

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
UC DAVIS PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
FALL, 2005

PHILOSOPHY 1 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Josh Parsons

MWF 10:00-10:50a.m., 194 Chemistry

CRNs: 46167-46178

TEXT: *Introduction to Philosophy*, Perry and
Bratman, eds.

COURSE CONTENT: The objective of this course is to introduce you to a variety of philosophical topics and philosophers, and give you the tools and opportunity to make some philosophical arguments of your own. We will tackle questions that may include: Is there a God? Are there good reasons to think that there is no God? Could I be dreaming right now? If so, how can I tell that I am not? What is it to be a person? Could a sophisticated computer be a person? What actions are right, and what are wrong? What makes for a good life?

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers and a comprehensive final, exact details to be decided.

PREREQUISITE: None.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 12 INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC

Matt Haber

MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., 212 Veihmeyer

CRNs: 46179-46180

TEXT: *A Modern Formal Logic Primer*, Volume I, by Paul Teller.

Course Reader, answer manual and other materials.

All available free on the web or at Classical Notes.

COURSE CONTENT: Philosophy 12 is an introduction to basic logical concepts and formal deductive logic. Understanding of this material is essential for work in philosophy and can be useful in other disciplines that benefit from rigorous argumentation, such as law.

This course will train you in a language of formal sentence logic and its proof techniques. Subjects will include sentence logic syntax and semantics, truth tables, laws of logical equivalence, transcription between English and sentence logic, the concept of deductive validity, and methods of proof. We

will have a short introduction to predicate logic at the end of the course.

REQUIREMENTS: There will be a quiz at the end of each week and a comprehensive final exam on the last day of class.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 21 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT

Jan Szaif

MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m., 194 Young

CRNs: 46181 & 46182

TEXT: Course reader

COURSE CONTENT: This course introduces students to the main themes and problems of ancient Greek Philosophy, as found in the Presocratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Hellenistic philosophers, and Plotinus.

REQUIREMENTS: Discussion section participation, two papers, and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Art and Humanities, Writing Experience

**PHILOSOPHY 24 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS AND
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

Pekka Väyrynen

MWF 1:10-2:00, 1130 Hart

CRNs: 46183 & 46184

TEXTS: *Utilitarianism*, J. S. Mill (required)
A Rulebook for Arguments, 3rd edition,
Anthony Weston (required)
Course pack (required)

COURSE CONTENT: An introduction to the philosophical study of moral notions, arguments, and theories. A large chunk of the course will be devoted to several influential views – very different from one another – which many have taken to threaten conventional morality, such as egoism in its many forms, moral relativism, and utilitarianism. In each case, we'll consider whether the view really does conflict with more conventional moral doctrines and, if it does, whether this is a problem for conventional morality or the view that appears to threaten it. Our method will be to investigate some of the basic questions of moral philosophy: Why should one be moral? Is being moral part of what makes a person's

life go best? Do ends justify the means, or are there some actions that are always wrong, no matter how much good may result from them? How stringent are the demands of morality? Are there objective moral truths, or are right and wrong in the eye of the beholder or her socio-cultural group? What is a just society? Do moral praise and blame presuppose that we are fully in control of our actions and their consequences?

REQUIREMENTS: Three short papers, a final exam, and active participation in discussion.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Arts and Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 30 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Matt Haber

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m., 26 Wellman

CRNs: 52861-52864

TEXT: *Philosophy of Science: A Very Short Introduction*, by Samir Okasha

COURSE CONTENT: The central question driving this course is “what is science”? This course will treat

philosophy of science as “the science of science”, seeking to understand the nature of scientific reasoning, explanations, theoretical terms, scientific change and revolutions. This course will also look at philosophical problems in particular sciences, consider critics of science, and explore issues of science and ethics.

REQUIREMENTS: Approximately 10-15 pages of writing and a final examination. Writing assignments will range from short position papers to longer research projects.

PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy is recommended.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities or Science and Engineering, Writing Experience.

PHILOSOPHY 101 METAPHYSICS

Josh Parsons

MWF 1:10-2:00 pm, 119 Wellman

CRNs: 52866 & 52867

TEXT: *Metaphysics: an Anthology*, Jaegwon Kim and Ernest Sosa (eds), Blackwell.
Other readings to be determined.

COURSE CONTENT: Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that

poses the most general questions about the world. Many of these questions concern what there is: is there, for example, a God? Is there, in addition to all the red things, the color red? Does the past exist? Does the future? Other metaphysical questions are about how the world is and our place in it: what makes the child born to my parents the same person as me? To what extent is the world independent of human agency?

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 102 THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

G. J. Matthey

MW 2:10-4:00 p.m., 212 Wellman

CRNs: 46219 & 46220

TEXT: On-line text by the instructor

COURSE CONTENT: The course will be an overview of the main issues in the theory of knowledge from ancient times to the present. Questions to be discussed include: what is a theory of knowledge supposed to do? How should the

concept or concepts of knowledge be understood? How is human knowledge to be described? How might we determine whether we have knowledge?

REQUIREMENTS: Two five-page papers and a final examination.

PREREQUISITE: One course in philosophy

G. E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 107 PHILOSOPHY OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Andrew Hamilton

TR 3:10-4:30p.m., 233 Wellman

CRNs: 53496 & 53497

TEXTS: *What is this Thing Called Science?*, Alan Chalmers
Introducing Time, Craig Callender
Relativity: The Special and General Theory, Albert Einstein
Time and Chance, David Albert

COURSE CONTENT: This course treats general topics in the philosophy of physics, as well as two topics of special interest: the direction of time and relativity theory. The goal is to become

conversant with basic physical science while exploring issues of philosophical interest.

REQUIREMENTS: Approximately 10-15 pages of writing and a final examination. Writing assignments will range from short papers to longer research projects.

PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy is recommended.

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities or Science & Engineering

PHILOSOPHY 156 Contemporary Analytic Philosophy

G. J. Matthey

MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m., 1 Wellman

CRN: 46627

TEXT: Course Reader

COURSE CONTENT: An historical introduction to analytic philosophy. Readings will be taken from classic works of analytic philosophy, from Moore and Russell to the present. Particular attention will be paid to the question of whether there are any defining features that make a philosophical work “analytic.” We will take a close look at some characteristic techniques of analytic philosophy. Some criticisms of the analytic approach to

philosophy will also be discussed.

REQUIREMENTS: Midterm, final examination, term paper of 12-15 pages.

PREREQUISITES: One course in philosophy. Philosophy 12 highly recommended.

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 160 PRE-SOCRATICS

Michael Wedin

TR 1:40-3:00 p.m., 167 Olson

CRN: 52878

TEXT: *The PreSocratic Philosophers*, Kirk, Raven & Schofield

COURSE CONTENT: The course will examine the central doctrines and themes of the major presocratic philosophers.

REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers and a final exam.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 174

HUME

Henry Allison

TR 12:10-1:30pm, 233 Wellman

CRN: 52877

TEXTS:

A Treatise of Human Nature, Hume

An Enquiry Concerning Human

Understanding, Hume

Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion, Hume

& Popkin

COURSE CONTENT: This course is intended as an intensive introduction to some of the central issues in Hume's theoretical philosophy, with a major focus on the relationship between Hume's skepticism and his naturalism. The topics covered will include Hume's views on causality, induction, probability, the belief in an external world, personal identity, free will, miracles, and the existence of God.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades will be based largely on 2 papers (5-6 pages each), a take-home final and class participation. There may also be an initial short (1-2 page) paper to assess the student's preparation for the course.

PREREQUISITE: Philosophy 22N or consent of instructor.

G.E. CREDIT: None

PHILOSOPHY 194HA/HB HONORS RESEARCH PROJECT

The Staff (Chairperson in Charge)

To be announced.

TEXTS: Depends on course content.

COURSE CONTENT: Students ordinarily will take a graduate seminar in philosophy, though an individual project may be developed in consultation with a faculty member. (In any case students must enroll in Philosophy 194HA or 194HB if 194HA has been completed.

PREREQUISITE: Enrollment is restricted to members of the honors program in philosophy. Consent of instructor.

HONORS PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the honors

program in philosophy requires

meeting the following criteria:

1. major in philosophy,
2. completion of at least 135 units,
3. cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 in the courses counted toward the major.

4. cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 in the upper division philosophy courses taken.
5. approval by the major adviser, Dr. G. J. Matthey (752-0609).

PHILOSOPHY 214 SEMINAR IN ETHICS

Pekka Väyrynen

W 3:10-6:00 p.m., 2275 SSH

CRN: 52881

TEXT: Readings will be made available for photocopying.

COURSE CONTENT: Topic: TBA. The likeliest topics are: Ethical Intuitionism and Particularism; Ethical Naturalism; or Value Theory.

REQUIREMENTS: A term paper (possibly in two drafts) and a class presentation.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing in philosophy or consent of the instructor.

**PHILOSOPHY 290 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY
(Aristotle's Ethics)**

Jan Szaif

T 3:10-6:00p.m., 2275 SSH
CRN: 52905

TEXTS: Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by David Ross
Secondary material to be announced.

COURSE CONTENT: This seminar will be about the Aristotelian approach in ethics, with a focus on his theory of the good human life and the virtues of character and practical reasoning. We will read and discuss relevant chapters from the *Nicomachean Ethics*, books I, II, III, VI and X. We can also include some texts on the significance of the Aristotelian approach for contemporary moral philosophy, if that meets the interest of the participants.

REQUIREMENTS: Oral presentation, term paper.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
