

PH101 – Problems of Philosophy

INSTRUCTOR: Susan Hahn

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m.—12:20 p.m.

Section 002, Tuesday & Friday 12:30 p.m.—1:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Pengbo Liu

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 003, Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 p.m. —4:50 p.m.

Section H01, Tuesday & Friday 12:30 p.m.—1:50 p.m.

This course seeks to help the student think rationally and critically about basic questions concerning the meaning of human life and our place in society and the universe, and to recognize the bearing of these questions on contemporary social issues. This course exposes students to both classical and contemporary philosophical problems. Among problems for possible discussion are the existence of God, freedom and responsibility, human nature and happiness, appearance and reality, ethics and the environment, abortion and individual rights, affirmative action and equality, love and sex, and law and authority.

PH102 – Practical Ethics

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry Steinhofer

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m.—9:20 a.m.

Section 006, Monday 6:30 p.m.—9:10 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Jesse Hughes

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 002, Monday & Wednesday 9:30 a.m.—10:50 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Mia Wood

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 003, Monday & Wednesday 3:30 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Debra Candreva

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 004, Tuesday & Friday 9:30 a.m.—10:50 a.m.

Section 005, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m.—12:20 p.m.

Our lives abound with questions about what is right and wrong, good and bad, ethical and unethical. How should we live and why should we live that way? What should our society allow and what should it forbid? How should we relate to one another as citizens, as coworkers, and as human beings? Ethical theory aims to help us answer these daunting but pressing questions. In this course, students will learn how to use ethical theory to analyze and evaluate differing perspectives on contemporary issues such as abortion, gun rights, racial and gender justice, online privacy, climate change, immigration, animal rights, and economic inequality. Students will develop their capacity to think critically, rationally, and creatively about the ethical questions we face as individuals and as a society.

PH103 – Ultimate Questions

INSTRUCTOR: Jason McGill

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Wednesday 3:30 p.m. –4:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: James Schofield

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 002, Tuesday & Thursday 5:00 p.m.—6:20 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: John Maier

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 003, Wednesday 6:30 p.m.—9:10 p.m.

Nobody makes it through life without at some stage being confronted with the ultimate questions about human existence: Who am I? Why am I here? What do I know? These and related topics, such as, for instance, the scientific method, the nature of truth, or the existence of God, are at the heart of philosophical inquiry. They are primarily theoretical (as opposed to practical or ethical) concerns that are largely addressed in metaphysics and epistemology – the areas of philosophy that reflect on the fundamental structure of the world, our place within and our ability to acquire knowledge about it. This course explores these questions through a number of historical and contemporary philosophical texts, as well as relevant perspectives in empirical disciplines (for instance psychology and psychiatry). It is designed to help students organize and deepen their thinking about the human condition.

PH130 – Business Ethics: Corporate Social Responsibility

INSTRUCTOR: Pengbo Liu

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m.—12:20 p.m.

This course examines the various meanings of corporate social responsibility by looking at the nature of the corporation and the character structure of its managers, both historically and in the present. After investigating several philosophical theories concerning the ideal use of power, the emphasis is on the application of principled moral thinking concerning corporate responsibility to such topics as employees, consumers, local communities, government, environmental issues, advertising, payoffs and bribes, the role and structure of corporate whistleblowing, privacy rights, poverty and equal rights, and other ethical issues that relate to corporate technology and the individual. Some attention is given to the moral evaluation of entire economic systems.

PH131 – Philosophy of Work

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Ancell

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Thursday 11:00 a.m.—12:20 p.m.

Section 002, Monday & Thursday 12:30 p.m.—1:50 p.m.

What should work look like in the 21st century? This course explores personal work values and a wide range of moral questions about contemporary work. It includes topics such as: globalization, technological change, wages and working conditions, work-life balance, discrimination and diversity, and workplace democracy. Texts include cases, academic articles, documentary films, literature, journalism, and discussions of public and institutional policies. The course draws on moral theories and students' overall academic expertise to identify problems and defend solutions.

PH138 – Environmental Ethics

INSTRUCTOR: Arianna Falbo

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Thursday 11:00 a.m.—12:20 p.m.

This course investigates the complex dimensions of the ethical relationship between humanity and the natural environment. Discusses a variety of theories and proposals concerning the nature of that relationship, including both anthropocentric and non-anthropocentric viewpoints. The course relates these ideas to the present environmental crisis, and to the duties and responsibilities that businesses have to protect and preserve the environment.

PH142 – Sports, Games, and Values

INSTRUCTOR: Jeff Moriarty

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Thursday 11:00 a.m.—12:20 p.m.

Sports and games are a central part of the human experience, and raise deep and complex philosophical questions. This course will examine a selection of these questions, such as: What is the connection between a game and its rules? Is foul simulation (diving or flopping) a form of cheating? What is the purpose of segregating competitors by gender in sports, and how should gender be determined? Should violent sports like boxing and football be abolished? Are college athletes, especially those from minority groups, exploited? Are sports and games worthwhile pursuits or a waste of time? In exploring these and related questions, this course prepares students to be more reflective players and consumers of sports and games.

PH252 – Theories of Knowledge

INSTRUCTOR: Jason Megill

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Wednesday 5:00 p.m.—6:20 p.m.

This course examines the most important questions that we can ask about our beliefs: When should we take something that we believe to be knowledge and not mere belief? What sort of evidence, reasons or assurances must we have for some belief we hold in order to be justified in holding it? How should we respond to those skeptics who deny that we have knowledge about this for that area of human concern (for example, of ultimate reality, of ethics or of God)? And how should we respond to the radical skeptic who denies that we have any knowledge at all? The course will gain focus on these and similar questions in order to help the student gain a deeper understanding of the nature and limits of human knowledge.

PH253 – Theories of Reality

INSTRUCTOR: James Schofield

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

This course is concerned with questions having to do with the nature of existence or reality. Concerning the nature of existence or reality, some have held that everything that exists ultimately reduces to material things or processes "Atoms dancing in the void" as the ancient materialist, Democritus, put it. Others (Bishop Berkeley, for example) have denied the reality of the physical world entirely, asserting that everything that exists is ultimately reducible to spiritual or mind-like things. On the other hand, many in the Western world have embraced some form of metaphysical dualism, which affirms the reality of both the spiritual and the material world; still others (for example, certain Hindus) have denied all such categories, affirming that everything, except for the indivisible, indescribable One, is an illusion. Finally, certain pragmatists and postmodernists claim that we should completely abandon the entire construct.

PH270 – Consciousness and Experience

INSTRUCTOR: Axel Seemann

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Thursday 2:00 p.m.—3:20 p.m.

Consciousness is utterly familiar to each of us and yet has proved elusive to any systematic study. We all seem to know intuitively what it is, but it turns out to be very hard to spell out or explain that knowledge. This course will address some key questions about the nature of consciousness by drawing on philosophical and psychological sources. These questions include: How can we explain the relationship between brain events and conscious experience? Is a naturalistic explanation of consciousness in principle available? Can we make sense of phenomena such as lucid dreaming and out-of-body experiences? How should we think of the place of consciousness in the universe?

PH310 – Ethical Theory

INSTRUCTOR: Jesse Hughes

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001 Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m.—9:20 a.m.

This course surveys important traditional and contemporary ethical views, with emphasis on relating reflective morality to life in the world today. It includes an investigation of absolutism versus relativism, egoism versus altruism, the nature of moral properties and moral language, and the justification of ethical theories, such as utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics.

PH315 – East Asian Philosophy

INSTRUCTOR: Pengbo Liu

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001 Monday & Thursday 12:30 p.m.—1:50 p.m.

East Asian countries of China, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan have become major economic powerhouses in the contemporary world. Many experts have attributed their economic success to their traditional worldviews, specifically Confucianism. Whether this assessment is correct, it is of utmost importance that students, who desire to attain a global perspective, understand the philosophical perspectives of East Asia. This course provides an opportunity for students to learn about the philosophical and cultural traditions of East Asia in a systematic and comprehensive fashion. It explores three major philosophical perspectives of East Asia, Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism, by following their histories and evolution in East Asia over two millennia.

PH316 – Feminist Theory

INSTRUCTOR: Arianna Falbo

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Thursday 2:00 p.m.—3:20 p.m.

What is the nature of sex-based oppression, and how can we successfully recognize and resist it? This course aims to introduce students to feminist theoretical approaches to the above and related questions. Through readings of contemporary feminist philosophical texts, we will explore the social-structural source of sexist oppression, as well as the impact of such oppression on the self, knowledge, and values.

PH320 – Human Rights and Global Governance

INSTRUCTOR: Ranjoo Herr

TO BE OFFERED:

Section 001, Monday & Thursday 2:00 p.m.—3:20 p.m.

In the contemporary era of globalization, understanding current issues relating to human rights and global governance is a must for global citizens of the 21st century, especially for those who aspire to be business leaders. The aim of the course is to help Bentley students think about various aspects of the human rights and global governance discourse critically, reflectively, and deeply. The course also aims to help Bentley students develop stronger critical thinking skills.