Philosophy Course Offerings
Fall 2016
Summer 2016

G.E.M. Anscombe
Course Offerings in Philosophy
Fall 2016

PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy – PI

Dr. Tartaglia  
Sec. 3 – 94428  MWF  9:00-9:50 am  Kellas 102  
Sec. 4 – 94055  TUTH  9:30-10:45 am  Kellas 102  
Sec. 5 – 94503  M  4:00-6:30 pm  Carson 202

Philosophy is the critical reflection on the justification of basic human beliefs and analysis of basic concepts in terms of which such beliefs are expressed. We shall examine a number of philosophical problems, by considering the solutions offered by various great philosophers through the ages.

PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy – PI

Dr. DiGiovanna  
Sec. 23F – 93570  MWF  1:00-1:50 pm  TBA  
Sec. F23 – 94903  MWF  1:00-1:50 pm  TBA  
Sec. 2 – 93516  MWF  11:00-11:50 am  Kellas 101  
Sec. 6 – 93112  MWF  2:00-2:50 pm  TBA

This is an introductory course in which a variety of philosophical problems and approaches will be presented. We will focus on several major thinkers of perennial importance, namely Plato, Aristotle, Marx and Freud. Emphasis will be placed on a careful and thoughtful reading of a modest quantity of material. Texts include a selection of the Dialogues of Plato, the Nicomachean Ethics of Aristotle, Marx’s Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, Freud’s Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis, and Love and Will, by Rollo May.

PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy—Honors – PI, FC

Honors or by permission of instructor.

Dr. Curry  
Sec. HNR – 94004  TUTH  11:00-12:15 pm  Flagg 240

This specially designed Honors Introduction to Philosophy will consist of a brief introduction to argument, followed by a close reading of Plato’s Apology, Euthyphro, Crito, Meno and Republic. The semester will culminate in an exploration of the historical context of the Platonic dialogues by playing the Athens Game, fundamentally relying on “The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 B.C.” module developed at Barnard College. In the game students take the role of leaders of various factions, as well as serving in certain democratically elected positions of power, to recreate the political landscape of late 5th Century Athens, most likely concluding with a recreation of the trial of Socrates. To prepare for the game, students will read a number of primary texts from the late 5th century BCE, including selections from Xenophon, Thucydides, Aristotle, Hesiod and Homer.

This course fulfills both the FC (Freshman Critical Thinking) and PI (Philosophical Inquiry) General Education designators.
PHIL 102 – Philosophy of the Liberal Arts – PI, FC
Dr. Murphy
Sec. 1 – 94325 TUTH 9:30-10:45 am Kellas 101
Sec. 2 – 94326 MWF 11:00-11:50 pm Flagg 102

This course examines arguments for and against the traditional humanities disciplines. Defenders of the humanities argue that studying philosophy, art, literature, culture and history can improve students’ abilities to think critically about moral issues, interact fruitfully with people from other cultures, fulfill their obligations as citizens and live meaningful and fulfilling lives. In this class we will critically examine these claims. Understanding these arguments will require careful engagement with a number of fundamental philosophical questions regarding the nature of morality, the relationship between values and culture, the possibility of objective judgments in aesthetics and ethics, and the standards by which to judge whether one’s life is or is not meaningful. We will explore these questions through careful reading of classic and contemporary philosophical work.

PHIL 105 – Human Nature – PI, FC
Dr. Curry
Sec. 1 – 94660 MWF 10:00-10:50 am Flagg 206

This class will examine a number of differing views on whether there is or is not a human nature, and if there is, what it is. The term “nature”, when used in this context, refers to the idea that there are certain features or properties which all human beings, qua human beings, share. We are all aware of some aspects of what humans are like, but few of us have ever tried to theorize more broadly about what it is to be a human being, or how such being is to be understood. We will examine a diverse array of accounts of what it is to be human, as offered by religion, philosophy, psychology and biology.

PHIL 110 – Introduction to Logic – PI, FC
Professor LaVine
Sec. 1 – 94211 TUTH 11:00-12:15 pm Kellas 101
Sec. 2 – 94658 TUTH 2:00-3:15 pm Kellas 101

Philosophy is the rigorous and systematic investigation into those questions that people across all disciplines and walks of life normally take for granted. Logic, as a branch of philosophy, studies the ubiquitous process of using old beliefs to come to new beliefs (i.e. making arguments, giving reasons) that people normally just engage in without much thought. This course will be an introduction to the basic concepts, problems, and classifications surrounding this process. Some representative questions we will discuss include the following: is there a tension between reason and emotion? Should we always be logical? Are there multiple types of reasoning? How often are politicians reasonable?

PHIL 120 – Introduction to Ethics – PI, FC
Professor Munroe
Sec. 1 – 93113 TUTH 12:30-1:45 pm Kellas 102
Sec. 2 – 94008 TUTH 2:00-3:15 pm Kellas 102
Sec. 3 – 94659 TUTH 4:00-5:15 pm Kellas 102

It may seem paradoxical, but, in this course committed to serving as an introduction to ethics we shall start with, and spend a considerable amount of time on, worrying what our textbook labels as Challenges to Morality. For example, Tom Regan will tell us How Not to Answer Moral Questions while Thomas Nagel will (hopefully) enlighten us on what is Right and Wrong. Charles Stevenson
will consider the Nature of Ethical Disagreement. And Nietzsche will, well, be Nietzsche. This is, of course, only a sample of the literature we will canvas. With these challenges in hand, we shall, albeit too briefly, consider two philosophers, who, tho’ chronologically coming earlier than those presenting the challenges, do take up, in their own way, these challenges. Both John Stuart Mill (utilitarianism) and Immanuel Kant (deontology) argued that morality could be reduced to a single principle, tho,’ to be sure, not the same principle. We shall consider these principles in some detail. In addition to Mill and Kant, the ethics of care will get a quick look. Finally, and again, all too briefly, we shall consider a couple of contemporary moral issues.

PHIL 210 – Introduction to Symbolic Logic

Dr. Murphy   Sec. 1 - 94661   MWF 1:00-1:50 pm   Kellas 102
The primary subject matter of this course is the system of modern symbolic logic. This system is a powerful tool for analyzing language and logical inference. Since its development in the 19th century, it has had an enormous influence on work in philosophy, mathematics, linguistics and computer science. A deep familiarity with it is therefore of benefit to students interested in any of those subjects. A particular emphasis of this course will be the symbolization and analysis of arguments taken from ordinary language sources like newspaper editorials, letters to the editor and works of fiction. Students will learn to translate ordinary language arguments into the language of symbolic logic, construct formal proofs within the language of symbolic logic, and assess the logical properties of arguments using the methods of truth trees and truth tables.

PHIL 323 – Medieval Philosophy – WC

Prerequisite: PHIL 322
Minimum of Sophomore standing required.
Dr. DiGiovanna   Sec. 1 - 94657   MWF 10:00-10:50 am   Kellas 102
A study of the development of Western Medieval Philosophy beginning with Augustine. Emphasis will be placed on major figures such as Augustine and Aquinas. This course will also highlight some important historical events in this time period.

PHIL 328 – Issues in Ethical Theory

Prerequisite: 1 course in Philosophy
Dr. Curry   Sec. 1 - 94662   MWF 1:00-1:50 pm   Flagg 203
Contemporary ethical theory is focused on two largely distinct areas of inquiry, metaethics and normative ethics. Metaethics is concerned with the nature of morality and moral judgments. Three issues are prominent: metaphysical issues concerning whether moral claims are true or false and whether they are ultimately objective or subjective or relative; epistemological issues concerning the grounding of moral claims and psychological issues concerning the underlying mental basis of our moral judgments and conduct. Normative ethics, on the other hand, is concerned with the concepts of right and wrong, and other related evaluative concepts like good and bad or virtuous and vicious. To unpack these concepts requires us to make moral claims (x is a good kind of thing, y has moral value) – literally, we need to set down norms. This course will spend time examining both metaethics and normative ethics.
PHIL 330 – Environmental Ethics – PI

Counts for Environmental Studies Major/Minor. Minimum of Sophomore standing required.
Professor LaVine Sec. 1 – 93743 MW 3:30-4:45 pm Kellas 102
The basic task of environmental ethics is to defend a comprehensive and reasoned account of the moral relations between persons and their natural environment. Thus, a theory of environmental ethics will address such questions as: What ethical principles govern human conduct with regard to the environment? To whom or to what do humans have moral responsibilities and what are these responsibilities? Different approaches will provide different answers. In this course, we will survey opposing theories and examine their application to controversial issues. Topics include Biocentrism, Ecocentrism, Deep Ecology, and Ecofeminism as these relate principally to the issue of Value. Our overriding concern then will be to question, as a number of authors have it, “Is Nature Intrinsically Valuable?”

PHIL 331 – Moral Issues in Mental Health
Dr. Murphy Sec. 1 – 9 TUTH 1:00-1:50 pm TBA
The diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders raises a number of significant moral and philosophical issues: the meaning or nature of psychiatric diagnoses, the obligations of the mental health professional toward her patients, whether or not mental illness should be considered an extenuating factor when evaluating the moral culpability of an individual who commits a crime, and if the state is ever justified in curtailing the freedoms of mentally ill citizens based solely on their illness. These and other philosophical issues will be explored through careful reading of original work in the philosophy of mind, ethics and philosophy of psychiatry.

PHIL 333 – Philosophy of Justice
Required for Criminal Justice Major
Dr. Tartaglia Sec. 1 – 94056 W 4:00-6:30 pm Carson 202
The course consists essentially of an enquiry into the question of punishment. The philosopher’s interest in punishment is mainly connected with questions of justification. It is, prima facie, wrong to deliberately inflict suffering or deprivation on another person, yet punishment consists in doing precisely this. What conditions, the philosopher asks, would justify it? Or, more generally, what kind of consideration would count toward a justification?

Course Offerings for Summer 2016

PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy – PI, FC
Professor LaVine 75089 - Session 2A
Being the oldest of the intellectual disciplines, philosophy is perhaps the most diverse subject one can take in the traditional academic setting. This fact is made obvious when one realizes that almost all of the specialized disciplines once resided in philosophy, splitting off when a certain amount of agreement on fundamental issues was reached. Because of this diversity, it can be
difficult to understand what it is that holds philosophers together. One of the more famous attempts to characterize what is common to philosophers was given by Wilfrid Sellars when he said that they try “to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term”.

In order to help fill this out and to understand the goal of philosophy, we will focus on one of the common tools of philosophers; the paradox. Paradoxes have concerned many philosophers throughout the history of philosophy and have often been catalysts for progress in the field. Thus, investigating their place in the work of some of the most influential philosophers will help us to understand many of the questions central to philosophical work (e.g. how ought we to act? What is there? What do we know? How do we know it?). Furthermore, since a paradox is an argumentation with seemingly true premises leading to a seemingly false conclusion by a seemingly valid chain of reasoning, attempting to understand them, solve them, and evaluate potential solutions to them will be integral to achieving the FC goals of understanding good reasoning and strengthening reasoning skills.

**PHIL 102 – Philosophy of the Liberal Arts – PI, FC - Online**

**Dr. Murphy**  
75332 - Session 2

This course examines arguments for and against the traditional humanities disciplines. Defenders of the humanities argue that studying philosophy, art, literature, culture and history can improve students’ abilities to think critically about moral issues, interact fruitfully with people from other cultures, fulfill their obligations as citizens and live meaningful and fulfilling lives. In this class we will critically examine these claims. Understanding these arguments will require careful engagement with a number of fundamental philosophical questions regarding the nature of morality, the relationship between values and culture, the possibility of objective judgments in aesthetics and ethics, and the standards by which to judge whether one’s life is or is not meaningful. We will explore these questions through careful reading of classic and contemporary philosophical work.

This course will be offered in an online format during a five-week session.

**PHIL 120 – Introduction to Ethics – PI, FC**

**Professor Munroe**  
75290 - Session 1

It may seem paradoxical, but, in this course committed to serving as an introduction to ethics we shall start with, and spend a considerable amount of time on, worrying what our textbook labels as Challenges to Morality. For example, Tom Regan will tell us How Not to Answer Moral Questions while Thomas Nagel will (hopefully) enlighten us on what is Right and Wrong. Charles Stevenson will consider the Nature of Ethical Disagreement. And Nietzsche will, well, be Nietzsche. This is, of course, only a sample of the literature we will canvas. With these challenges in hand, we shall, albeit too briefly, consider two philosophers, who, tho’ chronologically coming earlier than those presenting the challenges, do take up, in their own way, these challenges. Both John Stuart Mill (utilitarianism) and Immanuel Kant (deontology) argued that morality could be reduced to a single principle, tho’, to be sure, not the same principle. We shall consider these principles in some detail. In addition to Mill and Kant, the ethics of care will get a quick look. Finally, and again, all too briefly, we shall consider a couple of contemporary moral issues.
Philosophy Major

Required Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logic – One of the following:</th>
<th>3 Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 110  Introduction to Logic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 210  Introduction to Symbolic Logic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethics – One of the following:</th>
<th>3 Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 120  Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 328  Issues in Ethical Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History of Philosophy¹ – Two of the following</th>
<th>6 Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 322  Ancient Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 323  Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 324  Modern Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 325  19th Century Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 440  20th Century Analytic Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Required Courses – One of the following</th>
<th>3 Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 454  Theory of Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 465  Metaphysics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 380  Philosophy of Mind</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 350  Philosophy of Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Required:                                       | 3 Credit Hours |
| PHIL 475  Seminar in Philosophy                 |                |

| Required Courses                                | 18 Credit Hours |
| Electives:                                      | 12 Credit Hours |

| Total Hours:                                    | 30 Credit Hours |

Notes:

- Majors must earn a minimum of 2.0/S in all courses counted toward the major.
- A minimum of 15 semester hours of the major must be taken at the 300-400 level.

¹Selected Philosophers (PHIL 387) or Special Topics in Philosophy (PHIL 395) may be substituted for one of the history courses, when appropriate, as determined by the department.
Philosophy Minor

The Philosophy Minor permits students majoring in other disciplines to
(1) pursue in a systematic way their personal interests and concerns with philosophical questions, and/or
(2) deepen their understanding of their discipline in regard to its philosophical foundations, methodologies, and its normative assumptions and implications through an integrated course of study tailored to their major program.

Required Courses:

Introductory Course – One of the following: 3 Credit Hours
- PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 105 Human Nature

Ethics – One of the following: 3 Credit Hours
- PHIL 120 Introduction to Ethics
- PHIL 314 Contemporary Moral Issues
- PHIL 328 Issues in Ethical Theory

History of Philosophy – One of the following: 3 Credit Hours
- PHIL 322 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 323 Medieval Philosophy
- PHIL 324 Modern Philosophy
- PHIL 325 19th Century Philosophy
- PHIL 440 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

Electives: 9 Credit Hours

Total Hours: 18 Credit Hours

Notes:
- Minors must earn a minimum of 2.0/S in all courses counted toward the minor.
- A minimum of 9 semester hours of the minor must be taken at the 300-400 level.
Philosophy Honors Major

ELIGIBILITY
- Philosophy Majors with six credit hours in philosophy completed at SUNY Potsdam (or other acceptable institution, to be determined by the faculty)
- 3.5 cumulative GPA in Philosophy
- 3.25 cumulative GPA
- 3.0 minimum grade in all philosophy courses to be applied to major
- Submit application at least three semesters before graduation

REQUIREMENTS
- Senior Thesis and Oral Defense
- Course Distribution Requirements noted below; 3.0 minimum grade required.

Required Courses and Credits: 27 Credit Hours

PHIL 210 Introduction to Symbolic Logic **OR**
PHIL 217 Language and Symbolic Logic  
(*PHIL 110 Intro Logic is highly recommended*)
PHIL 322 Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 324 Modern Philosophy
PHIL 328 Issues in Ethical Theory
PHIL 355 Philosophy of Language **OR**
PHIL 440 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 454 Theory of Knowledge
PHIL 465 Metaphysics
PHIL 480 Honors Thesis Research I
PHIL 481 Honors Thesis Research II
PHIL 387 Selected Philosophers **OR**
PHIL 475 Seminar (to be approved by the faculty) **OR**
PHIL 495 Special Topics

Electives: Three Courses from the following: 9 Credit Hours

PHIL 320 Aesthetics
PHIL 323 Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 325 19th Century Philosophy
PHIL 350 Philosophy of Science
PHIL 359 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 371 Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 380 Philosophy of Mind

Total Hours: 36 Credit Hours
Department of Philosophy
Located in Carson & Morey Hall

**Chair:**
Dr. David Curry  
Professor and Chair  
Morey 204, 267-2021, currydc@potsdam.edu

**Faculty:**
Dr. Judith Little  
Professor-Emeritus  
littleja@potsdam.edu

Dr. Joseph DiGiovanna  
Distinguished Teaching Professor  
Morey 205, 267-2022, digiovjj@potsdam.edu

Professor Matt LaVine  
Instructor  
Carson 217B, 267-2028, lavinemj@potsdam.edu

Dr. Timothy Murphy  
Assistant Professor  
Morey 207, 267-3342, murphytg@potsdam.edu

Professor Mark Munroe  
Instructor  
Carson 217B, 267-2462, munroem@potsdam.edu

Dr. Galen Pletcher  
Professor & Dean of Arts & Sciences-Emeritus  
pletchkgk@potsdam.edu

Dr. Philip Tartaglia  
Professor  
Morey 203, 267-2020, tartagpo@potsdam.edu

**Department Office:**
Sandy Larock, Department Secretary  
Carson 215, 267-2792, larocksg@potsdam.edu  
Fax: 315-267-2656

- Philosophy Department Website: http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Phil