MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy

Graduate Course Descriptions -- Spring 2015 (20142)

PHIL 5953 - SEMINAR CONCURRENT WITH PHIL 4953:
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 3:30-4:45, DR. MICHAEL MONAHAN
[Section Title:  Metaphysics, Ethics and Politics of identity]

Course Title: The Metaphysics, Ethics, and Politics of Identity: Race & Gender

Michael J. Monahan

Course Description: What is it that makes you you? Our dominant political and philosophical traditions encourage us to treat such factors as our race or our gender (by way of example) as irrelevant, if not outright illusory. Who we really are in the deepest metaphysical sense, or as moral/political agents, has nothing at all to do, according to this view, with such superficial aspects as the color of your skin or the particularities of your reproductive organs. At the same time, however, these allegedly irrelevant factors seem to have a great deal of influence over how we conceive of ourselves and relate to others. Are we participating in a sort of collective error about these things? Or is it the case that race and gender actually do exist and play a role in shaping who we are as individuals? This course will focus on these questions thematically. Do race and gender really exist? Whether they exist or not, what role do the concepts play in our lives, and what should be our moral and political response to them? Through a careful study of historical and contemporary philosophical work on these topics, this course will help students understand the complexities of these questions and better formulate their own response to them.

TEXTS: Alcoff & Mendieta, IDENTITITES: RACE, CLASS, GENDER, AND NATIONALITY, Gracia, RACE OR ETHNICITY? ON BLACK AND LATINO IDENTITY, Kruks, RETRIEVING EXPERIENCE: SUBJECTIVYT AND RECOGNITION IN FEMINIST POLITICS

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers, one class presentation, final exam.

PHIL 6340 - AESTHETICS
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- T 4:00-6:40, DR. CURTIS CARTER

Selected writings of Philosophers including: Dewey, Adorno, Benjamin, McLuhan, Carroll, Danto, Osborne along with art historical and critical writings, will be considered in relation to the development of twentieth century modern and contemporary art movements such as Dada, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. The aim of the course is to examine the relation of philosophy and art in the twentieth century through analysis of philosophical and art historical texts, and related visual images. The emergence of Pop Art in the 1950s marks a significant change in the relation of philosophy to modern and contemporary art. Hence aesthetic theory moves from representation to expression, to conceptual art. The impact of these changes on the concept of art and art’s role in contemporary life will be a major concern throughout the course. Format: readings, class room lectures and discussions, site visits, attendance at lectures and performances. Books: Osborne, Anywhere, or Not at All: Philosophy of Contemporary Art, Danto, Andy Warhol, Readings: Ares Reserve, Raynor Library. Meeting Time: Professor: Dr. Curtis Carter
PHIL 6605 - PLATO  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section 101 -- TTH 12:30-1:45, REV. JOHN JONES  

This course will consist of an analysis of the following Platonic works: the APOLOGY, GORGIAS, PHAEDRUS, PROTAGORAS, PARMENIDES, THEAETETUS, 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).

PHIL 6610 - ARISTOTLE  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section 101 -- MW 11:00-12:15, DR. OWEN GOLDIN  

In this course we will study the major philosophical positions take 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.

PHIL 6690 - GERMAN PHENOMENOLOGY-EXISTENTIALISM  
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)  
Section 101 -- T 9:30-12:10, DR. SEBASTIAN LUFT  

In this course, we will begin by reading passages from Husserl’s lecture course 1923/24, First Philosophy (newly translated), in which Husserl presents a new entryway into transcendental phenomenology by way of a historical meditation of the fate of scientific philosophy and a newly conceived “Theory of the Phenomenological Reduction.” After that, we will read some writings by Husserl’s last students, Ludwig Landgrebe and Eugen Fink. Landgrebe and Fink attempted, in their own ways, to further pursue Husserl’s approach, though they increasingly became original thinkers in their own right. We will finish the semester with some original writings of Landgrebe’s student, Klaus Held, who has pursued the former’s topic of the world as the genuine problem of phenomenology.

Texts: Husserl, Edmund: First Philosophy (to be supplied as PDF) Landgrebe, Ludwig: Selected essays (to be supplied) Fink, Eugen: Selected essays (to be supplied) Held, Klaus: Selected Essays (to be supplied)

Requirements and Method of Evaluation: Knowledge of German is an asset but not required. One in-class presentation, one midterm paper and one final research paper.
PHIL 6957 - TEXT/SEMINAR ON NINETEENTH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY:
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 1:00-2:15, DR. MICHAEL MONAHAN

[Section Title: Hegel’s Logic]

As Hegel understood the term, “logic” referred to the systematic understanding of thinking itself. It is the bedrock of his overall philosophical system, where thought begins to grasp its own inner workings explicitly. Consequently, it entailed far more than what contemporary philosophers mean by the term, and many of the most fundamental aspects of Hegel’s systematic thought, from his understanding of the dialectical nature of reason to his “idealist” metaphysics, are described most directly and thoroughly in his works on Logic. Despite this fact, those are the texts least often studied by contemporary students of Hegel’s thought, a fact which can lead to a great deal of misunderstanding and misinterpretation not only of Hegel, but of many of the subsequent thinkers to make use of Hegel (as a springboard and/or a foil). This course will offer an in-depth study of one of his principal texts on logic, The Encyclopaedia Logic, as well as to some of the more recent work on or about Hegel’s logic. The aim is thus not only to provide students with a solid grasp of Hegel’s logic, but to demonstrate the continued significance and relevance of this aspect of Hegel’s thought to ongoing issues and debates in philosophy.


REQUIREMENTS: One research paper, one class presentation, and a final exam.

PHIL 6959 - SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY
(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)
Section 101 -- MW 9:00-10:15, DR. CORINNE BLOCH-MULLINS

[Section Title: Philosophy of Cognitive Science]

DESCRIPTION: How do we acquire information about the world around us? How do we integrate this information? How do we make decisions? Is the mind like a computer? These are some of the central questions that cognitive science aims to answer. Cognitive science is an interdisciplinary field in which theories and methods from psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, artificial intelligence, and philosophy are used to study cognitive phenomena.

In this seminar, students will become familiar with some of the dominant approaches in the field, and discuss philosophical issues pertaining to the methodology, basic premises and models in cognitive science. We shall then focus our discussion on specific aspects of cognition, such as perception, conceptualization, decision-making, and emotions.

REQUIRED TEXT: All readings will be provided by the instructor.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades will be based on very brief (max. 1 page) reading responses, in-class presentations, participation in class discussion, and a final paper.