

philosophy

φιλοσοφία



Undergraduate
Course Offerings

Spring 2020

Basic Philosophical Questions This prerequisite to all other philosophy courses gives you an initial understanding of what philosophy is, the range of questions philosophers take up, and how they deal with those questions.

UCOR I32

22 sections

Logic Valid reasoning, logical fallacies, types of definitions, important informal aspects of arguments in ordinary discourse, and the formal logic of inferences involving simple and compound statements.

PHIL 106

2 sections

Philosophical Ethics What is happiness? What are virtue and vice? Can virtue be taught? How do we make decisions regarding good and bad, right and wrong? This course is an opportunity to delve into the ethical ideas that inform our lives, by looking at a selection of classic works from the Western philosophical tradition, including texts by ancient, modern, and contemporary thinkers.

UCOR I51

5 sections

Philosophy and Film We will explore the philosophical implications of elements of film art: What, for example, does film editing tell us about the nature of perception? What do flashbacks say about memory? What do close-ups reveal about emotion? Are there ethical reasons why some images should not be made or shown, or why other images ought to be preserved? We'll read philosophers, directors, and film critics, and watch clips for all sorts of films.

PHIL 206

TR 9:25–10:40

Dr Lampert

Political Philosophy Fundamental political questions are explored through readings from both classical and contemporary sources. The link between philosophy and practical political themes is emphasized. We will

focus on topics involving democracy, power, resistance, and pluralism.

PHIL 212

TR 1:40–2:55

Dr Lampert

Christian Philosophy Christian Philosophy is a 2,000-year tradition of analysis and critique of paths of reflective thinking that engage those who are committed to the Christian faith. Thus it examines ways in which reason serves to inform dynamic Christian belief and practice. This course examines early, medieval, modern, and contemporary approaches to this analysis and critique.

faith & reason

PHIL 219

TR 10:50–12:05

Dr Swindal

Philosophy of Death and Living This course explores the issues of mortality and the destruction of the body and mind. How does our understanding of death affect our philosophy of life? How do philosophers describe death, and what does it mean to be alive? We examine these questions through ancient and contemporary readings.

PHIL 220

TR 1:40–2:55

Dr Arenson

Yoga Philosophy & Practice Is the practice of yoga a form of philosophy? How do Western and Eastern traditions understand and make use of the mind and the body? We will investigate these questions by looking at classical yoga texts and contemporary philosophy of the body, dividing our time equally between classroom discussion and studio practice. No previous experience with yoga is necessary.

global diversity

PHIL 237

TR 9:25–10:40

Dr Harrington

Exploring Social Justice Philosophical discussions of social justice inquire into the nature and current state of justice in areas of social concern. This course explores core areas: class, race, immigration, healthcare,

the global environment, and gender. At the center of our exploration will be an examination of how the value of human dignity can inform our approach.

social justice

PHIL 238W

TR 3:05–4:20
TR 4:30–5:45

Ms Özkara

Health Care Ethics Ethical questions in medical care and research, e.g., doctor–patient relations, informed consent, euthanasia, and the definitions of health, person, and death.

UCOR 254

2 sections

America and Antiquity This course begins with the Constitution of the U.S.A. and the thinking of the founders who wrote it (especially in the *Federalist Papers*). It then shows their debt to ancient Greek and Roman authors (Plato, Aristotle, Polybius, Cicero, Plutarch, and Tacitus, among others). One goal is therefore to appreciate the intellectual history that influenced the founders, but another is to understand and assess the philosophical principles they sought to enshrine.

PHIL 257

TR 12:15–1:30

Dr Miller

Philosophy and *Star Trek* *Star Trek* has traditionally focused on topics of extreme philosophical interest. We will investigate several in detail: each week, you will watch an episode from one of the television series and read contemporary or historical philosophical texts discussing the issues raised. We will focus primarily on topics in moral philosophy, including social and political philosophy, although we will also consider issues in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and other areas.

PHIL 259

TR 12:15–1:30

Dr Vogelstein

Special Topics: Meaning of Life A quest to decide what the meaning of our lives should be, in critical

dialogue with the visions of a meaningful life given by great books of the Western world.

Spring Break Away: Athens

PHIL 269-BOI

TR 3:05-4:20

Dr McCurry

Love & Friendship A philosophical consideration of love and friendship: the nature of love, its causes, its effects, its many manifestations, the mutual love found in friendship, the kinds of friendship, and the importance of friendship in human life.

faith & reason

PHIL 299

MWF I-I:50

Dr Bonin

Later Modern Philosophy A study of the period of philosophy initiated by Kant, this course deals with such crucial thinkers of the late 18th and 19th centuries as Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Marx, Mill, and Nietzsche.

PHIL 304

TR I:40-2:55

Dr Bates

Thomas Aquinas An introduction to the philosophical thought of St. Thomas, focusing on such topics as God, nature, knowledge, language, the problem of evil, and the relation between faith and reason. Besides learning where Thomas stood on these matters, you will be equipped to interpret his writings and thereby to explore the full range of his thought.

faith & reason

PHIL 315W

MWF II-II:50

Dr Bonin

Islamic Philosophy A survey of major philosophers from the classical period of Islamic thought. Among those whose works we will sample are Kindī (Alkindi), Rāzī (Rhazes), Fārābī (Alfarabi), Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna), Ġazālī (Algazel), Ibn Rušd (Averroes), and Ibn Bajja (Avempace). We will give special attention, as did they, to the relation between philosophy and prophecy and

that between philosophy and theology, to Islamic occasionalism, and to the nature and destiny of the soul.

faith & reason

PHIL 450W

MW 3-4:15

Dr Bonin

Special Topics: Early Modern Women Philosophers

Though typically excluded from the canon, early modern women made significant conceptual contributions to and interventions in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political theory, and the philosophical foundations of modern science. This seminar will engage primary texts by women philosophers (and occasionally their allies and interlocutors) written in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries, including Élisabeth de Bohême, Margaret Cavendish, Émilie du Châtelet, Anne Conway, Olympe de Gouges, and François Poulain de la Barre. Though 'gender' in the sense we understand it today was not yet an explicitly formulated category, these philosophers critically engage theories of embodiment, knowledge-production, and politics in ways we can now only describe in its terms, establishing rich theoretical models for arraying experience and experiment, reason and passion, intellectual and political equality, as well as simultaneously metaphysical, 'natural philosophical' (i.e., scientific), and social accounts of power.

PHIL 496

W 5-7:40

Dr Selcer



For many courses, more details will be posted outside of the Department (303 College Hall) and at duq.edu/philosophy.