifying the source of two-party disagreements, and how to effectively argue for positions.

REQUIREMENTS: A four-page take home exam, a five-page graded paper, homework and in-class exercises, and a graded final exam.

PREREQUISITES: None.

GE CREDIT: Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 13**      **Minds, Brains, and Computers**  
Bernard Molyneux  
MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m., 119 Wellman  
CRNs: 63645 & 63646

TEXT:                    *Minds, Brains, and Computers*, Robert Cummins and Denise Cummins

COURSE CONTENT: This is an entry level course in the foundations of mind science. It asks the questions, "What would it take to construct a genuine science of the mind, what would be the structure of such a science, what would it explain, and how would it explain it?" The material lies at the interface of philosophy of mind on the one hand, and neuroscience, artificial intelligence/life, and cognitive psychology and anthropology on the other (the "cognitive sciences" as usually construed). It thus introduces the student to a variety of scientific material related to the

mind, with an eye to gaining a critical understanding to how such materials should or do constrain our conception of the mind and its place in evolution and natural order.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Three papers, five pages each, worth 25% each. A final examination worth 25% is also required.

**PREREQUISITES:** One course in philosophy recommended.

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**PHILOSOPHY 22N      HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: EARLY MODERN**

G.J. Matthey  
TR 12:10-1:30 p.m., 176 Chemistry  
CRNs: 63647 & 63648

**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 CREDIT: Arts and Humanities, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 24 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

Pekka Väyrynen

MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m., 107 Cruess

CRNs: 63649 & 63650

TEXTS: *Utilitarianism*, J. S. Mill (required)  
*A Rulebook for Arguments*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Anthony Weston (required)  
Course pack (required)

COURSE CONTENT: This course is an introduction to the philosophical study of moral notions, arguments, and theories. A large chunk of the course will be devoted to several influential views – very different from one another – that many people have taken to threaten conventional morality: ethical relativism, ethical egoism, ethical skepticism in its many forms, and utilitarianism. In each case, we will consider whether the view really does conflict with more conventional moral doctrines and, if it does, whether this is a problem for conventional morality or the view that appears to threaten it. Our method will be to investigate some of the basic questions of moral philosophy: Why should one be moral? Is being moral part of what makes a person's life go best? Do ends justify the means, or are there some actions that are always wrong, no matter how much good may result from them?

How stringent are the demands of morality? Do moral praise and blame presuppose that we are fully in control of our actions and their consequences? What are fairness and justice? Are there objective moral truths, or are right and wrong in the eye of the beholder or her socio-cultural group? The aims of the course are two: first, to introduce you to some of the major problems, debates, and theories in ethics and political philosophy; and second, to assist you in developing your analytical skills.

REQUIREMENTS: Three short papers, a final exam, and active participation in discussion.

PREREQUISITE: This course has no prerequisites.

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**PHILOSOPHY 30**

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

Paul Teller

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 a.m., 26 Wellman

CRNs: 63653-63656

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

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**PHILOSOPHY 101      METAPHYSICS**

Cody Gilmore  
MWF 2:10-3:00 p.m., 233 Wellman  
CRNs: 63651 & 63652

READING: *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, Michael J. Loux, (Routledge: 2006).  
Other readings to be determined.

COURSE CONTENT: Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that poses the most general questions about the world. Many of these questions concern what there is: Is there, in addition to all the red things, the color red? Are there, in addition to sub-atomic particles arranged in various ways, larger objects *composed* of these particles? Other metaphysical questions concern the nature of the world and our place in it: what makes me the same person as the young child born to my parents? Which of my properties, if any, are *essential* to me in the sense that anything that lacked them couldn't be me? What is the nature of possibility and necessity more generally?

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final exam. Other assignments to be determined.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy.

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**PHILOSOPHY 108**

**PHILOSOPHY OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Roberta Millstein  
MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m., 26 Wellman  
CRNs: 65250-65253

TEXTS:

*Conceptual Issues in Evolutionary Biology, Third Edition*, Elliott Sober  
Other readings available online

COURSE CONTENT:

This class will consider foundational conceptual and epistemological issues in biology such as: the concept of “fitness,” the units of selection debate, adaptationism as a research program, women in the evolutionary process, evolutionary psychology, the question of whether there are any biological laws, reductionism, the concept of “species,” and the debate over whether race is a social construction or biological reality.

REQUIREMENTS:

Class participation and in-class group projects, reading reflections, two 5-7 page papers, final exam.

PREREQUISITES:

None

G.E. CREDIT:

Arts & Humanities or Science and Engineering, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 111**

**PHILOSOPHY OF SPACE AND TIME**

Cody Gilmore  
MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., 204 Art  
CRN: 63657

TEXT: *Time and Space*, Barry Dainton (McGill-Queen's, 2002)  
*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?

We will then spend some time 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: Two papers, an in-class midterm and an in-class final. Other assignments to be determined.

PREREQUISITE: One upper division philosophy course.

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**PHILOSOPHY 112      INTERMEDIATE SYMBOLIC LOGIC**

Brendan Jackson  
MW 12:10-2:00 p.m., 233 Wellman  
CRN: 56647

TEXT:                    *Language, Proof and Logic*, J. Barwise & J. Etchemendy

COURSE CONTENT: An investigation of the formal logic of predicates and quantifiers. Rules for the formation of sentences of predicate logic will be given, along with a technique for interpreting them so as to yield notions of truth to an interpretation, validity, etc. Extensive treatment will be given to the relation between formal logic and natural language. Sentential logic natural deduction rules will be extended to allow inferences involving quantifiers. Techniques for dealing with identity, and definite descriptions will be developed.

REQUIREMENTS:      Problem sets and two exams

PREREQUISITE:        Philosophy 12, Mathematics 108, or the equivalent.

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**PHILOSOPHY 115      Problems in Normative Ethics**

Roberta Millstein  
MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m., 115 Wellman  
CRN: 65254

TEXTS:                    *Environmental Ethics: Concepts, Policy, Theory*, Joseph Desjardins, ed.  
*Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*, Patrick G. Derr and Edward M. McNamara

Other readings available online

**COURSE CONTENT:** Many people are concerned about a variety of environmental issues, from pollution to global warming to the extinction of species. They say that we “should” do something about those issues. But what ethical assumptions underlie that “should”? Is it a concern for human well-being? For animals? For all life? Or, even more broadly, for ecosystems? In other words, which things count morally? The answers matter not only because we need to justify our actions, but because different answers may imply different courses of action. In this class, we will explore the various answers that can and have been given to this question, and see how well these answers hold up when applied to contemporary environmental case studies.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Class participation and in-class group projects, reading reflections, two 5-7 page papers, final exam.

**PREREQUISITE:** One previous course in philosophy.

**G.E. CREDIT:** Arts and Humanities, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 117      FOUNDATIONS OF ETHICS**  
Pekka Väyrynen  
MWF, 11:00-11:50 a.m., 233 Wellman  
CRN: 56650

**TEXTS:** Course reader (required)  
Online readings (required)

**COURSE CONTENT:** This is an advanced course in ethical theory, focusing on an area of moral philosophy

called “meta-ethics.” At the most basic level, we might say that meta-ethics concerns whether moral realism is true. In this area, philosophers address such “meta-ethical” questions as these: What do moral terms like ‘good’ and ‘morally right’ and the judgments containing them mean? Do moral terms and judgments express moral properties and represent the world as being a certain way? Are there moral properties in the world, and if so, what are they like? Are there truths about ethics, and if so, how do we know of them? And how are truths about ethics connected to the rationality of motivation and action? The material for this course is deep and fascinating – but it is also difficult, so it is not for the faint of heart! The aims of the course are two: first, to introduce you to some of the major meta-ethical theories, issues, and debates of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and second, to assist you in developing your philosophical and analytical skills.

REQUIREMENTS: Two 5-7-page papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: At least one of 114, 115, 116, 101, or 137.

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**PHILOSOPHY 137**

**PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

Michael Glanzberg

TR 12:10-1:30 p.m., 7 Wellman

CRN: 56651

TEXT:

*Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction*, William A. Lycan

COURSE CONTENT: We will discuss core issues in the philosophy of language, such as the nature of linguistic meaning and the relation between our words and the things they talk about.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy or linguistics.

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**PHILOSOPHY 161**

**PLATO**

Jan Szaif

TR 10:30-11:50 a.m., 1 Wellman

CRN: 56652

TEXTS: *Complete Works of Plato*, ed. by J. Cooper;  
J. Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*.

COURSE CONTENT: The first part of this course addresses the problems and objectives of Socratic and Platonic virtue theory. The second part is devoted to Plato's views on knowledge, education and the structure of reality as set out within the framework of his 'theory of Forms'. The course is based on the early and middle-period writings of Plato, with a particular emphasis on his dialogue *Republic*.

REQUIREMENTS: A term paper, a mid-term and a final examination, homework assignments.

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 21 or consent of instructor.

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**PHILOSOPHY 189J**

**TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE  
(CHOMSKY)**

Robert May

W 12:10-3:00p.m., 2275 SSH

CRN: 65505

TEXTS: *Syntactic Structures*, Chomsky  
*Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*, Chomsky  
*On Language*, Chomsky

*Rules and Representations, Chomsky*  
*New Horizons in the Study of Language and Mind, Chomsky*

**COURSE CONTENT:** The topic of this class will be the conceptual structure of contemporary linguistic theory and the philosophical issues it raises. Through close examination of seminal works of Chomsky and ensuing debates, discussion will center on the two “fundamental questions” of linguistics – what is knowledge of language, and how do we come to have it.

**REQUIREMENTS:** One final paper.

**PREREQUISITE:** One course in philosophy or linguistics, or permission of instructor.

**G.E. CREDIT:** None.

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**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.

approval by the major adviser, Dr. G. J. Matthey (752-0609).

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**PHILOSOPHY 203      PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**  
Bernard Molyneux  
W 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH  
CRN: 63659

TEXT:                      Various articles to be distributed.

COURSE CONTENT: The dominant paradigm in cognitive science for the last forty years has it that the mind is to be understood in terms of computation and representation. We take a quick look at how this idea got started, and how it has fared, and what philosophy has contributed. How have philosophers construed or reconstructed these two explanatory primitives? How do these philosophical accounts fit with current neuroscience, and with our understanding of evolution, development and learning? What, exactly, should we expect of a science of the mind?

REQUIREMENTS:      Two short papers and a term paper, presumably an expansion of one of the short papers.

PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing in Philosophy of permission of the instructor

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**PHILOSOPHY 210 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

Paul Teller

T 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 Soc Sci

CRN: 63658

TEXT: Prepublication Draft of van Fraassen's *Scientific Representation: Paradoxes of Perspective*  
Other readings to be announced.

COURSE CONTENT: Representation in Science. Contemporary philosophy of science still largely regards representation in science to work in terms of verbally stated laws and other descriptions. This attitude has been fundamentally challenged by recent "modeling views" according to which the accounts that science gives us work in terms of models that are always limited in scope and never exactly accurate. This gives a very different cast to representation in science.

The centerpiece of the course will be van Fraassen's new book manuscript that he will let us study in this course. At the time of writing this course description I have read half of the manuscript and found it to be wonderfully informative, rich and challenging.

We will also study related writings on the subject.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly short papers, on the order of five pages, connected with the weekly readings.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

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**PHILOSOPHY 212      PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC & MATHEMATICS**

Michael Glanzberg  
R 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH  
CRN: 56719

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: Selected topics in philosophy of logic or mathematics. Topics may include: the nature of mathematical objects, and how we know about them; the nature of mathematical proof, and the role of set theory in mathematics; the notion of truth, reference, and logical consequences; intensional and non-standard logic, and its application to philosophical problem; and the nature of ontological commitment.

REQUIREMENTS: Term Paper

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

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**PHILOSOPHY 237      PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

Robert May  
R 12:10-3:00p.m., 2275 SSH  
CRN: 65507

TEXT: TBA

COURSE CONTENT: Topics in philosophy of language. Discussion of recent published and unpublished papers and books, presentations of work in progress by faculty and students.

REQUIREMENTS: TBA

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

**PHILOSOPHY 290 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY**

Robert May  
T 12:10-3:00p.m., 2275 SSH  
CRN: 65506

TEXT: *The Frege Reader*, Michael Beaney  
*Foundations of Arithmetic*, Gottlob Frege

COURSE CONTENT: This course will explore the unfolding of Frege's views about language and logic, and how in this context Frege formulated his grand mathematical idea - logicism. Readings will be primarily from Frege's major works - *Begriffsschrift*, *Grundlagen* and *Grundgesetze* - along with his most well-known essays.

REQUIREMENTS: One term paper

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

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