

**MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Philosophy**

**Graduate Course Descriptions -- Fall 2011 (20111)**

**PHIL 6120 - PROBLEMS IN LOGIC**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- TTH 2:00-3:15, DR. MICHAEL WREEN**

**PROBLEMS IN LOGIC**

A critical survey of a number of issues in the philosophy of logic. First-order logic will be briefly reviewed, and selected topics then covered. Possible topics include the sentence-proposition distinction, the meaning of propositional connectives, the nature of entailment or logical consequence, Russell's theory of descriptions, indicative and subjunctive conditionals, the subject-predicate distinction, theories of truth, and the interpretation and viability of modal logic. TEXTS: Kahane, Tidman, and Hausman, *Logic and Philosophy*, 11th edition; Pascal Engel, *The Norm of Truth*; Stephen Read, *Thinking about Logic*; David Sanford, *If P, Then Q*; a number of xeroxes. REQUIREMENTS: Two tests, two seminar papers, and a term paper.

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**PHIL 6310 - HISTORY AND THEORY OF ETHICS**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 701 -- W 4:30-7:10, DR. THERESA TOBIN**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines some of the principal Western approaches to ethical theory both historically and in contemporary thought. Historical theories include: virtue theory (Aristotle), deontology (Immanuel Kant), consequentialism (John Stuart Mill), and existentialism (Simone De Beauvoir). We will study contemporary versions of these historical approaches and critical assessments of them.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Hackett editions of:

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, second edition, (translated and edited by Terence Irwin)
  - I. Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (translated by James Ellington)
  - J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism* (edited by George Sher)
  - J. S. Mill, *On the Subjection of Women* (edited by Susan M. Okin)
- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, Citadel Press, 1948.  
Margaret Urban Walker, *Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics*, Oxford UP, 2007

Other contemporary readings will be posted on D2L.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

one term paper to be written in stages over the course of the semester (includes participation in mid-term peer review process), weekly reading responses, responsibility for facilitating at least one class discussion

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## **PHIL 6330 - PROBLEMS IN ETHICS**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- MW 9:00-10:15, DR. FRANCO TRIVIGNO**

***[Section Title: Virtue Theory]***

Virtue Ethics

(Phil 6330 – Problems in Ethics)

Dr. Trivigno

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

What sort of person am I? What sort of person ought I strive to be? In this course, we will explore the notions of character and virtue from both ancient and modern perspectives. The first part of the course will focus on an articulation of the structure of ancient virtue ethics, in order to contrast its emphasis on the notion of character with traditional deontological and consequentialist theories. The second part will focus on particular issues and controversies in contemporary virtue ethics, including the action-guiding force of virtue theoretic concepts, the legitimacy of ethical naturalism, and the empirical viability of the notion of character. Throughout the course, we will be using examples drawn from fictional representations of character and virtue.

### **TEXTS:**

Annas, J., 1993, *The Morality of Happiness*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Crisp, R. and M. Slote (eds.), 1997, *Virtue Ethics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hursthouse, Rosalind, 1999, *On Virtue Ethics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

MacIntyre, A., 1985, *After Virtue*, London, Duckworth, 2nd Edition.

Snow, N., 2010, *Virtue as Social Intelligence*, New York: Routledge.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Two papers and one presentation.

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## **PHIL 6430 - PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- T 5:00-7:30, DR. POL VANDEVELDE**

The course is an investigation of the different aspects and components of cognition. We will combine a historical and systematic approach and study the main sources of knowledge, like perception (Locke, Hume, Searle), a priori (Kant, Ayer), induction (Russell), memory (Martin and Deutsch), as well as some of the issues pertaining to knowledge, like internalism v. externalism (Descartes, Bonjour), naturalized epistemology (Quine). We will also evaluate different theories of what the truth is: correspondence theory (Aristotle), coherence theory (Lehrer), pragmatic theory (James, Rorty), social epistemology (Longino), feminist epistemology (Alcoff), and virtue epistemology (Zagzebski).

TEXTS: Michael Huemer (Ed.), *Epistemology=Contemporary Readings* Routledge, 2002 Other texts will be available on Ares, electronic reserve.

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## **PHIL 6530 - PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- TTH 12:30-1:45, DR. SEBASTIAN LUFT**

Course Description: The topic of history explicitly enters the realm of philosophy with Kant. As of then, most philosophers of stature have dealt with the phenomenon of history in its many forms in their works. The manner in which they treated history may have been a side interest or has taken center stage in their oeuvres. The way to frame the problem of history has also taken many forms: as world history or individual history, history of problems, historicity as constitutive of human existence, philosophy of the history of philosophy, and so on. And in most cases, there was an agenda behind dealing with history, for instance for political philosophy or ethics or for epistemological or critical or other purposes. This course will give a survey of the most important philosophical contributions of classical authors to this problem as of Kant and up to the middle of the 20th century. The texts read in this course can also be helpful as a general introduction to the overall philosophical standpoints of their authors.

Required Texts:

I. Kant: Kant on History (Beck, ed.). Prentice Hall, 1963.

G.W.F. Hegel: Introduction to the Philosophy of History. Digireads, 2010.

K. Marx & F. Engels, The Communist Manifesto. Penguin, 2002.

W. Dilthey: Selected Works, Vol. III, The Formation of the Historical World in the Human Sciences. Princeton University Press, 2002.

E. Husserl: The Crisis of European Science and Transcendental Phenomenology. Northwestern University Press, 1970 (or newer eds.).

M. Heidegger: Being and Time. SUNY Press, 2010.

E. Cassirer: Selected essays from: Symbol, Myth, and Culture. Essays and Lectures of E.C. 1935-1945, Yale University Press, 1979.

Helpful introductory reading: W. H. Walsh, An Introduction to Philosophy of History. Humanities Press, 1970.

Requirements: Midterm Exam, Final Paper, one In-Class Presentation.

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## **PHIL 6605 - PLATO**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- MW 11:00-12:15, FR. JOHN JONES**

This course will consist of an analysis of the following Platonic works: the APOLOGY, GORGIAS, PHAEDRUS, PROTAGORAS, PARMENIDES, THEATETUS, SOPHIST and TIMAEUS. The analysis will focus on the following problems: the structure of a Platonic dialogue, especially the relation between its dramatic and argumentative elements; Plato's quarrel with Sophistry; the nature of the good human life and the role of philosophy in obtaining such a life; and the doctrine of the forms and the moral, linguistic and cosmological reasons for positing the forms. While our concern will be principally with the dialogues themselves, students will be expected to familiarize themselves with at least some key secondary resources. The requirements for the course consist in two position papers (about 4-5 pages), a final paper (about 15 pages) and an in-class final exam. All papers will be subjected to a process of instructor comment and student revision. Of course, regular attendance and class participation are also expected. The text for the course will be THE COLLECTED DIALOGUES OF PLATO (eds. Huntington and Cairns).

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**PHIL 6610 - ARISTOTLE**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- MW 1:00-2:15, DR. OWEN GOLDIN**

In this course we will study the major philosophical positions taken by Aristotle. We will try to ascertain the questions Aristotle was attempting to answer, what his answers were, and the extent to which they are valid. We will concentrate on Aristotle's philosophy of science, metaphysics, and philosophy of mind, but will also devote some time to his ethical writings.

Another goal of the course is to familiarize the students with important work in contemporary Aristotelian scholarship.

TEXTS: Barnes, ed., THE COLLECTED WORKS OF ARISTOTLE, Barnes, ed., CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO ARISTOTLE, other secondary literature will be made available on reserve.

REQUIREMENTS: Two major papers.

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**PHIL 6654 - LOCKE/BERKELEY**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- TTH 11:00-12:15, DR. WILLIAM STARR**

NO COURSE DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE ON DATABASE.

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**PHIL 6958 - TEXT/SEMINAR ON TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY:**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- TTH 3:30-4:45, DR. POL VANDEVELDE**

***[Section Title: Uncertain Boundaries of the Subject: Levinas, Derrida, and Marion]***

Phil 6958 Text/Seminar on 20th Century Philosophy: The Uncertain Boundaries of the Subject: Levinas, Derrida, and Marion

We will examine several attempts in contemporary French philosophy to question the status of the subject and offer an alternative approach to what subjectivity means.

We will start with Emmanuel Levinas who radically de-centers the subject by emphasizing the primordial role of the other. We will examine the ethical and ontological aspects of his project.

In several of his writing Jacques Derrida offers a project to think the subject in non-metaphysical terms. He started by considering the subject as a cultural and even linguistic construction. In his later works he appeals to the notions of the gift, friendship, or messianism in order to articulate a thoroughly secular approach to the subject.

Jean-Luc Marion has been seen as the one who effectuated a theological turn in phenomenology. We will examine his views on how the notion of the subject has to be re-evaluated in light of what he calls the excess that is manifest in how things are given. We will assess the extent to which Marion extends and transforms the phenomenology of the subject.

Texts:

Levinas, Totality and Infinity: An Essay on Exteriority (Springer, 1980);

Derrida, Margins of Philosophy (University of Chicago Press, 1985); Psyche: Invention of the Other Stanford University Press, 2007);

Marion, Being Given: Toward a Phenomenology of Givenness (Stanford University Press, 2002)

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**PHIL 6959 - SEMINAR:**

***(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)***

**Section 101 -- TTH 9:30-10:45, DR. STANLEY HARRISON**

***[Section Title: Dewey's Experience and Nature]***

20th Century – Text/Seminar John Dewey’s EXPERIENCE AND NATURE -

Description - John Dewey’s major metaphysical work, *Experience and Nature* (1925) remains a central text for understanding the challenge of Naturalism, and the humanistic [non-theistic] view vigorously embraced by many in the modern world. Born in 1859, few philosophers have been more influenced than was Dewey by the view of Nature which he found in Darwin and other developments of modern science. This course will closely study Dewey’s influential treatise along with some of his other writings. We will engage his “naturalistic empiricism” or “naturalistic humanism” by probing his views on: the nature of experience, [“to frame a theory of experience in naturalistic terms”], evolution and teleology, the emergence and nature of consciousness, mind, , meaning and language, values and value judgments, aesthetic and moral traits as rooted in nature, and his view of philosophy as the “criticism of criticisms.” A close study of Dewey’s views is an excellent way to confront both the strengths and weaknesses of Naturalism.

Major Texts: *Experience and Nature* and *The Influence of Darwin on Philosophy*. Other selections tba.

Requirements: Active class participation, brief class presentations, short written responses to selected readings, a mid-term essay of 8-10 pages, and a final research paper (c. 15- 20 pages).