

punishment, our obligations to the disadvantaged, the treatment of non-human animals, just war, and the like. Students will be encouraged to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own moral values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated.

PHL 240/Political Philosophy

Sec.01 Winston 2:003:50M MR

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

This course will provide a systematic rather than a historical survey of the main issues in political philosophy. The main topics to be discussed include: the justification of political authority, modern social contract theories of the state, conceptions of distributive justice, and contemporary liberal, communitarian, and cosmopolitan theories of political organizations. Significant attention will be given to contemporary debates in political philosophy such as multiculturalism, humanitarian intervention, and duties beyond borders. Upon completing this course, students will be able to identify and be able to intelligently discuss the major philosophical perspectives which have shaped western political discourse, and to engage in thoughtful further study of contemporary issues in political theory. Course requirements will include class presentations on assigned readings, short in-class essays, two 5-10 page reflection essays, and a comprehensive final exam.

PHL 246/Aesthetics

Sec.01 Kamber 5:00-6:50PM MW

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

A critical examination of principal issues and theories in the philosophy of art and beauty. Readings include selections from philosophers of historical importance such as Plato, Aristotle, and Hume as well as from contemporary aestheticians. Broad and perennial issues like “What is art?” “What is beauty?” “Can aesthetic judgments be disputed?” will be linked with more specific and empirical issues. We will consider, for example, how the concept of art has changed over the last 120 years, what is unique to the art of film, and what is distinctive about our experiences and judgments of human beauty. Attention will also be given to the relationship between philosophical aesthetics and related studies in psychology and sociology.

PHL 250/Philosophy of Religion

Sec.01 Dehghani 12:30-1:50PM TF

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

This course critically examines major issues, views, and positions in the philosophy of religion. Topics treated include the nature of religion and divinity, religious diversity, the problem of evil, philosophical arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, ethics and religion, and science and religion. Students will be encouraged to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own religious values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated.

PHL 301/History of Ancient Philosophy Sec.01 Sisko 10:00-11:20AM TF

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

This is a survey course on Plato and Aristotle. In order to place these two philosophers within their historical context, we shall begin by exploring the thought of the Pre-Socratic Philosophers (Parmenides, Zeno, Anaxagoras and Democritus) and the Sophists (Gorgias and Protagoras). The focus of the course shall be on epistemology, metaphysics and psychology. For Plato, we shall read two or three of the early dialogues (including the Euthyphro), both the Meno and the Phaedo, and parts of the Republic. We shall also look at Plato's own criticism of the theory of the Forms in the Parmenides. For Aristotle, we shall read some of the *organon*, including parts of the Categories and the Posterior Analytics. These works provide the basis for Aristotle's own rejection of the theory of Forms and they also introduce us to his conception of 'scientific knowledge'. We shall read substantial selections from three of Aristotle's more prominent works: the Nicomachean Ethics, the Physics, and On the Soul.

PHL 350/Ethical Theory

Sec.01 Taylor 12:00-1:50PM MR

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

In this course we will critically address the competing ethical traditions of deontology and utilitarianism. We will initially focus on the views of Immanuel Kant and J.S. Mill, critically engaging with both. We will then address the more contemporary discussion of these theories, drawing on the work of J.J.C Smart, Bernard Williams, and Christine Korsgaard. We will conclude the course by examining the philosophical methodology that we have used in our discussions of the ethical theories we address, focusing especially on the role that moral intuitions play in the construction of theories. To this end we will address some of the current work that is being done in experimental philosophy.

PHL 391/Independent Study

TBA

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy and permission of instructor

Independent study of a particular philosophical topic, in close consultation with a member of the department.

PHL 411/Philosophy of Science

Sec.01 Winston 12:30-3:50PM T

Prerequisite: One course each in philosophy and a science or permission of instructor

This course provides an in-depth examination of epistemological, metaphysical, and ethical issues raised by scientific inquiry. Issues addressed include: the nature of scientific explanation, the historical development of science, induction, observation, confirmation theory, the social construction of knowledge, and the ethical responsibility of scientists. Students will study the teachings of great scientists of the past and the work

of influential philosophers of science, and will be encouraged to reflect on their own values and beliefs concerning science, and to take reasoned and informed positions on issues related to scientific inquiry. Course requirements will include seminar papers on selected readings and three take home essay exams.

PHL 420/Metaphysics

Sec.01 Preti 10:00-11:50AM MR

Prerequisite: One course in logic or permission of instructor

Metaphysics is the study of nature of reality. In this course we will focus our study of the nature of reality on the study of the nature of *thought*. What is thought? Is it a psychological entity? Is an abstract extra-mental entity? Is it a proposition? What is a proposition? What are its constituents? How is a thought about the world *about* anything, let alone the world? Readings will be selected from the works of Brentano, Husserl, Frege, Russell, and Moore, as well as from the contemporary literature on the nature of the structured proposition.

PHL 494/Senior Research

TBA

Prerequisite: Senior standing as a philosophy major

Independent research conducted under the guidance of a full-time faculty member on a mutually agreed topic. Students will be expected to define a topic suitable for a Senior Thesis or Senior Project, conduct a search of appropriate literature, develop a writing plan, and participate in organized discussions with other students enrolled in Senior Capstone Research.

PHL 495/Senior Thesis

TBA

Prerequisite: Senior standing as a philosophy major

A very substantial writing project prepared under the advisement of a member of the philosophy faculty in consultation with a committee consisting of at least two additional faculty members and an oral defense before the committee. Students must complete a carefully researched and written, in-depth work in philosophy on a topic of significance in philosophy, selected by the student in consultation with faculty and written under the close supervision of a faculty member who serves as adviser or such adviser and a committee.

PHL 498/Senior Project

TBA

Prerequisite: Senior standing as a philosophy major

A substantial writing project prepared under the close advisement of a member of the philosophy faculty and a presentation component. Students must complete a carefully researched and written, in-depth work in philosophy on a topic of significance in

wisdom into Arabic language and Islamic thought and the role it played in the development of Islamic civilization. The focus will be upon some of the most influential medieval Muslim philosophers such as al-Kindi, Avicenna, al-Ghazali and Averroes.

REL 120/Early Judaism

Sec.01 Chernikoff 2:00-3:20PM MR

This course will cover the development of Jewish history and religious life from the Biblical through the medieval periods. Particular attention will be paid to literary sources, the historical development of ideas, and Jewish ritual cycles. We will, for example, examine the development of the celebration and meaning of Jewish festivals, life cycle events and practices. Also probed will be the growth of Jewish law and understanding of Scriptures. There is no requirement for any previous understanding of Judaism--all students are encouraged to enroll.

REL 370/Special Topics in Religion:
Women and Religion

Sec.01 Ulizio 2:00-3:20PM MR

Prerequisite: One course in religion or philosophy or permission of instructor

The pervasiveness of religious belief and practice, and of religion's impact on Culture, makes the topic of women and religion an important one. Contemporary feminist and gender studies have highlighted both the positive and negative influences religious traditions have had in the lives of women. In this course we will look at a number of issues related to the study of women and religion: 1) the ways in which religion has influenced how we understand gender; 2) the influence of feminist and gender studies on the study of religion; 3) the roles and place of women within select religious traditions; and finally 4) constructive interpretations of the selected traditions using the insights gained through feminist and gendered approaches to the study of religion. We will read both primary and secondary source material.