

Philosophy Graduate Course Offerings Fall 2023

PHIL 527: Social Epistemology
Professor Jill Dieterle
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

Traditional theories of knowledge are individualistic in that the focus is how individual epistemic agents can properly use their cognitive devices to come to know things. But knowledge production has social elements. Social epistemology explores how social-epistemic activities or practices impact the epistemic outcomes of particular agents or groups. One of our topics this semester will be the dynamics of testimony. When is testimony trustworthy? What happens when people's testimony is unjustifiably discounted? Other topics we'll explore this semester include trust and trustworthiness (both within and between diverse communities of knowers), peer disagreement (when is it reasonable to revise one's beliefs in the face of disagreement?), and epistemologies of ignorance.

PHIL 527 counts as a course in the Social Justice Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 595: Phenomenology
Professor Laura McMahan
MW 2:00 – 3:15

Phenomenology is the rigorous description of experience as it is actually lived—a more difficult task than it might initially seem! In this course, we will study some of the foundational figures and texts in the phenomenological movement in Germany and France in the twentieth-century, as well as a number of more contemporary writings in the recent area of study that has come to be

known as “Critical Phenomenology.” The course will introduce students to foundational texts from classical figures in phenomenology, such as Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. It will then explore the specifically social- and political significance of classical phenomenological concepts and themes, such as the intentional structure of consciousness, being-in-the-world, embodiment, and habit, through an engagement with recent and contemporary phenomenological scholars working on topics of gender and race, war and incarceration, and revolutionary action and transformation.

PHIL 595 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 601: First Year Seminar in Philosophy
Professor Brian Bruya
MW 3:30 – 4:45

An in-depth study of one particular philosophical issue. Content will vary from year to year. Limited to first year Philosophy M.A. students.
