Undergraduate Electives

**PHIL 3650: Early Modern Philosophy**  
Dr. Michael Olson  
MW 2:00 PM 3:15 PM  
We will read and discuss some of the most prominent authors and questions in early modern (i.e., seventeenth- and eighteenth-century) European philosophy. The rise of modern natural science raised far-reaching questions about the structure of the material world, the place of human life within it, and the promise and limits of our capacity to respond to these questions. We will thus consider the historical roots of longstanding philosophical debates about the nature of matter and causation, whether we have a genuinely free will, and how we should understand the implications of physiological differences in human populations.

**PHIL 4470  Philosophy of Science**  
Dr. Peter Burgess  
TuTh 2:00 PM 3:15 PM  
In what sense does science arrive at truth? Does science refer to real phenomena? This course examines the major positions on the metaphysical status of the sciences: realism, anti-realism, and empiricism. Should doing science influence how we understand science? This course considers a perspectivist approach to the practices of sciences (instruments, mechanisms, and models), that problematizes the realism debate.

**PHIL 4931 Justice, Freedom and the Arts**  
Dr. Theresa Tobin & Alex Gambacorta  
Th 6:00-8:30pm (with travel time, 5-9pm)  
This seminar explores human freedom and its relationship to justice through philosophy and the arts. Civil and human rights movements have worked for justice and freedom. How does freedom relate to justice in these movements? Is justice a route to freedom? Or might struggling for freedom be how we realize justice? How can the arts foster human freedom and more just communities? This course examines Simone de Beauvoir’s conception of human freedom, its relevance for contemporary social justice movements, and the role of creative expression in practices of freedom. Together we’ll pursue these topics by critically engaging philosophical texts and visual and poetic arts, participating in class dialogue, and examining our collective responsibility to create just and thriving communities. **This course runs through Marquette’s Education Preparedness Program (EPP). Marquette students enroll in this course alongside students who are incarcerated at RCI. Class sessions are held off campus at Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)—a medium security prison for men. To take this class, your schedule must accommodate 45 min travel time to and from RCI on class days.**

**Phil 4943 Classical Rationalist Philosophy in the Lands of Islam**  
Dr. Richard Taylor  
TuTh 12:30 PM 1:45 PM  
Philosophy in the Lands of Islam or Islamic Philosophy in the Classical Period, while richly stimulated by Greek Philosophy in Arabic translation, has its own distinctive nature as an intellectual discipline developed in the context of Islamic revelation. In this cultural context philosophy has to engage with Islamic revelation in a coherent fashion while retaining its own distinctive philosophical and scientific methods and focus. This Seminar will address philosophical thought and doctrines in the 9th to 12th centuries in key translations into Arabic and also in thinkers such as al-Kindi, al-Farabi, Ibn Sina and al-Ghazali from the Middle East and such as Ibn Rushd and Maimonides (a Jewish thinker working largely in the Islamic philosophical tradition) in Andalusia (the Iberian Peninsula). Topics will include the metaphysics of God and created being, the philosophical psychology of human soul and intellectual knowledge, the relation of philosophy and religion, the nature of happiness and related topics.