



## **THE PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK . . .**

. . . is to provide more detailed and current information about Philosophy Department offerings than is available in the University Catalogue and Schedule of Classes. Information contained here is accurate as of March 2009, but some changes may occur. Updated information will be available from the Philosophy Department. If you have questions concerning the Department, its programs or its course offerings, feel free to direct them to any member of the Philosophy faculty.

### **DIRECTORY**

Department of Philosophy  
Polk 43

#### **Office Hours**

8:00 AM - 2:15 PM  
Monday - Thursday

#### **Telephone**

(920) 424-1366

#### **Department Secretary**

Terri L. Wouts

## WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy is a very ancient subject, over 2500 years old. It is the subject that has always dealt with the most basic universal questions that people have asked: What do we know? What is real? Do we have control over our own lives? How are our minds related to our bodies? Is there a God? Is there a purpose to the universe? How does one determine what actions are right and wrong?

These are questions that strike everyone at one time or another, but most people quickly dismiss them when they realize that they are so difficult to answer. How does one begin to even think about the question, what is real? Philosophers, however, are more stubborn than most people and they have tried to address these issues in a thoughtful way. Many people have opinions about these questions, but in philosophy, it is not enough to just express one's views. All of the major philosophers have tried to think carefully about these matters, and present their own views in a way that will convince others.

Philosophy also is a critical subject--one that considers various aspects of life, and questions them to see whether they make sense. For example, the subject philosophy of science examines the methods and goals of science to determine whether science itself is a rational enterprise. The philosophy of religion does the same with religion. The philosophical perspective is one of standing back, reflecting and examining. When one takes this perspective, one finds that what has been taken for granted often is confused, unclear and not very well established.

Philosophy is thus a very wide-ranging subject that concerns every aspect of human experience--religion, science, art, values, history, mathematics, literature and love. Philosophy is also a basic subject that aims to penetrate to the core of every area that it examines. It is the field that deals with fundamental assumptions and basic outlooks. It deals with what is really important, and tries to find out what makes anything else important too.

The study of philosophy should enhance a person's appreciation of what human life is all about, and should also provide people with some new ideas to consider. Studying philosophy will increase a person's ability to reason carefully, to think and write clearly, to consider new approaches and outlooks, to question the way we live, and hopefully to deepen one's understanding. Finally, in studying philosophy a person will be exposed to the works of some of the most thoughtful and brilliant people of the past and present: Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Russell, Sartre, Wittgenstein and others. These thinkers have not only been important in the history of philosophy, but have formed many of the major concepts on which our civilization is built.

## WHAT CAN ONE DO WITH PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy may be an important and fascinating subject to study, but does it have any practical value? In particular, what benefit is an undergraduate degree in philosophy to a person's future? What careers can it lead to?

1) **Advanced Degrees in Philosophy** - Some philosophy majors at UW Oshkosh have pursued advanced degrees in the subject. Our graduates have been accepted at Rochester University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Illinois, Ohio State and others. Students who pursue advanced degrees usually intend to teach philosophy at the college level and do research in the field. This is a noble career to undertake; however, it should be noted that employment prospects in this area have not been very good for several years, and it is uncertain how much they will improve in the coming years.

Nevertheless, if anyone is interested in graduate school in a philosophy program, one should begin planning it in one's junior year. Professor Alice Kyburg has volunteered to be the advisor to students who are interested in graduate school, and one of the first things to do is to discuss one's plans with her, and/or with other members of the Department. There are several things to consider - what particular schools to apply to, taking the GRE exam, preparing a writing sample, and thinking of finances.

Applications for graduate schools usually have to be in by the January preceding the Fall Semester of one's final year, and so it is extremely important to begin the process of preparing to apply as soon as possible.

2) **Degrees in Law and Other Fields** - Many undergraduate philosophy majors are interested in going to law school, or in getting a graduate degree in another academic area. In applying to programs of these kinds, students are almost always required to take the LSAT (Law School Test), or the GRE (Graduate Record Exam). Philosophy majors have generally done very well on these tests. (See pages 7-10).

• **Careers in Business** - An undergraduate degree in philosophy is a liberal arts degree and it is becoming clearer and clearer that many businesses are becoming ever more interested in hiring people with such degrees.

Consider the following quotations from an article in the *Wall Street Journal*, February 10, 1998. "Liberal arts grads compete with techies in employers' esteem." "Companies find liberal arts grads' general curiosity a plus," says Bing Spitzler, staffing manager for Armstrong World Industries, Inc., a Lancaster, Pennsylvania floor and ceiling maker."

"Companies need high tech expertise but also value the 'people' and problem-solving skills of majors in ... the liberal arts field," says Tarig Shakoor, director of Emory University's Career Center in Atlanta. "Such grads can be cyber-trained." In an article in the April 12, 2005 *Wall Street Journal* Peter Vesucki of Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management, who spent 25 years in corporate recruiting said: "Companies are going to start to look at the fundamental value set of an individual and their basic education. Did they study philosophy and culture and history rather than just accounting, finance and engineering? Fast-forward 20 or 30 years, we're going to find [business leaders] who maybe majored in philosophy rather than business." In an article in the June 2006 of *The Atlantic Monthly*, Matthew Stewart talks about his career as a management consultant. He was a principal and founding partner of a consulting firm that eventually grew to 600 employees. Stewart says that his Ph.D. in philosophy was what helped him to succeed in business. He never attended a business school.

The broad outlook and training in writing well and arguing forcefully that the study of philosophy provides are becoming more and more valuable to businesses, even as technology becomes prominent in so many areas.

Finally, those interested in studying business in a graduate program are usually required to take the GMAT (Graduate Management Test) as part of their application: Philosophy majors do very well on that test as they also do on the GRE test.

• **Careers in High Technology** - Throughout its history philosophy has generated new ideas and methods that have become useful in other areas. For this reason philosophy is one traditional area that has found a new role in the high-tech world. Specific technical skills can quickly become obsolete, but philosophy emphasizes a skill that is needed in every technical area, which is the ability to take a vaguely formed problem and find precise ways to deal with it. Philosophers are playing a major role in artificial intelligence, computer program development and industrial applications of computational linguistics and teaching. (From the *New York Times Career Planner*, 1990).

• **Other Possibilities** - Finally, as the list on pages 16 and 17 of this Handbook shows, people who were philosophy undergraduates have gone into and flourished in a variety of fields. It is difficult to really guess what sorts of jobs will be in high demand in the future--even the near future. For example, the December 1, 2005 issue of the *Wall Street Journal* reported on page 1 that Norway has hired a philosopher to provide moral guidance in dealing with their oil wealth. So it seems that there will always be places for people who are skilled at developing

logical arguments and who have the ability to consider issues from a variety of perspectives. Plato might not have said anything about the features of our economy, government and art-forms, but those who are making contributions in these areas have often been influenced by what Plato said.

For further information see "*The Role of Philosophy in Higher Education*," "*Philosophy-A Brief Guide for Undergraduates*," "*On Choosing a Major*" and "*Careers for Philosophers*." These are all available in the Philosophy Department Office (Polk 43).

## THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

The Philosophy Department at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh views as equally important its two major functions at the undergraduate level: providing training in philosophy to those who elect our discipline as a major, and providing high-quality instruction in philosophy to those who take our courses as electives or to fulfill University requirements. Our courses tend to be demanding, but the result is an increased level of competence in communicating ideas, logical rigor, critical thinking, articulateness, and analytical skill.

### Course Requirements for Philosophy Majors

Philosophy at UW Oshkosh is a 36 credit major. Students should start their study of philosophy with the Department's three basic courses: *Introduction to Philosophy*, *Ethics*, and *Elementary Logic*. Majors are then required to take *History of Ancient Philosophy*, and *History of Modern Philosophy*, and one of the three following courses: *Contemporary Philosophy*, *Theory of Knowledge* or *Philosophy of Language*. The remaining credits in philosophy are electives which can be chosen from a wide variety of offerings. The Department provides 60 credits of electives in such areas as *Philosophy in India*, *Philosophy of Art*, *Existentialism*, *Philosophy of Literature*, *Philosophy of Science* and others.

Because a major in philosophy is not overly weighted down with requirements, it can be taken in conjunction with another major.

### Course Requirements for Philosophy Minors

The minor in philosophy consists of 24 credits. Twelve of these credits are required: *Introduction to Philosophy*, *Ethics*, *Logic*, and either *History of Ancient Philosophy* or *History of Modern Philosophy*. The other 12 credits are elective choices of the student choosing to have a minor in philosophy.

### Syllabi for Philosophy Classes

Our University is committed to make course syllabi more available to students. In line with this effort, you can now find syllabi for current and up-coming courses on the Philosophy Department web-site <http://www.uwosh.edu/departments/philosophy/>.

### Advising

To become a philosopher, a student should fill out a *Change of Major Card* in the Advising/Scheduling Center in Dempsey 130.

Students should see the Chairman of the Department, John R. Burr, for advising before scheduling their programs.

### The Socratic Award

When at least one graduating major attains an impressively high grade point average in philosophy courses, the *Socratic Award* is given to the graduating major or majors with the top average. The award, which has been in effect since 1971, consists of a certificate honoring the recipient and a gift.

### The Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club is not a typical club. There are no officers, no dues and no rules of order. It is a gathering place to discuss, argue and explore questions in an informal setting. The club sometimes receives a small budget from the Student Allocations Committee which has been used to obtain speakers from other campuses. There have also been a number of speakers from the Philosophy Department at UW Oshkosh as well as from other departments who have given talks at programs sponsored by the Philosophy Club. Anyone interested is invited to join and participate. Look for the brightly colored, and graphically ingenious posters advertising the weekly meetings. For further information contact Larry Carlin (920-424-1368) or email [carlin@uwosh.edu](mailto:carlin@uwosh.edu). There is now a website that everyone can subscribe to in order

to get announcements and other tidbits from the Philosophy Club. The address is <http://lists.uwosh.edu/mailman/listinfo/philclub>. Check it out.

### **Resources in Philosophy at UW Oshkosh**

The first place to check is the web page of the UW Oshkosh Philosophy Department. The address is: <http://www.uwosh.edu/departments/philosophy/>. This page, besides having the information of the handbook, also has more current information about Philosophy Club meetings and other events in the area that would be of interest to philosophy students.

Here are three interesting websites you might also want to explore. One is called "The Philosophical Gourmet Report." The site for "The Philosophical Gourmet Report" is: <http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/>. This is an important site that has current ratings of graduate programs, and has some gossip about what is happening in the academic world of philosophy. Another is "Philosophy talk." The site for "Philosophy Talk" is: <http://www.philosophytalk.org/>. This is a radio program in which 2 philosophers from Stanford, John Perry and Ken Taylor interview some of the current leading lights on philosophy about their areas of interest. The motto of the show is "The Only Thing We Won't Question Is... Your Intelligence." While this show is unfortunately not broadcast at this time in Wisconsin, all of the past programs are available on this site. One final site is "Meaning of Life/TV." The site for "Meaning of Life/TV" is: <http://meaningoflife.tv/>. This show presents a number of interviews with some leading American thinkers on a range of topics from free will, religion, evolution, quantum mysteries, and a number of other issues of perennial interest.

Besides the web, there are books and journals of interest in Polk Library. Two new magazines will be found on the recent periodical shelves: *The Philosopher's Magazine* and *Philosophy Now*. These two magazines are not written for the professional philosopher, but are publications that will give students a good idea of contemporary approaches in the world of philosophy.

### **The Philosopher's Index Online**

The Philosopher's Index is the main reference tool in the field of philosophy. This data base is now available on the library web page. Just click on, "Try a search tool in your subject area" and scroll down the subject box to "philosophy."

The Philosopher's Index is an amazing resource. One can find all the published work of any philosopher of the last 100 years, as well as explore any issue and topic. It is basically the GOOGLE of philosophy and makes mountains of material easily available to everyone.

### **The Wisconsin Philosophical Association**

Every April the Wisconsin Philosophical Association has its annual meeting at which philosophers from all over the state converge at some chosen place for a day of philosophical discussion. At this meeting students who have submitted papers they have written get a chance to share their ideas with people interested in philosophy. Several students from UW Oshkosh have had their papers selected as the objects of discussion at various meetings. If you are interested in writing a paper for the WPA, or working on a paper you have already written, contact Larry Carlin (920-424-1368) or email: [carlin@uwosh.edu](mailto:carlin@uwosh.edu) for further information.

### **HOW PHILOSOPHY MAJORS DO ON THE GRE AND THE LSAT**

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a test that is taken by thousands of college seniors who are interested in professional or graduate study beyond a bachelor's degree. Most graduate and professional programs require that applicants take this test, and the results are often a critical factor in being accepted into a particular program. The examination consists of three parts: Verbal, Quantitative and Analytic. The Verbal section is designed to test language skills--vocabulary and reading comprehension. The Quantitative section is designed to test basic mathematical competence and the ability to interpret data. Finally, the Analytic section is designed to test reasoning abilities, and this means being able to analyze explanations, make logical diagrams and solve logical problems.

The LSAT is a very similar test that many law schools require their applicants to take in their senior year. Like the GRE, the results that an applicant achieves on the LSAT can be very important in determining whether the applicant is admitted to a law school.

The following charts show how students in various majors performed on these tests. The chart for the GRE represents average GRE scores of the thousands of students who took the tests in the years 2001-2004. The chart representing the LSAT scores represents the results of that test taken in 1994-1995.

So what do these results mean? One should not quickly infer that if one majors in philosophy, one will then do very well on the GRE or LSAT exams. To make this inference would be to commit the fallacy of the "false cause" and no self-respecting person (especially one with a philosophy background) would ever commit that mistake. For those who do not have a philosophy background the fallacy of the false cause is the mistake of thinking that just because A is correlated with B, that A causes B. So just because philosophy majors do well on the GRE and the LSAT, it does not follow that the cause of their excellent performance was what they majored in. There could be other explanations--maybe philosophy majors are gifted test-takers, or maybe those who decide to major in philosophy are just extraordinarily intelligent.

Nevertheless, even taking the fallacy of the false cause into account, one can still think that there may be some connection between what one learns in one's major and the results on this test. Philosophy, maybe more than any other subject, requires students to read difficult material, to think carefully and logically, to look for criticisms, to develop arguments, to assess evidence, and generally to analyze views and ideas. Philosophy also emphasizes rigorous methods of thinking and often uses the techniques of logic and symbolic logic to express arguments and concepts. If one were to consider what course in the university would be one of the best for preparing for something like the GRE or LSAT which are designed to test general reasoning skills, the field of philosophy would be one of the first that one would think of.

Thus while one should always keep the fallacy of the false cause in mind, and admit that these results do not by themselves prove that taking philosophy courses will improve one's performance on the GRE or LSAT, it is also true that these results are probably not a mere coincidence. Taking philosophy courses may well contribute to doing well on these tests.

## Scores on the Law School Admission Exam for 29 Majors

Rank	Major	Average Score	Number of Students
1	Physics/Math	157.6	1,064
2	Philosophy	156.9	1,884
3	Economics	155.1	4,546
4	International Relations	155.1	1,546
5	Chemistry	154.5	893
6	Government/Service	154.4	812
7	Anthropology/Geography	154.1	898
8	History	154.0	5,819
9	English	153.7	6,324
10	Biology	153.6	1,858
11	other Social Science	153.2	2,609
12	Engineering	152.7	2,656
13	Foreign Languages	152.5	2,002
14	Finance	152.2	2,009
15	Computer Science	152.2	468
16	Psychology	151.9	3,977
17	Accounting	151.8	2,340
18	Political Science	151.6	13,628
19	Communication/Arts	150.7	3,898
20	Marketing/Real Estate	150.0	1,826
21	Liberal Arts	149.8	1,148
22	Management	149.4	2,735
23	Sociology/Social Work	149.3	3,129
24	Business Admin.	148.6	2,111
25	Health Profession	148.6	984
26	Education	148.2	823
27	No Major Given	147.6	5,289
28	Pre-Law	147.3	1,076
29	Criminology	145.8	3,960

Source: Nieswiadomy, Michael, "LSAT Scores of Economics Majors," *Journal of Economic Education*, (Fall, 1998), pp. 377-379

## Average GRE Scores by Intended Graduate Major, 7/1/01-6/30/04<sup>1</sup>

### VERBAL REASONING

1. PHILOSOPHY	589
2. English Lang. & Lit.	559
3. Humanities &. Arts - other	558
4. History	543
5. Arts-History, Theory	538
6. Religion	538
7. Physics/Astronomy	534
8. Library/Archival Science	533
9. Anthropology/Arcaeology	532
10. Foreign Lang. & Lit. 529	
11. Political Science	522
12. Economics	504
13. Mathematics	502
14. Earth Sciences	495
15. Engineering-Materials	494
16. Biological Sciences	491
17. Engineering - other	490
18. Arts - Performance/Studio	489
19. Chemistry	487
20. Sociology	487
21. Education - Secondary	486
22. Engineering - Chemical	485
23. Natural Sciences - other	482
24. Architecture	477
25. Business - Bank. & Fin.	476
26. Communications	470
27. Psychology	470
28. Computer &. Info. Sciences	469
29. Engineering -Mechanical	467
30. Education - Higher	465
31. Social Sciences - other	465
3 2. Education - Curr. & Instr.	462
33. Agriculture	461
34. Engineering - Electrical	461
35. Engineering - Civil	457
36. Public Administration	452
37. Education - Eval. & Res.	451
38. Business - other	450
39. Health & Med. Sciences	447
40. Education - Elementary	443
41. Engineering - Industrial	440
42. Business - Administration	439
43. Education - Other	437
44. Home Economics	435
45. Education - Special	432
46. Education - Counseling	428
47. Social Work	428
48. Education - Administration1	427
49. Education - Early Childhood	418
50. Business - Accounting	415

### QUANTITATIVE REASONING

1. Physics / Astronomy	738
2. Mathematics	733
3. Engineering - Materials	729
4. Engineering - Electrical	728
5. Engineering - Chemical	727
6. Engineering - Mechanical	723
7. Engineering - other	714
8. Engineering - Industrial	710
9. Business - Bank & Fin.	709
10. Economics	706
11. Computer & Info. Services	704
12. Engineering - Civil	702
13. Chemistry	682
14. Earth Sciences	637
15. PHILOSOPHY	636
16. Biological Sciences	632
17. Architecture	614
18. Business - other	609
19. Natural Sciences - other	603
20. Agriculture	596
21. Business - Accounting	595
22. Humanities & Arts - other	594
23. Political Science	589
24. Religion	583
25. Education - Secondary	577
26. Foreign Lang. & Lit.	573
27. Anthropology/Archaeology	571
28. Arts - History, Theory	571
29. Business - Administration	562
30. History	556
31. Arts - Performance/Studio	554
32. English Lang. & Lit.	552
33. Health & Med. Sciences	552
34. Education - Curr. & Inst.	548
35. Education - Higher	548
36. Sociology	545
37. Psychology	543
38. Library/Archival Sciences	540
39. Education - Eval. & Res.	534
40. Communications	533
41. Education - other	531
42. Social Sciences - other	528
43. Education - Elementary	527
44. Education - Administration	523
45. Public Administration	513
46. Education - Special	502
47. Education - Counseling	500
48. Home Economics	498
49. Education -Early Childhood	495
50. Social Work	468

### ANALYTICAL WRITING

1. PHILOSOPHY	5.1
2. English Lang. & Lit.	4.9
3. Arts & Humanities - other	4.8
4. History	4.8
5. Political Science	4.8
6. Religion 4.8	
7. Anthropology/Archaeology	4.7
8. Arts - History, Theory	4.7
9. Education - Higher	4.6
10. Foreign Lang. & Lit.	4.6
11. Sociology	4.6
12. Communications	4.5
13. Economics	4.5
14. Education - Secondary	4.5
15. Library/Archival Sciences	4.5
16. Physics/Astronomy	4.5
17. Psychology	4.5
18. Biological Sciences	4.4
19. Chemistry	4.4
20. Earth Sciences	4.4
21. Education - Curr. & Inst	4.4
22. Education - Eval. & Res.	4.4
23. Engineering - other	4.4
24. Mathematics	4.4
25. Natural Sciences - other	4.4
26. Social Sciences - other	4.4
27. Architecture	4.3
28. Arts - Performing/Studio	4.3
29. Business - Bank & Fin.	4.3
30. Education - Elementary	4.3
31. Engineering - Chemical	4.3
32. Engineering - Materials	4.3
33. Public Administration	4.3
34. Agriculture	4.2
35. Business - Administration	4.2
36. Computer & Info. Services	4.2
37. Education - Administration	4.2
38. Education - Counseling	4.2
39. Education - other	4.2
40. Education - special	4.2
41. Engineering - Civil	4.2
42. Engineering - Mechanical	4.2
43. Health & Med. Sciences	4.2
44. Home Economics	4.2
45. Business - other	4.1
46. Education - Early C'hood	4.1
47. Engineering - Electrical	4.1
48. Engineering - Industrial	4.1
49. Social Work	4.1
50. Business - Accounting	3.9

# Fall 2009

## Class Schedule

### **Elementary Logic**

D. Gilboa, 9:40-11:10 TR

L. Herzberg, 10:20-11:20 MWF

L. Herzberg, 11:30-12:30 MWF

### **Ethics**

D. Gilboa, 8:00-9:30 TR

R. Cordero, 9:40-11:10 TR

D. Gilboa, 1:20-2:50 TR

R. Cordero, 3:00-4:30 MW

A. Kyburg, 9:10-11:10 MWF (1<sup>st</sup> 7 weeks)

A. Kyburg, 12:40-2:40 MWF (1<sup>st</sup> 7 weeks)

### **Introduction to Philosophy**

Staff, 9:40-11:10 TR

Staff, 1:20-2:50 TR

J. Burr, 12:40-1:40 MWF

L. Carlin, 1:50-2:50 MWF

L. Carlin, 3:00-4:00 MWF

Staff, 9:00-12:00 MTWRF Interim

### **History of Ancient Philosophy**

Staff, 6:00-9:00 p.m. W

### **The Philosophy of Emotion**

L. Herzberg, 3:00-4:30 MW

### **Existentialism & Other Movements in Continental Philosophy**

R. Cordero, 1:20-2:50 TR

### **Selected Topics in Philosophy (Leibniz)**

L. Carlin, 12:40-1:40 MWF

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## 101 Elementary Logic

David Gilboa

The first part of the course will be spent on deductive logic. Specifically, we will study the logic of categorical syllogisms and the logic of propositions. The second part of the course will be devoted to inductive logic, mainly probability and rational decision theory, and, if time permits, to the logic of scientific research. All homework assignments and tests are to be taken on-line.

## 101 Elementary Logic

Larry Herzberg

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to basic principles of inductive and deductive logic. Some logical theory will be discussed, but we will mainly focus on developing fundamental skills of critical reasoning. Since such skills enable us to reason clearly regardless of the subject matter, you should find them quite valuable no matter what your academic interests. They include the ability to identify argument types, to evaluate reasoning in terms of its inductive strength or deductive validity, to identify and avoid informal logical fallacies, and finally to symbolize English sentences using a simple formal language that allows logical problems to be solved with mathematical precision and clarity.

## 105 Ethics

Ronald Cordero

An examination of morality, the Good Life, and the meaning of basic ethical terms. The required text is Ethics: Selections from Classical and Contemporary Writers. Theories by Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Epictetus, St. Augustine, St. Thomas, Hobbes, Butler, Hume, Kant, Mill, Nietzsche, Marx, Moore, Ayer, Sartre, and Rawls will be discussed. Good note taking in class is a must. Up to seven hours of study time per week outside of class may be necessary. Grades will come from cumulative multiple-choice tests.

## 105 Ethics

Alice Kyburg

This course addresses age-old questions in ethics: What makes something right and wrong? Does morality vary from culture to culture? Is right and wrong just a matter of personal opinion? Is it morally permissible to consider your own interests or the interests of your loved ones as more valuable than the interests of others? You will learn some of the different ways philosophers have answered these questions. The course also addresses ethical questions related to such topics as the treatment of animals, the environment, poverty, and human cloning. Emphasis is placed on developing the skills required to evaluate different points of view -- *not* on teaching you a particular point of view. By the end of the semester, you should have an appreciation for the complexity of ethical issues. You might also better develop your own view of right and wrong. More generally, you will learn to distinguish precisely how your point of view differs from those of other people, a skill that can help you in problem solving and communication.

## 105 Ethics

David Gilboa

We will study ethical theory and some philosophical analyses of specific practices. After discussing first the challenge of *Ethical (Cultural) Relativism*, we will study the relation between ethics and religion, *The Divine Command Theory*. We will go on to Aquinas' *Natural Law Theory*, and switch back a little to the virtue theories of Aristotle and Plato, to note the possibility of Grand Synthesis in moral theory. We shall go on to Kant's *Categorical Imperative*, *Utilitarianism*, the moral theory of Bentham and Mill, and the *Social Contract Theory* of Thomas Hobbes. Along the way, we shall discuss the theory of just war, the death penalty, and our treatment of animals.

## 109 Introduction to Philosophy

Laurence Carlin

This course is designed to introduce students to a number of philosophical issues that have fascinated humankind for centuries. We will ask such questions as: Is it reasonable to believe in the existence of God? Do human beings have freedom of the will, or are all their actions determined? What, if any, knowledge do we have? What is the relationship between the mind and the body? What makes certain actions right (moral) and others wrong (immoral)? Is the death penalty morally acceptable? To what extent may the government rightfully restrict the behavior of its citizens? We will critically examine answers that have been offered to these, and other questions.

## 109 Introduction to Philosophy

John Burr

The general goal of this course is to stimulate students to grow in Socratic wisdom so that they no longer think they know what they do not know. To this end, students will scrutinize some philosophical analyses and solutions to such questions as: Is anyone or no one morally responsible? Does God exist? Is it rational to obey the law? Is any knowledge possible? Does human life have any meaning? Only when one has forged one's own answers to these and similar questions does he or she cease being the mere echo of other voices and, instead, speak freely and independently and achieve genuine freedom of thought.

## 109 Introduction to Philosophy

Staff

A survey of some of the perennial problems of the human enterprise; the nature of reality, of truth, of beauty, of ideal political and social relationships, and of the good life; solutions to these problems offered by the best known Greek, medieval, modern and contemporary philosophers will be scrutinized critically.

**301 History of Ancient Philosophy****Staff**

Major ancient philosophers from the Ionians to St. Augustine. The relevance of their thought to contemporary philosophical problems. Prerequisite: Philosophy 109 or consent of instructor.

**306 Philosophy of Emotion****Larry Herzberg**

Consider all of the "states of passion" you may have experienced recently. Irritation, pride, shame, anxiety, inspiration, boredom, joy, disgust, curiosity, love, jealousy, disgust, hope, envy, embarrassment... to name but a few. In fact, very little occurs in our lives towards which we do not have some such state. But what, if anything, do all of these states share that justifies our calling them "emotions"? How do emotions relate to other sorts of mental state, such as belief, desire, perception and "simple sensation" (like pain)? How do our thoughts affect our emotions, and how do our emotions affect our thoughts? What does it mean to judge that some emotions are appropriate (or rational) while others are not? And what, if anything, is the value of emotion? We will explore these and similar questions by reading some of the most influential philosophical and psychological texts on the subject, from both historical and contemporary sources.

**312 Existentialism****Ronald Cordero**

A philosophical examination of major themes in existentialism (the meaning of life, the origin of value, the limitations of science and reason, the boundaries of knowledge, the importance of emotions, the significance of choice) and connections between existentialism and other European movements such as phenomenology. Readings from key figures such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Jaspers, and Derrida. Study time should be about seven hours per week. Grades will come from a mixture of cumulative short-essay and cumulative multiple-choice tests.

**426 Leibniz****Laurence Carlin**

This course involves an intensive examination of the work of the great seventeenth century German rationalist, Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz (1646-1716). Leibniz was one of the most interesting and exciting intellectual figures to have ever lived. He is widely regarded the last universal genius, since he made significant contributions to many areas of inquiry, including mathematics, mining, physics, political theory, theology, linguistics, architecture, engineering, education, history, legal theory, and of course, philosophy. In fact, Leibniz's achievements are so significant that he stands today as the only philosopher to have a cookie named after him. In the course, we will address a number of his philosophical views, particularly those at the intersection of his metaphysics, his science, and his theory of happiness. We will examine these views in relation to some of his famous contemporaries and intellectual opponents, such as René Descartes and Isaac Newton, among others.

## FORMER PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

### PERFORMERS

Barbara Brown-Radio Personality in Anchorage, AL  
Jennifer Dziura-Comedienne  
Daniel Evans-Broadway Actor  
Harrison Ford-Actor (Sexiest Man Alive, *People Magazine* 1998)  
Richard Gere-Actor  
Jeff Greenfield-CNN News Analyst  
Chris Hardwick-MTV Host  
Bruce Lee-Martial artist, movie star  
Amy Madigan-Actress  
Steve Martin-Comedian, Actor  
Dennis Miller-Comedian  
Stone Phillips-News Broadcaster  
Brad Roberts-of *Crash Test Dummies*  
Susan Sarandon-Actress

### BUSINESS

Carly Fiorina-Former CEO-Hewlett-Packard  
Carl Icahn-Former CEO, TWA Airlines  
Gerard Levin-Former CEO, Time-Warner, Inc.  
Frank Moran-Co-Founder-Accounting Firm-  
Plante and Moran  
Tom Morris-Corporate Consultant  
Andrea Reismann-CEO Petopia.com

### SOCIAL SCIENCE

Gertrude Himmelfarb-Historian  
Richard Hofstadter-Historian  
Martin Seligman-Psychologist  
Herbert Simon-Economist, Artificial  
Intelligence and Nobel Laureate  
Will Wilkinson-Policy Analyst at Cato Institute  
C. Vann Woodward-Historian

### SCIENCE

Jim Holt-Science Journalist-*New York Times*  
Stuart Kauffman-Geneticist and McArthur fellow  
Margie Profet-Evolutionary Psychologist  
Stephen Jay Gould-Biologist

### RELIGION

Joseph Bernardin-Cardinal, Chicago  
Mircea Eliade-Religious Studies  
Francis George-Cardinal, Chicago  
Madalyn Murray O'Hair-Famous Atheist  
Edith Stein-Recently officially declared saint

Kermit Scott-Inspiration for Kermit the Frog  
Gene Siskel-Movie Critic  
Jeff Smith-*Frugal Gourmet*  
Tony Snow-Fox Network Newscaster  
Erik Sprague-Human Lizard  
Steve Thomas-Hosts TV show *This  
Old House*  
Alex Trebek-Hosts TV show *Jeopardy*  
Christy Turlington-Supermodel  
Cara Wakelin, Playboy Playmate, 1999  
Juan Williams-News Analyst, Fox Network

Jim Riswold-Advertising Executive  
Producer of Michael Jordan Commercials  
Larry Sanger-Co-Founder of Wikipedia  
George Soros-Financier  
Paul Tucker-Bank of England, Exec. Dir.

### GOVERNMENT, POLITICS & EDUCATION

Stew Alpert- 60's radical, Yippee  
Sheila Bair-Chairman, Federal Deposit  
Insurance Corp.  
Jill Beck-President, Lawrence University  
William Bennett-Former Cabinet official and  
political commentator  
Mary Francis Berry-US Civil Rights Commission Chairperson  
Patrick Buchanan-Presidential Candidate and  
Political Columnist  
Jules Debray-Writer and Government Official, France  
Zoran Djindjic- Serbian, Prime Minister- assassinated, 2003  
Rahm Emanuel-Congressman from Illinois  
Karen Ferguson-Director Pension Rights Center  
Shawn Graff-Director, Office of Emergency Management,  
Portland, Oregon, Socratic Award Winner at UW Oshkosh,  
2000  
Thomas Jefferson-U.S. President ia Claudia Kennedy-3 Star General  
Aung San Suu Kyi-Burmese Human Rights Activist; Nobel  
Peace Prize Winner Robert MacNamara-Former Secretary of  
Defense and Head of the World Bank  
William McGurn, Presidential Speech-writer  
Richard Riordan-Former Mayor, Los Angeles  
Stella Rotaru-Moldavan Human Rights  
Activist  
John Silber-Former President of Boston  
University  
David Souter-Supreme Court Justice  
Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael)-Black  
Nationalist

## **SPORTS**

Myles Brand-Head of the NCAA  
Phil Jackson-Coach, Los Angeles Lakers  
Arthur Gonzalez-Wide Receiver-2006 Ohio State  
Michael McKaskey-Owner, Chicago Bears  
Alexandra Stevenson-Tennis Player  
Aaron Taylor-Football Analyst

## **ARTS AND LETTERS**

Edward Abbey-Writer, Environmentalist  
Arman-French Painter  
Sarah Boxer-Reporter, *New York Times*  
Jeremiah Bosgang- Screenwriter/Director  
Joseph Chaikin-Theater Director  
Ethan Coen-Film Maker  
Bill Conden-Film Maker  
Jean-Claude Denat de Guelleba-Artist, Gates in Central Park,  
NY  
E.M. Doctorow-Novelist  
Michael Eric Dyson-Writer  
Umberto Eco-Novelist/Semiologist  
Max Ernst-Artist,  
Jonathan Safran Foer-Novelist  
Ken Follett-British Writer  
Michael Frayn-Novelist  
Northrup Frye-Literary Critic  
Martin Gardner-Essayist  
Philip Glass-Composer  
Rebecca Goldstein-Novelist  
Francis du Plexis Gray-Novelist  
Paul Green-Founded Paul Green School of Rock  
David Grossman-Novelist  
Sam Harris, Author "The End of Faith"  
Christopher Hitchens-Journalist  
Donald Judd-American Artist  
Pauline Kael-Movie Critic  
Nathaniel Khan-Movie Maker  
Neil Klugman-Main Character in Philip Roth novel, *Good-Bye  
Columbus*  
Claude Lanzmann-Film Maker  
Elmore Leonard-Novelist  
Michael Lerner-Editor/Publisher  
Ira Levin-Writer  
Jeff Lipschutz-Artist  
Naguib Mahfouz-Author, Nobel Prize Winner for Literature  
Yann Martel-Novelist  
Jay McInerney-Novelist  
Deepa Mehta-Film Maker  
Cheryl Mendelson-Author, *The Art of Keeping House*  
Amy Meredith-Screenwriter, 2001 UWO Alumnus  
Leonard Meyer-Groundbreaking musicologist  
James Michener-Writer  
Jonathan Miller-Director and Writer  
Robert Motherwell-Artist  
Iris Murdoch-Novelist  
Barnett Newman-Artist  
Lynda Obst-Hollywood Film Producer  
Yoko Ono-Artist/Musician

Frederic Raphael-Novelist/Screenwriter  
Steve Reich-Composer  
Robert Saviono-Italian Journalist who has written on the mafia in the  
Naples area  
Elizabeth Sackler-Art activist and philanthropist  
Meyer Schapiro-Art Critic  
George Segal-American Painter  
Wendy Shalit-Author, *Modesty*  
Wallace Shawn-Playwright and Actor  
George Singleton-Author  
Susan Sontag-Writer  
Alexander Solzhenitsin-Writer  
Julie Sprecher-Film Maker  
Norah Vincent-Author, *Self-Made Man*  
Bumble Ward-Hollywood Publicist  
Leon Weiseltier-Author  
Elie Wiesel-Writer  
Jonathan Tokley-Perry-Art Smuggler  
James Wood-Critic and Novelist  
Tom Zito-First Rock Critic, *Washington Post*

## Department Members

**John Burr** (Ph.D. Columbia University) Aesthetics, Philosophy of Art, American Philosophy, William James, Indian Philosophy

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