

# UC Davis Philosophy Department

## Expanded Course Descriptions

### Summer Session I, 2008

<b>PHILOSOPHY 5</b>	<b>CRITICAL REASONING</b> Christopher Buckels TWR 7:30-9:45 p.m., 233 Wellman CRN: 59376
TEXTS	<i>The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning About Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims</i> , 2nd edition, Lewis Vaughn.
COURSE CONTENT	Emphasis will be on the development of various critical thinking skills, e.g., identifying the structure of arguments, evaluating arguments, detecting fallacies, and applying critical reasoning in everyday life and across various fields (e.g., science, philosophy, politics, and ethics). Special emphasis will be placed on writing argumentative essays.
REQUIREMENTS	Short writing assignments, a midterm, and a final exam.
PREREQUISITE	None
G.E. CREDIT:	Writing Experience

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<b>PHILOSOPHY 5</b>	<b>CRITICAL REASONING</b> Brad Morris TWR 5:10-7:25 p.m., 233 Wellman CRN: 59377
TEXT	<i>Critical Thinking</i> , 8 <sup>th</sup> ed., Moore and Parker
COURSE CONTENT	This course is a sample platter of critical reasoning skills. On the formal side, students will enjoy introductory selections from the logic of categories, with a dash of sentence logic to facilitate their intellectual digestion of some fallacies. Also, we will decide whether to include basic decision theory. Students will be presented with informal fare as well, including additional choice reasoning fallacies (how to detect and respond to them) and tested explanation evaluation techniques. Special emphasis will be placed on the intended product of practicing the skills presented in the course: developing a highly transferable ability to reason rationally and effectively

for and against positions, especially through argumentative writing.

REQUIREMENTS Short papers, a final exam, etc.

PREREQUISITE None

G.E. CREDIT Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 15**

**BIOETHICS**

Brooke Roberts  
TWR 12:40pm – 2:55pm, 55 Ressler  
CRN: 59379

REQUIRED TEXTS *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* Fifth Edition, James Rachels and Stuart Rachels; *The Case Against Perfection*, M. Sandel

COURSE CONTENT This course will involve a study of the ethical issues that arise in the practice of medicine and the study of human biology. Issues that will likely be covered include: doctor-patient relationship, physician assisted suicide and euthanasia, paternalism, and genetic enhancement.

REQUIREMENTS Grades will be based on a final examination and two short papers. The final will count for 40% of the grade and the two papers for 30% each.

PREREQUISITES None

G.E. CREDIT Art & Humanities, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 21**

**HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT**

Regina Milano  
TWR 5:10-7:25 p.m., Olson 105  
CRN 59380

TEXTS *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*, Third Edition, edited by S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, & C. D. C. Reeve. Additional readings will be provided in class.

COURSE CONTENT This course is designed to acquaint students with key issues in ancient Greek philosophy. Primary focus will be upon the Presocratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Hellenistic philosophy will also be introduced.

REQUIREMENTS	Weekly short written assignments, a mid-length paper, a midterm, and a final exam.
PREREQUISITE	None
G.E. CREDIT	Art and Humanities, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 31**

**SCIENTIFIC REASONING**

Lucas Halpin  
 MTWR 12:20-2:00, Haring 2016  
 CRN: 61790

TEXT *Understanding Scientific Reasoning*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Giere, Bickle, & Mauldin

COURSE CONTENT The impact of science and technology on our day-to-day lives is great. As citizens, we cannot afford to be ignorant of them. In addition, scholars of many sorts must understand science and technology in order to interpret society, culture, politics, economy, or history as well as science itself. But taking advantage of the information presented to us (in the mass media and elsewhere) requires understanding how such information is produced. One important activity involved in producing scientific information is reasoning. In this course we will examine reasoning processes and strategies employed in science through examination of general principles and concrete examples. We will explore the nature and evaluation of theoretical hypotheses – including statistical and causal hypotheses – and models of decision making. Examples will be drawn from historical material described in the text as well as contemporary examples drawn from popular media such as newspapers, magazines, and the Internet.

REQUIREMENTS	Three short papers, 3-4 pages each, worth 25% each. A final examination worth 25% is also required.
PREREQUISITES	None.
G.E. CREDIT	Arts & Humanities or Science & Engineering

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**PHILOSOPHY 38**

**Introduction to Philosophy of Biology**

Michael Trestman  
 TWR 7:40-9:55 p.m., Wellman 233  
 CRN 59381

TEXTS	<i>Wild Minds</i> , by Marc Hauser; <i>Minds of their Own</i> , by Lesley Rogers
COURSE CONTENT	This course will focus on the special topic of animal minds. How is it possible to gain knowledge of the cognitive processes and conscious experiences of non-human animals? What special challenges face a scientific investigation of this topic, and how can they be overcome?
REQUIREMENTS	Two papers and a final.
PREREQUISITE	None.
G.E. CREDIT	Art and Humanities, Writing Experience

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**PHILOSOPHY 103**

**Philosophy of Mind**

Bernard Molyneux  
 TWR 12:20-2:00 p.m., Olson 105  
 CRN: 59382

TEXTS	TBA
COURSE CONTENT	This course is designed to give a first taste of philosophy of mind to those new or nearly new to the topic. The contemporary philosophical literature on the nature of the mind is vast and fascinating and we will barely have a chance to scratch the surface. However, students will gain some understanding of the main metaphysical theories of mind and their major strengths and weaknesses. They will learn why most philosophers now reject the once dominant idea of a soul, and why the main naturalistic alternatives (Behaviorism, Mind-Brain Identity and Functionalism) are nonetheless controversial.
REQUIREMENTS	Grades are based on two papers (35%) and a final exam.
PREREQUISITE	None
G.E. CREDIT	Art & Humanities, Writing Experience.

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**PHILOSOPHY 105**

**PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**

Dennis Holden  
 TWR 10:00–12:15p.m., 105 Olson  
 CRN: 58887

TEXT	<i>Philosophy of Religion</i> , Louis P. Pojman (5 <sup>th</sup> edition)
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COURSE CONTENT	We will begin the course by examining the possibility of an afterlife. We shall then focus on the existence of a supreme being (God), considering first reasons for accepting the view that such a being exists and then reasons for rejecting this view. Finally, we shall examine the interplay between “faith” and “reason.”
REQUIREMENTS	Two mid-term exams and a final examination.
PREREQUISITE	One course in philosophy is recommended.
G.E. CREDIT	Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience

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