

Philosophy Graduate Course Offerings Winter 2023

PHIL 523: Philosophical Perspectives on Disability
Professor Jill Dieterle
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

Disability discourse classifies people on the basis of characteristics that are observed or inferred and being classified as disabled is often a source of discrimination and oppression. As such, standard philosophical analyses of discrimination and oppression apply. Yet issues arise for those who are disabled that might not for other oppressed groups. For example, philosophical accounts of autonomy, agency, dependence, and even personhood often assume able bodies and minds. PHIL 423/523 examines and questions the abled assumptions at the core of most western political and moral philosophy. We will also examine and critique philosophical accounts of the quality of life.

PHIL 523 counts as a course in the Social Justice Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 542: Philosophy of Mind
Professor John Koolage
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

In this iteration of Philosophy of Mind, we will survey three areas of current research in Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science. We will read work directed at (1) Folk Psychology, (2) Embodied Cognition, and (3) Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence. We will examine new work in Folk Psychology, the toolkit we use to predict and explain the behavior of other humans (and maybe some other non-human animals). This work includes understanding when and why we explain others behavior, and the nature of the toolkit itself. We will read work by Shannon Spaulding and Suilin Lavalley, and probably Fodor, Sellars, and Andrews. For our section on Embodied Cognition, we will begin with an organizing text by Larry Shapiro. I have some interest in pursuing related work by Clark and Chalmers that aims to extend the embodied

paradigm to objects in the world. In our third section, we will begin with work by Cameron Buckner on Deep Learning, but I hope to advance our understanding of the role of AI research in Cognitive Science more broadly.

PHIL 542 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

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

In this course, we'll explore philosophical perspectives on nature, value, and justice, and consider how those perspectives should inform environmental decision-making and policy. We'll start by working through some texts that aim to clarify concepts of nature that are important for environmental decision-making and policy. Then, we'll turn to some foundational texts on social justice, giving special attention to the influential theories of John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum, and Iris Marion Young. We'll then study several chapters from a recent book by political philosopher 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). Over the course of the semester, we'll consider a number of specific issues and debates, including: contemporary concepts of nature; the relation of concepts of nature to value and normative reasons; what we owe each other as a matter of justice; the normative status of nature/environments within accounts of justice; how to reconcile global poverty-alleviation and human development goals with environmental protection in the context of global climate policy; 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 602: Teaching Seminar and Practicum
Professor Brian Bruya
W 2:00 – 4:45

This course will survey contemporary work related to the teaching of philosophy and the philosophy of teaching philosophy. Students will also engage, in a discipline specific way, with the scholarship of teaching and learning. The course will provide students with meaningful, practical experiences, with the goal of preparing them to teach philosophy at the college level.