PHIL 5953 - SEMINAR CONCURRENT WITH PHIL 4953:  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section  101  -- MW 9:00-10:15, DR. GRANT SILVA  

[Section Title: Philosophy of Race]  

Although race is a concept that began in the mind for oppressive reasons (serving to justifying modern slavery and colonialism), its physical reality remains a question that harbors ontological, moral and political significance. This course will explore this lasting significance.  
Out of the various thoughts that have ventured from the mind to the “real” world few can approximate the impact that “race” has had on a global scale. Race is a vortex for human social relations, of a magnitude similar to capitalism on a macro and micro level. Thus, the idea of “race” is perhaps one of the most, if not the most, philosophical ideas ever. Yet, why has academic philosophy, until fairly recently, elided this concept? The answer has to do with convenient forms of historical myopia that reflect the subjectivity latent to the practice of philosophy (and thus the various forms of privilege that accompany this subjectivity). Trying to overcome this particular instantiation of ignorance, which philosophy takes pride in doing, this course will briefly review the history of racial thought in the United States (the works of W. E. B. Du Bois and Alain Locke), explore two central debates inside of the philosophy of race (the ontological status of racial categories and the normative question of racial identities) and analyze the intersection of race, political thought and racism.  
In light of this nefarious history, can racial identities be salvaged? What value can be place into a concept constructed with the devaluation of people in mind, and why must we nonetheless still think in terms of race? What is the nature of identity in a post-racial society? Does racism require mal intent, or can one be considered a racist simply by benefitting from legacies of oppression (regardless of your attitude to people of color)? Why is philosophy seemingly allergic to discussions of race? What is intersectionality and why can’t we talk about race without also talking about gender?  
Authors to be read include W.E.B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, critical race theorists (such as Michael Omi and Howard Winant), Naomi Zack, Linda Martín Alcoff, Lewis Gordon, Jorge Garcia, Maria Lugones, George Yancy, Charles Mills and more.  
There will be two short writing assignments as well as a final paper. Student participation and attendance will be graded and you will be expected to present material at various times throughout the course.  

Section  701  -- TTH 5:00-6:15, DR. ANTHONY PERESSINI  

[Section Title: Value, Economics, and Philosophy of Social Science]  

Description: In this course we will consider some of the philosophical issues having to do with the philosophy of economics and value. It will be an excursion into the philosophy of social science. We will consider how philosophical insights regarding causality, explanation, etc. can be applied to contemporary philosophy of science, social science and economics. We will pay special attention to critiques of method and value and how they affect the “science” and social “science” of the discipline of economics and its application to human society.  
Texts: David Harvey, A Brief History of Neoliberalism; Karl Marx, Early Writings and Capital; The Philosophy of Social Science (Ridgeview Press); Sober & Levine, Marxism Reconsidered; writings by philosophers of economics like Dan Hausman and others.  
Assignments: weekly writing assignments, tutorial papers/sessions, and independent research project.
PHIL 6430 - PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section 701 -- T 5:00-7:40, DR. POL VANDEVELDE 

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 6470 - PROBLEMS IN METAPHYSICS  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section 101 -- T 9:30-12:15, DR. ANTHONY PERESSINI  

[Section Title: Qualia]  
Description: In this course we will study the issue of the qualitative properties of mental states, i.e., qualia and its attendant “explanatory gap.” We will briefly trace out it pre-history (prior to Nagel’s “What is it Like to be a Bat” article) and then the various manifestations of it and purported solutions. The goal will be attain a sense of how the issues of qualia has been addressed by contemporary philosophy and the extent to which there is anything like a consensus on its status. 
Readings: various selections including work from Nagel, Chalmers, Block, Levine, Kriegel, Shoemaker, Dretske, Searle, Stitch, and scientists and philosophers working in neuro- and cognitive science and experimental philosophy.  
Assignments: weekly writing assignments, tutorial papers/sessions, and independent research paper.

PHIL 6510 - PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section 101 -- TTH 3:30-4:45, 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 6640 - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TH 9:00-11:00, DR. RICHARD TAYLOR

After a general introduction to key issues in the philosophical thought of Aquinas in the first 4-5 weeks, this course will focus on the topic of the nature and attainment of happiness. Our initial focus will be on his earliest major work where he first addresses this topic, his Commentary on the Sentences, with special reference to his philosophical, theological and historical context. Among other things, this will involve careful consideration of the roles of the Christian religious tradition, of the thought of Aristotle, of the thought of thinkers of the Greek Aristotelian Commentary Tradition, and of the thought of the philosophers of the Classical Arabic Tradition in Latin translation in the formation of the teachings of Aquinas. (Texts will be available English, some published translations, some unpublished translations from the Latin or Arabic.) We will then follow the development of his teachings in various major works such as the Summa contra gentiles, the Summa theologicae and others.

This is a global collaborative course taught by Prof. Richard C. Taylor at Marquette University and Professor Andrea Robiglio at the famous Institute of Philosophy, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, as a hybrid course. That is, it will be taught using weekly video lectures, online tools and resources, classroom with face-to-face discussions in live video with Prof. Robiglio’s class of graduate students at KU Leuven, and more. (From KU Leuven we will also be joined by Prof. Carlos Steel, renown expert in Ancient, Neoplatonic and Medieval philosophy.) The course meets in Raynor Library 320b Thursdays 9 -11 am. with online live video for questions and discussion with Profs. Taylor & Robiglio and the student groups in Milwaukee and Leuven, Belgium.

The structure of the course will follow the model found at http://academic.mu.edu/taylorr/Aquinas_Fall_2013_MU_KUL/Course_Description.html. Grading will be based on course participation (leading class discussions, presentations et alia, 50%) and a final professionally prepared course paper of 20-25 pp. (50%).

PHIL 6660 - KANT
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TTH 12:30-1:45, DR. JAVIER IBÁÑEZ-NOÉ

The main objective of this course will be to provide a careful reading of two ground-works of modern philosophy, the CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON, and the CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON. Emphasis will be placed on mastering the structure and arguments of both books, but an attempt will also be made to situate Kant's thought within the history of modern philosophy.

TEXTS: CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON, CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON; Optional: Allen Wood, KANT.

REQUIREMENTS: Three papers and final exam
PHIL 6958 - TEXT/SEMINAR ON TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY:
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- TTH 2:00-3:15, DR. POL VANDEVELDE

[Section Title: Davidson and Ricoeur]
We will compare two different approaches to our understanding of actions and events, Paul Ricoeur’s and Donald Davidson’s as well as the two epistemological approaches each advocates. In several of his works Ricoeur argues that narratives play both an epistemological and an ontological role. On the one hand, narratives inform the way we make sense of actions and events as well as ourselves, and give us the means to comprehend them and ourselves. On the other hand, actions and events are structured by narrative-like features, so that their very being is narrative through and through. In order to guarantee that the narratives are actually faithful to the events and actions, Ricoeur adds to the narrative itself the attitude of the one who writes the account, what he calls a being-in-debt in Time and Narrative 3, and, later on in Memory, History, Forgetting, attestation.

In his version of naturalized theory of meaning, which he claims to be a version of the correspondence theory and a form of realism, Davidson considers that an event or an action can be described exclusively as an empirical matter through observation. The principle of charity allows the observer to avoid a mere external reconstruction, regardless of what “actually” took place, and to claim a match, albeit it only a “coherent” one, between the action or event and the account given or the knowledge of such.

We will discuss the ontological and epistemological consequences of each position, which represent two main philosophical paradigms for accounting for our understanding and knowledge of states of affairs and of ourselves.

Texts:
Ricoeur, Time and Narrative, vol. 3 (University of Chicago Press, 1988)
Davidson, Inquiries into truth and interpretation (Oxford UP, 2001)
Davidson, Essays on Actions and Event (Oxford UP, 2001)
Davidson, Subjective, Intersubjective, Objective (Oxford UP, 2001)

Weekly reaction papers, mid-term paper, final paper.

PHIL 6959 - SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 11:00-12:15, DR. NANCY SNOW

[Section Title: Virtue Ethics]
REQUIREMENTS: Two substantial term papers. Each should be approximately fifteen pages long, on a topic chosen by the student. Each will count for 45% of the student's final course grade. The remaining 10% of the course grade will be based on the quality and quantity of the student's class participation.
We think. And, in psychology, we think about thinking. In philosophy of psychology, we think about thinking about thinking. How are these approaches to the mind related? How do they differ? And what are their respective strengths and limitations? What do philosophers say about psychology? Can philosophical ideas be tested in experiments?

In this course we investigate the methods and limitations of empirical psychology, and their implications for epistemological problems in contemporary analytic philosophy of mind. This course considers psychology from various perspectives within the philosophy of science and the plausibility of various philosophical positions in light of the best current theories of psychology. We examine the assumptions and explanatory strategies of past and present "schools of psychology" and philosophy, and the implications of recent work in psychology for such philosophical problems as free will, personal identity, self-knowledge, the unconscious mind, and the emotions. Students are encouraged to examine the assumptions behind accepted scientific results and paradigms in psychology; and to recognize and tolerate the ambiguity and uncertainty found in much contemporary study of mind.

The first section of the course is concerned with explanation in philosophy and psychology, by considering the relationship of philosophy to psychology, and to science. Key concepts used by philosophers in their conceptual analyses of psychology will be examined. In the second section of the course, we look more closely at problems of acquiring knowledge of the mind in philosophy and psychology and other disciplines – in particular the problems associated with understanding the self and others. The implications of these problems for folk psychology theories and for theories of the structure of the mind will be discussed.

Students in this course should be familiar with contemporary analytic philosophy of mind at the graduate level.

Reading assignments and assessment
There is no course reader – weekly readings will survey philosophical articles from various journals and books. A student, or a pair of students, will do a presentation each week on the assigned readings. The number of presentations depends on the number of enrolled students, and will be a graded component, along with a term paper.