

On-Campus Philosophy Classes



Oregon State
University

Fall 2019



OSU Philosophy Classes Offered On-Campus FALL 2019

PHL 121 Reasoning and Writing 3 cr. CSW2, TTh 12-1:20 **Stenberg**

This course is an introduction to logical reasoning useful for practical analysis of arguments in everyday contexts such as identifying fake news and navigating social media. We will study argument structure, meaning, informal fallacies, analogical and scientific reasoning, causation, probabilities, and statistical inference.

PHL 150 Great Ideas: Knowledge & Reality 3 cr. CPWC, LACH, TTh 2-3:20 **Leibowitz**

Who is a knower and according to whom? What's collective about building knowledge and what's individualized? How are philosophies about knowing connected to social justice? How are philosophies about knowing connected to my experience? How is science based on philosophies of knowing? What's wrong with conspiracy theories? Can Artificial Intelligence know anything?

PHL 150 Great Ideas: Truth, Beauty, & Goodness 3 cr. CPWC, LACH, TTh 10-11:20 **Kunecka**

Questions concerning issues like truth, beauty, goodness, or happiness fascinate us on a daily basis, yet there is not a single correct answer nor universal consensus when it comes to answering these questions. Would good make sense if there was no evil? Would truth be of value if there would be no temptation to lie? Is my truth your truth? What constitutes beauty? Why do we desire beauty and need it around us?

PHL 160 Quests for Meaning: World Religions 4 cr. CPWC, LACH, MW 8am-9:50

G. Barstow

World Religions explores many of the major religious traditions of the world, finding points of commonality as well as significant differences. The course also features in depth case studies of particular religious phenomenon, including twentieth century Roman Catholic women, Buddhist Yogācāra philosophy, and late twentieth century voodoo. Overall, the course introduces students to not only the basic ideas and beliefs of these traditions, but also to the ways in which those ideas play out in the lives of real people.

PHL 160 Quests for Meaning: World Religions 4 cr. CPWC, LACH, MW 12pm-1:50

E. Barstow

PHL 160 Quests for Meaning: World Religions 4 cr. CPWC, LACH MW 2pm-3:50

McAllister

PHL 203 The Meaning of Existence 4 cr. CPWC, TTh 4pm-5:40 **Jenkins**

Who are you? Why are you here? Does your life matter? Existentialism is a kind of philosophy that attempts to understand the meaning of human existence. Through an examination of major themes in existentialism, we will seek to understand the broader philosophical issues at stake, such as the very meaning and importance of freedom, existence, embodiment, and death.

PHL 205 Ethics 4 cr. CPWC, LACH, MW 12pm-1:50 **Kunecka**

Introduction to ethical theory and to the evaluation of ethical issues in society such as sexual ethics and euthanasia. Includes the study of philosophical theories of moral responsibility and moral virtue, and the philosophical ideas behind ethics debates in society. Students are encouraged to develop their own positions on ethical issues through discussion projects and term papers.

PHL 205 Ethics 4 cr. CPWC, LACH T/Th 8-9:50am **Stenberg**

Are moral claims universal? What makes right acts right? What is the ultimate good? What is the role of character in ethical behavior? We will look at three of the most influential ethical theories (utilitarianism, Kantianism, and virtue ethics), as well as contemporary applications and criticisms of those theories, in order to assess their competing answers to these and other questions. The aim is to help you understand the arguments put forward by defenders of these views and, by examining them, to refine your own understanding of moral questions.

PHL 205 Ethics 4 cr. CPWC, LACH, W 4pm-5:50 **Thompson**

This class considers how one could provide rationally defensible answers to questions such as: How should I lead my life? What sort of person should I be? What makes an action morally right or wrong? Does morality depend on religion? Are ethical judgements relative to culture or are some moral judgments true for everybody? Are moral judgments only expressions of emotion or are they based on reason? What is the basis of human rights? In what ways are all humans morally equal? and how should we consider non-human animals and the natural world?

PHL 207 Political Philosophy 4 cr. CPWC, LACH, MW 4pm-5:50 **Orosco**

This course is an introduction to political philosophy in the Western European tradition. We are examining some of the classic texts of the Western political philosophy, along with select pieces of literature, in order to explore the following questions about the foundations of our social and political life together: What is democracy? What is citizenship, and what obligations do citizens have toward maintaining a just democratic society? What institutional arrangements and ways of thinking threaten the stability of democracy and the maintenance of justice? How can ordinary people organize to preserve democracy?

PHL 208 Intro to Buddhist Traditions 4 cr. LACN, MW 10am-11:50 **G. Barstow**

We will explore Buddhist thought, including ideas about anatman (the lack of a self, soul, or other fundamental identity), the implications of radical impermanence, and the Yogācāra tradition of Buddhist philosophy. We will also see how these ideas have impacted the lives of actual Buddhists, influencing how

they understand the world around them and, through that, how they act and what they do. Along the way we'll explore how Buddhism intersects with questions of gender, violence, the environment, and other social justice issues.

PHL 210 Religion in the U.S. 4 cr. CPDP, TTh 2pm-3:50 **Koehlinger**

Why is religion such powerful force in the United States? Why do people have vastly different ideas about the nature of the divine? How has religion affected the history of the US and the experience of people who have lived here? Religion in the US explores the history of religion in the US with a specific focus on ideas and trends that shape the past, present and future of America, from indigenous peoples through present day pluralism.

PHL 214 Introduction To Islamic Traditions CPDC, TTh 12-1:50pm **Dubinsky**

Development of Islamic traditions in the Arab world and in the global context. Origins of Islam, the narrative of the Prophet Muhammad, the development of the Qur'an, and the central tenets of Islamic faith and practice. Transformation of Islam from a regional to a global tradition.

PHL 301 History of West Phil: Ancient Greece 4 cr. CPWC, LACH, MW 4pm-5:40pm **Clough**

We critically examine the historical roots of the fact/value, nature/convention, or objectivity/subjectivity debates through the work of the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Each of these philosophers was concerned to show that knowledge can be objective; that facts can be separated from values; and that relativism and scepticism can be overcome. As we follow this debate we will also examine how slave culture, patriarchy and other social/contextual factors might have influenced these early Western philosophers.

PHL 325 Scientific Reasoning, 4 cr. CSST, MW 10-11:40am **Kaplan**

What makes science *science*? Why does it matter whether something is, or is not, *really* scientific? In this course, we will explore various aspects of what is usually meant by 'the scientific method' (or scientific methods) and some of the kinds of reasoning that go into scientific research programs. We will discuss what separates 'science' from 'non-science,' and why this matters (in the courts, in schools), as well as what separates *good* science from mediocre or down-right *bad* science.

PHL 344 Pacifism, Just War, Terrorism 4 cr. CSGI, TTh 4pm-5:50pm **Campbell**

An examination of the philosophical and theological issues pertaining to pacifism, justified war, and forms of terrorism in Islamic and Western traditions. Special attention is given to concepts of jihad, justifications of war, and restraints on conduct in war.

PHL 365 Law in Philosophical Perspective 4 cr. CPWC, LACH, MW 12-1:40pm **Orosco**

This course examines the nature of law and legal-decision making in the US American tradition. It begins by examining the ideas of the rule of law and jurisprudence—the science/art/knack of interpreting legal statutes and opinions. We will be concerned with understanding the different lenses by which we determine the meaning of a law and the kinds of factors that ought to be considered legitimate or illegitimate in interpreting the law; as well as examining the meaning of rights, duties, and social justice, in both criminal and constitutional law in the US, by closely examining court opinions.

PHL 407 Seminar: Environmental Justice 4 cr. CWIC, TTh 10am-11:40am **Figueroa**

Environmental Justice pertains to the conceptual and causal connections between environmental issues and social justice. It is a critical transdisciplinary field that takes into account race, gender, oppression, indigenous struggles, colonial impacts, accessibility to spaces and resources, environmental decision-making, historical power structures, environmental identity and heritage, and the many contradictions of the social constructions of nature that unfold onto the environmental trauma that marginalized populations and nonhumans must confront. Students have the opportunity to study with a leading philosopher of environmental justice studies.

PHL 440 Environmental Ethics 3 cr. CSGI, LACH MW 2pm-3:20pm **Thompson**

We live on the cusp of unprecedented environmental changes driven by human activity. Global climate change, ocean acidification, mass species extinctions, land use and fragmentation, invasive species, and other issues confront humanity and our responses to such problems will have consequences for the basic conditions of life on the planet, including the well being of future human generations, for millennia. This class concerns how to think well about issues such as what we mean by "nature", the values associated with nature and how we should be guided by such values, obligations to future generations, environmental justice, sustainability, and the possibility of planetary stewardship.

PHL 443 World Views and Environmental Values 3 cr. CSGI, LACN, MW 4pm-5:20pm or TTh 4pm-5:20pm **Vogt**

This course invites you to investigate how worldviews—secular and religious, ancient and modern, Western, Asian, and those indigenous to Africa, the Americas, Australia, and Oceania— affect concepts of nature, environmental values, and selected environmental issues. We will study how values and worldviews have informed both the production of environmental crises and the responses to those crises. We will identify key assumptions, and explore how the philosophical and religious aspects of selected issues relate to the political, economic, cultural and social dimensions.

Philosophy Major Requirements

Choose 4 Foundation Courses

121 Reasoning and Writing
201 Introduction to Philosophy
203 Meaning of Existence
205 Ethics
207 Political Philosophy
208 Intro to Buddhist Traditions
209 Self and Society
213 Intro to Hindu Traditions
251 Knowers, Knowing, Known
280 Ethics of Diversity
301 History: Ancient Philosophy
321 Deductive Logic
443 World Views & Environ'l Values
444 Biomedical Ethics

You need 1 PHL WIC course
e.g., PHL 407 Seminar

You need 44 credits total
of which 24 need to be upper-
division.

Choose 1 Diversity Course

213 Intro to Hindu Traditions
214 Intro to Islamic Traditions
275 Intro to Disability Studies
280 Ethics of Diversity
312 Asian Thought
316 Intellectual Issues of Mexico
345 1st Freedom: Rel. Liberty/Intolerance
371 Philosophies of China
360 Philosophy and the Arts
417 Feminist Philosophies
430 History of Buddhist Philosophy
431 Buddhism, Nonviolence, Soc. Justice
448 Native American Philosophies

**Philosophy makes a great double
major. And, yes! Employers hire
philosophy majors. So what are
you waiting for?**

**Check the OSU catalog for a
complete list of courses.**

Meet Your Philosophy Advisor!



Dr. Marta Kunecka received her Ph.D. at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland and has been a faculty member here since 2007. She has taught thousands of students both at OSU and at local community colleges. She knows how to get you excited about philosophy as a path to get where you want to be in your career, and how to inspire you to use its resources to explore the deep questions of a life well-lived. As an educator she believes that her main role is not to teach you what to think but how to think well. In her spare time you can talk to her about art and social justice or watch her dancing Argentine tango and catching the winds at the local sail boat races.

Visit Marta in her office, MLM 308, or email her at marta.kunecka@oregonstate.edu.