

AY 2024–2025 Graduate Courses and Descriptions¹

Department of Philosophy
Loyola University Chicago

Fall 2024

At A Glance

PHIL 401: Plato, Topic: Plato, Socrates, and the Task of Philosophy	<i>Möbus</i>
PHIL 421: Marxism, Topic: Marx and His 20 th Century Critics	<i>Oksala</i>
PHIL 432: Heidegger, Topic: Being, World, People	<i>Ewara</i>
PHIL 441: Wittgenstein, Topic: Foundational Analytic Thinkers	<i>Dunch</i>
PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy, Topic: Race, Police, and War	<i>Luzardo</i>
PHIL 483: Philosophical Questions in Human Rights, Topic: Equality, Poverty, and Freedom	<i>Gordon</i>

PHIL 401: Plato, Topic: Plato, Socrates, and the Task of Philosophy

Dr. Freya Möbus

Distribution Requirements: Ancient, Metaphysics and Epistemology

T 10:00PM–12:30PM

Description: This course is an introduction to Plato’s early dialogues. We will investigate what exactly philosophy is, according to Socrates, and how it differs from other disciplines like rhetoric. While examining how Socrates does philosophy, we will analyze some of Socrates' philosophical core beliefs about the good life, human psychology, and the generation of human actions, such as “doing wrong is worse than suffering wrong,” “when one has done wrong, it is better for oneself to be punished than to get away without punishment,” and “when we do wrong we do not do what we want to do.” Meetings will be discussion-based and student-led.

PHIL 421: Marxism, Topic: Marx and His 20th Century Critics

Dr. Johanna Oksala

Distribution Requirements: Ethics/Social and Political, Continental

W 2:45PM–5:15PM

¹ Distribution requirements for the MA in Social Philosophy program include “MA SP” in parentheses after the requirement. All other distribution requirements refer to the PhD, MA, and BA/MA programs.

Description: This course provides an introduction to the thought of Karl Marx and contemporary Marxist philosophy. In the first half of the course, we will focus on Marx's own writings, primarily on *Capital*, Vol. I. In the second half, we will investigate how Marx's thought is taken up and developed by his most influential 20th-century and contemporary followers. These include Louis Althusser, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, as well as seminal theorists from the traditions of Marxist-feminism, Black Marxism, and Eco-Marxism.

PHIL 432: Heidegger, Topic: Being, World, People

Dr. Eyo Ewara

Distribution Requirements: Continental, Metaphysics and Epistemology

TH 4:15PM–6:45PM

Description: This course is a general introduction to Martin Heidegger's thought with a focus on the question of what a “world” is and how it relates to his discussions of being and of a “people.” It will offer a broad survey of some of Heidegger’s key writings on these topics, with an eye to considering Heidegger's work in conversation with work in critical philosophy of race and social and political philosophy. Readings will include sections of *Being and Time*, "The Origin of the Work of Art", "The Self-Assertion of the German University", selections from *On the Way to Language*, and selections from the so-called “Black Notebooks.”

PHIL 441: Wittgenstein, Topic: Foundational Analytic Thinkers

Dr. Matthew Dunch

Distribution Requirements: Analytic, Metaphysics and Epistemology

Description: This course provides a general introduction to the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein and the major schools of Wittgenstein interpretation. The course begins by setting Wittgenstein within the context of his most immediate influences, notably Bertrand Russell and Gottlob Frege. We will read Wittgenstein’s major works, the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and *Philosophical Investigations*, in their entireties. We will also read excerpts from the *Blue and Brown Books*, *Lectures on the Foundations of Mathematics*, and *On Certainty*.

PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy, Topic: Race, Police, and War

Dr. Jesús Luzardo

Distribution Requirements: Ethics/Social and Political, Continental, Social Philosophy (MA SP)

TH 10:00AM–12:30PM

Description: This graduate seminar will look at the relationship between race, police, and war primarily through the lens of Marxism and Black Studies. In contrast to accounts of capitalism that focus primarily on exploitation and on the so-called “mute compulsion of economic relations,” we will focus on accounts of more direct forms of coercion, repression, enslavement, and war as historically and structurally necessary for the functions of capitalist accumulation. We will furthermore focus on accounts — especially within the history of Black radical thought — of war as a revolutionary strategy. Finally, we will think philosophically about war and policing at the level of subjectivity, about the production and formation of both revolutionary and counterrevolutionary subjectivities through and as an effect of violence. Authors will include

Marx, Lenin, Luxembourg, Du Bois, Fanon, Althusser, George Jackson, Joy James, Joanne Barker, Glenn Coulthard, Harsha Walia, and Gerald Horne.

PHIL 483: Philosophical Questions in Human Rights, Topic: Equality, Poverty, and Freedom

Dr. Joy Gordon

Distribution Requirements: Ethics/Social Political, Analytic, Social Philosophy (MA SP), Moral Philosophy (MA SP)

T 2:30PM–5:00PM

Description: This course addresses a variety of philosophical issues within human rights. We'll start with some texts that point to different approaches in conceptualizing human rights, as well as an overview of the major human rights instruments in international law and global governance. We'll look at such questions as the concept of rights, and its empirical and Marxist critics; the shift over the last decade in the ethical framework for understanding torture; hermeneutical issues that emerge in human rights treaties; the different ways that gender comes into play within human rights; the thorny problem of how to determine intent in cases of genocide; and issues of sovereignty when countries seek to assert extraterritorial jurisdiction over human rights violations that take place in other parts of the world.

Spring 2025 (class times TBA)

At A Glance

PHIL 406: Aquinas, Topic: Abilities and Disabilities	<i>Hartman</i>
PHIL 416: 17 th and 18 th Century Philosophy, Topic: The Specter of Skepticism in Early Modern Thought	<i>Irwin</i>
PHIL 415: Kant's <i>First Critique</i>	<i>Cutrofello</i>
PHIL 468: Topics in Ethics, Topic, Critical Philosophy of Race	<i>Scott</i>
PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy, Topic: Critical Theory and Phenomenology	<i>Ingram</i>
PHIL 487: Moral and Legal Issues of Economic Sanctions	<i>Gordon</i>

PHIL 406: Aquinas, Topic: Abilities and Disabilities

Dr. Peter Hartman

Distribution Requirements: Medieval, Metaphysics and Epistemology, Moral Philosophy (MA SP)

Description: Skills or abilities—our ability to count, or reliably recognize breeds of cattle, or reliably do the courageous thing—play an important role in our mental and moral lives. A recent debate in the philosophy of mind concerns how much of our mental lives might best be explained by such skills, and an ongoing debate in contemporary virtue theory concerns the degree to

which virtues (and vices) are like skills that we acquire. This course explores the conception of skill in Thomas Aquinas's philosophy. We will look at how Aquinas defined skills or abilities, both moral and mental, and the role that he thought such skills or abilities play in our mental and moral lives. We will also discuss the nearby issue of disabilities and Aquinas's views on disabilities.

PHIL 416: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy, Topic: *The Specter of Skepticism in Early Modern Thought*

Dr. Kristen Irwin

Distribution Requirements: Modern, Metaphysics and Epistemology

Description: This course uses the lens of skepticism as a way to highlight the epistemological, metaphysical, and moral concerns of philosophers in Western Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. We will consider how the threat of skepticism shapes both the form and the content of the philosophical concerns of this period. Texts by Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Conway, Cavendish, Pascal, Bayle, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Shepherd, and Kant are all possible sources for our investigation.

PHIL 415: Kant's *First Critique*

Dr. Andrew Cutrofello

Distribution Requirements: Modern, Metaphysics and Epistemology

Description: In this course we will read the Guyer/Wood translation of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781, 1787). Like the Lisbon Earthquake (1755) and the French Revolution (1789-99) – both of which Kant wrote about – the publication of the first *Critique* was a monumental event. Just as Kant's career is conventionally divided into pre-critical and post-critical periods, so the history of Western philosophy is often divided into pre-Kantian and post-Kantian phases. Our aim in this course will be to understand the scope and significance of Kant's critical project. We will try to get through the entire text, but we will inevitably focus on some sections more than others.

PHIL 468: Topics in Ethics, Topic, *Critical Philosophy of Race*

Dr. Jacqueline Scott

Distribution Requirements: Ethics/Social and Political, Continental, Moral Philosophy (MA SP), Social Philosophy (MA SP)

Description: This course will provide a survey of the field of critical philosophy of race in 3 areas: the historical roots of philosophy of race (Kant, Hegel, de Gobineau, Du Bois), contemporary arguments about race and racial identity formation, and social/political implications about these contemporary arguments.

PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy, Topic: *Critical Theory and Phenomenology*

Dr. David Ingram

Distribution Requirements: Ethics/Social and Political, Continental, Metaphysics and Epistemology, Social Philosophy (MA SP)

Description: Critical Theory is the name that Max Horkheimer gave to the distinctive brand of social philosophy undertaken by members of the Frankfurt School of Social Research, of which he was director. Critical theory uses the tools of social science not only to describe, explain, and predict social processes but to criticize society's failure to bring about freedom and happiness, despite that society's remarkable progress in science, technology, and material prosperity. Phenomenology, by contrast, is the name Edmund Husserl gave to a method of philosophical inquiry that begins from the standpoint of individual experience. He upheld direct, lived experience as a touchstone for criticizing the artificial, theoretically abstract, and one-sided "naturalizing" (or "objectifying") image of the world that positivistic defenders of natural science dogmatically presume to be the only true picture of reality. Our course surveys the intersection of these two kinds of critical philosophy from the critical theory perspective. Prominent critical theorists such as Georg Lukács, Theodor Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, Jürgen Habermas, Seyla Benhabib, Rainer Forst, and Axel Honneth have been deeply influenced by some of the major exponents of phenomenology and existentialism (Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Arendt, De Beauvoir, Levinas, and Derrida) in their own theories of human subjectivity, moral experience, and social existence. At the same time, they have criticized what they perceive to be phenomenology's overly subjective, idealizing, essentializing and ahistorical description of human experience/existence. Some of the questions we will discuss are: Should experience, reason, or objective reality be the primary foundation for moral and ethical existence? Are consciousness and materiality (subject and object) fundamentally irreducible, essentially related in some form of identity, or interrelated in some other, more complicated way? What role does art and aesthetic experience play in a critical understanding of modern science and technology? How do objective structures (economic and political systems, cultural systems (of race, and gender, etc.) shape consciousness? Is there such a thing as false consciousness and ideology?

PHIL 487: Moral and Legal Issues of Economic Sanctions

Dr. Joy Gordon

Distribution Requirements: Ethics/Social and Political, Analytic, Moral Philosophy (MA SP), Social Philosophy (MA SP)

Description: This course will provide an introduction to economic sanctions in the contexts of international relations and global governance. We will then look closely at the issues of effectiveness and humanitarian impact. Throughout the course, we will draw on materials from a number of sanctions regimes, including South Africa, Cuba, Iraq, and Iran. We will examine ethical topics including the issues of intent, consent, and moral agency in the context of economic sanctions. We will also look at a several legal issues: whether sanctions come into conflict with international human rights law, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; the problem of extraterritoriality; and the significant cases coming out of the European Courts on asset freezes, such as the Kadi case.