PHILOSOPHY - List of Courses

PHI 500 The Philosophy of Plato
The course is a study of the development of Plato's thought and an examination of the validity of his major contributions in the areas of metaphysics, epistemology, cosmology, and ethics.

PHI 501 The Philosophy of Aristotle
The course is an historical and critical study of the major concepts of the metaphysics, theory of knowledge, and ethics of Aristotle. Particular attention is given to the Metaphysics, to parts of the Physics, Categories, Posterior Analytics, and the de Anima, and to the Nicomachean Ethics.

PHI 502 The Philosophy of Kant
Selected works of Kant are read, analyzed, and discussed.

PHI 506 Topics in Medieval Philosophy
The course is an intensive examination of selected developments in medieval philosophical thought. Topics may range from the detailed examination of a single text or the work of a single philosopher to the consideration of various medieval approaches to a significant philosophical problem. Among the areas that may be considered are medieval logic and semantics, universals, individuation and the plurality of forms, abstractive and intuitive knowledge, theories of human nature, and natural theology.

PHI 510 German Philosophy since Kant
Course topics vary from year to year.

PHI 511 Pre-Kantian Rationalism
The course focuses on reading and discussion of the works of one or more of the major rationalist philosophers of the early modern period. Normally the course focuses on the writings of Descartes, Spinoza, and/or Leibniz.

PHI 513 Topics in Recent and Contemporary Philosophy
The course gives an intensive analysis of the major movements in philosophy in recent decades.

PHI 514 Recent and Contemporary Philosophy
Seminar will review developments in the semantics of natural language since 1975.

PHI 515 Special Topics in the History of Philosophy
The course is an intensive study of selected philosophers or philosophical movements in the history of ancient philosophy.

PHI 516 Special Topics in the History of Philosophy
An intensive study of selected philosophers or philosophical movements in the history of early modern philosophy.

PHI 519 Normative Ethics
This graduate ethics course examines some ethical questions and the relevance of psychological studies to those questions.

PHI 520 Logic
The course is a study of selected topics in logic.
PHI 523 Problems of Philosophy
A systematic examination of selected philosophical problems.

PHI 524 Systematic Ethics
The course gives an analysis of theories of the nature and foundations of morality.

PHI 525 Ethics
An introduction to the philosophical understanding and analysis of particular moral issues.

PHI 527 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
A presentation and discussion of key concepts and foundational issues in the cognitive and social sciences. The distinction between two types of representations, descriptions and interpretations, is explored. The ontology of culture; varieties of inferences, concepts, and beliefs; relevance and communication; and the epidemiology of representations are studied.

PHI 530 Philosophy of Art
The course gives a systematic examination of philosophical problems related to art criticism.

PHI 531 Philosophy of Science
The course is a study of selected problems concerning the structure, methods, and presuppositions of the natural and the social sciences.

PHI 532 Philosophical Problems in Logic
The course is an intensive study of selected problems in logical theory. In various years, topics include foundations of intuitionist theory, set theory, modal logic, or formal semantics.

PHI 533 Decision Theory
Several accounts of individual and group decision making and of preference, utility, and probability are examined.

PHI 534 Philosophy of Language
The course covers traditional philosophic issues concerning language, including meaning, reference, and analyticity. Particular attention is given to attempts to view these problems as amenable to solution by the methods of empirical linguistics.

PHI 535 Philosophy of Mind
The course gives an analysis of psychological concepts and of philosophical problems in which they play a part.

PHI 536 Philosophy of Mathematics
The course is a study of selected philosophic issues in mathematics: truth and proof, the relation of mathematics to logic, constructivity, the traditional viewpoints of formalism, intuitionism, and logicism.

PHI 538 The Philosophy of Physics
A discussion of philosophic problems suggested by theories of physics, such as the logical status of Newton's laws; the nature of theories of space and time; the foundations of special and general relativity theory; and problems of quantum theory, including causal versus statistical laws, complementarity, correspondence, and measurement in quantum mechanics.
PHI 539 Theory of Knowledge
The course is a critical study of the nature of knowledge.

PHI 540 Metaphysics
An intensive study of concepts such as causality, being, time, and appearance and reality.

PHI 550 First-Year Philosophy Graduate Student Seminar
A seminar for first-year graduate students in philosophy. Issues discussed will vary from year to year

PHI 599 Dissertation Seminar
Students will make presentations of work in progress, discuss each other's work, and share common pedagogical problems and solutions.

Updated 2/3/2015