

Philosophy Course Offerings Summer 2021

Summer I: 5/5 – 6/22

Philosophy 100: Introduction to Philosophy
Professor Michael Scoville
Online

This course will explore philosophical views on what it means to live a good life in a world marked by injustice, environmental destruction, and seemingly intractable disagreements among people who inhabit different information and social universes. The course will be divided into four broad topics. First, we'll examine the contours of individual well-being, taking into account our limitedness and fragility, the role of luck in how our lives go, and the relation of well-being to (in)justice. Second, we'll consider the particular good of being with and connected to others—notably, through friendship, love, and various kinds of social solidarity. Third, we'll consider what it means for nonhuman living things and nature to flourish and reflect on how caring about that might connect to our living good lives. We'll also grapple with the cognitive, emotional, and practical challenges of acknowledging the widespread degradation of nature. Finally, we'll explore the good of being a participant in epistemic communities that share a common world of facts and that aim at truthful understanding. Here, we'll reflect on, among other things, the challenges posed by news and social media “echo chambers,” which have come to structure social experience and understanding for so many people.

PHIL 100 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 110: Philosophies of Life
Professor Michael Scoville
Online

An introduction to differing accounts of what constitutes a meaningful life and how an individual can attain it. Representative topics include the notions of

pleasure, love, empathy and power as discussed by such writers as Plato, Epicurus, Nietzsche, Lao Tse, and Buddha.

PHIL 110 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Reasoning
Professor Jeremy Proulx
Online

This is a course about the analysis, evaluation, and construction of language and arguments. It is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate the constant barrage of claims for our support, attention, and time. Companies want to sell us their products; politicians want to convince us that their ideas are the best ones; advocates for a wide variety of causes and movements vie for our support; writers want to convince us of their point of view. All of the forces at work in our society have powerful resources at their disposal to persuade us. For this reason it is essential to be able to critically evaluate the information that is thrown at us from an increasing number of sources every day. This class will provide you with the tools necessary to subject the arguments and claims of others to critical and systematic analysis. We will also spend a good deal of time learning how to make our own arguments better. By using some basic methods of argumentation and persuasion and by learning how to identify and avoid some common argumentative errors, we will develop an ability to both scrutinize and create arguments with maturity and insight.

PHIL 120 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 120 fulfills the Logic and Reasoning requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 223 Medical Ethics
Professor Jill Dieterle
Online

This course is an examination of ethical issues in medicine and health care.

For example: The COVID-19 pandemic raised many ethical questions. At the beginning of the pandemic, we didn't have sufficient resources to treat all of those who contracted the virus. What was the right thing to do? This is an instance of the problem of determining the fair allocation of scarce of medical resources.

In this class, we will talk about issues of justice that arise in the context of health care. We'll also talk about other topics in medical ethics: patient autonomy and informed consent, reproductive technology, genetic manipulation, and additional related issues.

PHIL 223 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 223 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 226 Feminist Theory
Instructor TBA
Online

A consideration of philosophical issues concerning the nature and status of women. Readings from both traditional and contemporary sources. Topics may include scientific and religious views, the ideal society and women's place in it, varieties of feminism, views on sexuality, family and reproduction, and work and the economy.

PHIL 226 fulfills the General Education requirement for either Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities or Global Awareness.

PHIL 226 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.

Summer II: 6/23 – 8/11

PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy
Professor John Koolage
Online

We will explore some traditionally interesting philosophical questions in this class, including whether or not we have free will, whether minds and bodies are separable, whether or not we need a government, and whether or not you can know that you are in the real world, rather than, say, the Matrix. While these questions are interesting in their own right, the main goal of the class is to introduce students to a way of thinking – a philosophical way of thinking – that focuses on arguments, reasons to believe, and the nature of evidence and its relation to belief. This style of thinking is beneficial all those who want to lead reflective and thoughtful lives.

PHIL 100 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 220 Ethics
Professor Brian Coffey
Online

This course will introduce students to the philosophical study of Ethics by exploring the tools and techniques of philosophical inquiry, and utilizing those tools to evaluate several important moral theories. Topics for discussion might include: Is anything really right or wrong, or is it all 'subjective'? What is the relation of ethics to law? What is its relation to religion, or society? What, if anything, is truly valuable? Which features matter most when judging the ethics of a situation? Is there one best moral theory or do several theories reveal important insights into what we ought to do? etc. We will carefully and critically read both classical and contemporary writings in ethics with the goal of not only understanding what others have written before us, but also how we can use their insights to help us deliberate about ethical choices in our own lives. We will not be passively learning about ethics—we will be *putting our ethical expertise into practice*.

PHIL 220 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 220 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 221 Business Ethics
Professor John Ouko
Online

In this course we consider and reflect on ethical questions regarding business practices in a global environment. Students will be introduced to ethical theory and critical reasoning. They will use these tools to critically examine the market system itself, as well as practices of multinational business. Issues that will be explored include: Responsibilities of corporations with regard to employees and the environment, moral boundaries of markets, marketing ethics, ethical issues in financial services, cross-cultural issues in business ethics, moral obligations of multinational corporations, et cetera.

PHIL 221 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 221 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 226 Feminist Theory
Professor Kate Mehuron
Online

This course critically evaluates feminist critiques of society and feminist visions of the ideal egalitarian society. Questions examined in this course include: What is a just society? What constitutes equal treatment? What is oppression? How does oppression relate to social equality? How do ethnicity, race, and sexual identities intersect with gender to affect social equality? Are women and

men essentially different, or are such differences the result of socialization? What are the major theories, and conceptual differences that inform feminist social change movements? The course will use a variety of feminist philosophical sources to explore these questions.

*PHIL 226 fulfills the General Education requirement for either Area IV:
Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities or Global Awareness.*

PHIL 226 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.
