

Philosophy Graduate Course Offerings Winter 2022

PHIL 548: Environmental Values, Justice, and Policy
Professor Michael Scoville
TR 3:30 – 4:45

This course will explore philosophical perspectives on value and social justice and their relevance for environmental action and policy. We'll start by working through some foundational texts on justice, giving special attention to the influential theories of John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum, and Iris Marion Young. We'll then study a recent book by Darrel Moellendorf, in which the tools of normative philosophy are used to inform and critique global climate policy (specifically in the institutional context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). In the course of our study, we'll consider a number of specific issues and debates, such as: how to conceptualize the value of species and biodiversity; how to reconcile global poverty-alleviation and human development goals with environmental protection; and the plurality of values relevant to supporting and motivating environmental action and policy.

PHIL 548 counts as a course in the Social Justice Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 576: Topics in Metaphysics: Non-Human Animals
Professor Jill Dieterle
TR 12:30 – 1:45

Ethical arguments regarding the treatment of non-human animals usually rely on metaphysical claims about the kinds of beings animals are and what kinds of properties they have. In this class, we put the ethical questions aside and focus on the metaphysics. We'll talk about the distinction between natural kinds and socially constructed kinds and how it applies to the human/non-human boundary. We'll also talk about species: what kind of "thing" is a

species? Do species have properties and attributes that go beyond what individual members of that species have?

PHIL 529 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 576 is repeatable for credit, as long as the topic is different.

PHIL 581: Philosophy of the Life Sciences
Professor John Koolage
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

Philosophy of specific sciences deploys philosophers' attention to philosophical issues raised within particular sciences. This course introduces students to this practice by considering research programs in the life sciences. In this iteration of the class, we will consider two broad sciences – the study of non-human animals and the study of psychiatry. Recent work regarding non-human animals, in particular Animal Ethology and Animal Cognition, raises interesting questions about the nature of minds and their study. We will read one of Kristin Andrews' recent books focused on these questions. In the philosophy of psychiatry, there is a fascinating set of questions regarding the nature of psychiatry as a science and how we should interpret successful research agendas in psychiatry. More specifically, there are some questions about what constitutes a diagnostic kind, what kind of thing that is, and whether psychiatry diagnoses "diseases." We will read Jon Tsou's very new book where he weighs in on these issues and provides an introduction to the central questions in the philosophy of psychiatry. Time permitting, we will also do a bit of philosophy of biology, wherein we will consider the evolution of altruism.

PHIL 581 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 602: Teaching Seminar and Practicum

Professor Kate Mehuron

Remote/synchronous MW 12:30 – 1:45

The aim of this seminar is to critically engage with the scholarship on teaching and learning, especially as it pertains to teaching philosophy. Students will pursue meaningful, practical experiences, with the goal of self-preparation to teach philosophy at the college level. Students will develop an introductory philosophy course with planned readings, assignments, and activities. We will identify and engage challenges associated with teaching philosophy, including concerns of inclusivity, diversity, and globalization. Students will develop a teaching philosophy that is an outcome of their own course and learning activities design. This course is required for Graduate Assistants who wish to be considered for the opportunity to teach their own 100-level course in subsequent semesters.