PHILOSOPHY & WORLD RELIGIONS COURSE BOOK

there's a class for that.

SPRING 2023
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PHILOSOPHIZE!

Philosophy Courses, Spring 2023

PHIL 1030: Elementary Logic on mwf @ 12:00-12:50 w/ Prof. Boedeker
Critical thinking, using both formal and informal methods, including proof techniques and recognizing logical fallacies. Enhances reading, writing, and thinking in any area of study, and in preparing for grad school exams (e.g. LSAT, GMAT, & GRE). UNIFI!

PHIL 1040: Justice and the Good Life UNIFI!
What makes a society just or unjust? What does it mean to lead a good life? This course will provide philosophical perspectives on these questions, including investigations of the principles and virtues that should guide how we interact with others in our communities and lead meaningful lives.
i:00-1:50    mwf Prof. Boedeker
12:00-1:15   mw Prof. Sari (honors)
5:00-6:15    mw Prof Sari

PHIL 1050: The Art of Critical Thinking & Writing on mwf @ 10:00-10:50 & 11:00-11:50 w/ Prof. Lahroodi
This course aims to develop fundamental skills of critical thinking and writing academic essays at the college level and enable students to make the most of their college education. Students will use the skills they learn in the course to think critically and write with skill, clarity and rigor. UNIFI!

PHIL 1540: Ethics in Business on tth @ 11:00-12:15 w/ Prof. Earle
Application of ethical principles and analytic methods to contemporary issues in business. Topics include moral responsibility of corporations and their regulation; economic policy, business practices and social justice; rights and obligations of employers and employees, meaningful work and more.

PHIL 1560: Science, Technology & Ethics on tth @ 12:30-1:45 & 3:30-4:45 w/ Prof. Hesse
Interdisciplinary survey of ethical issues raised by recent developments in science and technology. Sample topics may include, but are not limited to, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, big data, privacy, energy, medicine, and science itself. UNIFI!

PHIL 2240: Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy on mw @ 2:00-3:15 w/ Prof. Sari
History of philosophy from Kant to present; emphasis on idealism, romanticism, materialism, positivism, phenomenology, existentialism.

PHIL 2500: Ethics on mwf @ 11:00-11:50 w/ Prof. Earle
Study of the major schools of ethical theory through reading major thinkers and their contemporary commentators. Examination of selected theoretical and practical problems in contemporary ethics.

PHIL 2550: Environmental Ethics on tth @ 2:00-3:15 w/ Prof. Earle
Introduction to and application of ethical theory to environmental issues, including responsibility for plants and animals, pollution, natural resources, and population growth.

PHIL 3110/RELS 3110/CAP 3194: Perspectives on Death & Dying online on eLearning w/ Prof. Degnin
Multidisciplinary study of death, dying, and bereavement across cultures, religious and ethnic groups, and historical periods, with attention to ritual and memoir, ethical dilemmas at the end of life, and psychology of mourning. UNIFI!

PHIL 3310: Philosophy of Mind on mwf 1:00-1:50 w/ Prof. Lahroodi
Examines the nature of conscious subjective experience, how it is produced by the brain, and how it relates to other, nonconscious, aspects of reality.

PHIL 3510/RELS 3510/CAP 3173: Bio-Medical Ethics on tth @ 3:30-4:45 w/ Prof. Degnin
Application of principles and analytic methods of ethical theory to contemporary issues in medical practice and research. Topics include fundamental concepts of health and disease, life and death; rights and obligations of medical practitioners and their patients; informed consent and confidentiality; abortion and euthanasia; reproductive and transplantation technologies; and health policy and the provision and rationing of health care. UNIFI!

PHIL 3610: Nietzsche, Nihilism, & Technology on tth @ 12:30-1:45 w/ Prof. Boedeker
Examination of Nietzsche’s genealogy, diagnosis, and prognosis of contemporary nihilism, the experience of one’s values as empty or meaningless. Examination of Heidegger’s later critique of Nietzsche’s views as expressions of problematic aspects of the modern technological age.
RELS 1020: Religions of the World
Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices.
2:00-3:15 tth Prof. Graziano
3:30-4:45 tth Prof. Graziano
online via eLearning Prof. Steed

RELS 1040: The Power of Myth: Creation Myths on mwf 1:00-1:50 (HONORS) & 2:00-2:50 w/ Prof. Burnight
How did the world come to exist? How did we get here? Why are we here? This course examines how various cultures have addressed the issue of our beginnings. Exploring these ideas can help us better understand the assumptions underlying our own notions of identity and what it means to be "human."

RELS 1540: Ethics in Business on tth @ 11:00-12:15 w/ Prof. Earle
Application of ethical principles and analytic methods to contemporary issues in business. Topics include moral responsibility of corporations and their regulation; economic policy, business practices and social justice; rights and obligations of employers and employees, meaningful work and more.

RELS 2120: Great Living Religions: Judaism & Islam w/ Prof. Burnight on mwf @ 10-10:50
Study of the doctrines and practices of Judaism and Islam in their cultural context with attention to historical development and current situation.

RELS 2550: Environmental Ethics on tth @ 2:00-3:15 w/ Prof. Earle
Introduction to and application of ethical theory to environmental issues, including responsibility for plants and animals, pollution, natural resources, and population growth.

RELS 3110/PHIL 3110/CAP 3194: Perspectives on Death & Dying w/ Prof. Degnin online
Multidisciplinary study of death, dying, and bereavement across cultures, religious and ethnic groups, and historical periods, with attention to ritual and memoir, ethical dilemmas at the end of life, and psychology of mourning.

RELS 3150: Women & Christianity on tth @ 9:30-10:45 w/ Prof. Hill
This course explores the role of women in the Christian tradition through the three biblical figures who have most explicitly influenced western culture’s views of women, gender roles, sex, and sin: Eve, Mary Magdalen and the Virgin Mary.

RELS 3159: Religion and Race on tth @ 11:00-12:15 w/ Prof. Graziano
This course is a study of the relationship between religion and race in the modern era. Through this course, students will understand how and why ideas about “race” have been invented and maintained, as well as how these ideas have themselves been co-constituted alongside longstanding religious ideas and practices. Particular attention will be paid to the way in which governments mark religious and racial differences through legislation and policing. This course argues that the study of religion is crucial to understanding how race intersects with law, government, gender, and history.

PHIL 3510/RELS 3510/CAP 3173: Bio-Medical Ethics on tth @ 3:30-4:45 w/ Prof. Degnin
Application of principles and analytic methods of ethical theory to contemporary issues in medical practice and research. Topics include fundamental concepts of health and disease, life and death; rights and obligations of medical practitioners and their patients; informed consent and confidentiality; abortion and euthanasia; reproductive and transplantation technologies; and health policy and the provision and rationing of health care.
All PWR UNIFI Courses can fulfill---at minimum---an elective in the Philosophy or Study of Religion majors/minors. (Elementary Logic fulfills a requirement in the Philosophy major.)

TALK TO YOUR PROFESSOR IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT WHERE A COURSE CAN FIT IN YOUR PROGRAM.

RELS 1020: Religions of the World
Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices.
2:00-3:15 & 3:30-4:45 on tth Prof. Graziano AND online via eLearning Prof. Steed

RELS 1040: The Power of Myth: Creation Myths on mwf 1:00-1:50 (HONORS) & 2:00-2:50 w/ Prof. Burnight
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PHIL 1040: Justice and the Good Life
What makes a society just or unjust? What does it mean to lead a good life? This course will provide philosophical perspectives on these questions, including investigations of the principles and virtues that should guide how we interact with others in our communities and lead meaningful lives.
1:00-1:50 mwf Prof. Boedeker AND 12:00-1:15 mw (honors) & mw 5:00-6:15 Prof. Sari

PHIL 1050: The Art of Critical Thinking & Writing on mwf @ 10:00-10:50 & 11:00-11:50 w/ Prof. Lahroodi
This course aims to develop fundamental skills of critical thinking and writing academic essays at the college level and enable students to make the most of their college education. Students will use the skills they learn in the course to think critically and write with skill, clarity and rigor.

PHIL 1560: Science, Technology & Ethics on tth @ 12:30-1:45 & 3:30-4:45 w/ Prof. Hesse
also online with Professor Earle during December/January Term!
Interdisciplinary survey of ethical issues raised by recent developments in science and technology. Sample topics may include, but are not limited to, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, big data, privacy, energy, medicine, and science itself.
The Study of Religion Club

The Study of Religion Club (STORC) is a student organization that is aimed towards creating a welcoming and open environment for the discussion of religion as it relates to topics like popular culture, current events, and society in an academic setting. We meet numerous times throughout the semester—all are welcome! For event times and locations, follow us on Instagram @uni.storc. Questions? Want to be added to our emailing list? Send us an email at uni.storc@gmail.com!

Get Involved in Our Department Clubs!

Philosophy Club

Philosophy Club works to create a space in which students of any background can come together, make friends, and build their community by collaboratively exploring questions and ideas found in philosophy through student-led discussions, activities, guest appearances from professors, and much more! If you are interested in the Philosophy Club, and want more information, please feel free to email Andrew Boody (boodyaaa@uni.edu) or Rosemary Guild (guildr@uni.edu)
THINKING ABOUT A MAJOR?

MAJOR IN THINKING!

PHILOSOPHY COURSES, SPRING 2023

UNI.EDU/PHILREL
This class focuses on critical thinking using both formal and informal methods, including proof techniques and recognizing logical fallacies. Taking this course should enhance your reading, writing, and thinking abilities in any area of study, and can be of assistance in exams for law school, business school, and other graduate programs. The topics we cover in this class intersect closely with those in many areas of philosophy, linguistics, law, mathematics, and computer science.
What makes a society just or unjust?

What does it mean to lead a happy and satisfying life?

What principles and virtues should guide how to do good in our communities and lead meaningful lives?
The first goal of this course is to help students develop their critical thinking skills: How can we determine whether a claim is true? How do we know if our ideas make good sense? How can we evaluate arguments?

The second goal of this course is to help students develop their abilities to write academic essays with confidence and skill. We will focus on the process of writing: drafting, peer and instructor critique, revising, and editing. Students will gain practice in creating thesis statements, writing effective sentences and paragraphs, citing and incorporating others’ work, and using organizational patterns that suit the topic and audience.

This course aims to help students enhance skills they will need during their education and in any career they choose: critical thinking and writing.

- The first goal of this course is to help students develop their critical thinking skills: How can we determine whether a claim is true? How do we know if our ideas make good sense? How can we evaluate arguments?
  Because we have to think critically about things, we will be using readings from philosophy as our subject matter.

- The second goal of this course is to help students develop their abilities to write academic essays with confidence and skill. We will focus on the process of writing: drafting, peer and instructor critique, revising, and editing.

PHIL 1050 W/ PROF. LAHROODI ON MWF @ 10:00-10:50 & 11:00-11:50
"Limits of Reason" provides an introduction to the history of modern philosophy by focusing on the texts of some of the most influential thinkers of the period--beginning with Kant and culminating with Marx--and the problems and issues with which these philosophers were grappling.

For more information, please contact Professor Sari at yasemin.sari@uni.edu
The recently recovered treasure that Forrest Fenn hid in the Rocky Mountain wilderness a decade ago. (Credit: Forrest Fenn’s Treasure is found; Courtesy KGWN: Wyoming News Now)

Scenario: Ming and Tanya discover the famous treasure of Forest Fenn and agree to split the findings. However, Ming has been badly injured and will not make it out of the wilderness alive. Tanya makes a solemn promise to give Ming’s half to his next of kin. Tanya had always planned to donate her own half to an orphanage. In rejoining civilization, she learns that Ming’s daughter (and next of kin) is a troubled woman named Erma, who has a violent criminal record and is currently facing murder charges. With the money, Tanya learns, Erma will hire a lawyer and be set loose (likely to commit additional atrocities). Would it be right for Tanya to abandon her promise to Ming and donate the whole amount to the orphanage? This semester, students will draw from competing ethical theories (e.g. deontology, utilitarianism, virtue ethics) to address this scenario.
Tasting freshly brewed coffee, smelling chocolate chip cookies baking in the oven, feeling the cool touch of a breeze on the face or the soft skin of a freshly bathed baby on the fingers, taking in the dazzling colors of trees in fall, hearing a favorite tune, dreaming of reuniting with a loved one, and feeling pain, joy, love, sadness and surprise – these are all conscious experiences. Without them and thousands like them, what is there to life and would it be worth living? In this sense, we all know what consciousness is – there is nothing we know more intimately – yet it remains one of life’s greatest mysteries. Despite the incredible advances science has made, it does not seem like we are any closer to an explanation of where consciousness comes from. How is it, exactly, that the brain’s 86 billion neurons give rise to conscious experience? Our answer to this question will not only shape our understanding of our own mind, but of the fabric of reality itself.

In this course we will be reading some of the most influential and innovative thinkers writing today on the metaphysics of conscious experience. Critical engagement with their work will help us develop a more complex understanding of the nature of consciousness and its place in the physical universe.
What is “nihilism”? Is it a bad thing? Who counts as a nihilist? (Some answers to this question might surprise you!) Is nihilism embodied in our use of contemporary technology? Might there be ways to overcome nihilism?

We’ll explore these and other questions with the help of two important and controversial philosophers: Friedrich Nietzsche and Martin Heidegger.
YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE RELIGIOUS TO STUDY RELIGION.

BUT YOU DO HAVE TO BE: CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORLD, INTERESTED IN FASCINATING STUFF, AND WANT TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WHATEVER CAREER YOU CHOOSE.

RELIGION COURSES, SPRING 2023
Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices.
How did the world come to exist?
How did we get here?
Why are we here?

Such questions reflect what seems to be a universal human impulse to understand our origins and purpose. This course will examine and compare a selection of creation myths from a number of ancient sources, from many different traditions, including biblical creation, Hinduism, stories from Greece and Rome, Norse, African, Native American religions and more. We will finish with a brief survey of some modern scientific ideas about the nature of the cosmos.

By examining how various cultures have addressed the issue of our beginnings, we might better understand the foundational assumptions underlying our own notions of identity and what it means to be “human.”
This course will provide a broad, chronologically-organized survey of two of the world’s major religions, Judaism and Islam, in their historical contexts. It will trace their development from their common origins in the religious traditions of ancient Israel through their (often interwoven) histories down to the present day. We will examine sacred texts such as the Talmud and the Qur’an, and discuss the various sects (e.g., Sunni and Shia) and mystical schools (such as Kabbalah and Sufism) that have arisen in each of these two great faiths.
This course explores the role of women in the Christian tradition. Because this is such an immense topic, we will begin by examining the three biblical women that have most explicitly influenced western culture’s views of women: Eve, Mary Magdalen and the Virgin Mary.

As we begin studying these three women, we’ll think about how they have been interpreted positively, negatively, and sometimes unrealistically by Western culture and the church.

Towards the end of the semester, we’ll examine other aspects of women in Christianity of interest to the class.
RELIGION & RACE

This course is a study of the relationship between religion and race in the modern era. Through this course, students will understand how and why ideas about “race” have been invented and maintained alongside religious ideas and practices. Particular attention will be paid to the way in which governments mark religious and racial differences through legislation and policing. This course argues that the study of religion is crucial to understanding how race intersects with law, government, gender, and history.
MINOR IN ETHICS
EVERYBODY NEEDS ETHICS.

The perfect minor for any major: 15 credits to enhance your resume, your work, and your life.

_The Ethics minor is intended to provide students of diverse major fields of study a way to focus and develop their interest in ethics both by offering them a core of courses essential to an understanding of the field of ethics and by advising them in the selection of courses that enable them to develop depth and detail in theoretical, professional, and applied ethics._

_For more information visit uni.edu/philrel_
The science behind climate change is our first area of investigation, along with the larger theme of the immense power granted to humankind through science and technology. The main text is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and the case studies are geoengineering and nuclear power. We then turn to recent developments in information technology, big data, and surveillance. George Orwell's *1984* provides the introduction to these topics, and the case study is the mass surveillance and detention of Uyghur Muslims in China. The course concludes with a look at whether our modern/industrial/technological way of life is sustainable over the long term. This is the focus of Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*.

Hanging back behind all of these topics are deeper ethical issues. How do we normally determine what is right and wrong? Are any cross-cultural frameworks available? What are the characteristics of a just society? Should we be concerned about the welfare of future generations? Questions like these are explored throughout Science, Technology, and Ethics.
Where is the line between loyalty to one’s company and obligations to report wrongdoing?
Can corporations have goals beyond profit maximization?
Do we have obligations to be charitable with our money and time?
Is capitalism compatible with environmental sustainability?
Do we “vote with our wallets” when we make purchases?
What principles justify various rights: collective bargaining, intellectual property, equal opportunity?
How do ethical considerations factor into your prospective profession?

These are among the most pressing questions of our time, affect each of our lives, and will be the focus of our course.
At heart, all environmental controversies are composed of ethical dilemmas. For example, how much value should be placed on endangered species? What is the equitable way to control greenhouse gas emissions? What moral obligations do we have to non-human animals? This course will provide normative frameworks for analyzing environmental controversies. Topics include the relationship between science and politics with respect to environmental issues, comparative religious attitudes toward the environment, ethical obligations to animals, the moral standing of ecosystems, and environmental justice.
What does facing death have to teach us about living?

If this life was all you had, what would make it worthwhile?

While still dealing with many of the traditional foci of such courses (how people die, dealing with grief, helping others, how to help get the sort of death one wants) this course focuses more on questions relating to the meaning of life. What do various cultures, mythologies, religions, philosophies, and psychological research suggest that death has to teach us? How can so called “negative” experiences like depression still serve, in many cases, to deepen and enrich us?

This is something each person has to work out for themselves.

But we don’t have to search blindly.

Once one has worked through this, not just intellectually, but an a fuller, embodied way, we live our life differently. The “chaff” falls away. We live for what we feel is most important.

Be prepared for a lot of reading. And the fact that you may never just “watch” a movie again.

If you’re willing to put in the time, it could change your life.
What makes a being a “person?” What are the ethical and legal issues around abortion? Is it ever ok to “pull the plug?” Is that euthanasia? Can we find ways to respect different cultures if they go against our laws? Is it ever ok to lie to a patient? How much do we “defer” to parent’s religious beliefs, particularly if it means that their child may die? Is it ethical for a provider (doctor, pharmacist…) to refuse an otherwise legal treatment on the basis of that provider’s moral beliefs? In all these cases, what are the underlying limits and conditions?

On another level, what of the healthcare debate? How do we sort out and understand conflicting claims about health care systems? Why are our costs so much higher than the rest of the world?

The answers aren’t simple. Many don’t have a single answer. But they don’t have to be overwhelming.

This is a challenging course, but one where no one has ever accused it of being dull. As a Clinical Ethicist, I draw not only on seminal legal and ethical cases from the literature, but from real cases (de-identified, of course) from my own experience. Much of the discussion is case based, there are a number of exercises to help work through issues, but perhaps what is most unique about this course is that it isn’t just academic. Much of what you will learn is the same as what I teach to physicians, residents, nurses, social workers, and chaplains. I’ve had former students write that this course was more useful to them than the similar course they got in medical school.

Real life is so much more complicated, and interesting, than anything one could make up.

Buckle up.
### NEED TO FIND US?

Philosophy and World Religions Department Office:
Bartlett 1089
Secretary: Helen Harrington--helen.harrington@uni.edu
319-273-6221

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Boedeker</td>
<td>BAR 2099</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edgar.boedeker@uni.edu">edgar.boedeker@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cara Burnidge</td>
<td>BAR 1101</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cara.burnidge@uni.edu">cara.burnidge@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Burnight</td>
<td>BAR 2093</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.burnight@uni.edu">john.burnight@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Degnin</td>
<td>BAR 1087</td>
<td><a href="mailto:francis.degnin@uni.edu">francis.degnin@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Earle</td>
<td>BAR 1093</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robert.earle@uni.edu">robert.earle@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Graziano</td>
<td>BAR 2083</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michael.graziano@uni.edu">michael.graziano@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Hesse</td>
<td>BAR 1085</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thomas.hesse@uni.edu">thomas.hesse@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Hill</td>
<td>BAR 1089</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan.hill@uni.edu">susan.hill@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reza Lahroodi</td>
<td>BAR 2081</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reza.lahroodi@uni.edu">reza.lahroodi@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasemin Sari</td>
<td>BAR 1099</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yasemin.sari@uni.edu">yasemin.sari@uni.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Steed</td>
<td>BAR 1089</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robert.steed@uni.edu">robert.steed@uni.edu</a></td>
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