

PHIL 2310: Introduction to Logic

Dr. Gary Thiher

MWF 2:00-2:50

Irby 307

A thorough grounding in the basics of logic – i.e., in the study of good form in arguments and evidence. Includes deductive logic through the basics of modern symbolic techniques and a review of criteria for inductive logic in uses ranging from sample surveys to scientific method. (All majors and minors are required to take either PHIL 2310 or PHIL 3310.)

PHIL 3300: Greek and Roman Philosophy

Dr. Benjamin Rider

MWF 1:00-1:50

Irby 102

This course is a survey of the major figures and philosophical movements in Greece and Rome, from the beginnings of philosophy in Ionia up through the early Roman Empire. The main focus of the course will be on close reading of texts by Plato and Aristotle, but we will also spend several weeks on pre-Socratic philosophers and Hellenistic philosophy. This course is required for all philosophy majors. Philosophy minors may use this course to fulfill 3 credits in the “History of Philosophy” area or as a general elective.

PHIL 3310: Medieval Philosophy

Dr. Jacob Held

TTh 12:15-1:30

Irby 316

An investigation of the development of Western philosophy from the early Middle Ages to the Renaissance, or the millennium ranging from 500-1500 CE, roughly. We will focus on major thinkers in this time span beginning with St. Augustine and ending with the late medieval thinking of the fourteenth century including William of Ockham and John Duns Scotus. Issues to be covered include natural law, the existence and nature of God, the problem of universals, realism versus nominalism, and free-will. But there is much to be covered and we will only be scratching the surface.

PHIL 3345: Feminist Philosophy

Dr. Taine Duncan

MWF 2:00-2:50

Irby 102

In this course we will analyze the tradition and breadth of feminist philosophy. We will focus on the ways that feminist philosophical positions have emerged from, provided challenges to, and reached beyond canonical philosophy. We will also explore the various feminist movements and periods within the tradition of feminist philosophy itself—addressing the political, existential, epistemological and ethical questions inherent in the feminist tradition. Probing further, we will discuss the ways in which feminist ideas affect our own lives and lived experience.

PHIL 3375: Philosophy of Mind

Dr. Jesse Butler

TTh 2:40

Irby 307

This course will survey philosophical issues about the mind, with emphasis on the contemporary theories and debates that have made the "philosophy of mind" one of the most active areas of philosophy today. Topics covered will include consciousness (What is it? Can it be scientifically explained?), the relationship(s) between minds, brains, bodies, and the world (e.g. the mind/body problem, embodied experience, and the extended mind hypothesis), souls and selves (Do they exist? If so, what are they?), mental disorders, animal minds, and artificial intelligence. Students will learn about a variety of different perspectives on these interrelated issues and will be encouraged to critically analyze them in developing their own thoughts about the nature of minds and what we know (or don't know) about them. Philosophy students may use this course to fulfill 3 credit hours in the "Epistemology & Metaphysics" area or as a general elective. Cognitive Neuroscience students may use this course to fulfill 3 credit hours of required coursework.

PHIL 4306: Analytic Philosophy

TTh 2:40-3:55

Irby 316

PHIL 4340: Meaning of Life

Dr. Charles Harvey

TTh 9:25-10:40

Irby 311

This course will focus on philosophical issues revolving around the meaning(s) of life. We will approach the issue through three broad conceptual trajectories: Philosophers who argue that (1) life is absurd unless there is a God (and there is one), (2) philosophers who argue that life is absurd because there isn't a God, and (3) philosophers who argue that life can be meaningful in either case; it can be lived with a finite, celebratory significance with or without positing a God. We will read some of the essays in Klemke and Cahn's *The Meaning of Life*, most of Herbert Fingarette's *Death: Philosophical Soundings*, and work through Ernest Becker's classic work, *The Denial of Death*. As a Capstone Course for students in philosophy and religious studies, students will be expected to play a significant participatory role in the class. (Successful completion of the course capstone course credit, if so desired, and 3 hours credit in the "Social, Political, Values" area in Philosophy or 3 hours elective credit in Religious Studies.)