PHIL 6310 - HISTORY AND THEORY OF ETHICS
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 701 -- W 4:30-7:10, DR. THERESA TOBIN

This course is a theoretical investigation into the moral dimensions of human life and will cover the principal traditions in Western philosophical ethics from both classical and contemporary figures. One primary goal of the course is for students to become firmly grounded in and be able to critically assess the central tenets of virtue ethics, deontology, and utilitarianism. Some of the questions we will examine include what a theory of ethics ought to accomplish, what each theory takes to be the foundation of ethics, how each theory conceives of moral justification, and how each approach understands connections between the right and the good. We will devote some time to readings from Aristotle, Kant, and Mill. We will then consider important developments in contemporary philosophical ethics including detontology, virtue ethics, consequentialism, anti-theory, feminist ethics, and race theory.


REQUIREMENTS: weekly written reading responses, two papers, class presentation.

PHIL 6430 - PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 701 -- T 4:00-6:40, 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).


PHIL 6510 - PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TTH 11:00-12:15, DR. MICHAEL WREEN

A critical survey of a number of important issues in the philosophy of religion. Topics covered will include religious experience, faith and reason, the divine attributes, arguments for and against the existence of God, religious language, miracles, religion and science, and religious ethics.


REQUIREMENTS: Two seminar papers and a term paper.
PHIL 6605 - PLATO
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 9:00-10:15, DR. OWEN GOLDIN

This course is meant to be a first exploration on the graduate level of the writings and thought of Plato. The following dialogues will be discussed: EUTHYPHRO, MENO, GORGIAS, REPUBLIC, THEATETUS, SOPHIST, PHILEBUS. Some of these we will carefully go through in their entirety. The constraints of a general course like this will require that, in case of other dialogues, only parts will be discussed, though the whole will be assigned.

TEXTS: Benson, A COMPANION TO PLATO; Plato, COMPLETE WORKS.

REQUIREMENTS: two short writing assignments, one major paper and class participation.

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

PHIL 6654 - LOCKE/BERKELEY
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TTH 3:30-4:45, STAFF

NO COURSE DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE ON DATABASE.

PHIL 6695 - FRENCH PHENOMENOLOGY-EXISTENTIALISM
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TTH 12:30-1:45, DR. POL VANDEVELDE

The course offers an overview and a critical evaluation of the development of French phenomenology and existentialism. Four stages will be distinguished, which also cover the development of French thought in the 20th century.
1) Maurice Merleau-Ponty's reformulation of Husserlian phenomenology.
2) Paul Ricoeur's synthesis of phenomenology and existentialism in a narrative hermeneutics.
3) Michel Foucault's break from phenomenology toward a postmodern archaeology of knowledge.

TEXTS: Merleau-Ponty, PHENOMENOLOGY OF PERCEPTION; THE VISIBLE AND THE INVISIBLE; Paul Ricoeur, ONESELF AS ANOTHER; Michel Foucault, THE ORDER OF THINGS; ARCHAEOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE.

PHIL 6710 - POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 1:00-2:15, DR. MICHAEL MONAHAN

This course will be organized around an exploration of the modern concept of political liberty from the 18th century to the present within both the analytic and continental traditions. The thematic focus of the course will be on the corresponding conceptions of oppression and the practical application of these theories as liberation. In other words, within a given understanding of freedom, what kind of sense can be made (if any) of oppression as a phenomenon, and liberation as a practice? These motivating questions will provide an organizing theme through which to explore the perennial questions of political philosophy, including the relation between the individual and the state, the basis for the legitimacy of the state, and the role of religion in political life. Special attention will be paid to the correspondence between the ontology of the political subject and theories of freedom. In addition to western canonical figures, some time will be devoted to looking at freedom from the perspectives of feminism and race theory.

TEXTS: Isaiah Berlin, LIBERTY, Simone de Beauvoir, THE ETHICS OF AMBIGUITY, John Locke, THE SECOND TREATISE OF GOVERNMENT and A LETTER CONCERNING TOLERATION, J.S. Mill, ON LIBERTY, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, BASIC POLITICAL WRITINGS, Sonia Kruks, RETRIEVING EXPERIENCE. There will be addition readings from Rawls, Nozick, Hegel, and Fanon, among others.

REQUIREMENTS: One class presentation, a term paper, and a final exam.
PHIL 6954 - TEXT/SEMINAR ON EARLY OR HIGH MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY:
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TTH 9:30-10:45, CANCELED

This course will focus on a range of Patristic and Byzantine texts that have been foundational for shaping the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition. We will consider selected texts such as:
- John Chrysostom, THE INCOMPREHENSIBILITY OF GOD
- (Pseudo) Dionysius Areopagite, DIVINE NAMES and MYSTICAL THEOLOGY
- Maximus the Confessor, selections from “Quaestiones ad Thalassium,” “De Ambigua,” etc.
- John Damascene, ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH, PHILOSOPHICAL CHAPTERS
- Gregory Palamas, CAPITA PHYSICA, THEOLOGICA, MORALIA, ET PRACTICA

The course will begin with appropriate introductory background from the Greek philosophical and patristic traditions. Students will also explore a significant range of relevant contemporary secondary literature by authors such as Vladimir Lossky, Basil Krivochene, John Meyendorff, Christoph Yannaras, David Bradshaw, etc.

The course will focus around the following themes: the relation between faith and reason, God (particularly the themes of divine simplicity; the distinction between the divine essence, persons, and energy; and transcendence and immanence), the relation between God and created beings; human knowledge of God; and deification as the end of human life. While I am particularly interested in presenting these authors within the Eastern Christian tradition since it unfamiliar to most professional philosophers, I will make ongoing efforts to compare and contrast Eastern Christian ways of understanding these topics and primary authors from those found in the Western Christian (particularly the Scholastic tradition) and the Neoplatonic traditions.

TEXTS: most readings will be available electronically or on reserve, but there is one book: Gregory Palamas, THE TRIADS.

REQUIREMENTS: will likely be an exegetical paper (about 5 pages), and in-class presentation on an assigned reading, and a major seminar project --presented in class and as a final paper.

PHIL 6958 - TEXT/SEMINAR ON TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY:
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TTH 2:00-3:15, DR. JAVIER IBANEZ-NOE

[Section Title: Heidegger]

This course is meant as an introduction to the thought of Martin Heidegger, and will consist in an examination of a number of his more representative writings. We will be reading Basic Questions of Philosophy, selections from Being and Time, and a number of shorter essays. These writings span almost the entirety of the development of Heidegger's thought starting in 1927 with Being and Time. The emphasis will be on gaining an understanding of Heidegger's overall philosophical project, not on a close analysis of the texts. (This is an unfortunate but necessary trade-off given the massive nature of the Heideggerian corpus).

TEXTS: BEING AND TIME, BASIC QUESTIONS OF PHILOSOPHY, PATHMARKS, and POETRY, LANGUAGE, AND THOUGHT.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final.
PHIL 6959 - SEMINAR:
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 11:00-12:15, DR. SUSANNE FOSTER

[Section Title: Environmental Philosophy]

This course will focus on the development of Aristotle's thought. The relationship between Plato's philosophy and Aristotle's philosophy as well as Aristotle's metaphysical, epistemological and logical theses will be considered. The first part of the course will be primarily lecture. During the second part of the course, each student will be expected to present a seminar paper. This paper will be revised and submitted to the instructor as a final paper. Grading Criteria: 10% participation and seminar paper, 40% final paper, 40% Final Exam and 10% Summaries.