FORDHAM PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
Catalog of Elective Courses  (at Rose Hill & Lincoln Center)
Spring 2020
PHILOSOPHY ELECTIVE COURSES
AT A GLANCE - Spring 2020

ROSE HILL

Historical – Medieval
PHIL 3559: Dante and Philosophy  
MR 11:30-12:45

Historical – Classical Modern and 19th Century
PHIL 3715: Kant on Morality and Religion – R. Winegar  
MR 11:30-12:45

Historical – Contemporary & 20th Century
PHIL 3670: Existentialism – C. Gschwandtner  
MR 10:00-11:15

Topical – Knowledge and Method
PHIL 3235: Theories of Knowledge – S. Grimm  
MR 4:00-5:15

Topical – Meaning and Human Experience
PHIL 3422: Harry Potter and Philosophy – J. Jones  
MR 4:00-5:15

Topical – Moral, Political and Social Philosophy
PHIL 3140: Market Failures, Public Goods, and Justice – J. Davenport  
MR 4:00-5:15

PHIL 3310: Issues in Philosophy of Law – M. Baur  
TF 11:30-12:45

PHIL 3935: Ethics and Mental Health – M. Baur  
TF 1:00-2:15

Pluralism
PHIL 3722: Native American Philosophy – J. Green  
MR 2:30-3:45

Interdisciplinary Capstone Course (ICC)
PHIL 4303: Human Error – N. Ballantyne  
Tues 2:30-5:00

Senior Values Seminar (EP4)
PHIL 4408: Hospitality and Cosmopolitanism – S. Islekel  
TF 2:30-3:45

PHIL 4418: Issues of Life and Death – H. Daru  
MR 8:30-9:45

PHIL 4436: Rethinking Citizenship – A. Jampol- Petzinger  
MR 5:30-6:45

PHIL 4486: Evil, Vice and Sin – J. Jones  
MR 2:30-3:45
LINCOLN CENTER

**Historical – Ancient**
PHIL 3525-L01: Philosophy of Plato - B. Johnson  
TF 2:30-3:45

**Historical - Modern**
PHIL 3674-C01: Philosophy of the Novel – M. Burke  
Mon 6:00-8:45

**Topical – Meaning & Human Experience**
PHIL 3181-L01: Philosophy of Technology - P. Walsh  
TF 1:00-2:15

**Topical – Metaphysics**
PHIL 3330-L01: Philosophy of Religion – A. Seymour  
TF 10:00-11:15

**Topical – Moral & Political (Ethics)**
PHIL-3711-L01: Humanitarianism & Philosophy – J. Flynn  
MR 10:00-11:15

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES (Open to senior Philosophy majors with Department approval) –
All graduate courses meet at Rose Hill

PHIL 5002: 19th Century Philosophy – B. Babich  
Mon 2:30-4:30

PHIL 5051: Existentialism and Critical Phenomenology – S. Whitney  
Tues 11:30-1:30

PHIL 5305: Confronting Moral Controversy – N. Smyth  
Fri 12:00-2:00
PHIL 3140: Market Failures, Public Goods, and Justice
J. Davenport (MR 4:00-5:15)
Topical: Moral, Political & Social Philosophy

This course focuses on a fundamental question for social justice: which goods and services should a free market provide, which should nonprofits (NGOs), generally supply and what is the remainder that governments should secure? No economic background is assumed, but the course will introduce students to economic conceptions of “public goods” that markets cannot optimally supply, and to debates about expanding this category. We will consider arguments that some choices concern objective goods and harms that should not simply be left up to consumer decisions in free markets, and consider what the institutional preconditions of effective markets include. The range of public goods, including some at the global level, will also be debated. The readings will include recent popular works on types of market failure that are now widely debated, and some philosophical work on public goods, along with an introduction to elementary “game theory” with simple matrices. We will also consider a few recent articles and book chapters arguing that some functions governments often perform should be taken over by the nonprofit sector and ask what social justice concerns the rapid growth of this sector may raise.
(Students of all political orientations are welcome!).

PHIL 3310: Issues in Philosophy of Law
M. Baur (TF 11:30-12:45)
Topical: Moral, Political & Social Philosophy

This course will examine and critically evaluate different accounts of the nature of law; the relationship between law and morality; the rule of law and constitutional government; judicial review and interpretation; foundations of private law; the foundations of public law. These and related issues in the philosophy of law shall be discussed and illustrated by reference to specific legal cases and controversies.

PHIL 3235: Theories of Knowledge
S. Grimm (MR 4:00-5:15)
Topical: Knowledge and Method

In this class we will address a range of central questions in epistemology, one of the core areas of philosophy. What does it take to acquire knowledge of the world, and how (if at all) should we adjust our beliefs in the face of people who disagree with us? What makes science such a great epistemic achievement, and how should that influence the way we form beliefs in other areas, such as religion? Is it ever permissible to believe on the basis of authority? Why is the truth valuable, and how do we know when we have it? Readings will be taken mainly from contemporary sources.
PHIL 3422: Harry Potter and Philosophy
J. Jones (MR 4:00-5:15)
Topical: Meaning and Human Experience

This course will use the Harry Potter novels to explore several central themes in philosophy, and will use philosophical analysis to interpret the books and their cultural impact. Some central topics of the course will include: the nature and relationships of minds, souls, and bodies; the conflict of good and evil and some related issues in moral psychology and the ethics of 'love;' metaphysical implications of the magical world of HP and its enchantment of muggles.

PHIL 3559: Dante and Philosophy
J. Koterski (MR 11:30-12:45)
History: Medieval

By examination of the Divine Comedy and other works by Dante, this course will consider such important philosophical themes as divine providence, free choice of the will, the sources of ethics, and the nature of happiness. The course will involve the study of various ancient and medieval thinkers whom Dante used to explore the perennial questions of human existence as well as a study of contemporary commentators.

PHIL 3670: Existentialism
C. Gschwandtner (MR 10:00-11:15)
History: Contemporary & 20th Century

A survey of 19th and 20th century existentialist writers, including Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Simone de Beauvoir. Although not all of these thinkers self-identified as existentialists, all of them were concerned with explaining what is distinctive about human existence. We will explore the central topics guiding their thought: concepts like absurdity, ambiguity, anxiety, authenticity, boredom, creativity, death, despair, existence, facticity, freedom, and nothingness.

PHIL 3715: Kant on Morality and Religion
R. Winegar (MR 11:30-12:45)
History: Classical Modern & 19th Century

In the 18th century, Immanuel Kant developed a theory of autonomy that revolutionized moral and religious thought. This course will examine Kant's moral philosophy and philosophy of religion in writings like the Critique of Practical Reason, Critique of Pure Reason, Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysics of Morals, and Religion within the Boundaries of mere Reason. Topics discussed may include (1) Kant's categorical imperative, (2) Kant's theory of human autonomy, (3) Kant's concept of God, (4) Kant's theory of moral belief in God and immorality, (5) Kant's treatment of the problem of evil, and (6) Kant's view of the relationship between morality and revealed religion.

PHIL 3773: Native American Philosophy
J. Green (MR 2:30-3:45)
Pluralism

This seminar-style course will explore the philosophical contributions of Native Americans (also known as American Indians, and best known by the names these diverse people have given themselves), including insights about how to preserve our biotic community and to live with one another amidst our American pluralism in ways that are spiritually satisfying.
PHIL 3935: Ethics and Mental Health
M. Baur (TF 1:00-2:15)
Topical: Moral, Political & Social Philosophy

This course raises questions about what is meant by "mind" (or "the mental") and what is meant by "health" (as opposed to disease or disorder), with the aim of developing a critical perspective on our discourses about "mental health," human responsibility and choice, human flourishing and vulnerability, the distinction between "normality" and "abnormality," and the relationship between pathology and morality (e.g., is the psychopath morally bad or just sick, or somehow both?).

PHIL 4303: Human Error
N. Ballantyne (Tuesday 2:30-5:00)
Interdisciplinary Capstone Course

This course takes error in human judgment and reasoning as its central topic. Human error is something we know about firsthand: we all make mistakes. That's a platitude, but in this course we will try to say more. Through reading and discussion of classic and recent work by philosophers and psychologists, we'll think carefully about error and the significance of error for our intellectual lives. What factors lead us to err? What kinds of mistakes are there to make? What's the reasonable response to learning that we may have make an error? What can be done to get things right more often?

PHIL 4408: Hospitality and Cosmopolitanism
S. Islekel (TF 2:30-3:45)
Senior Values Seminar (EP4)

This course examines contemporary approaches to cosmopolitanism as it relates to "otherness" and hospitality. Issues addressed include the relation between the search for identity and openness to "others", representations of cultural and racial "others" in media and literature, and the possibility of peaceful living together in a world shaped by borders.

PHIL 4418: Issues of Life and Death
H. Daru (MR 8:30-9:45)
Senior Values Seminar (EP4)

The objective of this course is to make students aware of several issues in biology and medicine that require moral reflection, judgment, or decision, while also indicating how justified moral conclusions are reached. Questions covered include at what point life begins, at what point life ends, and acceptable medical treatment for all stages in between. This course will review some of the fundamental philosophical texts about life and death, as well as contemporary topics such as abortion, genetic modification, physician-assisted suicide, and organ transplantation.

PHIL 4436: Rethinking Citizenship
Andrew Jampol-Petzinger (MR 5:30-6:45)
Senior Values Seminar (EP4)

In this seminar we will reflect on the concept of citizenship, paying particular attention to the way contemporary conditions of diversity and difference have led to its reformulation. Beginning with an examination of the communitarian account of citizenship, we will then investigate more directly the challenge that multi-ethnicity and multiculturalism pose to citizenship, first looking at contemporary immigration debates and their political context, and then at liberal theories of multicultural citizenship. Finally, we will discuss citizenship beyond the nation-state by discussing various theories of cosmopolitanism, with a particular focus on the work of Seyla Benhabib.
PHIL 4486: Evil, Vice and Sin
J. Jones (MR 2:30-3:45)
Senior Values Seminar

This senior values seminar takes a negative strategy in approaching moral questions by focusing on actions labeled "evil", "vicious," or "sinful." This will create an opportunity for reflecting on the reality and experience of evil from which we might evolve some positive conception of "value" as well as the context and nature of moral choice and conscience.

Philosophy Electives – Lincoln Center
Spring 2020

PHIL 3181-L01: Philosophy of Technology
P. Walsh (TF 1:00-2:15)
Topical: Meaning & Human Experience

The human condition may very well be a technological condition. Technology is central to our evolutionary history, the development of science, our economic practices, and most importantly, our self-understanding. Should we understand the development of humanity and technology as a continuous history? Or have the past two centuries—with the development of industrial mechanization, the computer, and now the Internet—marked a radical shift of some kind? This course will explore the philosophy of technology, seeking to understand the way in which technology is transforming the way we relate to ourselves, other people, and the world. We will begin by considering whether there is an essence of technology. Is there some defining trait or set of characteristics that all technology shares? How is technology related to science? Is technology a threat to certain human practices and communal values? Next, we will explore issues in artificial intelligence, brain-machine interface technology, and human enhancement. Could we ever create consciousness using technology? Should we integrate technology into our brains/bodies? The remainder of the class will be devoted to a cutting-edge area in philosophy of technology: the ethics of algorithms and big data. Algorithms and big data are transforming everything from how we listen to music to how we police our cities. But beneath the superficial transformations of this "algorithmic existence" lies a transformation of fundamental philosophical concepts such as knowledge, freedom, and personal identity.
PHIL 3330-L01: Philosophy of Religion  
A. Seymour  
(TF 10:00-11:15)  
Topical: Metaphysics

This course covers the content and the justification of religious beliefs, with a focus on arguments for and against God's existence. Particularly: Does the success of scientific naturalism defeat traditional arguments for the existence of God? If God is an all-good, all-powerful, and all-knowing being, then why do evil and suffering exist? If God has the aforementioned attributes, why isn't God's existence readily apparent to everyone? The atheist thinks these problems show either that God doesn't exist or, at minimum, that belief in God isn't defensible. The theist thinks these problems are surmountable and gives various defenses. This course will also cover the problem of divine foreknowledge, divine simplicity, how humans should act toward a divine agent, and whether belief in God is necessary for religious belief.

PHIL 3711-L01: Humanitarianism and Philosophy  
J. Flynn  
(MR 10:00-11:15)  
Topical: Moral, Political & Social Philosophy

We are all familiar with aid agencies asking for donations to support their life-saving work. Often these appeals aim to elicit compassion for the suffering of distant strangers in ways that prompt us to act. This course takes humanitarian action — broadly construed as organized attempts to alleviate the suffering of distant strangers — as a point of departure for analyzing a range of issues using the tools of moral and political philosophy. We will attempt to better understand the nature and scope of our moral obligations to distant strangers as well as the nature and value of moral sentiments like compassion and their relation to justice. We will critically examine the modes of representation used to portray the suffering of distant strangers and reflect on what it means to be spectators of distant suffering. We will also engage normative frameworks for evaluating the work of various types of humanitarian and philanthropic organizations.

PHIL 3525-L01: Philosophy of Plato  
B. Johnson  
(TF 2:30-3:45)  
Historical: Ancient

This course is a general introduction to Plato's thought on ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics as represented by dialogues of his early and middle periods. Dialogues to be read: *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Protagoras, Meno, Phaedo, Phaedrus, Symposium*, and *Republic*.

PHIL 3674-C01: Philosophy of the Novel  
M. Burke  
(M 6:00-8:45 PM)  
Historical: Classical Modern & 19th Century

A philosophical consideration of the novelistic form as a phenomenon of modernity, and its relation to myth and tragic consciousness. Readings will be from authors such as Euripides, Racine, Pascal, Freud, Lukacs, Goldmann, Freud, and Girard. Note: this four-credit course will be reading-intensive. In addition to the philosophical literature, students will be expected to read Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* as well as Dostoyevski's *Demons* in their entirety.
PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

10 Courses in total
1. PHIL 1000 Philosophy of Human Nature
2. PHIL 3000 Philosophical Ethics
3-7. 5 Required electives: Chosen from 3 different Historical Periods and 2 different Topical Areas
    OR
    2 different Historical Periods and 3 different Topical Areas
8-10. 3 Free electives: Chosen from among all the upper-level philosophy courses, including Values,
        Globalism, Pluralism, and Interdisciplinary Capstone Courses, and Senior Thesis

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

6 courses in total
1. PHIL 1000 Philosophy of Human Nature
2. PHIL 3000 Philosophical Ethics
3-6. 4 Free electives: Chosen from all the upper-level philosophy courses, including Values, Globalism,
     Pluralism, and Interdisciplinary Capstone Courses.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR (GABELLI)

6 courses in total
1. PHIL 1000 Philosophy of Human Nature
2. PHIL 3000 Philosophical Ethics
3. BLBU 3443 Ethics in Business
4-6. 3 Free electives

For more information on the Philosophy major and minor, please contact

Dr. Daryl Tress
Associate Chair, Rose Hill
tress@fordham.edu

Fr. Christopher Cullen, S.J.
Associate Chair, Lincoln Center
cullen@fordham.edu