PHILOSOPHY

PHI 1103: Introduction to Philosophy   -  Dr. John Bickle
Section 01   W 6:00 – 8:50   McCool 236
This special, one-meeting-per-week, Wednesday evening (6:30-9:10pm) section will introduce students to philosophical reading, thinking, and writing through not only classic and contemporary written works by philosophers, but also by viewing some classic Western movies. Topics to be covered include: conditions under which violent actions are morally justified; consequences versus intentions in the ethical evaluation of behavior; concepts of moral saints and heroes; the place of character virtues in ethics; knowledge, justified belief, and the special challenges of conspiracy theories; conceptions of death; and the philosophy of humor. (This course has a larger enrollment capacity than typical sections.) Students will be responsible for weekly writing assignments on the readings and films, a film journal, a term research project, and an essay final exam.

PHI 1003 Introduction to Philosophy   -  Dr. Robert Thompson
Section 02   TTh 9:30 – 10:45   Allen 31
Section 03   TTh 12:30 – 1:45   McCool 110
This course will introduce the student to such core philosophical questions as: Can I really ever know anything with certainty? Can I prove that God exists? Can I ever know that I am in control of what I do? Can I explain the difference between right and wrong? Can I understand why I am conscious?

PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic   -  Dr. Greig Mulberry
Section 01   TTh 11:00 – 12:15   Dorman 120
Section 04   MW 2:00 – 3:15   McCool 110
As the science of arguments, formal logic is the study of the structure and principles of good reasoning. We use arguments nearly constantly in ordinary life, in all branches of science, in political and ethical debate and decision making, in haggling over the best route to take on a trip, etc. Though arguments are so central to so many aspects of our lives, we don’t often stop to reflect on the nature of arguments and what it is that good arguments have that bad ones do not have. Logic, as a science, is just this reflection. The science of logic is quite a broad and complex field, but since this course is merely an introduction, there is much in this field that we will not cover. Hopefully you will leave this course with an increased ability to construct good arguments, a better sense of the soundness (or lack thereof) of others’ arguments, and generally greater skill in critical thinking.
PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic, sec. 02  -  Dr. Yolanda Estes
Section 02  TTh 8:00 – 9:15  Carpenter 104
This course addresses logic, which is the science of comprehending and evaluating propositions and arguments. Everyone has innate logical ability. The study of logic trains this innate ability and thereby, helps a person to think reasonably and to avoid error and deception. This course emphasizes the basic principles of formal and informal logic and of deductive (necessary) and inductive (probabilistic) logic. This course follows a traditional lecture/discussion format. Students should devote considerable time to practicing skills and solving problems outside of class. This course presupposes no knowledge of philosophy, mathematics, or logic, but it requires students to practice skills regularly outside of class. This course requires one reasonably priced text. Grades in this course are based on weekly quizzes. Contact Yolanda Estes at ydestesstudents@gmail.com for more information.

PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic  -  Dr. Lynn Holt
Section 03  TTh 8:00 – 9:15  Allen 19
Coverage of the nuts and bolts of formal and informal inference, with special attention to the concept of reason as it plays out in logic.

PHI 1123: Introduction to Ethics    -   Dr. John Bickle
Section 01  MWF 9:00 – 9:50  Allen 11
This course introduces students to ethics, the field of philosophy concerned with the evaluation of human action. It will be taught in a “pro-con” fashion, centering around some key questions that have been debated, many for centuries, in this field. Examples of such questions include abstract ones, “Is morality relative?” “Is pleasure the only value?” “Are humans responsible for their actions?” “Is equality the most important social value?” They also include more practical or applied questions, such as “Should doctors ever end people’s lives?” “Are the factual differences between men and women ethically important?” “Should we establish a world government?” This course will address both kinds of ethical questions. Students will be responsible for occasional in-class quizzes, a mid-term essay exam, a final essay exam, and a 5-7 page out-of-class writing assignment.

PHI 1123: Honors Introduction to Ethics   -    Dr. Lynn Holt
Section H01  TTh 3:30 – 4:45  Grifis 307
Focus on major ethical theories and their historical development. Four primary works will be read in their entirety.
PHIL 1123: Introduction to Ethics,  -  Mr. Jesse Switzer  
Section 02  TTh 11:00 – 12:15  McCool 110  
This course introduces you to Ethics by study of various philosophical systems of Ethics, from Plato to John Stuart Mill. Some will seek to justify standing ethical systems, and others will argue for and/or develop entirely original ethical standpoints. We will spend some time on the question of the role of a divine figure in ethical thought, and then close the course with a look at some contemporary ethical theories: humanist, evolutionist, and others. There is an option to do a paper in the field of applied ethics, working closely with the instructor. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to accomplish the making and analyzing of basic philosophical arguments; students should have a detailed understanding of fundamental philosophical concepts in ethics; and students should be generally familiar with some of the most influential historical ethical philosophers as well as contemporary ethical thought.

PHI 2123 Medical Ethics  -  Dr. Barton Moffat  
Section 01  TTh 9:30 – 10:45  Dorman 152  
Section 02  TTh 11:00 – 12:15  Dorman 152  
(Bio)medical Ethics explores the ethical issues that arise at the intersection of the biomedical sciences and society. We will cover ethical issues relating to eugenics, genetic determinism, organ donation, the use of stem cells, genetically modified organisms, public health pandemic planning, assisted reproduction, biotechnology, research on human subjects and more!

PHI 3013 Business Ethics  -  Dr. Michael Clifford  
Section 01  This is an Online class  
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate the following skills:  
1. Identify the important ethical issues pertaining to business, and recognize in what ways business is not only a commercial activity but a social institution whose activities have ethical repercussions for the worker, the consumer, the environment, economic justice, and even global welfare.  
2. Prepare for the sort of real world ethical dilemmas commonly faced in business, and thereby learn to cope with and resolve such dilemmas, and ultimately become better citizens.  
3. Demonstrate moral literacy by acquiring the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to coming to informed, rational opinions of their own concerning ethical issues in business.  
4. Identify the major theories in moral philosophy, such as Consequentialism, Distributive Justice, Rights-based theory, Duty theory, Utilitarianism, and Ethical Egoism and to be able to apply said theories to real world situations.  
5. Evaluate the arguments given for the various positions taken in business for their logical and moral persuasiveness according to the criteria of clarity, consistency, and fairness of application.
This course will introduce you to concepts and problems of ethics as this relates to professional roles, especially those in the business world – CEOs, accountants, marketers, lawyers, and so on. As human beings all of us have a range of obligations that constrain our decisions and our behavior as it affects other individuals, and perhaps also to non-human animals and the environment. But there are special obligations bearing on those who occupy the various professional roles in business. In this course we will come to understand what these obligations are; what are the general ethical rules and principles within the business and commercial context; what sorts of ethical conflicts and problems business professionals encounter, and what the best strategies are for thinking through them.

This course addresses the history of modern and contemporary philosophy, which is one part of a branch of philosophy called history of philosophy. Among other things, history of philosophy concerns the development of concepts, theories, and methods over time. This course approaches modern and contemporary philosophy through a simple question: “What is the task and method of philosophy?” This course examines the theories of knowledge, reality, and value that different philosophers based on their answer to this question. This course follows a traditional lecture/discussion format. Students should devote considerable time to reading, reflection, and discussion outside of class. This course presupposes no knowledge of philosophy or history, but it requires some academic maturity. Moreover, the reading material for this course is fairly difficult. This course requires two reasonably priced texts. Grades in this course are based on performance on three take-home essay tests. Contact Yolanda Estes at ydestesstudents@gmail.com for more information.

Early modern philosophy to the present, with special emphasis on the concepts of knowledge, reason and science.
PHI 3113 Philosophy of Law  -  Dr. Michael Clifford  
Section 01  TTh 2:00 – 3:15  McCool 113  
The goals of this course are to introduce the student to the major issues, theories, and figures in the discipline of jurisprudence; 2) to become familiar with and proficient in the critical thinking skills characteristic of legal thought and deliberation; 3) to appreciate the philosophical foundations of legal theory and practice.

PHI 3153 Aesthetics  -  Dr. Greig Mulberry  
Section 01  MW 3:30 – 4:45  McCool 225  
This course explores central issues in aesthetics and the philosophy of art. We shall, for the most part, proceed topically, but we’ll also occasionally examine influential historical sources and discuss historical trends in how these issues have been dealt with. Some of the questions we will address include the following: What is art? Can it actually be defined? What are aesthetic properties? What is aesthetic experience, and how does it differ from other sorts of experiences, like the experience of watching a sporting event? What is the nature of artistic interpretation, and can it be objective? What is it to be more or less informed when one judges art? What is artistic value? What is the place of art in society as a whole?

PHI 4213 Theories of Inquiry  -  Dr. Robert Thompson  
Section 01  TTh 3:30 – 4:45  McCool 109  
This course will introduce the student to the analysis of knowledge (epistemology). We will consider the following questions: Is it possible to define the difference between mere opinion and real knowledge? Why is scientific knowledge so impressive? Are there different forms of knowledge? Can we ever know anything at all?
RELIGION

REL 1103 Introduction to Religion
REL 1103-01 (CRN 13110) TR 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Albert Bisson
REL 1103-H01 (CRN 13111) TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Albert Bisson
REL 1103-02 (CRN 13112) MW 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 a.m. Robert Montgomery
REL 1103-03 (CRN 13113) TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Jonathan Edelmann
REL 1103-04 (CRN 14510) TR 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Jonathan Edelmann
REL 1103-06 (CRN 14806) MWF 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. James Codling

Religion lies at the core of human life, and a full appreciation of the development and function of human society and nations cannot be accomplished outside of an understanding of the religious influences that shape society. This course serves as an introduction to the subject of religion and its study. During the course you will be introduced to a variety of religious beliefs, expressions and practices in world religions. The precise topics covered will vary according to instructor, but they will include some or all of the following: the nature of the sacred, religious symbolism, myth, ritual, sacred scripture, society and religion, concepts of deity, the origin of the world order, human experience, the problem of evil, ethics, and the ways and end of salvation. You will also explore the relationship of religion to other disciplines, such as philosophy, politics, and science.

REL 1213: Introduction to Old Testament    -    Dr. Paul Jacobs
Section 01 MWF 9:00 – 9:50 McCool 225
A survey of Old Testament literature with attention to archaeological findings and the cultural setting.

REL 2233: Introduction to Old Testament Archeology    -    Dr. James Hardin
Section 01 MWF 10:00 – 10:50 Cobb 203
A survey of the Old Testament in the light of archaeological research. The approach is chronological-historical-archaeological.
The study of world religions is of vital importance in the present global age since peoples and cultures that were once isolated are now not only visible but also influential on one another. Our focus in this course will fall upon religions that have originated in the East and which are of increasingly greater relevance to Western international relations. We will concentrate on the most prominent and influential of these religions, notably Hinduism and Buddhism. We will also look at Jainism, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto. The origin, development, and teachings of each religion will be examined. The emphasis of the course will be upon understanding each religion as opposed to making a critical comparison between the religions.

Note: You do not need to take World Religions I before taking World Religions II. Each course is a self-contained unit.

The study of world religions is of vital importance in the present global age since peoples and cultures that were once isolated are now not only visible but also influencing one another. Our focus in this course will fall upon religions that have originated in the Middle East and which have greatly influenced Western society and Western international relations. We will concentrate on the most prominent and influential of these religions, notably Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will also look at Zoroastrianism and Baha’i. Zoroastrianism has its origins in Persia, present-day Iran, where the Jews spent some time in exile from the land of Canaan. Baha’i is a religion that arose out of Islam. The origin, development, and teachings of each religion will be examined.

In this course we will be looking at the foundation and contemporary application of Judeo-Christian ethics. The course will begin with an examination of the Jewish moral law, which forms the basis of the Christian moral law. We will then explore how this moral law speaks to issues in our society - e.g. euthanasia, abortion, stem cell research, capital punishment, environmentalism, as well as areas of interest raised by the class.
REL 4990: Special Topics in Religion: Hindu Mythology – Of Gods, Sages & Cowherd Maidens  -  Dr. Jonathan Edelmann
Section 02    MW 2:00 – 3:15    McCool 113
Ancient and contemporary Hindus take their myths seriously, and this course provides an overview of the central characters, stories, and imagery found in Hindu sacred literature. We also examine the manner in which the mythology exemplifies and teaches central Hindu philosophical, cosmological and theological concepts. Known for its richness, spirituality and highly imaginative beauty, we show how Hindu myth, yoga practice and theology are intertwined in some of humanity’s oldest reflections on absolute reality.