

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry Steinhofner

TO BE OFFERED: Section 001, Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. -9:20 a.m.
Section 003, Monday & Wednesday 9:30 a.m. -10:50 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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. 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, racism and equality, love and sex, and law and authority.

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Mia Wood

TO BE OFFERED: Section 009, Monday & Wednesday 3:30 p.m. -4:50 p.m.
Section 011, Monday & Wednesday 5:00 p.m.-6:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What do you care about? Why should you care? Are you free to care? These are some of the questions we'll consider in Philosophy 101: Problems in Philosophy. Our course's theme is care, and our assumption is that we care about things like truth, living a good life, and thinking about problems like whether or not minds exist. We'll also think a bit about the nature of care itself!

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: John Maier

TO BE OFFERED: Section 007, Wednesday 6:30 p.m. -9:10 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course considers our mortality and its philosophical implications. Does mortal life have any meaning? Is it a good thing to bring someone into existence? Is it a bad thing to die? What would

immortality be like? How should we think about the extinction of a species, including the human species?

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Ancell

TO BE OFFERED: Section 012, Monday & Thursday 2:00 p.m. -3:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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 idea use if 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

.

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Susan Hahn

TO BE OFFERED: Section 015, Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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 idea use if 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

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Ranjoo Herr

TO BE OFFERED: Section 005, Monday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The aim of the course is to help students learn to think critically, reflectively, and deeply with an open-mind. The ability to think critically, reflectively and deeply with an open-mind is highly valued by the leaders of the world, whether in academia, politics, law, or business. In order to be recognized as a leader in business or elsewhere, you must engage in critical thinking and understand the bigger picture. This is what the philosophical method enables you to do.

Bentley University emphasizes ethics and social responsibility of business people. Therefore, this course is designed to help students learn and practice the philosophical method by focusing on moral philosophy, which examines fundamentals of ethics and social responsibility. Topics examined are: First, questions about egoism and relativism; second, two major ethical theories of utilitarianism and deontology; and third, the application of the two theories to highly debated contemporary ethical issues (see the schedule below).

Classes are discussion-oriented following the philosophical method. You are expected to have done the reading for each class, so that class discussions are informed and focused. To ensure that everyone is prepared for each class, you are required to complete pre-class assignments before the start of class. Preparing yourself for class in this way requires self-discipline, hard work, persistence, and perseverance. The hope is that completing the coursework successfully will help you develop these essential character traits for success in life. It is up to you!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By meeting the requirements of this course, you will learn how to:

- evaluate whether an argument makes sense
- sharpen your ability to diagnose and troubleshoot flaws in an argument
- make your point succinctly and precisely by formulating your own argument
- construct as strong an argument for your position as possible
- think/write logically

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jesse Hughes

TO BE OFFERED: Section 018, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 p.m.

Section 019, Tuesday & Friday 12:30 p.m. -1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a broad introduction to philosophy, in which we will touch on many traditional subjects. We will begin with a section on epistemology (What stuff can we know and how?) and metaphysics (What stuff is there anyway?). Our second section is an overview of classical ethical theories (What should one do? Why should one try to be good anyway?), and our final section discusses certain problems of applied ethics (Is abortion morally acceptable? What moral duties apply in a state of war?)

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Pengbo Liu

TO BE OFFERED: Section 004, Monday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 p.m.
Section 006, Monday & Thursday 12:30 p.m.-1:50 p.m.
Section 013, Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an overview of some central problems of philosophy. The questions we will ask include: Does God exist? It is rational to believe in God? Do we have free will? Can we be held responsible for our actions? Is morality objective? What do we morally owe to each other? Is morally permissible to eat animals? Students will not only learn how philosophers answer these questions, but also how to analyze and confront their views critically.

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Jason L. Megill

TO BE OFFERED: Section 008, Monday & Wednesday 3:30 p.m. -4:50 p.m.
Section 010, Monday & Wednesday 5:00 p.m. -6:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will study several of the core areas of Philosophy, though there will be a special emphasis on Ethics. We start by examining most of the major ethical theories: Utilitarianism, Kant, Aristotle, Ethical Subjectivism, and Divine Command Theory. We then consider some topics in Applied Ethics, including abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, genetic enhancement, and just war theory. We will also cover some topics in Political philosophy (e.g., how should wealth be distributed), Philosophy of Religion (e.g., does God exist), and Metaphysics and Philosophy of

Mind (e.g., could a machine think?).

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: James Schofield

TO BE OFFERED: Section 014, Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 p.m. -4:50 p.m.
Section 016, Tuesday & Thursday 5:00 p.m. -6:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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 idea use if 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.

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Axel Seemann

TO BE OFFERED: Section 007(H), Monday & Thursday 2:00 p.m. -3:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course considers a range of important philosophical questions. We begin with an inquiry into the nature of knowledge and consider a range of questions about the nature of the mind. We go on to ask whether there is such a thing as freedom and what it means to be free, and end by studying some key ethical theories

(Spring 2022)

PH 101: PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: TBD

TO BE OFFERED: Section 002, Monday & Thursday 12:30 p.m.-1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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 idea 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

(Spring 2022)

PH 134: Healthcare Ethics

INSTRUCTOR: Stephen Campbell

TO BE OFFERED: Monday & Wednesday 9:30 p.m. -10:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines ethical issues that arise in healthcare. Possible topics include the ethics of medical procedures such as abortion and euthanasia; the rights and duties of patients and healthcare professionals; the ethics of reproductive technologies; the management of medical information; justice in the distribution of healthcare resources; and the role of health in the good life.

(Spring 2022)

PH 140: Disability, Values & Society

INSTRUCTOR: Stephen Campbell

TO BE OFFERED: Monday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. -12:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Disability is and always has been a universal aspect of human experience. Every year, millions of people live with some form of physical or cognitive disability, and all of us have the potential to become disabled at any time. But what is disability exactly? Is it simply a medical problem? Or do disabilities arise from a mismatch between a person's body and her social environment? Is having a disability necessarily bad for you? What value does disability contribute to society? Drawing upon philosophy, memoirs, film, and other sources, this course will explore these and

related questions with a particular focus on disability in the United States. Potential topics include different models of disability, the disability rights movement in the U.S., the ethics of causing and preventing disability, feminist perspectives on disability, disability in popular culture, and the relationship between disability and technology.

(Spring 2022)

PH 160: Technology and Values

INSTRUCTOR: Pengbo Liu

TO BE OFFERED: Tuesday & Friday 12:30 p.m. -1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced technology has been integrated with virtually every aspect of human life. It has transformed work, play, education, entertainment, business, science, politics, media, personal relationships, and our identities. This course will examine technology through a philosophical and ethical lens. We will explore the nature of technology, its relationship with society and culture, and its promise and perils. We will also critically evaluate the significance, benefits, and costs of a range of technological developments, such as the Internet and social media, big data, automation and work, virtual reality, robots and artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and human enhancement.

(Spring 2022)

PH 270: Consciousness & Experience

INSTRUCTOR: Axel Seemann

TO BE OFFERED: Monday & Thursday 12:30 p.m. -1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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?

(Spring 2022)

PH 312: Liberty, Morality and Law

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Ancell

TO BE OFFERED: Wednesday 11:00 a.m. -1:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Is it a free country, or so they say. But the state places many constraints on our behavior. Which of these are justified, and which are not? Should you be able to say hateful things? Drive without wearing a seatbelt? Sell your organs? In general, what moral principles should guide rule-makers as they devise rules for a just society? Potential topics of discussion include the nature and value of human freedom, the significance of morality, justice, economic choice, freedom of thought and expression, paternalism and punishment.

(Spring 2022)

PH 320: Human Rights/Global Governance

INSTRUCTOR: Ranjoo Herr

TO BE OFFERED: Monday & Thursday 2:00 p.m. -3:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the contemporary era of globalization, the ability to understand and critically assess current issues relating to human rights and global governance is a must for global citizens and business leaders of the 21st century. The aim of the course is to help Bentley students think deeply about and critically evaluate various aspects of human rights and global governance discourse. As a course in political philosophy, it will help students develop stronger critical thinking skills.

(Spring 2022)