### Department of Philosophy, Hofstra University

**Fall 2021 – Philosophy Courses**

(Descriptions on next page)

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**Three-Credit Courses:**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHI 10A</td>
<td>What Does It All Mean?: Life, Meaning and Philosophy (HP)</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>11:20-12:45</td>
<td>93481</td>
<td>Professor McEvoy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 10B</td>
<td>Philosophic Themes in Film (HP)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>2:40-4:05</td>
<td>93483</td>
<td>Professor Karofsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 10G</td>
<td>Wondering and Wandering: An Historical Tour of Western Philosophy (HP)</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>10:10-11:05</td>
<td>93482</td>
<td>Professor Acampora</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 14</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics (HP)</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple instructors</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 15</td>
<td>Law, Philosophy and Public Life(HP)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>1-2:25</td>
<td>92524</td>
<td>Professor Baehr</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 17</td>
<td>Intro to Eastern Philosophy (CC)</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>11:20-12:45</td>
<td>90865</td>
<td>Professor Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 91</td>
<td>Technology and Human Values</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>2:40-4:05</td>
<td>93485</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 103</td>
<td>Life, Death and Immortality (CC)</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>2:40-4:05</td>
<td>90866</td>
<td>Professor Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 121</td>
<td>Crime and Punishment (HP)</td>
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<td>11:20-12:45</td>
<td>92769</td>
<td>Instructor TBA</td>
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<td>PHI 154</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic (QR)</td>
<td>MW</td>
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<td>91838</td>
<td>Professor Eliot</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 161</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science (HP)</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>11:20-12:45</td>
<td>93488</td>
<td>Professor Eliot</td>
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<td>PHI 165</td>
<td>Philosophy of Language</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>1:00-2:25</td>
<td>93489</td>
<td>Professor McEvoy</td>
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<td>PHI 170</td>
<td>Ethical Theory (HP)</td>
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<td>Professor Singer</td>
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**Distance Learning**

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<tr>
<td>PHI 138</td>
<td>DL Ethics and Sustainability (HP)</td>
<td>93486</td>
<td>Professor Wallace</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 009X</td>
<td>Philosophical Explorations (1 cr.)</td>
<td>93480</td>
<td>Professor Karofsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 51D</td>
<td>Dangerous Ideas (1 cr.)</td>
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**One-Credit Courses:**

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<tr>
<td>PHI 009X</td>
<td>Philosophical Explorations (1 cr.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Karofsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 51D</td>
<td>Dangerous Ideas (1 cr.)</td>
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<td>Professor Wallace</td>
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**Four-Credit First Year Courses:**

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<td>PHI 10F</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy (HP)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>12:30-2:25</td>
<td>91498</td>
<td>Professor Karofsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 14F.01</td>
<td>The Meaning of Life (HP)</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>2:40-4:35</td>
<td>91368</td>
<td>Professor McEvoy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 14F.02</td>
<td>Law, Politics and Society (HP)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>2:40-4:35</td>
<td>91367</td>
<td>Professor Baehr</td>
</tr>
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Philosophy Courses Fall 2021

PHI 009X Philosophical Explorations (1 cr.)
This course is for students who are looking for some philosophical inspiration for an artistic or creative piece of work! Students will explore a philosophical topic of their choice and then work to develop an expression of it in an alternative medium, such as a screenplay, a short story, a poem, a piece of music, a dance, a painting, or some other artistic piece. This class has no prerequisites and is designed especially for students who have never taken a philosophy course before.

PHI 10A What Does It All Mean: Life, Meaning and Philosophy (HP) (3 cr.)
What does it all mean? What is the point of life? We’ve all wondered about these questions from time to time. There are a range of answers available. For some people, the meaning of life has to do with God; for others, it is happiness; for others, it is helping others. Some thinkers reject the idea of a “one size fits all” view of meaning, and hold that we must create our own meaning, while still others argue that life has no meaning. Whatever the answer, the question of life’s meaning quickly becomes entangled with other philosophical questions. This course will examine various approaches to the question of the meaning of life, and how this question connects with other important philosophical questions.

PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP) (3 cr.)
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 10F Introduction to Philosophy (HP) 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 10G Wondering + Wandering: An Historical Tour of Western Philosophy (HP)(3 cr.)
Philosophy proceeds by wonder, and in this course we will wander through ages spanning two and half millennia and the whole Mediterranean world from northern Africa through all of Europe in search of the wonderings of philosophers who constitute the Western tradition. Towards the end, we will briefly touch upon contemporary philosophers of America. Our twin targets of attention throughout will be metaphysics (or ontology) and epistemology (theory of knowledge).

PHI 014 Introduction to Ethics (HP) (3 cr.)
The focus of this course is 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.
Philosophy Courses Fall 2021

PHI 14F.01 The Meaning of Life (HP) (4 cr.)  FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY
This class pursues questions about the meaning of life through discussions and readings.

PHI 14F.02 Law, Politics and Society (HP) (4 cr.)  FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY
Every year, tens of thousands of young people enter law school and begin the study of legal rules. Most do so because they see the legal profession as a noble calling, and they enter it with a desire to promote justice. In their three years of full-time study of the law, however, these future lawyers will spend little time thinking critically about those rules and about the place of the lawyer in a just society. In this course, we explore how our legal rules and constitutional norms have developed; how the American legal system interacts with the rest of our political institutions; how it reflects the cultural norms, class distinctions and idiosyncrasies of our society; and how legal rules and the role of the lawyer relate to larger ideals of a just society.

PHI 15 Law, Philosophy and Public Life (HP) (3 cr.)
Introduction to political philosophies that animate contemporary politics in the United States, including libertarianism, liberalism, and conservatism. Focus is on how these philosophies play out in disagreements about issues such as climate change, taxation, race and gender, immigration, and the role of religion in public life.

PHI 17 Introduction to Eastern Philosophy (CC) (3 cr.)
Introduction to the major schools of Indian philosophy, along with the Japanese School of Zen Buddhism and the Chinese philosophy of Taoism.

PHI 51D Dangerous Ideas (1 cr.)
Ideas matter. Concepts such as cultural identity, the meaning of food, democracy, faith, race, freedom, gender, have inspired social movements, shaped ways of life and political systems, and dramatically influenced the lives of individuals. Scientific ideas (such as evolution, species extinction, climate science) and skepticism about science also have power to shape our lives. Powerful ideas can be dangerous, generating turmoil and destabilizing the status quo, or supporting the status quo when change is needed, or creating unanticipated consequences. There is no required reading for the course, but attendance is required. A student may register for any of the cross-listed sections (they are all one and the same course): ANTH 188K, DRAM 110C, PHI 051D, PSC 154B, RELI 090F, RHET 187F.

PHI 91 Technology and Human Values (3 cr.)
Investigation of the origin, nature, and status of human values in contemporary forms of technological civilization. The course combines three elements of coverage: a survey of the study of values; an introduction to philosophy of technology (including its relations to science and society); and an examination of engineering ethics and/or aesthetics (including professional duty, cultural conscience, and environmental responsibility).

PHI 103 Life, Death and Immortality (CC) (3 cr.)
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.
Philosophy Courses Fall 2021

PHI 121 Crime and Punishment (HP) (3 cr.)
This course examines the justification of punishment, proper sentencing, the death penalty, and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

PHI 138 DL Ethics and Sustainability (HP) (3 cr.)
This course considers the questions of 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 cr.)
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 161 Philosophy of Science (HP) (3 cr.)
This course is a study of the methods, assumptions, and limits of natural science with illustrations from the history of science. Topics include the problem of demarcating science from non-science, the structure of theories and explanations, how and whether science progresses, and science’s relationship to culture and values.

PHI 165 Philosophy of Language (3 cr.)
Noises come out of our mouth, ink deposits are printed onto a page, and somehow, we understand what they mean. How does this happen? Is it just a matter of having an idea in our mind? Does the environment play a role? Or is something else involved? You can refer to George Washington, despite the fact that you never met him. You can think about Harry Potter despite the fact that he never even existed. Language is so central to who we are, and to everything we do, that the philosophical puzzles it presents can often escape our notice. In this course, we will bring them into focus.

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.
Looking for some **INSPIRATION** for that art project, poem, song, script, short story, dance, piece of music, or any other creative piece of work?

Maybe a little **PHILOSOPHICAL EXPLORATION** would help!

In **PHI 9X: PHILOSOPHICAL EXPLORATIONS**, students will explore a philosophical topic of their choice and then work to develop an expression of it in alternative media, such as a screenplay, a short story, a poem, a piece of music, a dance, a painting, or some other artistic piece.

This class has no prerequisites and is designed for students who have never taken a philosophy course before.
What does it all mean? What is the point of life? We’ve all wondered about these questions from time to time. But have you noticed how they are entangled with other philosophical questions? For example, some people think that life can only have meaning if God exists. If that’s true, then we need to consider what reasons there are for thinking God exists.

Or we might think that we can give our life meaning through the free choices we make. But now we have to consider whether we truly have free will. And must our choices be ethical? If so, then we have to think about how to make ethical choices.

This course examines various approaches to the question of the meaning of life, and how this question connects with other important philosophical questions.
Like movies that make you *THINK*?

Then you should take

**PHI 10B: Philosophic Themes in Film**

In PHI 16, we will explore some key philosophical issues such as: skepticism, free will and determinism, artificial intelligence, and ethics. We will use movies like *Ad Astra, Arrival, Ex Machina, Her, Beautiful Boy, Silence, A Serious Man, Edge of Tomorrow, Inception*, and *The Matrix* in order to help us to think about these problems and analyze various solutions that are offered to them.

This course has no prerequisites.
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?

These are just a few of the questions that we’ll be discussing in this class. We will examine answers to these questions from some of the major figures from the history of philosophy – ancient, modern, and contemporary.

As an introductory course, no previous knowledge of philosophy is required.
Philosophy proceeds by wonder, and in this course we will wander through ages spanning two and half millenniums and the whole Mediterranean world from northern Africa through all of Europe in search of the wonderings of philosophers who constitute the Western tradition. Towards the end, we will briefly touch upon contemporary philosophers of America. Our twin targets of attention throughout will be metaphysics (or ontology) and epistemology (theory of knowledge).
People often make claims about good ways to live and right ways to act. What exactly do these claims mean? How, if at all, can we reasonably settle disputes about what way of life is best, and what action is right? What sort of authority do moral claims have over us? This course explores answers to these questions by studying several important moral theories.
Every year, tens of thousands of young people enter law school and begin the study of legal rules. Most do so because they see the legal profession as a noble calling, and they enter it with a desire to promote justice. In their three years of full-time study of the law, however, these future lawyers will spend little time thinking critically about those rules and about the place of the lawyer in a just society. In this course, we explore how our legal rules and constitutional norms have developed; how the American legal system interacts with the rest of our political institutions; how it reflects the cultural norms, class distinctions and idiosyncrasies of our society; and how legal rules and the role of the lawyer relate to larger ideals of a just society.
The Meaning of Life
Phi 14F/S

What does it all mean? What is the point of life? We've all wondered about these questions from time to time.

And there are a range of answers available. For some people, the meaning of life has to do with God; for others, it is happiness; for others, it is helping others. Some thinkers reject the idea of a "one size fits all" view of meaning, and hold that we must create our own meaning, while still others argue that life has no meaning.

Whatever the answer, the question of life's meaning quickly becomes entangled with other philosophical questions. This course will examine various approaches to the question of the meaning of life, and how this question connects with other important philosophical questions.
PHI 15
Law, Philosophy
and Public Life

Are you a libertarian?

A classical liberal?

A progressive liberal?

A socialist?

A conservative?

PHI 15 introduces students to these contemporary political philosophies.

In discussion, we explore the way these different political philosophies frame, and answer, questions about:

*income and wealth inequality
*reparations for slavery and Jim Crow
*global climate change
*recreational drug use
*the caregiving crisis and gender equality
*immigration

Along the way, we will explore a few other ‘isms’ including authoritarianism and nationalism.
PHI 17 (CC), 3 credits
Introduction to Eastern Philosophy

We will explore a variety of Eastern philosophical traditions, such as Buddhist and Confucian philosophies. A fascinating entry into a different way of thinking about the world, human relationships and how to live one's life. We will consider such topics as the role of suffering in life, beliefs about the afterlife, and the nature of the self.
Dangerous Ideas, 1 s.h.

Philosophy section of this course is PHI 51D

An idea that is not dangerous is not worthy of being called an idea at all.

Oscar Wilde

The most dangerous ideas in a society are not the ones being argued but the ones that are assumed.

C. S. Lewis

Ideas matter. Concepts such as cultural identity, the meaning of and practices around food, democracy, faith, race, freedom, gender, individualism, socialism have inspired social movements, shaped ways of life and political systems, and dramatically influenced the lives of individuals. Scientific ideas (such as evolution, species extinction, climate science, herd immunity) also shape our lives. Even ideas about growth, innovation, tradition, entrepreneurship resonate and influence us in subtle ways. Powerful ideas can be dangerous, generating turmoil and destabilizing the status quo, or supporting the status quo when change is needed, or creating unanticipated consequences.

This one-credit course explores some powerful ideas in human experience. Topics vary from semester to semester. Each week a faculty member from a different department will explore a concept that has shaped human experience across time and space. This course is also an opportunity to explore the different methodologies and approaches to ideas in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences with faculty from diverse departments, including Philosophy, Literature, Natural and Social Sciences.

Attendance and participation in discussion activities are obligatory and a brief reflection paper at the end of the course will be required. The course is available only on a pass/D+/D/fail basis.
FLY HIGH

INTO

PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY

AND

ENGINEERING ETHICS

PHI-91/TPP-112

Department of Philosophy
Birth. Life. Death. And then?


Explore western and non-western views on these questions.
CRIME and
PUNISHMENT

Can a system of criminal punishment be justified?

Can our system of criminal punishment be justified?

We dedicate the semester to these questions. Along the way, we explore criminal defenses, proportionality, attempts, alternative sanctions, mercy, rehabilitation and atonement, prison abolition and the relevance of advances in brain science.

In this class, we question everything!
This course examines
- the concept of sustainability,
- the nature of obligations to future generations, the values in our way of life,
- the bases for ethical duties to live, act, produce and consume sustainably

The course also considers the duties of individuals (as citizens, consumers, business leaders, engineers, citizens) as well as of corporate actors.

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Brundtland Commission, *Our Common Future*

To be unsustainable is to engage in business practices that destroy the very conditions upon which the practices depend.

Ray Anderson, *Confessions of a Radical Industrialist*
We all reason with ideas. We all also know how to reason about quantities. But consider how much better we become at reasoning about quantities when we learn a little math: we learn how to compute powerfully and how to think more clearly about many topics. The aim of this course is learning to do something parallel with statements and ideas. You will become proficient at using a formal system for representing statements. This will yield techniques for assessing the consistency of statements and the validity of arguments. We will also focus on recognizing the logical structure of ordinary statements, to which we can then apply our new tools. Familiarity with this formal system will furnish you with a powerful skill for analyzing arguments—in your own writing and in others’.
Leaders in science and policy need to know how to discuss the justification of scientific knowledge thoughtfully.

- What gives us confidence that science gets the world right?
- How do we recognize when science goes wrong, or becomes pseudoscience?
- What does it mean to explain something, and are there any limits to what we can explain or understand scientifically?

Working with philosophical arguments and examples from the history of science, this course examines how our understanding of the justification of scientific knowledge has developed from 1900 to the present.
Noises come out of our mouth, ink deposits are printed onto a page, and somehow, we understand what they mean. How does this happen? Is it just a matter of having an idea in our mind? Does the environment play a role? Or is something else involved?

You can refer to George Washington, despite the fact that you never met him (and everyone who ever did meet him is dead). You can think about Harry Potter despite the fact that no-one ever met, or could have met, him.

Language is so central to who we are, and to everything we do, that the philosophical puzzles it presents can often escape our notice. In this course, we will bring them into focus.
Moral values are deeply felt. Think about how you feel about friendship, for instance, or more grandly about slavery being just plain wrong. Moral values are also sometimes hotly disputed. Think about the abortion debate, or less grandly about how telling the truth and being kind can come into conflict.

If we focus on morality’s depth, we tend to think of values as **objective** or **real**.

If we focus on the disputes about morality, we tend to think of values as **subjective** or **relative**—and to condemn belief in objective values as dogmatic, and as a fantasy.

Can we do justice to morality’s depth and also to the persistence of moral disputes? **What are the clearest and best ways to think about moral value?**