

Hofstra University
Philosophy Department
Fall 2024 Courses
(3 credits unless otherwise stated)

PHI 5L Insights: Love

*1 credit

MW 6-7pm, CRN: 93571

Professor Griffith

PHI 9J Joy, Pleasure and Play

*1 credit

T 4:30-5:30, CRN: TBA

Professor Slaninka

PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP)

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 92720

Professor Farley

PHI 10C Theories of Human Nature (HP)

TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93573

Professor Slaninka

PHI 14 Introduction to Ethics (HP)

Multiple sections, multiple instructors

PHI 17 Intro to Eastern Philosophy (CC)

MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 90670

TBA

PHI 51Z Posthumanism and Animal Studies

TR 11:20-12:45, CRN: 93574

Professor Acampora

PHI 67 Evil: Religions, Philosophic and Scientific Perspectives (HP)

*same as RELI 67

TR 4:20-5:45, CRN: TBA (not on schedule yet)

Professor Teehan

PHI 103 Life, Death and Immortality (CC)

MW 4:20-5:45, CRN: 90671

TBA

PHI 114 Existentialism and Phenomenology

TR 1:00-2:25, CRN: 93575

Professor Slaninka

PHI 121 Crime and Punishment (HP)

TR 1:00-2:25, CRN: 93576

Professor Pacillo-Dellino

Contact us!

Amy Baehr, Dept. Chair

Erica Bosco, Admin. Assistant

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516-463-5612

PHI 130 Bioethics: Medicine and Morality (HP)

TR 9:40-11:05, CRN: 93577

Professor Acampora

PHI 138 Ethics & Sustainability (HP)

Online asynchronous; two individual virtual

meetings with the instructor, CRN: 92723

Professor Wallace

PHI 154 Symbolic Logic (QR)

MW 9:40-11:05, CRN: 91359

Professor Eliot

PHI 162 Philosophy of Biology (HP)

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 93578

Professor Eliot

PHI 170 Ethical Theory (HP)

TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93579

Professor Singer

PHI 180A Epistemology (WI)

MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93580

Professor Godlove

HUHC 20F H1 Enlightenment

MW 9:10-11:05, CRN: 93706

*4 credits

Professor Godlove

SEE BELOW FOR SPECIAL REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS.

FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

PHI 10F: Introduction to Philosophy (HP)

*4 credits

T/TH, 9:10-11:05, CRN: TBA

Professor Farley

PHI 14F(1): The Meaning of Life (HP)

*4 credits

TR, 12:30-2:25, CRN: 91034

Professor McEvoy

PHI 005L Insights: Love (1 credit)

In this course we will be exploring love in all its complexity and nuance. We'll use various sources ranging from bell hooks' *All About Love* to Plato's *Symposium*, in order to come closer to an understanding of what love is and the different forms love can take. Some of the questions we'll face are: (1) What is the nature of familial love? (2) What is the nature of erotic/romantic love? And (3) what does it mean to love yourself? Since we all express our understanding of love differently, students will have the freedom to pursue which medium best expresses their understanding of love, and thus the final assignment may be in the form of a paper, presentation, art project, song, or video essay.

PHI 009J Joy, Pleasure and Play (1 cr.)

This interdisciplinary course explores the value and use philosophers, psychologists, and artists have ascribed to the human propensity towards joy, pleasure, and play and the various psychic, social, and political structures that inhibit that drive.

PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP) (3 credits)

An introduction to various philosophical issues that arise in contemporary films like *Ad Astra*, *Arrival*, *Ex Machina*, *Her*, *Beautiful Boy*, *Silence*, *A Serious Man*, *Edge of Tomorrow*, *Inception*, and *The Matrix*. Some of the issues examined include the problem of skepticism, the mind-body problem, personal identity, artificial intelligence, free will and determinism, moral dilemmas, and the meaning of life.

PHI 10C Theories of Human Nature (HP) (3 credits)

Examination of classical and contemporary theories of human nature. Considers persons as moral beings, as seekers of knowledge, and as social and political animals. Emphasis on the connection between theories of human nature and conceptions of the natural world.

PHI 10F Introduction to Philosophy (HP) (4 credits) **FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY**

An introduction to some of the major questions in philosophy like: Are my actions determined? Or can I make free choices? Do I have a mind that is distinct from my brain? What makes me *me*? Could robots ever be conscious? Do animals think? Was there a beginning of the universe? Does God exist? If so, why is there evil in the world? Can I know anything with certainty? And what, if anything, is the meaning of life?

PHI 014 Introduction to Ethics (HP) (3 credits)

This course focuses on critical reasoning about ethics. It reviews major approaches to ethical values and examines the bases for why some conduct (like killing, deceit, fraud) is wrong, and why some things (like freedom, fairness, compassion) are valuable. The course also examines the relationship between ethics and society, with focus on contemporary issues. For example: ethics in professional or business contexts, health and medical contexts, ethics in personal relationships, and environmental ethics.

PHI 14F(1) The Meaning of Life (HP) (4 credits) **FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY**

This class pursues questions about the meaning of life through discussions and readings.

PHI 17 Introduction to Eastern Philosophy (CC) (3 credits)

This course is an introduction to the major schools of Indian philosophy, along with the Japanese School of Zen Buddhism and the Chinese philosophy of Taoism.

PHI 51Z Posthumanism and Animal Studies (3 credits)

This course explores the ways human beings have thought about and treated animals. Focus is on how the tradition of humanism – especially the idea that humans are exceptional or fundamentally different from other animals and should be at the center of concern – has functioned to legitimize the oppression of other animals.

PHI 067 Evil: Religions, Philosophic and Scientific Perspectives (HP) (3 credits)

If God is good, then why is the world filled with evil? Is the reality of evil an argument against the existence of God? And if God is not responsible for evil, then who is? What leads humans to do horrible things to one another? The "problem of evil" is central to both theology and the philosophy of religion, and has been so for thousands of years. However, evil is not simply a problem for the religious; it is one of the deepest challenges in creating just and stable human communities. In this course we examine how both religious thinkers and secular philosophers have come to terms with evil. We also look at contemporary scientific research on empathy and cruelty and consider what insights it may provide into the dark side of human nature. *This course is the same as RELI 67.*

PHI 103 Life, Death and Immortality (CC) (3 credits)

This course examines the concepts of life, death and immortality as represented in religious and literary texts from a range of cross-cultural sources: western and non-western monotheistic traditions, eastern traditions (e.g., Tibetan and Indian), middle-eastern (e.g., Turkish, African, and Native American). It also examines the encounter between a native tradition and a western colonial, typically Judeo-Christian presence. Discussion as well of the implications of these concepts for such issues as abortion, euthanasia, and suicide.

PHI 114 Existentialism and Phenomenology (3 credits)

Is there an essence to human nature or is one's existence radically undetermined? The course explores this question through such major themes as freedom, self-deception, death and anxiety, tragedy and the healthy self, subjectivity, and alienation. The course also examines the basic structures of consciousness, including cognitive, emotional, and behavioral states or frames of mind.

PHI 121 Crime and Punishment (HP) (3 cr.)

This course explores the question whether criminal punishment in principle, and our criminal justice system in particular, can be justified by canvassing standard philosophical views: deterrence theory, retributivism, and the moral education theory of punishment. Along the way, we explore criminal defenses, proportionality, attempts, alternative sanctions (for example shaming), mercy, rehabilitation and atonement. We also discuss the moral limits of the criminal law, and whether criminal punishment can be justified after appreciating recent advances in brain science. The main aim of the course is to empower students to understand and evaluate our practices of criminal punishment; this is of great importance because the criminal justice system is among the most coercive and potentially destructive domestic uses of state power.

PHI 130 Bioethics: Medicine & Morality (HP) (3 cr.)

An investigation of moral theory as applied to the traditional and modern practices of medicine, including techniques informed by recent developments in biological science. Meaning and value of health and disease, life and death will be explored. The course will be especially helpful to philosophy majors or minors concentrating on ethics and to any students preparing to become healthcare professionals.

PHI 138 Ethics and Sustainability (HP) (3 credits)

This course considers how we should live and how we should value the future. Should we “discount” the future, that is, value it less than the present, or is it of equal or greater value than the present? Do we, as individuals, as societies, have responsibilities to future generations? The course examines the concept of sustainability and the ethical bases for individual, corporate, and social responsibilities to live, consume, and produce sustainably. The course combines philosophical readings with practical and concrete case studies.

PHI 154 Symbolic Logic (QR) (3 credits)

A formal study of the logical properties and relationships of sentences by means of the construction of a symbolic language for sentential and predicate logic.

PHI 162 Philosophy of Biology (HP) (3 credits)

This course surveys recent philosophical discussions of biology. Topics include the reality of species, races, and ecosystems; how and what genes explain; analysis of concepts like adaptation and fitness; evolutionary explanations of morality; and assumptions about what’s natural and unnatural in ecology.

PHI 170 Ethical Theory (HP) (3 cr.)

This course is a detailed examination of some specific issue in contemporary ethical theory. Possible topics include the nature and objectivity of morality, the relationship between moral philosophy and theories of the self, the revival of a virtue-theory approach to ethics, and pluralism about values.

PHI 180A Epistemology (WI) (3 credits)

Are all your experiences caused by an evil scientist electronically stimulating your brain, which he keeps in a jar in his laboratory? Do we have any evidence to believe that the sun will rise tomorrow? If a reliable psychic told you that you were going to die tomorrow, but admitted that she had no evidence for this claim, should you believe her? Epistemology – the study of knowledge – raises these and other fascinating questions about our beliefs and knowledge. This course examines answers various philosophers have offered to these, and other, questions.

HUHC 20F H1 Enlightenment (4 credits)

“Sapere aude” – Dare to know! So wrote Immanuel Kant in 1784. We sometimes hear that the eighteenth-century European Enlightenment was a victory of reason over superstition, freedom over tyranny, and science over religion. At the same time, contemporary critics of the Enlightenment are not so sure. They allege that its legacy includes exploitation, colonialism and even totalitarianism. In this course, we will try to assess the European Enlightenment through an examination of two of its leading spokespersons: David Hume and Kant. We will see that both were ambivalent about the prospects for enlightenment, and that, even as they championed its values, they anticipated many of its critics. *This is an Honors College seminar, but there may be seats for non HUHC PHI majors and minors (for elective credit for the philosophy major or minor).*

Registration by permission of instructor only. Please contact Prof. Godlove if you are interested in enrolling: Terry.F.Godlove@Hofstra.edu.