

# Hofstra University Department of Philosophy

## Spring 2024 Courses

(3 credits unless otherwise stated)

### Contact us!

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### **PHI 10A What Does It All Mean? Life, Meaning and Philosophy (HP)**

TR 1-2:25, CRN: 22459

Professor McEvoy

### **PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP)**

MW 9:40-11:05, CRN: 23565

Professor Farley

TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 22314

Professor Karofsky

TR 4:20-5:45, CRN: 22063

Professor Karofsky

### **PHI 10D Free Will and Responsibility (HP)**

MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 23499

Professor Dardis

### **PHI 14 Introduction to Ethics (HP)**

Multiple sections, multiple instructors

### **PHI 52 Philosophy and Popular Culture (HP)**

MW 4:20-5:45, CRN: 23600

Professor Farley

### **PHI 90 Contemporary Ethical Issues (HP)**

MWF 10:10-11:05, CRN: 23564

Professor Marino

### **PHI 115 Philosophy and Literature**

MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 23494

Professor McEvoy

### **PHI 120 Philosophy of Law (HP)**

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 23495

Professor Baehr

### **PHI 133 Ethics & Natural Environment (HP)**

TR 9:40-11:05, CRN: 23497

Professor Acampora

### **PHI 143 Classical Modern Philosophy (WI)**

TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 20082

Professor Singer

### **PHI 150 Critical Reasoning (HP)**

TR 1:00-2:25, CRN: 21348

Professor Acampora

### **PHI 164 Philosophy of Mind**

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 23498

Professor Dardis

### FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

### **PHI 14S The Meaning of Life (HP) \*4credits**

TR 2:40-4:35, CRN: 21012

Professor McEvoy

### **PHI 14S Law, Politics and Society (HP)**

MW 2:40-4:35, CRN: 23563

Professor Baehr

### NOAH SECTIONS:

### **PHI 90 Contemporary Ethical Issues (HP)**

MWF 11:20-12:15, CRN: 23493

Professor Marino

**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. Great choice for a first course in philosophy.

**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 10D Free Will and Responsibility** (HP) (3 credits)

Moral responsibility requires free choice; if you were unable to do anything other than what you did, then you can't be held morally responsible for it. But free choice seems impossible. The world operates by its own principles, whether those are the laws of physics, the dictates of a deity, or the operations of your own brain. This course analyzes responses to this problem, from accepting a world without the freedom to arguing that human beings are radically not part of the world.

**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 14S (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 14S (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 52 Philosophy and Popular Culture** (HP) (3 credits)

Thought about philosophical issues is provoked by popular culture – by blogs and twitter, by TV shows, comic books, video games and films. This course pursues a set of philosophical questions through engagement with selected examples of popular culture.

**PHI 90 Contemporary Ethical Issues** (HP) (3 credits)

This course critically examines various positions taken on contemporary moral issues and dilemmas. Possible topics include abortion, sexism, euthanasia, sexual preference, marriage, racism, privacy, capital punishment, suicide, civil disobedience, punishment, punishment and the mentally ill, and environmental ethics.

**PHI 115 Philosophy and Literature** (3 cr.)

An investigation into philosophical issues raised by or within literature. Possible topics include the puzzle of why we care for literary characters that do not exist, the claim that some truths can be revealed only through literature, the question of whether an immoral work can be a literary work, and the exploration in literary works of philosophical ideas like utopia, evil, free will, and many others.

**PHI 120 Philosophy of Law (HP) (3 credits)**

This course explores prominent answers philosophers have offered to the question ‘What is law?’ Along the way, we explore the idea of the rule of law, the relationship between law and the moral value of justice, the relationship between law and power, the centrality of rules and principles to the law, and the nature of legal reasoning.

**PHI 133 Ethics and the Natural Environment (HP) (3 credits)**

This course explores the relationship between human nature and the natural environment. It considers whether human beings have ethical duties to the natural environment – including to animals and other species (e.g., plants and even microorganisms) – and what the basis for such duties might be. The course considers also whether only living things have ethical value or whether the environment itself has ethical significance.

**PHI 143 Classical Modern Philosophy (3 cr.)**

In this course we will examine the views of 17th and 18th century philosophers about knowledge and the nature of reality. The topics we will discuss include perception, the limits and the justification of knowledge, substance (is reality purely physical?), cause and effect, free will, personal identity, and the existence of God. We will also pay attention to the efforts these philosophers made to understand and advance science, to deal with turmoil about religious authority and religious beliefs (we’ll develop a working understanding of various ways to be a heretic), and—directly or indirectly—to improve human life.

**PHI 150 Critical Reasoning (HP) (3 cr.)**

This course is a study of reasoning and argument as they appear in ordinary usage. The aim of the course is to increase the student’s skills in critical thinking: how to recognize unsupported assertions, how to analyze and assess arguments encountered in everyday life, and how to formulate and present cogent arguments of one’s own.

**PHI 164 Philosophy of Mind (3 cr.)**

Philosophy of mind discusses issues like the mind/body problem, artificial intelligence, the nature of consciousness and intentionality, and mental causation. Some typical questions are: What are minds? Are they the same or different from souls? How could brains possibly think? Can animals, babies or computers think? Can persons change bodies? Could you or I survive the death of our bodies?