

# Fall 2017 Course Descriptions & Distribution Areas

## **PHIL 301/444: Symbolic Logic/Studies in Logic**

**Distribution Requirement:** Analytic

**Dr. Harry Gensler SJ**

**MoWeFr 12:35-1:25 pm**

**Mundelein 205**

Covers various systems of logic (including propositional, quantificational, modal, deontic, and epistemic), with application to English arguments, many of which are philosophical in nature. A previous study of logic (e.g., PHIL 274) is helpful but not required. The course is cross-listed as PHIL 301 (Symbolic Logic) but gets mostly philosophy graduate students. One side benefit of the course for future philosophy teachers is that you'll gain some knowledge of how to teach logic along the way.

[Http://www.harryhiker.com/courses](http://www.harryhiker.com/courses) has more information.

## **PHIL 400: Philosophy Research Tools**

**Research & Analysis in Social Justice**

**Distribution Requirement:** Ethics/Social Political

**Dr. Joy Gordon**

**Tu 4:15-6:45 pm**

**Information Commons 112**

Is it ethical to use drones in warfare? What are the causes of homelessness? What are the specific ways that displacement impacts women? Does the notion of structural injustice imply collective responsibility?

This course looks at several different methodological approaches to social justice issues: broad ethical frameworks; specific ethical issues, such as intent and moral agency; quantitative analysis; domestic law; and international law, including human rights law. Students are asked to pick a subject area that they will follow throughout the semester. Focusing on various aspects of their topic area, students will do targeted literature reviews and write several short analytic papers, utilizing each of the methodologies that are covered in the course.

## **PHIL 402: Aristotle**

**Ancient Theories of Friendship**

**Distribution Requirement:** Ancient, Ethics/Social Political

**Dr. Julie Ward**

**Tu 10:00 am-12:30 pm**

## **Mundelein 515**

This seminar examines Plato's *Lysis* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VIII-IX, with their respective accounts of *philia* (friendship) against the background of Greek tragedies, such as Sophocles' *Philoctetes* and Euripedes' *Alcestris*, that raise issues relating to friendship.

### **PHIL 447: Issues in Cognitive Science**

#### **Neuroethics**

**Distribution Requirement:** Ethics/Social Political, Analytic

**Dr. Joseph Vukov**

**Th 10:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Mundelein 515**

The recent past has seen widespread commitment to research in neuroscience. These efforts have yielded results, but our progress has sometimes outpaced our ethics. Put simply: it isn't always clear how existing ethical frameworks can help us address the issues emerging from new neurological discoveries. Neuroethics fills this void. It uses classic bioethical principles (and sometimes, philosophical resources such as the metaphysics of personal identity) to address ethical questions that were unimaginable just decades ago. This course will consider some of these questions, including the following:

- To what extent is it morally permissible to engage in neurocognitive enhancement?
- When, if ever, is it morally permissible to use neurological technologies to alter memories or moods?
- What is the relationship between death and brain death?
- What are our obligations to patients with disorders of consciousness, and has our progress in neuroscience affected the way we should understand these obligations?
- How does the picture of human nature painted by neuroscience affect the way we should understand ourselves as persons?

### **PHIL 468: Topics in Ethics**

#### **Race Theory**

**Distribution Requirement:** Ethics/Social Political

**Dr. Jacqueline Scott**

**Mo 2:45-5:15 pm**

**Information Commons 105**

In this course we will examine several contemporary arguments within the field of critical race theory. Two major questions that guide this field are: What is race? What values do and/or should we assign to race in our society? The course will be divided into three parts: 1) the historical roots of contemporary arguments about race; 2) several contemporary arguments about race; 3) a few of the social/political implications about these arguments.

**PHIL 490: Current Philosophical Issues**

**Phenomenology of Mind**

**Distribution Requirement:** Continental, Analytic

**Dr. Hanne Jacobs**

**Th 4:15-6:45 pm**

**Crown Center 530**

In the last few decades, philosophers working in the phenomenological tradition have contributed to discussions in analytic philosophy of mind. The aim of the seminar is to assess a number of these contributions. In addition to familiarizing ourselves with certain debates in contemporary philosophy of mind and specific phenomenological contributions to these debates, we will be discussing selected writings from Husserl and Merleau-Ponty primarily. Our focus will be on topics such as perception and its relation to judgment and attention, the nature and importance of self-consciousness, how to think of and delineate passivity and activity in the realm of conscious experiences, and consciousness of other minds.