

Philosophy Graduate Course Offerings Summer and Fall 2024

Summer 2024

PHIL 513 Global Justice
Professor Peter Higgins
Hyflex* T/Th 1:00 – 3:40

This is a course in global political theory and philosophy. In contrast to ethics (whose concern is the moral assessment of individual action and character), political theory/philosophy is concerned with the justice of social institutions—for example, the nation-state, the family, economic systems, gender roles, and racial classification systems.

Traditional political theory and philosophy have focused on justice within the borders of the nation-state. In contrast, this course is focused on the normative analysis of global institutions (economic, political, and social). Questions that may be considered in this course include:

- Should the interests of compatriots receive greater weight than those of foreigners in moral and political decision-making?
- What moral duties do affluent societies have to alleviate global poverty?
- By what policies may nation-states justly restrict immigration?
- How should we reason about and respond to apparent gender oppression occurring outside of our own society?
- What would a just global order look like?

PHIL 513 counts as a course in the Social Justice Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

**A Hyflex class meets in person and online (on Zoom) simultaneously. Students register for the online section or the in-person section.*

Fall 2024

PHIL 560: Philosophy of Language
Professor Jill Dieterle
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, “it means what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less.”

“The question is,” said Alice, “whether you CAN make words mean so many different things.”

-- Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass* Chapter 6

This iteration of PHIL 560 will examine how language shapes and is shaped by social and political factors. We'll begin with methodological and foundational issues in the Philosophy of Language. Then we will turn to literature that examines the use of language to harm: racist and sexist language, pejoratives, microaggressions, and slurs. We'll also talk about the ways in which language is used to propagandize and promote particular ideologies.

PHIL 560 counts as EITHER a course in the Social Justice Division OR the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program. Please let the Graduate Coordinator if you would like it to count as Social Justice.

PHIL 570: Contemporary European Philosophy
Professor Laura McMahon
MW 11:00 – 12:15

This course will be devoted to a study of Continental Political Philosophy in the 20th and 21st centuries. With readings from figures such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Theodore Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, Hannah Arendt, Judith Butler, and Wendy Brown, we will think about the inherently political nature of human identity; the multifaceted nature of political oppression; the nature of political ideology; the meaning of fascism; and the nature of democracy.

PHIL 570 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 594: Topics in Chinese Philosophy: *The Dialogues of Confucius*

Professor Brian Bruya
Hyflex T/Th 3:30 – 4:45

The *Analects* of Confucius, though terse and epigrammatic, is a foundational text of Confucianism, providing us with core philosophical concepts that informed the tradition for centuries, right up to the present day. The *Dialogues of Confucius* is more expansive, purporting to fill in some of the blanks in the *Analects*, giving us a more comprehensive view of the philosophy of Confucius—but it has been suspected of being a forgery and presents problems that extend beyond philosophy to textual history and hermeneutics.

In this course, we will begin with the philosophy of the *Analects* and the *Dao De Jing*. After setting our conceptual and historical foundation, we will give a close reading to the *Dialogues of Confucius*, using a draft manuscript of the first complete English translation. What can the *Dialogues* tell us about Confucian philosophy? In terms of metaphysics, political philosophy, ethics, and psychology, what gaps does it fill and how can it inform future research? This is an exploratory course that will require students to quickly master cross-cultural material and use sophisticated interpretive techniques to access and evaluate it.

Prior exposure to Chinese philosophy is not required.

PHIL 594 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 601: First Year Seminar in Philosophy
Professor John Koolage
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

The First Year Seminar is intended to situate incoming students in the MA program as well as provide a skill-based, deep dive, into at least one area of current research. In this year's seminar, students will engage with a current research program in either philosophy of psychology, philosophy of archeology, or feminist (or general) philosophy of science. Of greatest interest to me are projects in mindshaping, paleontology, and theoretic (and conceptual) scientific pluralism, but I imagine the learners in the class will have a significant say in our readings. Regardless of content, students should expect to practice a number of philosophical skills, including reading philosophy, charitable analysis, writing for inquiry and presentation, responding to referee feedback, and teaching in service of learning.
