

## List of Courses for Spring 2018

- **01:730:101 Logic, Reasoning and Persuasion (3)**

**Instructors:** S. Felder, A. Johnson, J. Burgis, T. McCrossin, G. Salmieri

*Development of skills in reasoning. Consideration of what an argument is, how arguments go wrong, and what makes an argument valid. Application of techniques for clarifying meaning, evaluating, and constructing arguments. Credit not given if student has already taken 01:730:201 or 202.*

- **01:730:103 Introduction to Philosophy (3)**

**Instructors:** E. Bodanszky, D. Imparato, A. Baldino, P. Warden

**General Description:** *Examination of fundamental philosophical issues such as the meaning and basis of moral judgments, free will and determinism, theism and atheism, knowledge and skepticism, and consciousness and the brain.*

**Description for Section 03, A. Baldino:**

*Philosophy begins in a sense of wonder – a wonder about the very world itself and our own conspicuous existence in it. This class is an introduction to the field of inquiry that arises out of this sense of wonder, and it is an invitation to the student to convert that sense of wonder into specific questions and ways of addressing those questions.*

*The questions we will consider focus on the possibility of truth and value, the existence of God, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and theory of mind. Questions like: How is knowledge possible and what justifies our beliefs? Is there a God? Do we have free will? What is the nature of mind and how does it differ from matter? How should we treat one another, what is of value, and how should we live our lives? The ways of addressing these questions will be through reading original works of philosophy, discussing openly and impartially these works with one another, critically examining the ideas presented, and (if all goes well) developing our own thoughts about the issues under discussion.*

*This introduction to philosophy will have been a success if, by the end of the course, you are able to think of yourself as a philosopher – as someone open to thinking philosophically and about philosophical questions, and connecting ideas from philosophy to the things you encounter, experience, think about, and hope for in your everyday life.*

*Assessment: There will be two short papers (3-5 pages) and three tests. Class participation will also factor into assessment.*

- **01:730:105 Current Moral and Social Issues (3)**

**Instructors:** J. Piven, J. Derstine, T. McCrossin

*Application of moral theory to selected contemporary issues. Possible topics include abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, punishment, equality, sexism, racism, affirmative action, privacy, obligations to the world's needy, treatment of animals, drug use, and the meaning of life.*

- **01:730:107 Introductions to Ethics (3)**

**Instructors:** A. Rabinowitz, D. Imparato, M. Coetsee, J. Kalef, S Kang

**General Description:** *Exploration of basic issues in ethical theory and metaethics. Topics may include consequentialism, deontology, virtue theory, constructivism, value relativism, the objectivity of values, value skepticism, free will, and the nature of the values and practical reasons.*

## Description for Section 90, J. Kalef:

*Are there objective moral principles? Can there be morality without a moral law-giver? Is it better to do a tiny amount of good for a large number of people, or a large amount of good for a single person? Is it ever right to 'punish' people when they don't deserve punishment? Is it right for us to blame some Confederate soldiers for fighting in defense of the cause of slavery, when their culture held that slavery was right just as ours holds that slavery is wrong? This course will explore these and many other important questions in ethics. This particular course will have two features that make it utterly unique among introductory ethics course .*

*The first of these two features is that, in addition to reading the works of some of the world's greatest philosophers, the course will include video interviews with the philosophers themselves, so that you will have a chance to see them talk about the works you will read. You will also have a chance to watch the philosophers in conversation with beginning philosophy students, as they react critically to the central readings of the course -- and perhaps even to be one of the students in live conversation with a great philosopher! The course is designed to bring you from the level of absolute beginner to the point where you can thoughtfully engage with the writings of these important thinkers.*

*The second feature is that, unlike so many other online course, this one will be highly interactive. Every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30pm, students will engage in live, interactive exercises with other students in class. New apps have been designed especially for this course to help provide you with the engagement of an interactive learning course from the comfort of your own computer, wherever you are. You will only need to come to campus once, for the final exam. The interactive techniques that will be used to teach this course have been honed over many years in face-to-face course and are now being made available online for the first time.*

*This will be a challenging but very rewarding course, and it assumes no prior knowledge of philosophy. It is recommended to all eager, curious and hard-working students who are prepared to devote 10-12 hours per week to a very special online course.*

- **01:730:109 Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision Making (3)**

**Instructors: M. Bialek, J. Grayot**

*Fundamentals of logical, probabilistic, and statistical thinking, as well as the basic principles of rational decision making. Reasoning through data (and rhetoric) encountered on a daily basis using elementary principles of deductive logic and inference.*

- **01:730:201 Introduction to Logic (3)**

**Instructors: J. Burgis, E. Kalkus, F. Egan, L. Choi, E. Lepore, S. Kang.**

*Introduction to deductive logic, including propositional and predicate logic. Emphasis on the basic concepts of logic, the proper interpretation of the logical apparatus of English, and techniques of symbolization and deductive proof.*

- **01:730:204 Ancient Philosophy (3)**

**Instructor: Christopher Hauser**

*We will examine the origins of Western philosophical thought in the writings of the Presocratics, Plato, and Aristotle during the 6<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE. It was during this period that philosophia ("love of wisdom") emerged from mythologizing as a new enterprise in the human effort to understand the cosmos and our place in it. In addition to tracing the development of philosophy as a cultural enterprise, we will pay special attention to these philosophers' original and perennially influential theories in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy. In particular, we will discuss these philosophers' views about the ultimate constituents of reality, what human beings are, the nature of scientific inquiry and knowledge, and the place of virtue, justice, and friendship in individual and political life.*

- **01:730:215 Introduction to Metaphysics (3)**

**Instructor: K. D'Agostino**

*Examination of central issues in metaphysics, such as free will, personal identity, the nature of time, causality, necessity, and possibility. **Credit not given if student has already taken 01:730:415.***

- **01:730:225 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (3)**

**Instructor: V. Gomez**

*This course is an introduction some of the core issues in analytic philosophy of science. The first part of the course will focus on the epistemology of science. The guiding questions for this part of the course will be: what justifies our acceptance of scientific theories? How are scientific theories confirmed by empirical data? In the second part of the course we'll deal with some core topics in the metaphysics of science, such as the status of laws of nature, the nature of scientific explanation and the relationship between different scientific disciplines.*

- **01:730:249 Bioethics (3)**

**Instructor: J. Douard**

*Exploration of moral issues in medicine and medical research. Course will typically focus on issues raised by the creation and termination of life and include topics such as abortion, stem cell research, cloning, prenatal screening for disability, right to medical care, human experimentation, genetic enhancement and eugenics, animal experimentation, the diagnosis of death, and euthanasia. May require some thinking about issues in metaphysics, such as the nature of personal identity.*

- **01:730:253 (3) Human Nature & Diversity**

**Cross-listed with 01:185:253 (3) Cognitive Science 253**

**Instructor: S. Stich**

*The course has three goals.*

*1) To acquaint students with some of the descriptive facts about human diversity in a variety of domains including:*

- i) mating (sex, love and marriage)*
- ii) morality*
- iii) religion*
- iv) race*

*Students will also learn about some of the features of human psychology and human culture that are universal and thus, perhaps, a reflection of an innate human nature.*

*2) To examine and critically assess some of the theories that have been proposed to explain why various sorts of human diversity exist. The theories considered will be:*

- i) evolutionary psychology*
- ii) environmental variability and cultural materialism*
- iii) gene-culture co-evolution and the tribal instincts hypothesis*
- iv) social construction.*

- **01:730:255 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy (3)**

**Instructor: H. McGary**

*Survey of philosophical writings on the origin and nature of the state. Topics include the individual and the state, the social order, nature and limitation of state authority, political obligation, and liberties of citizens, rights, and equality of opportunity and unjust discrimination. Each student is required to attend class, write a final paper (8-10 pages), and take an in-class mid-semester and final examination.*

- **01:730:261 Philosophical Ideas in Science Fiction (3)\***  
**Instructor: B. Burgis**  
*Philosophical issues in science fiction. Topics such as time travel, personal identity, the mind-body problem, nonhuman rationality, and parallel world .*
- **01:730:265 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (3)**  
**Instructor: D. Rubio**  
*Basic issues in the philosophy of religion, East and West: existence and nature of God; problem of evil; faith versus knowledge; mysticism and its claims; the problem of religious language; and attacks on religion by Hume, Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud.*
- **01:730:296 Areté - Part II (1)**  
**Instructor: J. Kalef**  
*Supervised process of editing of the undergraduate philosophy journal, with review of weekly submissions. Prerequisites: At least two courses in philosophy or outstanding performance in a philosophy class.*
- **01:730:302 Plato and Aristotle (3)**  
**Instructor: G. Salmieri**  
*Major work of Plato, such as the Republic; Aristotle's critical reaction and alternative theories in metaphysics, psychology, logic, ethics, and politics. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy equal to or greater than 01:730:103.*
- **01:730:303 The Practice of Philosophy Argument (3)**  
**Instructor: N. Flores**  
*What does philosophy aim to discover and can it succeed? This course will survey and critically evaluate a range of historical and contemporary methods employed by philosophers with the aim of understanding what these methods are intended to accomplish and why they have been thought to succeed. Prerequisites: 01:730:103 or 104 and 201, and permission of instructor. Not open to first-year students.*
- **01:730:307 Descartes, Locke and the Seventeenth Century (3)**  
**Instructor: M. Bolton**  
*In this course, we study some of the most interesting and influential European philosophers of the century during which Aristotelian scholastic philosophy gave way to early modern philosophical, scientific, and political theories. To grasp the scope of the change, we will focus on the thought of Descartes, Locke, and Leibniz. Each of them has connections with other early modern thinkers whose work we will also consider, such as Hobbes, Arnauld, Gassendi, Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia, Damaris Masham, and the Electress Sophie.*

*Each of the three philosophers that will be the center of our attention is highly systematic. The metaphysical and epistemic views of each will be studied in context of their close inter-connections. There are also instructive comparisons among the systems, doctrines, and arguments of the three philosophers.*

*We will be especially concerned to identify and understand arguments, to debate their strengths and weakness, and consider their implications for various areas of interest to us.*

*Students who take the course are required to attend all meetings of the class, to read assignments promptly, and take part in class discussion. There will be two take-home mid-term exams and a 10-page paper due at the end of the semester. There may also be short written assignments or in-class presentations. Roughly speaking, 25% of the final grade is determined by each of the two take-home exams, 40% is determined by the final paper, and the remainder of the grade depends on fulfillment of the other requirements. However, if grades improve over the semester, I give more weight to later grades than earlier ones..*

- **01:730:308 (3) Hume, Kant & the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**  
**Instructor: B. Burgis**

*Some major works by Hume, Kant, and other 18th-century philosophers. Comparison of views on metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of religion, and value theory.*

- **01:730:330 Ethics of War and Conflict (3)**  
**Instructor: J. Goodrich**

*Exploration of moral issues raised by collective violence through critical examination of the traditional theory of just war. Topics may include foundations of the right of self-defense, notion of a just cause for war, preventive war, humanitarian intervention, distinction between legitimate and illegitimate targets of attack, basis of moral liability to attack in war, proportionality in the consequences of war, terrorism, interrogational torture, and relation between the morality of war and the law of war.*

**-Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.**

- **01:730:344\* Marx, Nietzsche, Freud (3)**  
**Cross-listed w/German (primary) 01:470:371 & Comp Lit 01:195:374:01**  
**Instructor: N. Rennie**

*Exploration of the work of three German writers who revolutionized modern philosophy, theology, psychology, aesthetics, social and political science, gender studies, historiography, literature, and the arts. Credit not given for both this course and 01:195:374 or 01:470:371.*

- **01:730:347\* Philosophical Issues in Feminism (3)**  
**Cross-listed w/Women & Gender Studies Department (secondary) 988:347**  
**Instructor: C. Van Dyke**

*Clarification and analysis of feminist thought. Critical study of scientific theories of sex differences. Issues such as the family, abortion, nature of persons, prostitution, discrimination, pornography.*

**Prerequisite: One course in philosophy equal to or greater than 01:730:103 or one course in women's studies.**

- **01:730:360 Animal Minds, Maps and Movies (3)**  
**Instructor: E. Camp**

*Much theorizing about thought treats it in terms of language: thought is argued to be analogous to language in certain ways, or even to be necessarily linguistic in form. This makes some sense for humans, who tend to talk a lot by nature. But what should we infer about how other animals think? And how do other representational formats work differently from language? For instance, what can be represented in a map? Do pictures have parts? And how do movies and novels of the same story differ in what they represent and what they leave to their audience to conclude?*

*In this course we'll explore varieties of representational 'architecture': how representational systems use a physical basis, rules for meaning, and principles of interpretation in different ways and to different ends. Students will write two short papers (2-3 pp.) and a slightly longer one (7-8 pp).*

- **01:730:368 Hindu Philosophy\* (3)**  
**Cross-listed w/Religion (primary) 01:840:368**  
**Instructor: E. Bryant**

*Upanishads, Patanjali, Bhagavad Gita; theories of matter, energy, states of consciousness; meditation. Yogas of knowledge, action, devotion. Karma. Ethics. Comparison of Hindu and Western cosmology. Credit not given for both this course and 01:840:358.*

- **01:730:369 Buddhist Philosophy\* (3)**

**Cross-listed w/Religion (primary) 01:840:369**

**Instructor: T. Jiang**

*Interdependence, impermanence, relativity; suffering; path to liberation; meditation; karma as cosmic justice; death and rebirth. Compassion as central ethical value. Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan Buddhism.*

**Prerequisite: One course in philosophy. Credit not given for both this course and 01:840:369.**

- **01:730:375 Topics in Philosophy: Criminal Justice and Marginalized Groups (3)**

**Instructor: J. Derstine**

*What is the aim of punishment? When is it justified? How ought we to punish criminals? In this course, we critically examine normative and applied ethical issues regarding Justice, Criminalization, and Punishment in the US Correctional System. In particular, our focus is on the treatment of historically marginalized groups (minorities, cognitively and/or physically impaired or disabled persons, juveniles, LGBT, women, etc.). We will investigate and discuss, among other topics, whether there are mitigating factors (e.g., economically disadvantaged citizens, members of historically marginalized group) a theory of criminalization ought to take into account when assessing the justification of punishment. Another question that will shape our investigation is whether Mass Incarceration is the "best" (moral, economic, and so forth) system by which to punish those we find culpable. **Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.***

- **01:730:402 Aristotle (3)**

**Instructor: R. Bolton**

*Topics in Aristotle's logic, physics, metaphysics, and philosophy of language.*

**Prerequisites: Two courses in philosophy equal to or greater than 01:730:103.**

- **01:730:405 Kant (3)**

**Instructor: T. McCrossin**

*Critical examination of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason; emphasis on metaphysical and epistemological views. **Prerequisites: Two courses in philosophy.***

- **01:730:412 Epistemology (3)**

**Instructor: L. Callahan**

*The course will explore four foundational questions in epistemology:*

- *What (if anything) do we know?*
- *What is knowledge, anyway?*
- *Why does knowledge matter?*
- *How, then, should we go about our epistemic lives?*

*Drawing primarily from contemporary debates (but with a few historical sources of inspiration), our readings will lead us through topics including external world skepticism, the nature of philosophical analysis, intellectual virtue, the value of knowledge, the nature of understanding, the rationality and value of trusting others, and the possibility of rational disagreement.*

**Prerequisites: 01:730:201 and two additional courses in philosophy.**

- **01:730:415 Metaphysics (3)**

**Instructor: B. Loewer**

*Topics such as essence, particulars and universals, causation, space, time, and identity. The nature of metaphysical arguments and problems of ontology. Realism and its alternatives.*

**Prerequisites: 01:730:201 and one additional course in philosophy.**

- **01:730:416 History of Metaphysics (3)**

**Instructor: M. Bolton**

*This course is the study of the central metaphysical theories of Leibniz, the most brilliant rationalist of the modern period. Topics to be examined include the existence and nature of substances, the logical possibility of change and the persistence of a substance in time, the nature of space, time, and matter, causality, and notions of necessity, possibility, and contingency, as Leibniz explains them.*

*We will start by reading the *Monadology*. This is a late work of Leibniz that is both famous and difficult to understand. The rest of the course is designed to help the class come to a better understanding of it. This will involve reading and discussing earlier writings in which he works out the various lines of thought and doctrines that converge in the late work. At the end of the semester, we will return to *Monadology* aiming for a deeper and more well-grounded comprehension.*

*Students who take the course are expected to attend all meetings of the class, complete the reading assignments on time, and participate in class discussion. There will be a short paper assignment (5 pages) and a long paper (10-15 pages) due at the end of the semester. There may also be short written assignments or in-class presentations. Roughly speaking, 60% of the final grade is determined by the final paper, 25% by the short paper, and the rest by fulfillment of the other requirements.*

- **01:730:419 Philosophy of Perception (3)**

**Instructor: F. Egan**

*We will examine philosophical accounts of perceptual experience and its relation to reality, considering such questions as: How does perception give rise to knowledge of the world? What properties, if any, are represented in perception? What is the difference between perception and belief? What, if anything, does perception have in common with hallucination? Is visual perception special?*

- **01:730:421 Semantics of Language (3)**

**Instructor: P. Pietroski**

*This course will focus on the meanings of linguistic expressions—like the words and sentences of spoken English—how these meanings are related (to each other), and how they might be related to some other things that philosophers and linguists have cared about: grammatical structure, logic, truth, concepts, reference, and communication. We'll alternate between thinking about what meanings are, and trying to construct/revise some theories that start to explain some basic facts in this domain. Specific subtopics will include, as time permits: nouns and verbs of various kinds; adjectives and adverbs; quantifiers and relative clauses; tense and negation. Grading will be based on a series of homework assignments, which will include both problem sets and short (1-page) responses to questions about the material we'll be reading.*

- **01:730:425 Philosophy of Science (3)**

**Instructor: S. Felder**

*Detailed study of one or more of the following topics: explanation, confirmation, causation, the status of theoretical entities, objectivity, reductionism, unity of science.*

**Prerequisite: 01:730:225.**

- **01:730:442 Moral Responsibility (3)**

**Instructor: C. Cote-Bouchard**

*Exploration of our responsibility for ourselves and our actions. Possible topics include justification versus excuses for actions; different types of excuses (e.g., ignorance of fact, morality, or law; insanity; alcohol-induced impairment; duress); negligence and risk; moral luck; collective responsibility; free will; and the justification for punishment.*

- **01:730:445 Topics in Social and Political Philosophy (3)**

**Instructor: H. McGary**

*Exploration of important authors or topics in social and political philosophy. Readings shall include writings by the following authors: Anthony Appiah, Bernard Boxill, Elizabeth Anderson, Derrick Darby, J. L.A. Garcia, Sally Haslanger, John Locke, Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx, Howard McGary, John Stuart Mill, Charles Mills, and Tommie Shelby. Each student is required to write a term paper and take an in-class final examination.*

**Prerequisites: Two courses in philosophy.**

- **01:730:475 Advanced Topics in Philosophy: What is the world & how do we perceive it? (3)**

**Instructor: H. Robinson**

*The World as Perception reveals it to be.*

*Perception is our principle form of cognitive contact with the physical world around us, but it remains controversial both (a) what is the correct account of our perception of the world, and (b) what can we infer about the nature of the world on the basis of perception.*

*In the first half of the semester we will consider the arguments for and against direct or naïve realism. This will involve a close look at the causal-hallucinatory argument against direct realism, and the replies that both disjunctivists and intentionalists give to this.*

*The upshot is, I shall argue, that though perception enables conscious creatures to form judgements about things in the world, this is only via the way that objects manifest themselves to us, which leaves open the question of how this manifestation – these appearances – relate to what the objects are, or are like, in themselves.*

*In the second half of the semester we will consider the nature of the reality that lies behind the appearances. It is certain that this reality must be highly structured in accordance with the laws that natural science uncovers: but what more could it be than a structure of laws? Most physical realists want to give it some further nature; Berkeleyan idealists say that it is no more than the structure of laws, which are realized in the mind of God. We will be looking at the reasons that idealists might give for this apparently shocking claim.*

*We will start from some of Berkeley's arguments. Then we will look at reasons for thinking that the modern scientific conception of the world as fields, forces or energy cannot be taken realistically. Next, John Foster's 'argument from deviant space' for idealism (which will be carefully explained) will be considered. Finally some arguments which are more Kantian will be discussed.*

*Everything discussed will be controversial and there will be much scope for debate. If the description looks formidable in places, in the course everything will be explained from first principles.*