PHIL 5953 - SEMINAR CONCURRENT WITH PHIL 4953:
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section  101  -- MW 3:30-4:45, DR.. GRANT SILVA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Grant J. Silva, PhD

This course provides a critical introduction to Latin American philosophy. We will cover a wide range essays and a few books from various philosophers and pensadores (and even a film or two). Sample questions include: What did the Aztecs mean when they understood “truth” as a form of rootedness? What was the ethical justification for the conquest of America? How does modernity (and perhaps even modern philosophy) depend upon coloniality? What is the nature of democracy in a region where nonwhites outnumber people of European descent? What is decolonial theory, as opposed to post-colonial? What is the nature of Hispanic identity in the United States?

Topics to be explored: (1) the philosophical tradition of the Aztec people i.e., the Nahuatl philosophical tradition; (2) the political and ethical writings of the colonial and nation-building era, i.e. the Iberian justification for conquest and responses; (3) the history of Latin American positivism (inspired by August Comte, Herbert Spencer and John Stuart Mill) and the various reactions to it (aesthetical, axiological, and ethical); (4) Contemporary liberation philosophy and de-colonial thought from Latin America and the Caribbean; (5) Hispanic philosophy in the United States (with a focus on Latina feminist philosophy, immigration and “ethnoc-race”). We will read one or two defining works and several shorter supplemental essays for each historical topic. Amidst establishing a solid grasp of the history of philosophy in Latin America, this course will entertain the possibility of a distinctive “Latin American philosophy,” i.e., a way of practicing philosophy that is specific to and rooted in the lived-reality of Latin American peoples. This inquiry is a meta-philosophical question about the practice of philosophy itself—can philosophy be particularized to and grounded in collective experience? The aim of this course is to make you a better analytical writer and reader, as well as critical thinker. For graduate students, this course should prepare you to teach a similar class thus adding to your marketability. No knowledge of the Spanish language is necessary (but it can help); at times we will use Spanish terms for pedagogical purposes. Because of the need to review the anthropological records of indigenous peoples and the history of Latin America in general, this course will be more interdisciplinary and historical compared to other philosophy classes. There is also an underlying question concerning the nature of “Latin America” and the meaning of being “Latin American,” “Latina/o” and even “Caribbean,” both abroad and in the United States. This course is a research seminar. Student participation and attendance is mandatory (10%). I will assign two short papers addressing specific topics from the reading early on (2-3 pages each @ 30%), leading to an in-class presentation (20%) and final research paper (12-15 page for undergrads; 15-18 pgs. for graduate students) (40%).
PHIL 6310 - HISTORY AND THEORY OF ETHICS  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section  701  -- T 5:00-7:40, DR. WILLIAM STARR

This course will be an intensive study of both important historical and more contemporary theories of ethics. We will study a number of moral philosophers from Aristotle to Held. We will study philosophers such as Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Hobbes, Butler, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Nietzsche, Sartre, Moore, Ross, Stevenson, Hare, Held, and MacIntyre among others. We will do virtue ethics, the relation between our morality and God, conscience ethics, empiricism, deontology, utilitarianism, the rejection of ethical theory, existentialist ethics, emotivism, and feminist ethics. Our core text will be Cahn and Markie (eds.) Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues. The class will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. The first 75 minutes of the session I will talk. The second half, 75 minutes, I will be quiet.


REQUIREMENTS: Two or Three short papers, a term paper presented in class
PHIL 6430 - PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 101 -- TH 11:00-1:40, DR. BRONWYN FINNIGAN

6430: Theories of Knowledge

Practical Knowledge
Fall Term 2013

Instructor: Dr. Bronwyn Finnigan  
Office: Coughlin Hall 136  
Office Hours: (to be advised)  
Email: bronwyn.finnigan@marquette.edu  
Telephone: 414-288-7232

Description:

This course shall study a major epistemological problem; namely, the nature and function of practical knowledge.

Ancient Greek philosophers contrasted theoretical or scientific knowledge (epistēmē) with practical knowledge (technē or phronēsis). The contemporary study of epistemology focuses on the nature of theoretical knowledge, often characterised in terms of justified true belief. There is growing contemporary interest in the nature and function of practical knowledge. This interest is not limited to the field of epistemology. The notion of practical knowledge (or some variant thereof; viz. practical wisdom, practical intelligence or know-how) plays a role in contemporary discussions in ethics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of action, and philosophy of language. In this course we shall examine and critically engage with several theories about the nature and function of practical knowledge and the role it plays in these otherwise distinct philosophical traditions.

Readings:

Course materials will be made available through D2L and ARES  
A list of secondary material will be made available in the course

Recommended Primary Texts:  
(1) Aristotle, Nicomachian Ethics  
(2) G. Ryle. The Concept of Mind  
(3) GEM Anscombe, Intention  
(4) A. Noë, Action in Perception  
(5) J. Stanley, Know How (available on ebrary)

Assessment:  
(1) Class Participation (where this includes):  
a. Leading at least one class discussion;  
b. Reading scheduled material and active participation in class discussions;  
c. Attendance.  
(2) Final Essay Proposal:  
You will be required to formulate a proposal for the final essay to be submitted during the mid-term assessment period. This is to be 2,000 words in length (10% over and under is permitted).  
(3) Final Essay:  
You will be required to submit a final article-length essay at the end of the course. It is to be 6,000 words in length (10% over and under is permitted).
Section 701 -- T 5:00-7:40, DR. POL VANDEVELDE

[Section Title: Nursing students only.]

PHIL 6430 PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE

Pol Vandevelde

The course is an investigation of the different aspects and components of cognition. By combining a historical and systematic approach we will study the main sources of knowledge: perception (Locke, Hume, Searle), a priori (Kant, Ayer), induction (Russell), and memory (Martin and Deutsch). We will also examine some of the issues pertaining to knowledge, like internalism v. externalism (Descartes, BonJour), naturalized epistemology (Quine).

We will also evaluate different theories of what truth is: correspondence theory (Aristotle), coherence theory (Davidson), pragmatic theory (James, Rorty), social epistemology (Longino), feminist epistemology (Alcoff), and virtue epistemology (Plantinga, Zagzebski).

Texts:


Other texts are available on Ares, electronic reserve.

PHIL 6605 - PLATO

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

Section 101 -- T 11:00-1:40, DR. FRANCO TRIVIGNO

This course is an introduction to the philosophical thought of Plato, including his contributions to ethics, aesthetics, psychology, politics, epistemology and metaphysics. This course will stress the continuity of Plato’s thinking by attempting to isolate the philosophical questions that motivate his writings. Some important themes will include the defense and justification of the life of philosophy, the possibility of knowledge, the nature of the soul and the quarrel between philosophy and poetry.


REQUIREMENTS: One 5-7 page paper, one presentation and one 12-15-page paper.
PHIL 6640 - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair) 
Section 101 -- TH 9:15-10:30, DR. RICHARD TAYLOR

This course will focus on the metaphysical thought of Aquinas but will also include some consideration of his epistemology, psychology and other philosophical teachings. (i) The first five (5) weeks will consist of a graduate level introduction to the thought of Aquinas. (ii) The course will then morph into an international seminar with intensive reading of one of Aquinas’s most metaphysical early works, his short Commentary on the De Hebdomadibus of Boethius (Latin text with tr., J. L. Schultz & E. A. Synan). While using this as our primary text, we will draw on the corpus of Aquinas’s works for the earlier development of his teachings and for his later advancement of key metaphysical doctrines through the rest of his career. We will also consider development of his metaphysics from thinkers of the Arabic tradition. Topics will include the development of his understanding of essence-existence, his conception of God as ipsum esse per se subsistens or Self-subsistent Being, primary and secondary causality, the nature of creation, the ontological structure of created being, the metaphysics of the human person, the metaphysical principles of knowledge and related topics. The final weeks of the course will focus on four methods of interpretation of the metaphysical thought of Aquinas.

For the international seminar we will work with a graduate class of students from around the world studying at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven with Prof. Andrea Robiglio, Belgium. Technologies used will include D2L, live video applications, Dropbox, recorded video lectures, and other collaborative tools. (Instructions will be provided.) After the first five weeks we will meet live weekly with the Leuven class for discussions of the texts and thought of Aquinas.

Grading will be based on class participation in various forms (50%) and a final course paper of ca. 20-25 pp. (50%).

Course website under development at 
http://academic.mu.edu/taylorr/Aquinas_Fall_2013_MU_KUL/Course_Description.html.
PHIL 6664 - HUSSERL  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section  101  -- TTH 2:00-3:15, DR. POL VANDEVELDE

Phil 6664 Husserl

Pol Vandevelde

The course offers a critical investigation and evaluation of Edmund Husserl’s philosophy as well as an examination of some of the basic concepts of phenomenology. The approach is both historical and systematic.

Historical approach:

After situating Husserl in the history of philosophy, the course reconstructs Husserl’s development in three main periods: 1) The early Husserl and the breakthrough of phenomenology in the Logical Investigations; 2) The transitional period of idealism in Ideas I General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology; and 3) The late Husserl and the question of intersubjectivity in the Cartesian Meditations and the Crisis of European Sciences.

Systematic Approach:

While reconstructing Husserl’s development, the course also critically examines Husserl’s understanding of some basic phenomenological concepts in contradistinction with contemporary accounts, such as John Searle’s: intentional act v. intentional state, horizon v. background, meaning and expression, transcendental ego v. mind/brain, intersubjectivity v. collective intentionality.

Texts:
The Amsterdam Lectures
PHIL 6959 - SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 11:00-12:15, FR. JOHN JONES

[Section Title: Human needs and welfare]

Fr. John D. Jones                                  Department of Philosophy

Phil 6959, Section 101 (4167) HUMAN NEEDS AND WELFARE—Fall 2013

Course Description and Information

Description: This seminar will offer an intensive analysis of theoretical and applied issues related to the concept of needs. We will consider theoretical issues such as: methodological approaches to defining needs; critical analysis of various conceptualizations of needs; the distinction between needs, wants and desires; criteria for assessing needs claims; distinction between kinds of needs; models for distinguishing domains of human needs -- cultural, aesthetics, physical, etc. the relation of needs to moral theory; the role of needs theory in public policy. The course will run as a seminar. Depending upon class size, I may do presentations for a quarter to a third of the semester. But the bulk of the classes will provide an opportunity for students to present and critique a given article and lead class discussion about it.

TEXTS: Gillian Brock, Necessary Goods plus various articles made available through D2L.

REQUIREMENT: Students will likely do presentations on 2-4 articles during the semester. I also ask students to do a final, professional conference style, paper of about 15 pages excluding notes. A draft of the final paper is circulated to me and the members of the class. Students will be expected to provide feedback to the drafts other students submit. Students will present their own paper in class in light of feedback prior to writing the final version of the paper.

Section 102 -- MW 1:00-2:15, DR. MICHAEL MONAHAN

[Section Title: Philosophy of race and racism]

PHIL 6959 – SEMINAR

TOPIC: PHILOSOPHY OF RACE AND RACISM

This class will explore recent philosophical literature on race and racism, focusing on recurring debates and dilemmas in the theorization of race. What is the ontological status of race? Is it real? A biological fact? A social construct? An illusion? What is the best way to understand racism? Is it a failure of reason? A moral flaw? A political system? How should we understand anti-racism? Are we aiming for equality? For a “postracial” future? Should our current efforts be “color-conscious”, or “colorblind”? These questions are, of course, interrelated, and also deeply bound up with perennial philosophical questions of human agency and the moral and political world.

TEXTS: Alcoff, VISIBLE IDENTITIES: RACE, GENDER, AND THE SELF, Blum, I’M NOT A RACIST, BUT...: THE MORAL QUANDARY OF RACE, Gracia, LATINOS IN AMERICA: PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL IDENTITY, Sullivan, REVEALING WHITENESS, Yancy, BLACK BODIES, WHITE GAZES

REQUIREMENTS: one class presentation, one paper, and a final exam.
Virtue Epistemology
Dr. Nancy E. Snow

This course is an introduction to virtue epistemology. Virtue epistemologists take the notion of intellectual virtue to be of paramount importance in the attainment of knowledge (justified true belief). Some seek to broaden the concerns of traditional epistemology to include epistemic values in addition to knowledge, such as understanding and wisdom. We will explore virtue epistemology by reading the works of virtue reliabilists, such as Ernest Sosa and John Greco, who take intellectual virtues to be capacities such as perception and memory; virtue responsibilists, such as Linda Zagzebski and Jason Baehr, who take intellectual virtues to be character traits; and, if time permits, mixed or hybrid theories, such as that of Christopher Hookway.

Requirements: Two 12-15 page term papers and an in-class presentation.


Aristotle's Ethics

The course will consist in a close examination of Aristotle's principle ethical work, the Nichomachean Ethics. The goals will be twofold. The first goal is that class members achieve an understanding of the structure of Aristotelian Ethics and an ability to interpret specific texts within the system. Second, that class members be able to assess the place Aristotelian Ethics within contemporary Virtue Theory. Various texts from the Eudmian Ethics, the biological works, On the Soul, and the Physics will be used to enhance our understanding of Aristotelian thought. Secondary literature including Ancient, Medieval and Contemporary sources will also play a large role in the class.