PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COURSES

PHIL 3000: INTRO SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY-CTW
TR 10:55-1:25  ED COX
Death and the Meaning of Life: Contemporary science has undermined the anthropocentric view of humanity as special creations with a unique purpose in God's grand design and replaced it with a vision of the universe as a purposeless clockwork, a vast machine grinding on with no purpose, plan, or foreknowledge. Humans have no special place or function within that universe; we are insignificant parts, temporary accidents in the history of the universe, destined for death and nothingness as our brief lives play out against an indifferent cosmos. This worldview, consistent with our best scientific understanding, has left us with no clear conception of our purpose in the universe or meaning in our lives. Can our lives have meaning if they have no function or purpose beyond what we determine for ourselves? Can we manufacture meaning simply by deciding that our actions are to have meaning to us? What is the meaning of life anyway? We think of death, the permanent end of our existence, as the ultimate evil, but how could it be bad for us if, when we die, we no longer exist to be harmed? If death is bad for us, why is it bad? We will consider these and other questions about the nature of death and the meaning of life.

PHIL 3020: HISTORY-WESTERN PHILOSOPHY II: MODERN*
MW 10:55-1:25  SANDRA DWYER
This course offers a survey of the history of early modern philosophy (roughly, 1650–1800). The philosophers of this period sought to understand the implications of the Scientific Revolution—what it means for our understanding of God, the universe, and the place of human beings within it. In this course, we shall try to learn from their efforts. We'll concentrate on the work of four great philosophers: Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, and Hume. These writers revolutionized the art and practice of philosophy, and they set the agenda for everything that came after them.

PHIL 3720: CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS
MW 4:45-7:15  STAFF
Do we have any duties toward animals? Is euthanasia ethical in any circumstances? Can capital punishment be justified? Is abortion ever the right choice? After an introduction to major ethical theories, students will debate with contemporary philosophers’ opposing views on these and other ethical issues.

PHIL 3730: BUSINESS ETHICS
MW 4:45-7:15  STAFF
Is it possible to do business without ethics? Is it more profitable to do business ethically? Do CEOs have a responsibility to anyone other than themselves? to their stockholders? their customers? the local community? the environment? Are international corporations different from mom-and-pop stores? If so, how and why? After an introduction to contemporary management and ethical theories, students will discuss cases and issues that address the economic questions.

PHIL 4130/6130: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
MW 1:50-4:20  ED COX
This course will cover logical positivism, problems in confirmation, explanation, and induction, and the following issues: rationality and objectivity in science, the existence and nature of laws of nature, the underdetermination of theory by data, the possibility of theory-neutral observation, intertheoretic reduction, realism and anti-realism in science, and, if time permits, Bayes’s theorem.

PHIL 4800/6800: SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
TR 1:50-4:20  SANDRA DWYER
Arendt and Feminist Philosophy: This course examines classic and contemporary issues in social and political philosophy. The questions to be covered include: What is democracy? What are the virtues and vices of democracy? What is justice? What is the relation between justice and equality? What is liberty? What are the relations among liberty, democracy and justice? What is exploitation? Do capitalists exploit the working class? What is oppression? Do men oppress women? Authors to be read include Hannah Arendt and Jurgen Habermas.
PHIL 4990: SENIOR SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY*
MW 1:50-4:20     ED COX
This course will cover logical positivism, problems in confirmation, explanation, and induction, and the following issues: rationality and objectivity in science, the existence and nature of laws of nature, the underdetermination of theory by data, the possibility of theory-neutral observation, intertheoretic reduction, realism and anti-realism in science, and, if time permits, Bayes’s theorem.

PHIL 4990: SENIOR SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY*
TR 1:50-4:20     SANDRA DWYER
Arendt and Feminist Philosophy: This course examines classic and contemporary issues in social and political philosophy. The questions to be covered include: What is democracy? What are the virtues and vices of democracy? What is justice? What is the relation between justice and equality? What is liberty? What are the relations among liberty, democracy and justice? What is exploitation? Do capitalists exploit the working class? What is oppression? Do men oppress women? Authors to be read include Hannah Arendt and Jurgen Habermas.