Department of Philosophy, Hofstra University
Fall 2021 – Philosophy Courses
(Descriptions on next page)

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Three-Credit Courses:

PHI 10A What Does It All Mean?: Life, Meaning and Philosophy (HP)
MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 93481
Professor McEvoy

PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP)
TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93483
Professor Karofsky
TR 4:20-5:45, CRN: 93484
Instructor TBA

PHI 10G Wondering and Wandering: An Historical Tour of Western Philosophy (HP)
MWF 10:10-11:05, CRN: 93482
Professor Acampora

PHI 14 Introduction to Ethics (HP)
Multiple sections, multiple instructors
One section WI

PHI 15 Law, Philosophy and Public Life (HP)
TR 1-2:25, CRN: 92524
Professor Baehr

PHI 17 Intro to Eastern Philosophy (CC)
MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 90865
Professor Miller

PHI 91 Technology and Human Values
MW 2:40-4:05, CRN 93485
Professor Acampora

PHI 103 Life, Death and Immortality (CC)
MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 90866
Professor Miller

PHI 121 Crime and Punishment (HP)
TR 11:20-12:45, 92769
Instructor TBA

PHI 154 Symbolic Logic (QR)
MW 9:40-11:05, CRN: 91838
Professor Eliot

PHI 16l Philosophy of Science (HP)
MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 93488
Professor Eliot

PHI 165 Philosophy of Language
TR 1:00-2:25, CRN 93489
Professor McEvoy

PHI 170 Ethical Theory (HP)
TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93490
Professor Singer

Distance Learning

PHI 138 DL Ethics and Sustainability (HP)
Asynchronous online, CRN: 93486
Professor Wallace

One-Credit Courses:

PHI 009X Philosophical Explorations (1 cr.)
Some Mondays (TBA) 6:30-8:30, CRN: 93480
Professor Karofsky

PHI 51D Dangerous Ideas (1 cr.)
W 2:40-4:05 begins mid-semester, CRN: 92949
Professor Wallace

Four-Credit First Year Courses:

PHI 10F Introduction to Philosophy (HP)
TR 12:30-2:25, CRN: 91498
Professor Karofsky

PHI 14F.01 The Meaning of Life (HP)
MW 2:40-4:35, CRN: 91368
Professor McEvoy

PHI 14F.02 Law, Politics and Society (HP)
TR 2:40-4:35, CRN: 91367
Professor Baehr
Phylosophy 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 Philosphic 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.

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.
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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.