

Hofstra University

Department of Philosophy

Fall 2023 Courses

(3 credits unless otherwise stated)

PHI 05F Insights: Friendship

*1 credit

TR 3:00-4:00 (10/3-11/21) CRN: 93391

Professor Singer

PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP)

TR 1:00-2:25, CRN: 92215

Professor Karofsky

MW 4:20-5:45, CRN: 93392

Professor Farley

TR 4:20-5:45, CRN 92216

Professor Farley

PHI 14 Introduction to Ethics (HP)

Multiple sections, multiple instructors

PHI 15 Law, Philosophy & Public Life (HP)

MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 91868

Professor Baehr

PHI 17 Intro to Eastern Philosophy (CC)

TR 1:00-2:25, CRN: 90726

Professor Miller

PHI 51A Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

*Cognitive Science Minor credit

M 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93394

Professor Dardis

PHI 091 Tech & Human Values

(Same as TPP 112)

TR 11:20-12:45, CRN 93395

Professor Acampora

PHI 103 Life, Death and Immortality (CC)

TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 90727

Professor Miller

PHI 125 Philosophy & Race (HP)

*Africana Studies Minor credit

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

Professor Baehr

PHI 138 Ethics & Sustainability (HP)

CRN: 93396

Professor Wallace

Online asynchronous; two individual meetings with the instructor per semester

PHI 154 Symbolic Logic (QR)

MW 9:40-11:05, CRN: 91647

Professor Eliot

PHI 161 Philosophy of Science (HP)

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 93398

Professor Eliot

Contact us!

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PHI 163 Philosophy of Religion (HP)

TR 11:20-12:45, CRN 93399

Professor Karofsky

PHI 165 Philosophy of Language

TR 9:40-11:05, CRN 93400

Professor McEvoy

FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

PHI 10F: Introduction to Philosophy (HP)

T/TH, 2:40-4:05, CRN: 91224

Professor Karofsky

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

*4 credits

TR, 12:30-2:25, CRN:, 91127

Professor McEvoy

PHI 14F(2): Law, Politics, and Society (HP)

*4 credits

M/W 9:10-11:05, CRN: 92770

Ashira Ostrow

PHI 005F Insights: Friendship (1 credit)

Friendship is a crucial part of a good human life. This one credit course explores puzzles that arise about this crucial and familiar relationship. For example: Can friendship be one-sided or does it have to be mutual? Can friendship be shallow? Do friends have to be similar or can they be very different from one another? And what is the value of friendship in the larger context of things we value (e.g., ambition, morality)?

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 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 14F(2) Law, Politics and Society (HP) (4 credits) **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 credits)

This course is an 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 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 51A Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (3 credits)

Intelligent creatures use tools. The smarter the tool, the less intelligent work the user has to do. In the last 70 years or so we have been creating tools that are themselves intelligent: what we call “artificial intelligence” (AI). In this class we examine the following questions about AI, among others: (1) What is it? What is the technology like (at present)? (2) What cognitive or psychological properties do the systems actually have: for example, are they intelligent? sentient? can one fall in love? lie? (3) If they don't have properties like these now, could they? What are the limits to this kind of technology? (3) What should we be doing about AI now? Is government control necessary, or even possible at this point? (4) What next? What will AI be like in 5, 50 or 500 years? How will it change us? Are we on the verge of turning into something that is no longer “human”?

PHI 91 Technology and Human Values (3 credits)

This course is an 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 (including professional duty, cultural conscience, and environmental responsibility).

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 125 Race and Philosophy (HP) (3 credits)

This course engages students in an exploration of the ideas of race, racism, and racial justice through a philosophic lens. The aim is for students to figure out for themselves what they think about these ideas. We begin by asking: What is race? In what way is race 'real'? (Is it biologically real or socially real? And what do these mean?) We then explore racism. How we should understand it? What cognitive mechanisms does it involve? And how it might be countered? We conclude with an exploration of racial justice. How we should understand the ideal of racial justice? And how does an ideal of racial justice relate to what we take race and racism to be?

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

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 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 161 Philosophy of Science (HP) (3 credits)

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 163 Philosophy of Religion (HP) (3 credits)

This course is an exploration of various debates between theists, atheists and agnostics, including: whether there is adequate proof of God's existence; whether the existence of the universe can be explained if there is no God; whether God's existence is necessary for morality; whether life can have meaning and purpose without God; and whether there can ever be adequate responses to any of these questions.

PHI 165 Philosophy of Language (3 credits)

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.