

Department of Philosophy

Fall 2026

PHI 1000, 001-042, DL1 and HON Knowledge, Reality, Self

Please see Master Schedule for specific times.

Philosophical responses to the questions of how we can know, what is real, and what is the nature of human existence that explore the dialogue between Catholic, Christian, secular and skeptical perspectives on these questions.

PHI 2010-001 Logic & Critical Thinking

Instructor: **Prof. Bryan Knittle**

M W F 12:50 - 1:40 pm

The study of logic and critical thinking. Topics include: argument identification and analysis; formal and informal logic; fallacies; inductive argument; the role of argumentative structures in various philosophical traditions.

PHI 2020-001 Symbolic Logic

Instructor: **Dr. Justin Humphreys**

T R 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Symbolic logic applies formal methods to the study of reasoning. The first, longer half of this course introduces students to classical sentential and predicate logic. We will translate statements in English into symbolic notation, and construct formal derivations in that notation – developing skills in evaluating the validity of reasoning in any discipline. The second, shorter half of the course considers a selection of advanced topics in symbolic logic, for instance, the theory of computation, nonclassical logics in which truth comes in degrees, challenges to classical logic emerging from quantum mechanics, modal and tense logic, arguments for determinism, proofs for the existence of God, second-order logic, and paradoxes. While an openness to learning and applying formal methods is essential for this course, we presuppose no prior experience with philosophy or any advanced knowledge of mathematics.

PHI 2115-001 & 002 Ethics for Healthcare Prof

Instructor: **Dr. Peter Koch**

T R 11:30 am -12:45 pm & 1:00 – 2:15 pm

This course explores contemporary ethical issues in medicine and health care through case analysis, academic research, and class discussion. Students will develop the philosophical tools and sensitivities needed to assess and resolve complex ethical situations, with a particular focus on those situations that are commonly encountered by clinicians and researchers throughout their careers. While this course is primarily designed for future clinicians, other interested students are welcome to participate as well.

PHI 2115-003 Ethics for Healthcare Prof

Instructor: **Dr. Stephen J. Bujno**

T R 2:30 - 3:45 pm

This course serves both as an introduction to philosophical ethics and its application to clinical case studies. Though primarily intended for future medical professionals, students in other disciplines will find the course thought-provoking. While developing skills in logic and critical thought, the student should expect to consider various applications for the ethics of care and wellness. Those will include medical consent and privacy, maternal/fetal care and end of life/futility, testing and research, mental health and disability, access and allocation, along with emergent bioethical topics. Fundamental questions of life will also be addressed, such as what it means to be ethical and what constitutes personhood. An underlying ethos of the course is to align professional medical care with respect and dignity for the patient as a person.

PHI 2117-H01 HON: The Good Doctor

Instructor: **Dr. Stephen Napier**

T R 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Medicine is an art as well as a science. The science is learned through study but the art must be learned through practice. What are fundamental components of the art? What are the habits of reasoning that lead to good diagnoses? What are the virtues of the good doctor and what does it take to become one? This course will focus on the culture of medicine, becoming acculturated as a doctor, and analysis of what dispositional attitudes are necessary for the moral practice of medicine. The course will draw on resources from philosophy of medicine and moral theory, as well as sociological data and theory, along with first person medical narratives to explore the themes of the course.

PHI 2121-001 & 002 Environmental Ethics

Instructor: **Dr. Tibor Solymosi**

M W 3:20-4:35 pm & 4:45-6:00 pm

Flooding. Fires. Extreme Temperatures. Extreme storms. Famine. Disease. Such catastrophes are ever more present in our lives. How are we to live in a world more precarious than in our cultural memory, if not the history of human civilization? What is the relationship between an environment and an *ethos*, a way of life? How do our individual and cultural habits affect our habitats? What does it mean to be human and to live well in a world on fire or under water? What do we owe each other, our descendants, our ancestors? Who constitutes this “we” in the first place—is it just Americans, Westerners, humans in general, other species, some ecosystems but not others, or Life as a whole? Can our technology save “us” or is technology as much of a threat to human as it is to non-human life?

In this course, we will explore these and similar questions. Drawing on work in the philosophy of nature, the philosophy of technology, social and political philosophy as well as ethics, we explore the relationship between human nature and non-human nature through the lens of existential risk, specifically climate change and its relation to disease, nuclear energy and weapons, and artificial intelligence. Central to this exploration are two key concepts, *environment*—What is it? What is its range or its scope? Who or what is envired?—and *ethics*, especially in relation to an environment. No background in philosophy, science, technology, or ethics is presumed.

PHI 2160-001 The Ethics of WarInstructor: **Dr. Sally Scholz**

MWF 10:40 - 11:30 am

This course will look at some of the normative and practical issues of war. We will address ethical issues facing citizens, combatants, states, and the international community. Although just war theory will receive some primacy, other theoretical approaches to war will also be considered including realism and pacifism. Our study will include war, terrorism and responses to terrorism, preventive war, genocide, crimes against humanity, military intervention, drones, cyber-security, autonomous weapons, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Students will be challenged to connect theoretical discussions to current events and are encouraged to read both national and international news sources.

PHI 2420-001 Philosophy of WomenInstructor: **Dr. Martina Ferrari**

M W 3:20-4:35 pm

What is feminist philosophy? This course introduces students to central methods and debates in feminist philosophy through close engagement with historical and contemporary texts. We examine how different thinkers define feminism, who counts as its political subject, what structures it critiques, and what forms of social transformation it envisions. After tracing the historical roots of feminist critique, the course turns to two main contemporary debates: the politics of classification and the political economy of reproduction and social life. Readings include canonical figures such as Simone de Beauvoir, Alexandra Kollontai, María Lugones, and Mary Wollstonecraft alongside contemporary thinkers including Linda Martín Alcoff, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Verónica Gago, and Dorothy Roberts.

PHI 2450-001 Catholic Social ThoughtInstructor: **Dr. Sally Scholz**

M W F 11:45 am - 12:35 pm

Pope Leo XIV's contributions to the Church's social doctrine highlight the call for communion and solidarity as we transform our hearts and our world. This course examines the papal encyclicals that constitute Catholic Social Teaching. As we read this rich body of work, we will focus our attention on how to live a life honoring the dignity of the human person, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity. The encyclicals address challenges to modern life and topics pertinent to living in society such as workers' rights, human rights, environmental stewardship, poverty and economic development, gender roles in the family, racism, and immigrant justice, technology (AI) and dignity. Our aim is to create a cooperative community in which we explore pressing contemporary issues illuminated by the social teachings of the Church.

PHI 2480-001 Africana PhilosophyInstructor: **Dr. Ashley Lamarre**

M W 1:55 - 3:10 pm

In 1903, W.E.B. Du Bois asked, "How does it feel to be a problem?" Africana philosophy is a subfield that allows one to look across time and space to explore such a fundamental question about the Black experience. Related questions include: A problem for whom or

what? How and when did this problematic self come into being? Is a problematic self a self at all? What is the lived experience of the problematized self? What questions does being a problem allow one to raise, if any at all? What does it mean to be a problem in a multitude of ways? How, if at all, can one cease to be a problem? Students will explore these questions through the theoretical works and discourses produced by members of the African Diaspora, with particular emphasis on the U.S. and the Caribbean. Students will also explore these questions as they overlap with other related fields and traditions such as feminist thought, epistemology, ontology, social and political philosophy, phenomenology, and more. For students interested in Philosophy, this course offers an opportunity to deepen their familiarity with a marginalized subfield within that discipline. For students interested in Africana or Black Studies, this course offers an opportunity to understand key theoretical influences for that discipline. For students of all kinds, this course offers a systematic approach to thinking about identity that can clarify contemporary issues with deep roots.

PHI 2990-001 & 002 TOP: Yoga and Philosophy Instructor: **Prof. Amy Nobles Dolan**
T R 8:30 - 9:45 & 10:00 - 11:15 am

This course will introduce yoga's ten fundamental tenets for living a good life as taught in *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*. We will read a broad selection of literature on the topics of non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, moderation, non-possessiveness, purity, contentment, self-discipline, self-study and surrender to a higher power. In each class we will practice about 30 minutes of yoga, as a yoga mat is a powerful laboratory on which we can begin to explore these concepts. Students will be challenged to apply our theoretical discussions and reading to incidental and significant moments in their own lives in 6 written reflections.

PHI 3000-001 SEM: Consciousness without Self Instructor: **Dr. Davey Tomlinson**
M W 4:45 – 6:00 pm

One of the basic doctrines of the Buddhist tradition is that there is no self. In this course, we will explore the implications of this claim for Buddhist philosophy of mind. What notion of self do Buddhists mean to deny? How do Buddhist philosophers account for experience, personal identity, and the subjective character of consciousness if there is no self? And if the Buddha has come to realize selflessness perfectly (one way or another, this is what makes the Buddha “awakened”), does the Buddha still have experience? Or does the Buddha's mind simply cease? In exploring answers to these questions, we'll consider Buddhist accounts of representationalism, idealism, reflexive awareness, and transformative experience, focusing in particular on the tradition of Dignāga (ca. 480–540) and Dharmakīrti (ca. 550–650). One of our guiding hypotheses will be that questions in philosophy of mind are, for Buddhist philosophers, intimately related to theories about what buddhahood is and how it can be reached.

After an introduction to the problem of the self in the Upaniṣads and early Buddhism, our course will be guided by Indian Buddhist philosophical texts in translation; select Hindu critiques of various Buddhists views; and contemporary scholarship in cross-cultural philosophy of mind.

PHI 3020-001 History of Ancient PhilosophyInstructor: **Dr. Justin Humphreys**

T R 2:30 - 3:45 pm

This course introduces students to major themes in ancient western philosophy, including the distinction between art and nature, the connection between morality and happiness, and how one should determine one's ultimate goal in life. The course will have a special focus on the concepts of virtue, speech, and nature. Our goal will be to understand the theories of the major thinkers in the ancient Greek tradition, including the pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle. We will be especially interested in asking why they held their views and how they argued for them. However, since interpreting ancient philosophical texts requires philosophical thinking, this course also presents an opportunity to reflect on the nature of philosophy itself.

PHI 3030-001 History of Medieval PhilosophyInstructor: **Dr. Julie Klein**

T R 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Philosophy 3030 surveys medieval philosophy in the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions. We shall consider each tradition on its own terms, how thinkers in the three traditions interact, and what areas of difference and commonality emerge. Thinkers like Thomas Aquinas, Avicenna, and Moses Maimonides work at the intersection of monotheistic revelation and the inherited wisdom of Greek and Roman philosophy and science. We will pay special attention to how they see the relationship of revealed teachings and philosophical speculation by studying four major themes: how to read sacred scripture, arguments for the existence of God, the human soul and its perfection, and the nature of human freedom.

PHI 4150-001 Philosophy & FilmInstructor: **Dr. Gabriel Rockhill**

M W 1:55-3:10 p.m.

This course will explore the relationship between film and philosophy, while cultivating students' critical visual and aural literacy skills. We will begin by analyzing the society of the spectacle in which we live and the power of moving images and recorded sounds to construct and manipulate worldviews, including unconscious drives. We will also explore the emancipatory potential of film-making as it relates to such issue as exploitation, colonialism, racism, the hierarchies of gender and sexuality, and the ecological crisis. Throughout the course, we will weave together audiovisual analysis and the discussion of particular films with philosophic issues ranging from the nature and function of images to the power of ideology to format worldviews.

PHI 4610-001 Philosophy of MindInstructor: **Dr. Georg Theiner**

T R 11:30 am -12:45 pm

The goal of this course is to relate contemporary debates in philosophy of mind and cognitive science to our self-conception as human beings. The course is divided into four modules. In

the first module, centered around the mind-body problem, we survey competing accounts of the relationship between mind, matter, and consciousness. Along the way, we take seriously the idea that mind and cognition are not essentially tied to the biological brain. In the second module, we examine the puzzling implications of panpsychism – the philosophical view that consciousness (in varying forms and degrees) is a fundamental and ubiquitous feature of the universe. In the third module, we revisit the nature-nurture debate in the light of how culture and experience shape the human mind. In the fourth module, we work through the emerging vision of the embodied brain as a mind-making and world-shaping prediction engine.

PHI 4825-001 Existentialism

Instructor: **Dr. Farshid Baghai**

T R 2:30 – 3:45 pm

What is the meaning of human existence? Whether we notice it or not, we ineluctably and constantly respond to this question. We cannot live, set ends for ourselves, and pursue them without making assumptions about what it means to be in the world. But we are often oblivious to such assumptions. For the most part, our responses to the question of the meaning of our existence are pre-reflective. Focusing on selected sections of Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time* and Simone de Beauvoir's *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, this seminar examines these existential philosophers' accounts of the ways we produce meaning in our lives.

PHI 5000-001 SEM: Liberalism & Democracy

Instructor: **Dr. Farshid Baghai**

T R 4:00 – 5:15 pm

The relation between liberalism and democracy—In this seminar, we examine a few historical-philosophical accounts of the relation between liberalism and democracy in modern and contemporary contexts. We explore whether/how 1) liberalism can exist without democracy, 2) democracy can exist without liberalism, and 3) liberalism and democracy might be hostile twins and/or necessary allies. Particular attention will be paid to the forms the relation between liberalism and democracy takes in our contemporary context. To do these, we study texts from authors such as Norberto Bobbio, Wendy Brown, David Harvey, F. A. Hayek, Domenico Losurdo, Chantal Mouffe, and Quinn Slobodian. The seminar is designed so that students can pursue their own independent research project.