

PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

*** PHIL 0050a, Philosophy, Race, and Racism** Robert Gooding-Williams

What is a race, and what is like to have a racial identity? Is racism best conceptualized as a form of flawed belief, as a moral vice, as a social practice, or in terms of notions like “racial oppression” and “white supremacy”? In addressing these questions, we survey and attempt to think along with – analytically, critically, and never dogmatically – the writings of some of the best philosophers who have attempted to answer them. These include W.E.B. DuBois, Jean-Paul Sartre, Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault, and several contemporary philosophers. Enrollment is limited to first-year students. HU

PHIL 1115a, First-Order Logic Daniel Grimmer

An introduction to formal logic. Study of the formal deductive systems and semantics for both propositional and predicate logic. Some discussion of metatheory. QR
o Course cr

PHIL 1119b / EALL 2190b / EAST 2201b / HUMS 2140b / RLST 1710b, Introduction to Chinese Philosophy Lucas Bender

This course represents an introduction to the most important philosophical thinkers and texts in Chinese history, ranging from roughly 500 BC–1500 AD. Topics include ethics, political philosophy, epistemology, and ontology. We discuss the basic works of Confucian and Daoist philosophers during the Warring States and early imperial eras, the continuation of these traditions in early medieval “dark learning,” Buddhist philosophy (in its original Indian context, the early period of its spread to China, and in mature Chinese Buddhist schools such as Chan/Zen), and Neo-Confucian philosophy. The course emphasizes readings in the original texts of the thinkers and traditions in question (all in English translation). No knowledge of Chinese or previous contact with Chinese philosophy required. HU o Course cr

PHIL 1125a / CLCV 1901a, Introduction to Ancient Philosophy Brad Inwood

An introduction to ancient philosophy, beginning with the earliest pre-Socratics, concentrating on Plato and Aristotle, and including a brief foray into Hellenistic philosophy. Intended to be taken in conjunction with PHIL 1126, previously PHIL 126. WR, HU o Course cr

PHIL 1175a, Introduction to Ethics Shelly Kagan

What makes one act right and another wrong? What am I morally required to do for others? What is the basis of morality? These are some of the questions raised in moral philosophy. Examination of two of the most important answers, the theories of Mill and Kant, with brief consideration of the views of Hume and Hobbes. Discussion of the question: Why be moral? HU o Course cr

*** PHIL 2202a / RLST 2770a, Existentialism** Noreen Khawaja

Introduction to key problems in European existentialism. Existentialism considered not as a unified movement, but as a tradition of interlocking ideas about human freedom woven through the philosophy, religious thought, art, and political theory of late modern Europe. Readings from Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Gide, Heidegger, Fanon, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Cesaire. HU

PHIL 2219a / ANTH 237 / ANTH 2837a / CPLT 2420a / GMAN 2330a / HUMS 4325a, Karl Marx's Capital Paul North

A careful reading of Karl Marx's classic critique of capitalism, *Capital* volume 1, a work of philosophy, political economy, and critical social theory that has had a significant global readership for over 150 years. Selected readings also from *Capital* volumes 2 and 3. HU o Course cr

PHIL 2256a / RLST 4020a, The Philosophy of Religion John Pittard

The relation between religion and ethics, traditional arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, the problem of evil, miracles, immortality, science and religion, and faith and reason. HU o Course cr

PHIL 2267a, Mathematical Logic Sun-Joo Shin

An introduction to the metatheory of first-order logic, up to and including the completeness theorem for the first-order calculus. Introduction to the basic concepts of set theory. Prerequisite: PHIL 115 or permission of instructor. QR

PHIL 2270a, Epistemology Keith DeRose

Introduction to current topics in the theory of knowledge. The analysis of knowledge, justified belief, rationality, certainty, and evidence. HU

PHIL 2281a, Infinity Zoltan Szabo

The idea of infinity. Traditional and contemporary versions of the paradoxes of space, time, and motion, as well as the paradoxes of classes, chances, and truth. Some elementary arithmetic, geometry, probability theory, and set theory. QR, HU o Course cr

*** PHIL 3352a, Liberal Capitalism and Social Justice** Lily Hu

Today, the predominant economic system that reigns globally is a capitalist one: one in which most goods and services are distributed via market exchange; most people earn their means of livelihood by selling their labor for a wage to purchase what they need on the market, because they cannot produce sufficiently on their own to survive, because other people (a small minority) own the means of production. What should we think about this social order? On one hand, capitalism generates myriad social pathologies, including the impoverishment of masses of people, the entrenchment of inequalities that vitiate against democratic values, the abasement of all value by the value of capitalist accumulation, the inexorable drive of resource extraction barreling toward ecological fallout, among others. On the other hand, capitalism has proved an unparalleled engine for growth, enabled a variety of new forms of participation in social life, and embodies a coherent moral framework based around rights of private ownership. All this suggests that a society ordered by capitalism is a proper subject of questions of justice. In this class, we ask these questions. (How) can a capitalist society be just? In what ways might it fall short? What alternatives might there be? HU

*** PHIL 3380a / CLCV 3910a / EP&E 3341a / HUMS 2210a / PLSC 3341a, Plato** Daniel Schillinger

In this Interpretations seminar on Plato, we read the Alcibiades I, Laches, Protagoras, Symposium, Phaedrus, and Statesman—rich and complex dialogues that are rarely taught at the undergraduate level. These texts display Plato's philosophical and literary range, from his so-called early or Socratic period to his late, almost univocal style. At the same time, the dialogues address a family of questions about virtue, eros, and political rule. Reading Plato across the dialogues, we also raise methodological

questions and engage with relevant secondary literature. Previous coursework on Plato in Directed Studies, Political Science, or Philosophy is expected. WR, HU

* **PHIL 4403a / JDST 3619a / RLST 4500a, Spinoza and the God of the Bible** Nancy Levene

An exploration of Spinoza's writings on God, nature, and person; human law, divine law, and political life; and the interpretation of the Bible. Prerequisite: coursework in philosophical texts. HU

* **PHIL 4421a, John Rawls** Thomas Pogge

This seminar offers a close study of Rawls's principal writings. It explores how his thinking evolved in communication with contemporary debates in philosophy, political science, law, and economics. And it probes the suitability of his mature conception of justice in regard to the role Rawls intended this conception to play in the 21st century United States. Featuring ample feedback on written and oral work, this seminar is meant to prepare students for future graduate work at a top institution. Prerequisites: Two courses with substantial normative content. HU

* **PHIL 4464a / PLSC 3324a, Justice, Taxes, and Global Financial Integrity** Thomas Pogge

Study of the formulation, interpretation, and enforcement of national and international tax rules from the perspective of national and global economic justice. Prerequisites: previous courses in one or two of the following: law, economics, political science, or political philosophy. HU

* **PHIL 4480a, Tutorial** Daniel Greco

A reading course supervised by a member of the department and satisfying the following conditions: (1) the work of the course must not be possible in an already existing course; (2) the course must involve a substantial amount of writing, i.e., a term essay or a series of short essays; (3) the student must meet with the instructor regularly, normally for at least an hour a week; (4) the proposed course of study must be approved by both the director of undergraduate studies and the instructor.

* **PHIL 4490a, The Senior Essay** Keith DeRose

The essay, written under the supervision of a member of the department, should be a substantial paper; a suggested length is between 8,000 and 12,000 words for one-term projects, and between 12,500 and 15,000 words for two-term projects. Students completing a one-term project should enroll in either 490 in the fall or 491 in the spring. Students completing a two-term project should enroll in both 490 and 491. The deadline for senior essays completed in the fall is December 5; the deadline for both one- and two-term senior essays completed in the spring is April 21.

* **PHIL 4580a, Tutorial 2** Daniel Greco

A reading course supervised by a member of the department and satisfying the following conditions: (1) the work of the course must not be possible in an already existing course; (2) the course must involve a substantial amount of writing, i.e., a term essay or a series of short essays; (3) the student must meet with the instructor regularly, normally for at least an hour a week; (4) the proposed course of study must be approved by both the director of undergraduate studies and the instructor. none