Graduate Courses

PHIL 6610 Aristotle
Dr. Owen Goldin MW 2:00 PM 3:15 PM
In this class we will study Aristotle's thought, especially his metaphysics, epistemology and aspects of his psychology through study of selections from Posterior Analytics, De Anima, and Metaphysics, as well as engagement with some of the most important secondary literature. The revised Oxford Translations are available through the database Past Masters, but buying your own copy of the Collected Works (Princeton) is recommended. Grading will be on the basis of class participation and two seminar papers.

PHIL 6660 KANT
Javier A. Ibanez-Noe TuTh 2:00 PM 3:15 PM
The main objective of this course is to provide a careful reading of two groundworks 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; Recommended: Allen Wood, Kant.

Phil 6710 – Political Philosophy: Alienation
Dr. Javiera Perez Gomez W 4:00 PM 6:45 PM
Alienation has long been understood as a problematic separation between two objects that properly belong together: specifically, between an individual and the society around her, or between an individual and herself (see, e.g., Marx’s analysis of alienated labor). This course examines this classic notion of alienation through both classic and contemporary readings. The course will be centered around the question of whether there is a distinctive type of alienation that emerges in societies like ours: that is, societies ruled by problematic social categories that invite essentializing beliefs about people in virtue of their membership in some social group. Some of our guiding questions will be: Is alienation necessarily caused by wicked social conditions, or can it take place even in the absence of such conditions? Can a person be alienated from others without knowing it? Is negative affect a necessary component of alienation? Is harmony always good or might there be value in dissonance? Does alienation always undermine one’s capacity to flourish, or might there be instances in which it strengthens one’s capacity for autonomy? What are the precise harms of alienation, and do they involve epistemic harms? Might members of marginalized groups be particularly prone to the harms of alienation?

PHIL 6959 Text/Seminar on 20th Century Philosophy: Lacan
Dr. James South TuTh 12:30 PM 1:45 PM
A seminar on the thought of the French thinker Jacques Lacan. While providing an overview of his thought in the first half of the semester, through close readings of essays from Ecrits and some of the earlier seminars, in the second half of the class, we will work through the recently published English version of Anxiety (Book X of The Seminars of Jacques Lacan), which has been called one of the most important philosophical texts of the 20th century. Relevant background to Freudian texts will be supplied in class as necessary.