

J-TERM 2027: PHILOSOPHY COURSE OFFERINGS

PHIL 130 001 Philosophy & Persons Dr. Naomi Fisher

In this course, we examine what it means to be a human person. We reflect on topics like how to live a choiceworthy life, what it means to be free, and the nature of reason, drawing from a selection of texts in the history of philosophy, including authors like Plato, Kant, and Dostoevsky.

Core: Tier I Philosophical Knowledge and Inquiry

PHIL 181 001 Ethics Dr. Jeffrey Fisher

We often hear and make claims about justice, rights, the greater good, and so on. But just as often as such claims are made, such claims are also disputed. Why is there so much disagreement? Does such disagreement indicate that morality is relative? More fundamentally, where do the moral terms that we invoke originate? Why do we speak about rights and fairness? In this class we will explore answers to these questions, first, by examining one contemporary moral debate—the abortion debate—and second, by tracing the historical origins of the considerations appealed to in that debate.

Core: Ethical Knowledge and Inquiry

PHIL 182 001 Social and Political Philosophy Dr. Seyed Mousavian

This course will investigate one of the central questions of philosophy and social theory: how we, as human beings, should live together. We will focus on six topics: (i) justification of state, (ii) property and violence, (iii) justice and equality, (iv) the nature of rights, (v) power and oppression, and (vi) morals and rights. In terms of philosophical disciplines, the course will cover a range of topics in social, political, and legal philosophy, broadly construed. We will cover a range of classic and contemporary readings, from Plato to Nussbaum.

Core: Ethical Knowledge and Inquiry

PHIL 279 001 Judgment and Decision-Making Dr. Marcella Linn

Throughout this course, we will read both philosophical and psychological literature on decision making. Philosophical accounts and everyday intuitions about the way we think, make choices, and act often assume we exercise significant control and awareness. But these ideas seem to be challenged by psychological research showing the various ways we are prone to err in our reasoning as well as the way in which unconscious factors often bypass our reasoning and affect our behavior. While grappling with these issues, we will also consider the way human reasoning and AI differ.

Core: Tier II Philosophical Knowledge and Inquiry

PHIL 284 001 Health Care Ethics Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe

This ethics course emphasizes the importance of using philosophical tools (concepts, values, theories, forms of argumentation, and so on) that illuminate, analyze, and evaluate the practice and domain of health care. The first part examines some of the key normative theories that have application in health care, namely, Aristotle on virtue ethics, Immanuel Kant's deontology, and the utilitarianism of John Stuart Mill. The second part critically investigates the four guiding principles of health care ethics: Respect for Autonomy, Nonmaleficence, Beneficence, and Justice.

Core: Tier II Philosophical Knowledge and Inquiry