

PHILOSOPHY 1010

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

This course introduces philosophical inquiry and explores questions such as: How is the mind connected to the body? What is it to know something? How does scientific knowledge differ from other forms of knowledge? Is there an external world that exists independently of human perception and cognition and if so, do we have access to it? How do we figure out what is morally right or wrong? What is justice? Is there a universal human nature? How do religious beliefs differ from other types of beliefs? What are some of the traditional arguments regarding the existence of God?



PHILOSOPHY 1020

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

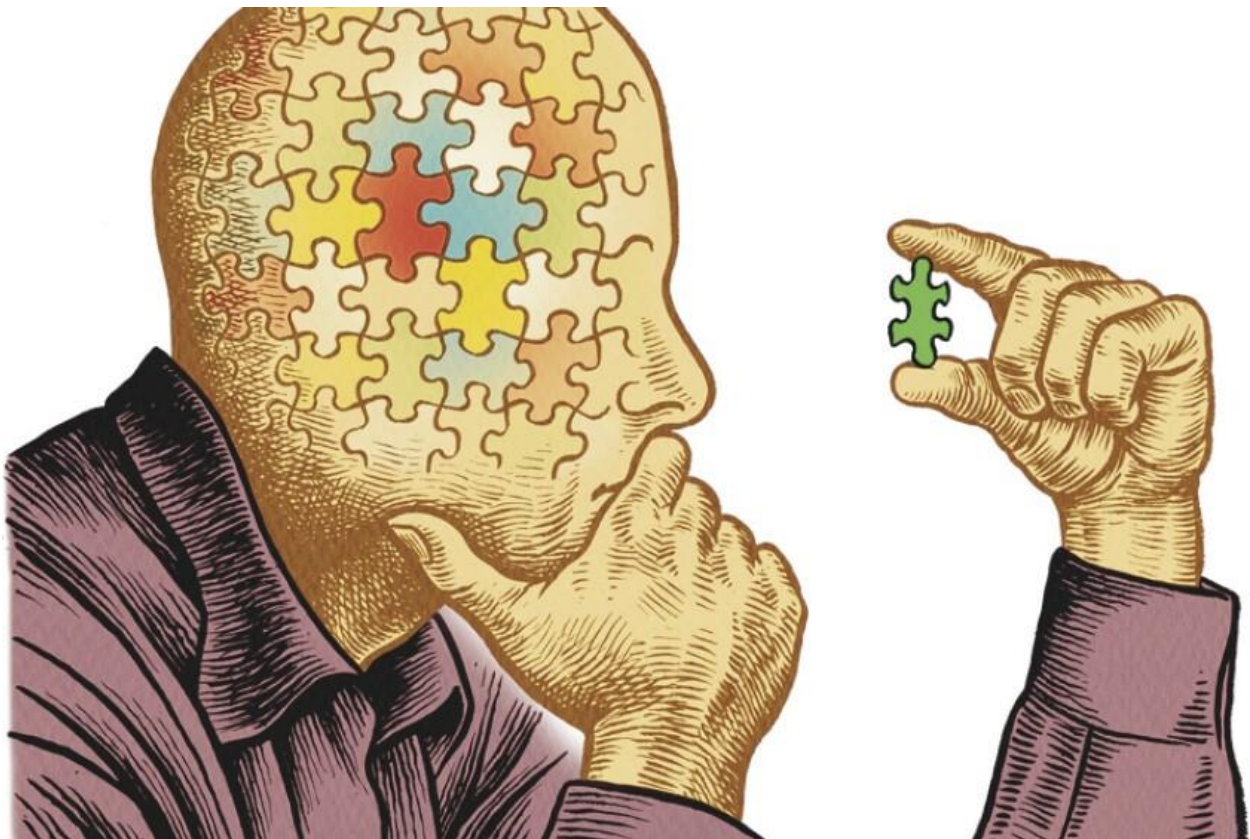
This course explores some basic questions about human life as they have been addressed in western philosophy, which may include: What is the meaning of life? What is it to live a good life? What is justice? How should a society be organized in order to be a just society? How do answers to these questions vary with different theories of human nature? What is the basis for judgments of right and wrong in interpersonal relations, in relation to the environment, and in public policy? How do we appraise competing values? What is virtue? Topics may also include: gender; sexuality; racism; colonization; health and disability; the nature of religion.



PHILOSOPHY 1110

CRITICAL THINKING

This course helps students identify and evaluate various types of arguments couched in ordinary language. Different types of errors of reasoning are critically evaluated, such as argument from authority, begging the question, faulty causal correlation, appeal to emotions, inadequate sample, and deceptive use of statistics. The course aids the student in recognizing occurrences of these fallacies, and the conditions for logical error and weak argumentation in general. Emphasis is placed on the identification of weak arguments and the construction of strong arguments. Examples for critique and counter argument are derived mainly from the popular media.



PHILOSOPHY 2020

CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES

Specific moral issues of contemporary concern such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, animal rights, environmental ethics, terrorism, pornography, prostitution, and welfare form the basic content of the course. Although some ethical theory is discussed, the course's primary concern is with applied ethics (as opposed to ethical theory as taught in Philosophy 3030). Students learn to distinguish justifiable ethical arguments from those more problematic.



PHILOSOPHY 2040

BIO-MEDICAL ETHICS

This course explores questions in health care that require philosophical clarification and appraisal in addition to medical knowledge. Topics such as reproductive decision-making, contract motherhood, allocation of scarce resources, conditions for the withdrawal of treatment, rights to health care, euthanasia, AIDS, eugenics and consent are discussed. The emphasis is on evaluating competing arguments.



PHILOSOPHY 2060

ANIMAL ETHICS

This course introduces the recent paradigm shift from anthropocentric ethics to biocentric ethics. The main objectives of the course are 1) to develop understanding of the main arguments concerning the moral status of nonhuman animals; 2) to cover the full range of different ethical positions regarding animals and discuss their advantages and disadvantages; and 3) to identify ideologies associated with thinking about animals and develop a critique which liberates us from one-dimensional thinking about animals. Topics addressed include whether animals have minds, whether animals have rights analogous in some way to human rights, and how to balance the interests of animals with other environmental goods. Other topics include animals as food, animal research ethics, animals in entertainment, cloning, biotechnology, companion animals, and legal and moral issues associated with animal activism.



PHILOSOPHY 2090: SPECIAL TOPICS

MEANING OF LIFE

A philosophical examination on the various answers to the question: What is the meaning of life?



PHILOSOPHY 2210

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

This course explores a series of basic questions about the nature of social existence. It emphasizes the concept of a “social contract,” and analyzes historical development in Western philosophers such as Hobbes, Locke, Hume and Rousseau. It discusses twentieth century development, such as the philosophy of John Rawls.



PHILOSOPHY 2420

PHILOSOPHIES OF LOVE AND SEXUALITY

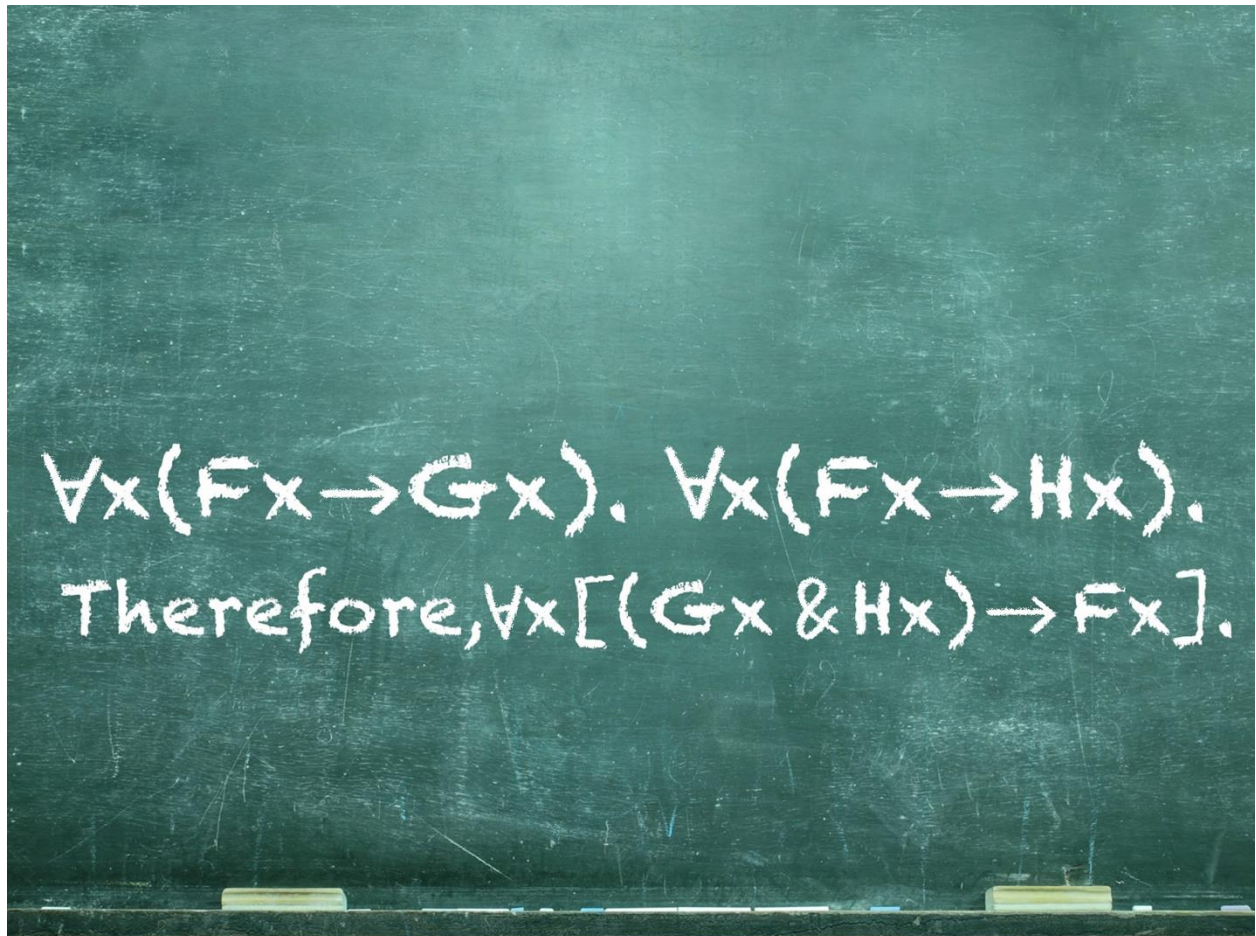
This course explores philosophical issues related to love and sexuality as constructed and experienced in particular cultural and historical contexts in Anglo-American culture. Topics may include analysis of love and sexuality as portrayed in music, literature, film and art; kinds of love; conceptions of self and community underlying different accounts of love; sexual activity as expressive, communicative, sacred, profane, athletic, goal-oriented; the commodification of sex; competing conceptions of sexual health and sexual liberation; conservative, liberal, radical and feminist perspectives; ethical issues in intimate relationships, families, sex-trade work and pornography.



PHILOSOPHY 2510

FORMAL LOGIC

This course is an introduction to the theory and techniques of classical and modern logic. Students are exposed to the basic concepts of classical propositional and quantificational logic and methods of testing inference. As well, students are exposed to several logical systems that purport to extend classical logic.



PHILOSOPHY 2710

ETHICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

This course investigates the ethical problems associated with climate change, including: What ethical frameworks are helpful for evaluating the complex social, environmental, intergenerational and international ethical issues that climate change raises? What moral responsibility do individuals have for helping to resolve problems in which their whole society is implicated? What is the fairest and most effective way to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions? Is our current rate of GHG emissions a new form of domination — not only over the earth and other civilizations, but also over future generations? Does the massively collective nature of climate change necessitate new ways of conceptualizing environmental ethics?



PHILOSOPHY 3010

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

This course investigates questions basic to understanding the nature, aims, and activities of science as a human enterprise. Questions include: How do scientists produce and legitimate their knowledge claims? What is the relation between scientific laws, hypotheses, and theories? Do the theoretical entities of science really exist? Does scientific knowledge steadily increase? Is western science value free, or is it influenced by the biology, culture, social location and power of the people who work in it? What is the difference between science and religion as belief systems? Why did western science quickly become the globally dominant form of knowledge production? Do different cultures each have their own equally valid forms of “science,” or does western science give us the one true account of nature?



PHILOSOPHY 3030

HISTORY OF ETHICAL THEORY

This course offers an historical and critical examination of influential ethical theories proposed by philosophers ranging from Aristotle to Nietzsche. The focus is on the philosophical justification for morality, and not on applied issues.



PHILOSOPHY 3090: SPECIAL TOPICS

AESTHETICS

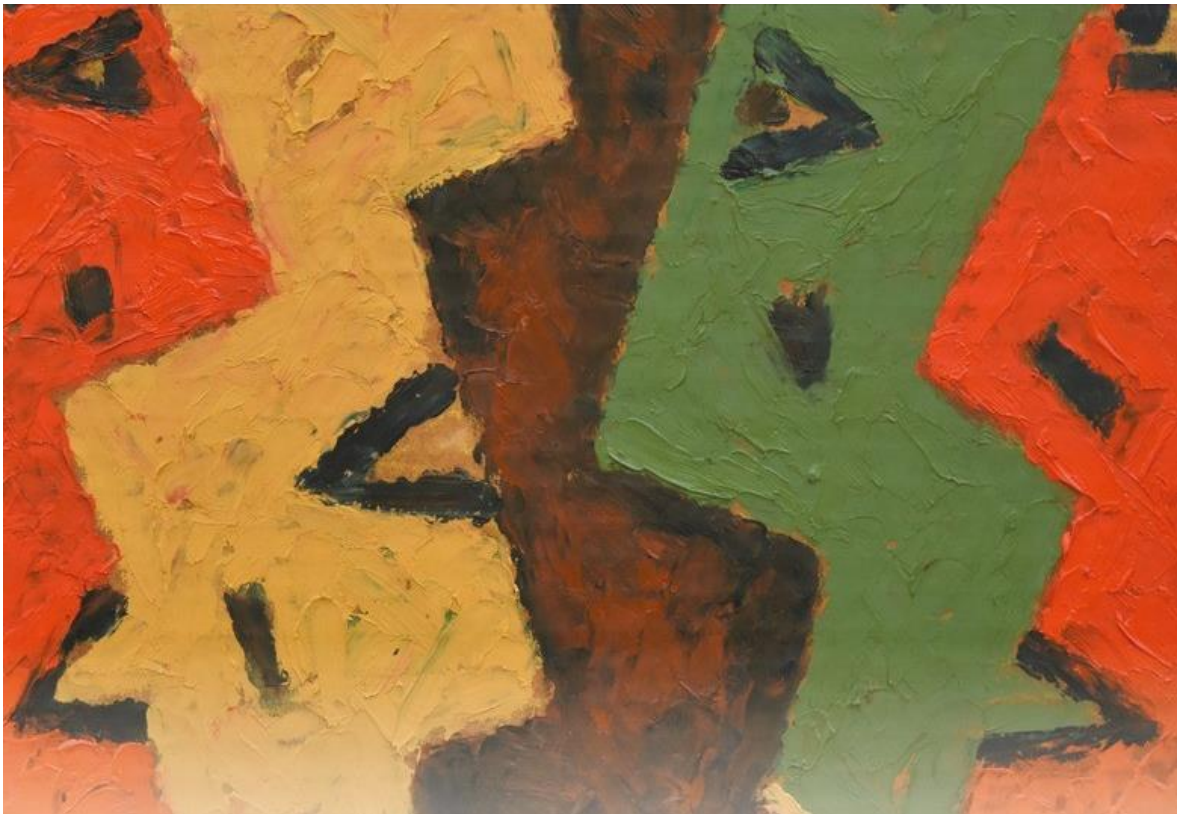
This course explores basic issues in aesthetics. What is art? Are aesthetic judgments objective or merely subjective matters of taste and feeling? Is it possible to have standards of criticism? Is art fictional and if so can it be true? What is the place of art in human life? The definitions of art are as myriad as the varieties of art itself and this course will explore some of these ideas through the philosophical notion of aesthetics.



PHILOSOPHY 3530

PHILOSOPHIES OF COMMUNICATION

This course explores the history of thinking about communication, including technologies such as printing, relevant disciplines such as journalism, human rights, and the role of media as agents of social change. Topics include the history of free expression, censorship, the emergence of the public sphere, techniques for influencing public opinion, communication and war, propaganda and truth. Thinkers such as Condorcet, Godwin, J.S. Mill, Ellul, McLuhan, Habermas, Chomsky, Mattelart, and contemporary theorists may be discussed.



PHILOSOPHY 3610

PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE

An examination of the ways in which similar basic human concerns are expressed and developed in philosophy and literature. The course focuses on the use of literature in learning philosophy, with particular attention to the novel as a vehicle for bringing philosophy to the masses and the connections between literature and social change. It also explores the history of theories of literature and popular culture, including work by Habermas, McLuhan, Camus, Sartre, Rorty and Kundera.



PHILOSOPHY 3830

RADICAL PHILOSOPHY

This course explores attempts by philosophers, in the 19th and 20th centuries, to create alternative social movements that are highly critical of existing social organizations and the state form of life. It provides an historical introduction to Marxism, anarchism and feminist social theory. Texts are selected from Godwin, Marx, Engels, Proudhon, Kropotkin, Emma Goldman and Simone de Beauvoir.



PHILOSOSOPHY 3840

RATIONALIST AND EMPIRICISTS

This course is an introduction to early modern philosophy through the study of the most important works of the rationalists (Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz) and the empiricists (Locke, Berkeley, and Hume).



PHILOSOPHY 4090: SPECIAL TOPICS

ARISTOTLE'S NICHOMACHEAN ETHICS

