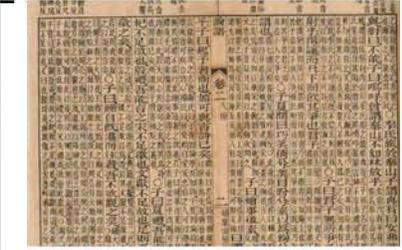
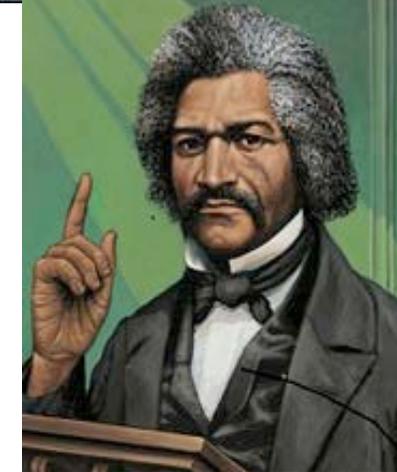
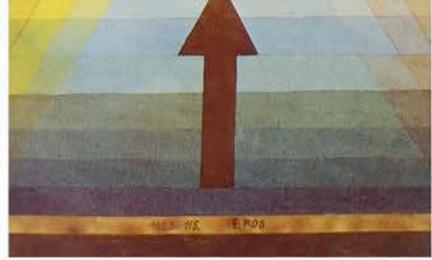




FORDHAM PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

Upper-Level Undergraduate Course Catalog

Fall 2017



COURSE CATALOG AT A GLANCE

Rose Hill

Historical – Contemporary 20th Century

PHIL 3652 Contemporary French Philosophy S. Haddad MR 2:30-3:45

Topical – Knowledge and Method

PHIL 3204 Symbolic Logic C. DaVia TF 10:00-11:15

PHIL 3850 Hermeneutics C. Gschwandtner MR 10:00-11:15

Topical – Metaphysics

PHIL 3301 Problem of God B. Davies MR 4:00-5:15

Topical – Meaning & Human Experience

PHIL 3559 Dante and Philosophy J. Koterski MR 11:30-12:45

Pluralism

PHIL 3720 African American Philosophy J. Green MR 4:00-5:15

Interdisciplinary Capstone

PHIL 4301-R01 Happiness and Well-being C. Gowans TF 10:00-11:15

PHIL 4301-R02 Happiness and Well-being C. Gowans TF 11:30-12:45

Values (EP4)

PHIL 4418-R01 Issues of Life and Death R. Grontkowski MR 10:00-11:15

PHIL 4418-R02 Issues of Life and Death R. Grontkowski MR 11:30-12:45

PHIL 4442 Fantasy and Philosophy J. Davenport TF 11:30-12:45

PHIL 4473 War and Peace: Just War Theory J. Davenport TF 1:00-2:15

Senior Thesis

PHIL 4990-R01 Senior Thesis Mentor arranged by student

Lincoln Center

Historical – Ancient

PHIL 3504-L01 Stoics & Skeptics B. Johnson MR 10:00-11:15

Historical – Medieval

PHIL 3557-L01 Confessions of Augustine G. Pini MR 2:30-3:45

Historical – Modern

PHIL 3609-L01 Modernity & Its Critics C. Cullen TF 10:00-11:15

Topical – Moral, Political & Social Philosophy

PHIL 3904-L01 Feminist Philosophy S. Whitney TF 2:30-3:45

Topical – Meaning & Human Experience

PHIL 3978-C01 Philosophy & Digital Media B. Babich M 6:00-8:45

Interdisciplinary Capstone

PHIL 4310-L01 Human Rights in Context J. Flynn TF 11:30-12:45

Values (EP4)

PHIL 4473-L01 War and Peace: Just War Theory C. Cullen TF 1:00-2:15

Senior Thesis

PHIL 4990-L01 Senior Thesis Mentor arranged by student

Graduate-Level Courses *All taught at Rose Hill | Open to seniors with approval*

PHIL 5001 Introduction to Plato B. Johnson T 2:15-4:15

PHIL 5009 Introduction to Aristotle D. Tress W 12:00-2:00

PHIL 5005 Classical Modern Philosophy B. Winegar M 12:00-2:00

PHIL 5100 Logic I G. Klima T 12:00-2:00

PHIL 3652 Contemporary French Philosophy (Contemporary 20th Century)

S. Haddad.. MR 2:30-3:45

This course introduces students to contemporary French philosophy by examining the relation between language and identity. Reading work by philosophers from across the francophone world, including Africa, the Caribbean, and mainland France, we will discuss topics such as nationalism, translation, multilingualism, and the role of language in colonial and postcolonial education.

PHIL 3301 Problem of God (Metaphysics)

B. Davies. MR 4:00-5:15

A systematic study of the existence of God, of His nature, and of His relation to the world.

PHIL 3850 Hermeneutics (Knowledge & Method)

C. Gschwandtner. MR 10:00-11:15

Hermeneutics is the philosophical theory and practice of interpretation, especially interpretation of texts, but also of actions and of life more broadly. Generally associated with the 20th century philosophers Hans-Georg Gadamer and Paul Ricoeur, hermeneutics explores the methodological questions of what it means to read, to understand, to ascertain meaning, and to enter into the world of a text. The course will focus especially on Gadamer's and Ricoeur's philosophical approaches to understanding and interpreting texts and experiences in the realms of art, history, religion, literature (especially narrative), formation of the self, politics and justice. The class may also touch on even more recent approaches to understanding, interpretation, and meaning.

PHIL 3204 Symbolic Logic (Knowledge & Method)

C. DaVia. TF 10:00-11:15

This course provides an introduction to the techniques of symbolic logic, along with a discussion of their philosophical foundations and implications. Topics covered may include: the syntax and semantics of propositional logic and quantification theory with identity, truth tables, natural-deduction, truth trees; quantification theory compared with Aristotelian logic, existence and quantification, definite descriptions, numerals, empty names, free logic, modal logic, "possible worlds" semantics, intensionality and extensionality.

PHIL 3559 Dante and Philosophy (Meaning & Human Experience)

J. Koterski. MR 11:30-12:45

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 study of various ancient and medieval thinkers whom Dante used to explore the perennial questions of human existence.

PHIL 3720 African American Philosophy (Pluralism)

J. Green. MR 4:00-5:15

Using texts by Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, W.E.B. DuBois, Alain Locke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, James H. Cone, Angela Davis, Cornel West, Patricia Hill Collins, Howard McGary, William E. Lawson, Leonard Harris, Lucius Outlaw and others, this course will focus on pillars, prophets and prospects for African American philosophy, a "philosophy born of struggle" created by profound critical and transformative voices from times of chattel slavery to the present that plays an influential role in American philosophy and American society today.

PHIL 4301-R01 Happiness and Well-being (Interdisciplinary Capstone)

C. Gowans. TF 10:00-11:15

PHIL 4301-R02 Happiness and Well-being (Interdisciplinary Capstone)

C. Gowans. TF 10:00-11:15

An interdisciplinary examination of the nature and value of happiness and well-being from the perspectives of contemporary psychology, Western philosophy and Asian spiritual traditions. Emphasis will be placed on what is distinctive about each of these approaches, but efforts will also be made to examine fruitful interactions among them in thinking about what it would mean to live a good and fulfilling life. Students will be encouraged to reflect on and develop their own personal understanding of the topic.

**PHIL 4418-R01 Issues of Life and Death
(Values/EP4)**

R. Gronkowski. MR 10:00-11:15

**PHIL 4418-R02 Issues of Life and Death
(Values/EP4)**

R. Gronkowski. MR 11:30-12:45

The course crosses traditional boundaries between academic disciplines, bringing together liberal arts disciplines with medicine and law. The course is designed to prepare students to address moral challenges in health care today and tomorrow.

PHIL 4442 Fantasy and Philosophy (Values/EP4)

J. Davenport. TF 11:30-12:45

An interdisciplinary study of moral themes in J.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and Stephen Donaldson's *First Chronicles of Thomas Covenant* (a trilogy from the 1980's considered to be the best work of epic fantasy since Tolkien). The course focuses on Tolkien's and Donaldson's artistic treatment of such philosophical questions as the lure of power, good and evil, friendship and love, free choice and fate, strength and weakness of will, the divine in relation to human life and nature, environmental goods, and the function of literature in human life. We will read a few sources on the mythological backgrounds of modern epic fantasy, along with a sample of essays on the moral and psychological themes in Tolkien's and Donaldson's work, and possibly 2-3 related short works in existential philosophy. The course is interdisciplinary and assumes no prior background but students are strongly advised to read (or re-read!) Tolkien's and Donaldson's trilogies during the summer.

**PHIL 4473 War and Peace: Just War Theory
(Values/EP4)**

J. Davenport. TF 1:00-2:15

The United States has been involved in major and minor wars almost continually since World War II; we have fought two major wars since 2001, and the "War on Terror" continues to be a central struggle of our time. The long tradition of Just War theory, which is taught in our military academies, offers invaluable resources for thinking about what reasons can justify war, and how wars should (and should not) be fought. In this course, students will consider "realist" and "pacifistic" positions to which the Just War tradition is an alternative, and learn how that tradition developed out of medieval natural law (Augustine, Aquinas) and early modern theories of natural right (e.g. Grotius and Vittorio), before looking at

contemporary debates since Vietnam (e.g. Michael Walzer). In the process, it will become clear that Just War theory is closely connected with the rise of international humanitarian law concerning war crimes and human rights. We will also see why Just War theory cannot be fully specified without being informed by a wider theory of social justice and moral norms: because just causes for going to war and legitimate means of fighting are topics in applied ethics, the framework of Just War theory makes most sense as part of a broader moral theory involving rights and other deontological restrictions. We will also consider contemporary applications, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as cases like Rwanda and Syria in which civil wars involved mass atrocities that fall under the 2005 "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine in international law. By the semester's end, we will consider possible wider implications of these cases for international governance and global justice.

PHIL 4990-R01 Senior Thesis: Philosophy

A research project of at least 10,000 words. In Spring 2017 the student must arrange for a faculty member to serve as the thesis mentor, and see the Associate Chair to register for the course. The student will give an oral defense of the thesis at the end of the Fall semester, with the mentor and another faculty member serving as examiners.

PHIL 3504 Stoics & Skeptics (Ancient)*B. Johnson. MR 10:00-11:15*

During the past 50 years, the study of philosophy from the Hellenistic era (after Aristotle and before Augustine) has undergone an exciting revival. In light of this revival, we shall examine some of the major philosophies of the Hellenistic period. We will study the Stoics, who believed that nature was permeated by a cosmic fire which composed the mind of God. The true ethical master, they said, followed nature and purged all passions. We will read Epictetus, a Stoic slave who was studied by a Roman emperor in search of wisdom about life. In addition, we will learn about the Cynics (or “Dog Philosophers”), who rejected convention and made a radical call for a return to a more natural ethics. We will examine Pyrrhonian Skeptics, who were so full of doubt that some worried the Pyrrhonists would walk off cliffs. Finally, we will examine the Epicureans, a group of philosophers who advocated a life of pleasure and who were whispered to be atheists. And, yet, ironically, they believed that the most pleasurable life is one of simplicity and tranquility.

PHIL 3557 Confessions of Augustine (Medieval)*G. Pini. MR 2:30-3:45*

Augustine’s *Confessions* is a book like no other: a revealing autobiography that is also a letter to God, a philosophy treatise that is also a critique of the pretensions of philosophy. In the more than 1600 years since it was written by a North African bishop with a disreputable past, the *Confessions* has never ceased to fascinate, perplex, and at times infuriate one generation of readers after another. Loved by Wittgenstein and derided by Nietzsche, this book is unlikely to leave anyone indifferent. Through its pages, we still hear Augustine speak about his joys and sufferings as a teenager and a young man while at the same time inquiring—with philosophical sophistication and unsurpassed originality—on the nature of the human mind, language, the will, freedom, predestination, sex, the emotions, self-fulfillment, frustration, happiness, memory, time, evil, God, and the list goes on. Indeed, it has been said that there is no better introduction to Western philosophy than Augustine’s *Confessions*. In this course, we will study this exceptional book in its entirety, with special focus on its philosophical aspects but not neglecting its historical and biographical elements. We will also consider selections from Augustine’s other works, such as the *Free Choice of the Will* and the *City of God*.

PHIL 3609 Modernity & Its Critics (Modern)*C. Cullen. TF 10:00-11:15*

The debate about modernity looms larger than ever: is it to be rejected or defended? This course will investigate major thinkers of modern philosophy leading up to the Enlightenment, such as Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, in order to explore the question of what constitutes “the Enlightenment project.” After examining major elements of “modernity,” students will turn to influential critics who have been calling us to reject modernity, in whole or in part, whether because of its claims to universal reason, its illusory notion of the self, its conquest of nature, its abandonment of the classical ideal of the virtues, or simply its secularism and the loss of transcendence. In the final section of the course, the debate will turn to modernity’s recent defenders.

PHIL 3904 Feminist Philosophy (Moral, Political, and Social Philosophy)*S. Whitney. TF 2:30-3:45*

Everyday discussions of feminism tend to focus on particular legal and economic issues. But feminist philosophy offers a sustained inquiry into the underlying nature of power and subordination. Through studying different theoretical traditions in feminist thought (liberal feminism, historical materialist feminism, radical feminism, poststructuralist feminism), we will analyze the basic character of gendered power and subordination: how they operate and get legitimized, how they can be challenged through various practices of resistance and liberation, and how to understand their intersection with race, class, and sexuality. Figures studied may include Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir, Angela Davis, Gayle Rubin, bell hooks, Catharine MacKinnon, Marilyn Frye, Alison Jaggar, Nancy Fraser, Sandra Bartky, Iris Marion Young, Audre Lorde, Patricia Hill Collins, Monique Wittig, Judith Butler, Sally Haslanger, and Martha Nussbaum.

**PHIL 3978 Philosophy & Digital Media
(Meaning & Human Experience)**

B. Babich. M 6:00-8:45

Participants in this course will examine the classic distinction, beginning with Plato, between orality and literacy, with an overview of the signal changes in mass reproduction from books to lithographs, photographs, film, and audio recording to today's digital, online and cell-phone mediated culture, including texting and the Twitter and Instagram suffusion of everyday life, old new media like faxes and email, not to mention the ever changing varieties of social media, blogs, feeds, etc. To explore the changes wrought by the various technological means of 'reproduction,' 'communication,' and 'representation,' on human life and expression, authors to read include Walter Benjamin and Martin Heidegger as well as Theodor Adorno, in addition to McLuhan, Anders, Kittler, Baudrillard, and a bunch of ever changing new names.

**PHIL 4310 Human Rights in Context
(Interdisciplinary Capstone)**

J. Flynn. TF 11:30-12:45

Human rights have become a global normative standard and a powerful language of protest. But when and how did they come to be so prominent? What are they and how are they justified? Do they mean the same thing in various contexts in which they are invoked around the world? We address such questions by focusing on how different disciplines – philosophy, history, and anthropology – generate knowledge about human rights. For instance, what can we learn by identifying historical continuities and discontinuities between appeals to natural rights, the "Rights of Man," and human rights? What can we learn about human rights from the kind of conceptual analysis that many philosophers do? How can the "thick description" of ethnography help us to understand the meaning and effects of human rights discourse in various settings?

**PHIL 4473 War and Peace: Just War Theory
(Values/EP4)**

C. Cullen. TF 1:00-2:15

Since September 11, 2001, the United States has fought two major wars - in Afghanistan and in Iraq - which are part of a larger war that gives every indication of lasting quite some time, perhaps decades, as did the Cold War. As a result, war has become a central moral issue for American citizens. This seminar in applied ethics will examine the history and development of just war theory, with special attention given to its medieval and classic theorists, e.g., Augustine, Aquinas, Vitoria, Suarez, and Grotius. Students will debate the central questions just war theory was developed to address: how war is to be defined, whether war may be waged, and if so, under what circumstances and in what ways. Before investigating just war theory, students will examine two rival, ethical theories about war, namely, pacifism and realism. Students will consider the contemporary context of international relations in order to debate current moral issues in just war theory, such as, pre-emptive war, terrorism, and counterinsurgency.

PHIL 4990-L01 Senior Thesis: Philosophy

A research project of at least 10,000 words. In Spring 2017 the student must arrange for a faculty member to serve as the thesis mentor, and see the Associate Chair to register for the course. The student will give an oral defense of the thesis at the end of the Fall semester, with the mentor and another faculty member serving as examiners.

Looking Ahead to Spring 2018 (Subject to change)

Rose Hill

Historical – Medieval

PHIL 3565 4 Medieval Philosophers J. Koterski

Historical – Classical Modern

PHIL 3631 19th Century Philosophy B. Winegar

Historical – Contemporary 20th Century

PHIL 3650 20th Century Philosophy S. Grimm

PHIL 3653 Latin American Philosophy S. Haddad

PHIL 3672 Continental Philosophy of Religion C. Gschwandtner

Topical – Knowledge & Method

PHIL 3254 Philosophical Problems of Perception D. Miller

Topical – Meaning & Human Experience

PHIL 3422 Harry Potter and Philosophy J. Jones

Topical – Moral, Political & Social Philosophy

PHIL 3936 Ethics of Mental Health Care D. Heney

PHIL 3990 Environmental Worldviews and Ethics J. Van Buren

Globalism (TBA)

PHIL 3770 Daoist and Zen Philosophy C. Gowans

TBA

PHIL 3731 Philosophy of the City J. Green

Values (EP4)

PHIL 4416 Art, Morality and Politics C. DaVia

PHIL 4484 Freedom and Responsibility C. DaVia

PHIL 4418 Issues of Life and Death R. Grontkowski

Lincoln Center

Historical – Contemporary 20th Century

PHIL 3670 Existentialism S. Whitney

Topical – Knowledge & Method

PHIL 3306 Faith after the Death of God C. Cullen

Topical – Metaphysics

PHIL 3355 Metaphysics A. Seymour

Topical – Moral, Political & Social Philosophy

PHIL 3711 Humanitarianism & Philosophy J. Flynn

Interdisciplinary Capstone

PHIL 4301 Happiness & Well-Being B. Johnson

Values (EP4)

PHIL 4444 AI, Sci FI, and Human Value W. Jaworski

Graduate-Level Courses *All taught at Rose Hill | Open to seniors with approval*

PHIL 5012 Introduction to St. Augustine G. Pini

PHIL 5010 Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas B. Davies

PHIL 5002 19th Century Philosophy B. Babich

PHIL 5114 Normative Ethical Theory J. Strabbing

REQUIREMENTS

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 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

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