

Spring 2019 Course Descriptions & Distribution Areas

PHIL 407: Medieval Philosophy

Suarez and Jesuit Scholasticism

Distribution Requirement: Medieval, Metaphysics/Epistemology

Dr. Peter Hartman and Dr. Kristen Irwin

The course investigates the Thomist Scholastic roots of Francisco Suárez, a Jesuit contemporary of Descartes, and his influence on early modern philosophy. Suárez profoundly influenced the early modern philosophical landscape on a variety of topics, both in his own right and as a source for scholastic views against which early modern philosophers developed their own views. We will trace both metaphysical and moral themes in Suárez's works to their medieval origins in Thomas Aquinas, and follow them through early modern responses. Topics to be covered will include: substances and accidents, relations, causal powers, the soul and its faculties, the mind-body relationship, mental representation, the will and freedom, habits, and moral responsibility.

We will also read relevant selections from Thomas Aquinas and Suárez's medieval predecessors, as well as his early modern successors – those whom he read and those who responded to him – to provide the complete context of the origin and reception of his thought. Students will receive a foundation not only in Thomas Aquinas and early modern philosophy, but also an understanding of core philosophical issues produced by one of the most important scholastic thinkers of the early modern period.

PHIL 415: Kant

Critique of Pure Reason

Distribution Requirement: Modern

Dr. Naomi Fisher

The purpose of this course is to gain a thorough understanding of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, the foundational text of Kant's Critical project. This work spans topics such as the nature of human cognition, the limits of reason, the conditions that make experience possible, and the status of claims about that which is beyond the limits of possible experience. We will conduct detailed analyses of key portions of this text (including the Transcendental Aesthetic, the Transcendental Deductions, the Analogies of Experience, the Antinomies, and the Appendix to the Dialectic, among others). Our reading of these portions of the *Critique* will be supplemented by secondary readings.

PHIL 421: Marxism

Distribution Requirement: Ethics/Social-Political, Continental

Dr. David Schweickart

This course will be divided into three parts:

Part One will involve a close reading of some of Marx's primary texts:

The Communist Manifesto

"Alienated Labor" and "Private Property and Communism" (from *The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*)

"Free Human Production" (from the *Excerpt Notes of 1844*)

"Theses on Feuerbach" (handout)

The German Ideology (selections)

"Preface to a Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy"

"Critique of the Gotha Program"

[These selections will be drawn from Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*, ed. Lawrence Simon] *Capital, v. 1* (International Publishers, 2003)--selections

Part Two will focus on two prominent continental philosophers who self-identified as Marxists at the time of they wrote the texts we will study: Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man* (1964) and Jürgen Habermas's *Legitimation Crisis* (1973).

Part Three will consist of reading and discussing two books by contemporary Marxist thinkers, to be chosen by the class at our first meeting.

PHIL 459: Philosophy of Law

Legal and Moral Issues of Economic Sanction

Distribution Requirement: Ethics/Social-Political

Dr. Joy Gordon

This course will discuss economic sanctions in the contexts of international relations and global governance, looking closely at the issues of effectiveness and humanitarian impact. We will look at a number of sanctions regimes, such as South Africa, Cuba, Iraq, and Russia. We will also explore the issues of intent, consent, and moral agency in the context of economic sanctions. We will also look at a number of legal questions: 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 cases that have come out of the European Courts on asset freezes, in particular the Kadi case and Bank Mellat.

PHIL 452: Philosophy of Science

Evidence, Explanation, Representation

Distribution Requirement: Analytic, Epistemology/Metaphysics

Fr. James Murphy

The central focus of the course will be explanation. Evidence as what grounds explanation, and representation as one possible outcome of explanation, will also be treated.

Students will be required to produce one major paper on some aspect of scientific explanation, focusing on one particular scientific discipline. The physical sciences, life sciences, and social sciences are all acceptable areas of research, as is historiography. Students will also be required to write a book-report on the biography of one major scientist.

Introductions to philosophy of science include Alex Rosenberg, *Philosophy of Science*; Alan Chalmers, *What is this Thing Called Science?*; Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Theory and Reality*; and the instructor's own introduction, available in pdf on request. It is a requirement that one such book be read before the course starts.

Books currently under consideration as main-texts for the course:

- Mayo, Deborah 1996. *Error and the Growth of Experimental Knowledge*.
- Sober, Elliott 2008. *Evidence and Evolution*.
- Strevens, Michael 2008. *Depth: An Account of Scientific Explanation*.
- Rouse, Joseph 2002. *How Scientific Practices Matter*.
- Van Fraassen, Bas 2008. *Scientific Representation*.

Books of discipline-specific interest include:

- Turner, Derek 2011. *Palaeontology: A Philosophical Introduction*.
- Morgan, Mary 2012. *The World in the Model: How Economists Work and Think*.
- Griffiths, Paul and Karola Stotz 2013. *Genetics and Philosophy*.
- O'Malley, Maureen 2014. *Philosophy of Microbiology*.
- Paul, Herman 2015. *Key Issues in Historical Theory*.

PHIL 468: Topics in Ethics

Feminist Ethics and Social Philosophy

Distribution Requirement: Ethics/Social Political

Dr. Jennifer Parks

The course will begin with an introduction to different feminist philosophies. Using Rosemarie Tong's *Feminist Thought: A Comprehensive Introduction*, we will consider approaches such as liberal, radical, Marxist, care ethics, and postmodern feminist theory. We will pair a classic feminist philosophy text or set of articles with each feminist approach so students can appreciate how these frameworks have been used. The course will expose

students to some texts that are now considered standard in feminist philosophy. Readings covered in class might include (but are not limited to) the following:

Mary Wollstonecraft, "A Vindication of the Rights of Women"

Susan Moller Okin's *Justice, Gender, and the Family*

Shulamith Firestone's *The Dialectic of Sex*

Carol Gilligan's *In a Different Voice*

Sarah Ruddick's *Maternal Thinking: Toward a Politics of Peace*

Margaret Urban Walker's *Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics*