

PHILOSOPHY

Doing philosophy means reasoning about questions that are of basic importance to the human experience—questions like, What is a good life? What is reality? How are knowledge and understanding possible? What should we believe? What norms should govern our societies, our relationships, and our activities? Philosophers critically analyze ideas and practices that often are assumed without reflection. Wesleyan's philosophy faculty draws on multiple traditions of inquiry, offering a wide variety of perspectives and methods for addressing these questions.

FACULTY

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DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

All departmental faculty

- Undergraduate Philosophy Major (catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/phil/ugrd-phil)

PHIL111 Introduction to Critical Philosophy of Race

This first-year seminar (FYS) course will examine contemporary figures in the emerging field of critical philosophy of race. We will attempt to examine what contributions (if any) the critical philosophy of race has provided not only to philosophy as a discipline but also to more traditional and established modes of thinking race and racism. We will do so by exploring issues such as the differences between critical philosophy of race and critical race theory, as well as the historical role of race and racism in philosophical thinking, and by attending to the major debates currently held in this emerging tradition.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **AFAM111**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL112 Virtue and Vice in History, Literature, and Philosophy

Beginning with Aristotle and Confucius and reading our way through significant texts of Christianity, humanism, postmodernism, and contemporary cultural productions, we will explore the ethics, power, and politics intersecting in the idea of virtue.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-COL**

Identical With: **COL228, CHUM228, HIST140**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL118 Reproduction in the 21st Century

This course will cover basic human reproductive biology, new and future reproductive and contraceptive technologies, and the ethics raised by reproductive issues.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **NSM-BIOL**

Identical With: **BIOL118, FGSS118, SISP118**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL154 What Is Rationality?

What does it mean to be rational? Although this question has traditionally been the province of philosophy, reference to reason and rationality is also pervasive in the modern social and behavioral sciences. Humans are rational creatures--or, if they are not in practice, they should be. This course takes an expansive view of rationality and its history, tracing how the concept has changed over time, and critically examining its significance in the sciences and broader culture today. From the role of reason in human flourishing and civic discourse in the ancient world, to early modern conceptions of logic as "the art of thinking," to Cold War attempts to build machines that might reason more reliably than frail humans, this exploration of reasoning and rationality explores several interlocking themes: the relationship between reason and other facets of the mind, especially emotion; conceptions of reason as an evaluative vs. a calculating faculty; the role of reason in human judgment; the relationship between rationality and rules; the relationship between choosing rationally and choosing ethically; and the fraught history of attempts to formulate universally valid principles of rationality.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-HIST**

Identical With: **HIST283, SISP283**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL160 Philosophy and the Movies: The Past on Film

This course examines how films represent the past and how they can help us understand crucial questions in the philosophy of history. We begin with three weeks on documentary cinema. How do documentary films achieve "the reality effect"? How has the contemporary documentary's use of reenactment changed our expectations of nonfiction film? Much of the course is devoted to classic narrative films that help us critically engage questions about the depiction of the past. We think about those films in relation to texts in this history of philosophy and contemporary film theory.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-FILM**

Identical With: **FILM360, HIST129**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL201 Philosophical Classics I: Ancient Western Philosophy

This course provides an overview of the development of Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, from its inception in the 6th century BCE through to Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Epicureans, and the Stoics. In exploring this material, we will touch on all or nearly all of the central concerns of the Western philosophical tradition: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics, aesthetics, religion, and logic. Our focus in class will be on the close analysis of primary texts. Students must be willing to engage with readings that are fascinating but at the same time dense, difficult, and perplexing. The course requires no prior experience in philosophy and should be of equal interest to students who are pursuing or intend to pursue other majors.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Identical With: **COL359, CCIV217**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL202 Philosophical Classics II: Early Modern Philosophy from Descartes Through Kant

Can we ever hope to attain certain knowledge of the external world? Can we know ourselves? How is our mind related to our body? Are our senses more reliable than our intellect? Or is it the other way round? Can we have science

without a belief in God? These are some of the questions that excited the philosophical imagination of the major intellectual figures of the early modern period, an era of unparalleled collaboration between science and philosophy. In this course we will examine how the Scientific Revolution encouraged philosophers toward radical innovation in epistemology and philosophy of mind, laying the foundations for our own modern conceptions of natural law, scientific explanation, consciousness and self-consciousness, knowledge and belief. We will be reading, analyzing, and arguing with some of the most influential works in the history of Western philosophy, including Descartes' *MEDITATIONS*, Locke's *ESSAY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING*, Hume's *ENQUIRY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING*, and Kant's *CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON*.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Identical With: **COL360**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL205 Classical Chinese Philosophy

Topics in this critical examination of issues debated by the early Confucian, Daoist, and Mohist philosophers will include the nature of normative authority and value, the importance of ritual, and the relation between personal and social goods.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Identical With: **CEAS261, RELI228**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL207 Live Like a Philosopher

Philosophy in the ancient world was viewed not simply as a discipline or body of doctrine but as a way of life. In this project-based learning course, we will study and put into practice the theoretical views of four schools of ancient philosophy in the Greek and Roman world: Platonist, Aristotelian, Epicurean, and Stoic.

After some preliminary work introducing ourselves to each of these schools, the majority of this course will be divided into four units. In each unit, students will "live like a philosopher" by incorporating the thought of each school into their daily lives. The aims of this course are to test the viability of these philosophical theories, consider how they may be put into practice, and explore how they may illuminate for us what it means to lead a well-lived life.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **Cr/U**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL211 Critical Philosophy of Race

This course will examine contemporary figures in the emerging field of critical philosophy of race. We will attempt to examine what contributions (if any) the critical philosophy of race has provided not only to philosophy as a discipline, but also to more traditional and established modes of thinking race and racism. We will do so by exploring issues such as the differences between critical philosophy of race and critical race theory, as well as the historical role of race and racism in philosophical thinking, and by attending to the major debates currently held in this emerging tradition.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **AFAM211**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL212 Introduction to Ethics

This course will begin with some ancient questions about values. We find that two ancient approaches to right living (Platonic-Stoic and Aristotelian) differ radically over how much experience or society can teach us about what is good. Yet both insist that moral life is essentially connected to individual happiness.

Turning next to modern ideas of moral action (Kantian and utilitarian), we find that they both emphasize a potential gulf between individual happiness and moral rightness. Yet, like the ancients, they disagree over whether morality's basic insights derive from experience.

The last third of the course explores more recent preoccupations with ideas about moral difference, moral change, and the relation between morality and power. Especially since Marx and Nietzsche, moral theory faces a sustained challenge from social theorists who allege moral norms and judgments serve hidden ideological purposes. Some have sought to repair universal ethics by giving an account of progress or the overcoming of bias, while others have argued for plural or relative ethics. Ecological critics have challenged moral theorists to overcome their preoccupation with exclusively human interests and ideals. What kinds of moral reflection might be adequate to problems of global interdependence?

Students will come to understand the distinctive insights and arguments behind all of the positions considered, to recognize more and less cogent lines of response to them, and to shape their own patterns of moral reasoning through careful reflection.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Identical With: **ENVS212**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL213 Introduction to Existentialism

This course is an introduction to existentialism. "Existentialism" is both a philosophical tradition and a term that is central to the intellectual history of western thought. The term was explicitly adopted self-descriptively by Jean-Paul Sartre, and was widely disseminated both by his own literary and philosophical contributions and those of his intellectual interlocutors--notably Simone de Beauvoir, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Albert Camus. Existentialism became identified with a cultural movement that flourished in Europe in the 1940s and 1950s. In this course, we will begin by exploring the root and intellectual origins of this tradition through the work of philosophers and authors like Friedrich Nietzsche, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and Soren Kierkegaard. We will spend a considerable time on some of this philosophical tradition's central tenets like "freedom," "the absurd," "existence precedes essence," "facticity," "authenticity," and "despair." Because existentialism also resonated widely with anti-colonial thinkers across the globe, we will end the course by reading important figures in this movement like Frantz Fanon, Richard Wright, and James Baldwin, in order to understand the ways in which existentialism gradually became an intellectual and political tool of contestation against racism and imperialism.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL214 Reasoning About Justice

This course introduces students to the disciplined study of philosophy through reflection on justice and the grounding and authority of claims invoking justice. The central theme of the course is that conceptions of justice and its authority cannot be understood or established in isolation. The meaning and authority of claims about justice and injustice can only be established through inferential

relations to other philosophical issues, for example, concerning reason, knowledge, reality, agency, and identity. These issues will be explored through reflective engagement with classic treatments of these issues by Plato, Hobbes, Kant, and more contemporary philosophical work. The contemporary readings include discussions of distributive justice (concerning access to resources and opportunities); the interplay between gender, race, and conceptions of justice; and whether justice and injustice can be assessed comparatively without reference to a comprehensive, ideal social order.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL215 Humans, Animals, and Nature

A variety of important issues are central to understanding the complexity of relationships between humans, nonhumans, and the rest of nature. The goals of the course are to help students to think critically, to read carefully, to argue well, and to defend their own reasoned views about the moral relations between humans, animals, and nature.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **ENVS215**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL217 Bioethics and Social Justice

"Health has replaced salvation," wrote the 19th-century philosopher of medicine José Miguel Guardia. This course will examine the increasing importance that health, medicine, biotechnology, and health care systems have taken in contemporary societies. Dramatic changes in medicine allow us to prolong life and treat disease in previously unimaginable ways, even as these same changes open the door to new forms of exploitation, violence, racism, and oppression in the name of medicine itself. Our goal will be to grasp the ethical and philosophical significance of these contradictions. We will begin by examining some of the most prominent medical abuses of the 20th-century, including the Tuskegee syphilis trials and the lingering effects of eugenics and Social Darwinism. Then we will consider the mainstream response in U.S. ethics to these abuses--the creation and institutionalization of the discipline of bioethics--and the critics of this response. From there, we will reflect on the limits of the bioethics approach in light of the current global crises of health, life, and medicine. Readings will include selections from philosophical bioethics (including continental approaches, such as Canguilhem, Foucault, and Fanon), the history of medicine, the social sciences, and current journalism.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **SISP217**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL218 Personal Identity and Choice

This course explores philosophical reflections on the problem of personal identity and its relationship to matters of choice and freedom. How do certain experiences and thoughts and physical materials compose oneself? Am I the same person over time even through complete transformations of experience, thought, and material? Can I choose which elements of my existence to count as essential? Some argue the concept of a unified and enduring self partakes of illusion; at the other extreme, some argue for the permanent integrity of individual souls. Regarding choice and freedom, we find a related debate, ranging from those who deny free will altogether to those who define humanity's essence in terms of choice and agency. Might we coherently say that some human selves can have more integrity and others less? What gives a measure

of meaningful coherence to a person's life? Similarly, can we distinguish some choices as more free than others? What makes for meaningful choice? Besides serving as an introduction to philosophical reasoning, the course will draw interdisciplinary connections on themes such as social identities, religious experience, political freedom, and legal responsibility.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL219 Evil, Responsibility, and Forgiveness

The problem of evil has long occupied an important position in the history of philosophy. In light, however, of the horrific events of the 20th-century, philosophers and other writers of the past hundred years have begun to ask whether it is time to rethink our own understanding of evil. Is it possible to understand genocide, colonialism, and systematic racism through existing conceptions of evil, responsibility, and forgiveness, conceptions drawn largely from religion and the law? What happens to our understanding of evil when, as Hannah Arendt famously suggested with her notion of the "banality of evil," mass murder is detached from wicked intentions and is made routine, mundane, even cliché? What happens to our understanding of responsibility when, on the one hand, a whole society, not just an individual, is implicated in a crime--and when, on the other hand, responsibility cannot be confined to geographical or national borders? What happens to our understanding of forgiveness when the very possibility or desirability of such an act becomes eminently questionable? In this course, we will draw from continental philosophy, critical philosophy of race, literature, and film. Readings may include selections from Emmanuel Levinas, Hannah Arendt, Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire, Primo Levi, Jacques Derrida, and Susan Neiman.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL220 Human Nature

The idea of "human nature" plays an important role in all sorts of explanations, but what does it mean? What is it to be a human? Are we just rational animals? Do some humans have different natures than others? Is it possible for us to change our nature or is it innate? Are we products of nature, nurture, or some combination? Are humans fundamentally evil or good? By examining philosophical, historical, religious, theoretical, and scientific literatures, this course will examine various answers to these questions.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL221F Philosophy as a Way of Life (FYS)

For many philosophers, East and West, philosophy has been more than an effort to answer fundamental questions. It has been an activity aimed at changing one's orientation to the world and, thus, how one lives one's life. We will explore Chinese, Greco-Roman, and contemporary versions of the idea that philosophy should be seen as a way of life. How does philosophical reasoning interact with lived practice? How do metaphysical views lead to ethical commitments? Despite their differences, Confucians, Christians, Aristotelians, and Stoics all agreed that philosophy should aim at making us better people. Can such an idea still get traction in today's world?

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **Cr/U**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL222 Global Philosophy

Philosophy is not now, nor has it ever been, narrowly confined to one culture, tradition, or civilization. As European and then American power reached around the world in recent centuries, so too have Euro-American philosophical traditions acquired a global audience, but other philosophical traditions did not disappear. These other ways of approaching philosophy have been re-emerging or reconstituting themselves--sometimes drawing on and sometimes contesting assumptions from the Euro-American traditions--in what can loosely be called our post-colonial world. This course asks what "philosophy" means in these different contexts and explores how philosophy was and is done within various traditions. In addition, we probe and assess distinct approaches to making philosophy more global, which at the very least must mean more cognizant of the presence of multiple ways of doing philosophy.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **CEAS252**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL231 Reason and Paradox

This course is an introduction to philosophy, logic, and conceptual issues underlying the foundations of the natural and social sciences. We will examine and analyze a range of patterns of reasoning that lead to surprising, even alarming, conclusions. These go from fallacious arguments whose mistakes can be clearly pinpointed, to conceptual puzzles whose resolution leads to insights about reasoning, to four genuine paradoxes for which there are no clear solutions at all. Most of these paradoxes have been known since antiquity: Zeno's Paradox, about the concepts of space, time, and motion; the Liar Paradox, about the notions of truth and reference; the Sorites Paradox, about the notion of vagueness; and a surprise paradox to be announced in class. The analysis of fallacies and puzzles leads to the study of deductive logic. On the basis of a working knowledge of logic, we will be in a position to see how the paradoxes challenge both the fundamental assumptions that we make in thinking about the world and the very assumptions that underlie rational thought itself.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **NSM-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL232 Beginning Philosophy

This introduction to philosophy for first-year students includes close study and discussion of some major classical texts, as well as some contemporary works.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL232F Beginning Philosophy (FYS)

This introduction to philosophy for first-year students includes close study and discussion of some major classical texts, as well as some contemporary works.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL251 Classical Chinese Philosophy: Chinese Lab (CLAC)

This 0.5 credit course is conducted in Chinese and designed to supplement the standard English-language Classical Chinese Philosophy (PHIL205) course. Students must have taken PHIL205 in the past or be enrolled in it simultaneously.

The course will have two main foci: introducing students to modern and contemporary Chinese-language debates about Chinese philosophy and exploring in greater depth the meaning of key passages from the classical works students are reading in translation in PHIL205.

Both advanced learners of Chinese (fourth-year level or above) and native speakers are welcome. Familiarity with classical Chinese is desirable but not required. Assignments will include presentations in Chinese and some written work in English; evaluation will be tailored to each student's language background. If you are unsure whether your language background is sufficient for the course, please contact the instructor.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **Cr/U**

Credits: **0.50**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-CEAS**

Identical With: **CHIN351, CGST251**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL252 Nietzsche - Science, Psychology, Genealogy

This course offers an intermediate survey of Friedrich Nietzsche's mature philosophical writings. Nietzsche's thought is centrally concerned, throughout his career, with a cluster of classical philosophical questions--does human life have meaning? What makes an action right or wrong? Can we comprehend the true nature of reality? What undergirds our normative judgments (of beauty or justice)? We will be especially concerned with tracking Nietzsche's reflections on the impact of modern science (especially the advent of Newton's mechanical physics and Darwin's evolutionary biology) on our conceptions of value and meaning in human life.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-COL**

Identical With: **COL290, GRST290**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL253 Nietzsche als Versucher (CLAC)

The term "Versucher" combines three meanings: (i) a writer of essays, (ii) a maker of experiments and hypotheses, and (iii) a tempter who seductively tests convictions and provokes latent desires. Friedrich Nietzsche draws on all these senses when he proposes "Versucher" as "the not-undangerous name [he] dares to bestow" on the "philosophers of the future"--a coming generation of free spirits who will (finally) be capable of appreciating and continuing his intellectual legacy (Beyond Good and Evil, §42).

This course will interrogate Nietzsche's conception of a philosophical Versucher and examine how this concept might apply to Nietzsche himself: as an experimenter with literary style and genre (including the essay form) and as a polarizing cult figure who has attracted the fascination of generations of teenagers and the most diverse (often diametrically opposed) ideological movements. How is it that Nietzsche inspires such passionate attachment in such radically different readers? What is it about his philosophical style and literary form that cultivates a feeling of intimacy and fierce allegiance while also admitting such aggressively divergent interpretations? To explore these questions, we will read and discuss excerpts from Nietzsche's writings and correspondence alongside texts by his friends and interlocutors--such as Richard Wagner, Paul Rée, and Nietzsche's unrequited paramour, Lou Andreas-Salomé. We will also look at prominent cases of his cultural reception--notably by the Nazi party (due to the influence of Nietzsche's sister, who was a party member) and simultaneously by opponents of totalitarianism such as Robert Musil, Karl Löwith, and Walter Kaufmann.

This course is part of the Fries Center for Global Studies' Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) initiative. It is taught in German and associated with COL290/PHIL252 "Nietzsche - Science, Psychology, Genealogy," though

students can take either course independent of the other. No background in philosophy or literature is required for this course, but advanced-intermediate (B2+) reading and spoken German is a must.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **Cr/U**

Credits: **0.50**

Gen Ed Area: **None**

Identical With: **CGST290, GRST330, COL287**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL254 The Rationalist Tradition in Early Modern European Philosophy

This course offers an intermediate-level survey of the Rationalist tradition in Early Modern European Philosophy. Broadly speaking, Rationalism (with a capital 'R') is the view that human reason can deliver insight into significant philosophical truths, without relying on sense experience. We will explore varieties of this methodological commitment in connection with several core topics - including the existence of God, the nature of the human mind (or soul), its relation to the body, and the possibility of empirical knowledge. We will read texts by René Descartes, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Margaret Cavendish, Baruch Spinoza, G.W. Leibniz, and Emilie Du Châtelet.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-COL**

Identical With: **COL283**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL255 Moral Psychology: Care of the Soul

Moral psychology is the study of our minds that is aimed at an understanding of how we develop, grow, and flourish as moral beings. In this course we will examine historical and contemporary texts from philosophy, psychology, and spiritual writings that deal with the nature of the good life for human beings, the development of virtues, and the cultivation of ethical understanding and moral sensibilities. Emphasis will be both on careful understanding of the texts and on the attempt to relate the theories discussed to our own moral lives. Class will meet on Monday and Wednesday in lecture/discussion format. Each student must also be enrolled in one discussion section. Discussion sections will be focused on specific interests in or approaches to moral psychology such as clinical therapy, philosophical analysis, or spirituality in a particular religious tradition. The particular offerings of discussion section topics will vary from year to year. Each discussion section will have a distinctive set of additional readings and exercises.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **Cr/U**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL256 Existentialism

This course is an introduction to 20th-century French existentialism. "Existentialism" is both a philosophical tradition and a term that is central to the intellectual history of Western thought. The term was explicitly adopted as a self-description by Jean-Paul Sartre and was widely disseminated both by his own literary and philosophical contributions and those of his associates--notably Simone de Beauvoir, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Albert Camus. Existentialism became identified with a cultural movement that flourished in Europe in the 1940s and '50s. It also resonated widely with anti-colonial thinkers across the globe. Thus, through the work of Frantz Fanon, Richard Wright, and Sartre's own intellectual engagement with colonialism and oppression, we will also explore the ways in which existentialism gradually became an intellectual and political tool for contestation against racism and European imperialism.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**
 Identical With: **COL253**
 Prereq: **None**

PHIL258 Post-Kantian European Philosophy

In this study of 19th- and 20th-century philosophy in Europe (primarily France and Germany), special attention will be devoted to the interpretation of modern science, its significance for understanding the world as distinctly modern, and ourselves and the world as natural (or as transcending nature). Related topics include the scope and limits of reason, the role of subjectivity in the constitution of meaning, the place of ethics and politics in a science-centered culture, and the problems of comprehending historical change. Philosophers to be read include Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Weber, Marcuse, Habermas, and Foucault. The course is designed to introduce students to a very difficult but widely influential philosophical tradition and will emphasize close reading and comparative interpretation and assessment of texts and reasoning. This course meets the Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory Certificate's requirement in philosophical origins of theory.

Offering: **Host**
 Grading: **OPT**
 Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**
 Identical With: **SISP281**
 Prereq: **None**

PHIL259 Neo-Confucian Chinese Philosophy

This course will present critical discussion of issues central to Neo-Confucian (11th--19th centuries CE) philosophers that in many cases are still central in Chinese thought today. Topics will include the relation between knowledge and action, Neo-Confucian conceptions of idealism and materialism, and the connection between Neo-Confucian philosophy and spirituality.

Offering: **Host**
 Grading: **A-F**
 Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**
 Identical With: **CEAS256, RELI206**
 Prereq: **None**

PHIL262 Phenomenology, Existentialism, and Poststructuralism

This course critically examines the philosophical treatment of meaning, interpretation, subjectivity, language, and history within the tradition that extends from Husserl's program of phenomenology, through Heidegger's and Merleau-Ponty's criticisms and existential revisions of phenomenology, to the antiphenomenological projects of Foucault and Derrida.

Offering: **Host**
 Grading: **OPT**
 Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**
 Prereq: **PHIL202, PHIL211, PHIL212, PHIL217, PHIL219, OR PHIL278**

PHIL263 Modern Chinese Philosophy

We will critically examine Chinese philosophical discourse from the late 19th century to the present, including liberalism, Marxism, and New Confucianism. Topics will include interaction with the West, human rights, the roles of traditions and traditional values, and the modern relevance of the ideal of sagehood.

Offering: **Host**
 Grading: **A-F**
 Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**
 Identical With: **CEAS264**
 Prereq: **None**

PHIL264 Japanese Philosophy

This course traces the development of lines of thought from the Heian Period (794-1185) to the 21st century. Students will consider Japanese forms of Buddhism (including Zen) and Confucianism, as well as Japan's native tradition of Shinto. Students will also gain familiarity with the confluence of these traditions in the samurai (Bushido), and later incorporations of Western thought by the Kyoto School. The final section of the course, focused on Japanese aesthetics, invites students to engage in Japanese philosophy as a way of life.

Offering: **Host**
 Grading: **A-F**
 Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**
 Identical With: **CEAS257**
 Prereq: **None**

PHIL265 Postanalytic Philosophy: Science and Metaphysics

The analytic movement in early 20th-century philosophy distinguished the domain of philosophy from that of empirical science. The sciences were empirical disciplines seeking facts, whereas philosophy primarily involved the analysis of linguistic meaning, often using the resources provided by formal logic. Criticisms of this conception of philosophy and its relation to the sciences have shaped much of the subsequent development of anglophone philosophy. This course will examine closely some of the most influential later criticisms of the early analytic movement and the resulting reconceptions of philosophy as a discipline. The central themes of the course cut across the fields of epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of language and mind. Special attention will be given to philosophy's relation to the empirical sciences, since this has been a prominent issue raised by the criticisms of the early analytic movement. Among the philosophers most prominently considered are Quine, Sellars, Davidson, Putnam, Dennett, Kripke, Brandom, and Haugeland.

Offering: **Host**
 Grading: **OPT**
 Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**
 Prereq: **None**

PHIL267 History and Limits of Aesthetic Theory

This class will engage significant contributions to Aesthetic Theory in the West from antiquity to the modern period along three dimensions: theoretical, critical, and historical. From a theoretical standpoint, we will address perennial questions in aesthetics, such as what makes something a work of art in the first place, what it means for art to be "beautiful" or otherwise "successful," how differences in media condition and contribute to artistic meaning, what genera are and how they evolve, whether and how art can be ethically or politically significant, why we care about fiction, why and how we "enjoy" tragic plays or horror films, and how artistic tradition can (and should) inform individual works. From a critical standpoint, we will consider how works of art contemporaneous with each theoretical account either reinforce or challenge its specific proposals. And from a historical standpoint, we will seek to understand how aesthetic theories both respond to the specificities of their own epoch and situate themselves relative to the artistic and aesthetic traditions of their predecessors. Readings will include texts by Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Lessing, and Hegel.

Offering: **Crosslisting**
 Grading: **OPT**
 Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**
 Identical With: **COL266**
 Prereq: **None**

PHIL268 The Ethics of Captivity

There are a variety of forms of captivity and a wide array of individuals who are kept in captivity. In this course, we will explore the conditions of captivity (including prisons, zoos, laboratories, and sanctuaries) and explore the variety of ethical and political issues that captivity raises for humans and other animals.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL269 Modern Aesthetic Theory

As a philosophical discipline, aesthetic theory initially coalesced around a cluster of related issues concerning the nature of beauty and the norms governing its production, appreciation, and authoritative assessment. Beginning in the nineteenth century, however, both art and aesthetics undergo a conspicuous yet enigmatic shift, signaled by (among other things) Hegel's declaration that "art, in its highest vocation, is and remains for us a thing of the past." Rather suddenly, classical accounts of beauty, genius, aesthetic experience, and critical taste are beset by anxieties about the autonomy and significance of aesthetic praxis in human life and, subsequently, by a series of challenges to the tenebosity of traditional aesthetic categories—author, text, tradition, meaning and interpretation, disinterested pleasure, originality, etc. Our aim in this course is to track these conceptual shifts and to interrogate the rationale behind them. (This course complements, but does not presuppose COL 266: History and Limits of Aesthetic Theory.)

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-COL**

Identical With: **COL269**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL270 Environmental Philosophy

How should we understand our relation to the more-than-human world? What does it mean to act responsibly within our ecological situation? This course will cover conceptual questions about nature, ecology, and value, and practical questions about how to respond to climate change, habitat loss, resource depletion, and other ecological problems. In particular, we will challenge the temptation to idealize "pure" nature as distinct from the site of human practices. As a result, we must consider the complex interrelationships between ecological concerns and concerns about social justice.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **ENVS270**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL271 Moral Responsibility: Doubt, Debate, and Dialogue

This intermediate philosophy course will investigate conflicting ideas about moral responsibility and develop skills in understanding and critiquing the arguments associated with each view.

Key themes include: (1.) For what can we hold people responsible? For their intentions? For consequences? For their character? For other implications of their action? (2.) How much do concepts of moral responsibility reflect particular (and questionable) cultural ideals? (3.) Can we hold someone morally responsible even when there is a good causal explanation for their conduct?

(4.) What is our aim and purpose in holding ourselves and others responsible, and how else might such purposes be achieved?

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **[PHIL212 or ENVS212] OR [PHIL215 or ENVS215] OR PHIL217 OR PHIL218**

PHIL272 Human Rights Across Cultures

Are human rights universal? Do cultural differences matter to judgments about human rights? We will look at the current international human rights institutional framework and at theoretical perspectives from Europe and America, China, and the Islamic world. We will look primarily at philosophical materials but will also pay some attention to the premises of international legal documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the assumptions behind activist organizations such as Amnesty International.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **CEAS262**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL275 Calderwood Seminar in Public Writing: Writing for Social Justice

One of the greatest strengths of learning philosophy is that it helps us become better thinkers and clearer communicators. In this course, students will develop skills for communicating publicly about pressing issues of social justice. We will write on topics including race, gender, animals, immigration, prisons, politics, climate change, and other topics chosen by the class.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL276 Virtue Ethics: Traditional, Comparative, and Contemporary Approaches

This course provides an overview and evaluation of various virtue-based approaches to ethics in the Western and Eastern traditions. In the first part of the course, we will get a basic sense for the structure and distinctive features of ancient virtue-based ethical theories. In the second part of the course, we will follow the trajectory of these approaches through to their revival in the late 20th century in the contemporary virtue ethics movement.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **COL275**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL277 Feminist Philosophy and Moral Theory (FGSS Gateway)

This course explores the dialogue between feminist concerns and moral theory. It will explore not only how moral theory might support certain central feminist insights and aims but also why some feminists cast doubt on the project of "doing moral theory." Does the language of existing philosophical moral theories (reason, fairness, equality, utility, human nature, rights) sufficiently allow articulation of feminist problems? If not, how can feminist moral theorists move us beyond the grip of familiar gender-loaded oppositions? After surveying a range of perspectives on feminism and philosophy, we will give a deep reading to three book-length developments of feminist ethics: one from a Kantian perspective, one focused on care, and one focused on virtue ethics. As a gateway course for the FGSS program, this course serves to introduce critical thinking about the construction of gender and the intersection of gender with race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Identical With: **FGSS277**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL278 Political Philosophy

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world. Over 2 million people are caught in the criminal justice system today. A disproportionate number of those incarcerated are people of color, particularly black, Latino, and indigenous men. Women, too, are a growing part of the prison population, as are queer, transgender, and gender-nonconforming people. Children, particularly impoverished black youth and, increasingly, immigrants, are funneled into correctional supervision. In this course we will ground philosophical explorations of freedom and captivity by exploring the vexing problems faced by those who are incarcerated.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL279 Necropolitics and Black Fugitive Life

In his important essay interrogating the (im)possibility of black sociality, Fred Moten attempts to find an order of black social life that would unfold in the very confrontation between black (social) death and the law. However, as he argues, this form of black life would be "reducible neither to simple interdiction nor bare transgression." The form of black life that interests Moten is essentially one of "fugitivity." In a recent response to Moten's text, David Marriott worries that "by writing blackness as ceaseless fugitivity," Moten advances "a position in which blackness is only black when it exceeds its racial disavowal" and therefore blackness "can only be recognized as black in so far as it escapes the racism of its history." In this course, we will trace and follow the implications of Moten's intervention. More specifically, we will explore what forms and figures of sovereignty an aesthetics and politics of fugitive subjectivity could yield given that "black life" remains arguably the most precarious form of living under various contemporary "necropolitical" apparatuses of racial exclusion, control, persecution and—in worse cases—genocide. Key figures will include Frantz Fanon, Hortense Spillers, Achille Mbembe, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, David Marriott, Fred Moten, Christina Sharpe, Saidiya Hartman, and Elizabeth Povinelli.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL282 Reason and Revelation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion

With the dawning of modernity, Europe's colonial and scientific adventures opened a distinction of mutual suspicion between theology and philosophy. Broadly speaking, "philosophy of religion" is the effort to evaluate the claims of revelation and reason in terms of one another. We will examine some of the major texts within this field, whose authors include deep skeptics, committed Christians, committed anti-Christians, secular and nonsecular Jews, feminists, ethicists, idealists, empiricists, Romantics, and liberationists. Themes include proofs of God's existence—along with refutations of those proofs and rebuttals to those refutations—the problem of evil, religious ethics, religious experience, the possibility of a universal religion, "divine" racism, the gender of God, the ecodical tendencies of Abrahamic theology, and the role theology might or might not play in efforts toward ecological, sexual, and racial justice.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-RELI**

Identical With: **RELI292**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL283 Animal Law and Policy

This course will provide an interdisciplinary and in-depth survey of the growing and dynamic field of animal law. We will address the historical status of animals in the law, how our society views animals, the capacities of animals, how ethics

relates to animal treatment, how animals are currently utilized in society, the current application of animal protection laws (including their limitations and efforts to strengthen them), as well emerging efforts to re-classify some animals within our legal system. We will consider how legal systems, specific cases, legislation, and cultural values have affected and continue to affect the evolution of this field. Because this is a field where new developments occur regularly, we will incorporate developments and new legal issues as they arise.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL284 African American Philosophy

This course will examine the philosophical questions that have been of particular interest to African American philosophers. We will explore the domains of knowledge in which African American philosophers and thinkers have felt compelled to intervene. We will approach these questions by engaging with canonical historical figures such as DuBois, Douglass, and Cooper, and then we will assess the extent to which contemporary African American philosophers have remained (and continue to be) concerned with the same questions, albeit with different discursive methodologies. The purpose of this course is to trace the philosophical articulation of race, racism, identity, politics of freedom, and subject formation in the history of African American philosophical thought.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **AFAM284**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL286 Philosophy of Mind

This class is a philosophical investigation into the nature of the mind. We will explore such questions such: What kinds of beings are capable of having mental states? Can non-human animals or computers think and feel? What is it to be conscious, and can the subjective, first-personal experience of consciousness be adequately captured by a scientific theory? How do our minds represent the world? By what mechanism do our thoughts, feelings, and desires get linked up to the things around us? We will ask these questions with the goal of shedding light on our nature as thinking, feeling beings, and on the relation of our inner lives to the physical world.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **SISP286**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL287 Philosophy of Science

This course is a fast-moving introduction to some central topics in the philosophy of science, aimed at students with some college-level study of at least one natural science. Topics include the norms of scientific understanding or explanation; the relation between finished theories or explanations and ongoing research; the recognition and dissemination of discoveries; the justification of scientific claims; conceptual and technical (revolutionary) change in the science; the significance of instrumentation, experiment, and artifice in science; the places of laws, models, and causal relations in scientific understanding; and whether various sciences differ fundamentally in their aims, methods, and achievements. Considerable attention will be given to examples of scientific practice, both historical and contemporary.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-SISP**

Identical With: **SISP202**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL288 Sciences as Social and Cultural Practices

Philosophers long construed scientific knowledge as achieved and assessed by individual knowers, but recent work has recognized a greater epistemic role for scientific communities, disciplines, or practices and has taken seriously the social and cultural context of scientific research. This course surveys some of the social, cultural, and political aspects of the sciences that have been most important for scholars in science studies, including differences between experimental, field, and theoretical science; the role of disciplines and other institutions in the sciences; interactions between science and its various publics; the politics of scientific expertise and science policy; the globalization of science; the social dimensions of scientific normativity, from metrology to conceptions of objectivity; race and gender in science; and conceptual exchanges between sciences and other discursive practices. The concept of the social will also receive critical attention in its purported contrasts to what is individual, natural, rational, or cultural.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-SISP**

Identical With: **SISP205, ENV5205**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL289 Philosophy of Language

This course is a study of recent attempts by philosophers to explain the nature of language and thought. The focus of the course will be on one or more of the following topics: reference, sense, analyticity, necessity, a priori truth.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **PHIL201 OR PHIL202 OR PHIL231**

PHIL290 Philosophical Logic

This course will study the philosophical and conceptual foundations of deductive reasoning, developing into an exact theory of the fundamental principles of such reasoning. A subsidiary aim is to equip the student with the necessary background for reading contemporary philosophical texts.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **NSM-PHIL**

Prereq: **PHIL231 OR PHIL230**

PHIL291 Reason and Its Limits

This course offers a close study of Immanuel Kant's magnum opus, the Critique of Pure Reason, supplemented by related writings by Kant and some secondary literature. Kant observes that the history of philosophy is rife with disagreements, even though philosophers purport to traffic in necessary truths disclosed by reason alone. This scandalous fractiousness calls into question reason's ability to offer substantive insights into necessary truths. Kant's "critique" aims to vindicate reason by distinguishing, in a principled manner, the sorts of things we can know with certainty from those that lie beyond the limits of human understanding. His central thesis, "transcendental idealism," holds that "reason has insight only into what it produces after its own plan" (Bxiii). In other words, we can indeed be certain of key structural features of reality such as its spatiotemporality and causal interconnectedness—but only because those features are, in some crucial sense, mind-dependent. This class will explore in detail the arguments for these claims as well as prominent interpretations of their philosophical upshot.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Identical With: **COL292**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL292 Theory of Knowledge

This course will examine a subset of the following topics: the analysis of the nature of knowledge, skepticism, responses to skepticism, knowledge and truth, knowledge and virtue.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **[PHIL202 or COL360] OR [PHIL201 or COL359 or CCIV217] OR PHIL231**

PHIL293 Metaphysics

An advanced introduction to some central topics in traditional and contemporary metaphysics, topics may include time, universals, causation, freedom of will, modality, realism, and idealism.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL294 Heidegger and the Being Question

Martin Heidegger argued in BEING AND TIME that philosophy has only one question at its heart, the question of the sense of being, even though that question has been trivialized or obscured by the philosophical tradition. This course will explore this question; its relation to more traditional topics in metaphysics, epistemology; and the philosophy of mind, language, and science; and its implications for how philosophy should be done, to what ends. Our primary readings will be BEING AND TIME and various secondary literature, but the aim will be to formulate, pose, and address the question of what it means to be, rather than to interpret or assess Heidegger's own views about this question.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL303 Plato's REPUBLIC

"The safest general characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato." This declaration, famously made by Alfred North Whitehead in the early 20th century, seems especially true of Plato's Republic. No other work in the Western tradition can lay claim to setting the tone so influentially for the development of philosophy as a discipline. Almost every branch of philosophical thought we are familiar with today--on matters of ethics, politics, moral psychology, epistemology, metaphysics, and aesthetics--receives a major formulation in this text. This seminar will be devoted to a close reading of each of the 10 books of The Republic alongside various perspectives that have been taken on this magisterial work in contemporary philosophy, journalism, and literature. We will focus on The Republic primarily as a work of moral psychology by investigating the topical question of the dialogue: Why is it better to live justly rather than unjustly? For Plato, a just life is one governed by the pursuit of wisdom or learning, and this he believes will also be a psychologically healthy one. By contrast, a life governed by the indiscriminate pursuit of power--the life of a tyrant--is psychologically corrupted. These are bold claims. What is Plato's argument for them? In raising this question, we will consider the political project Plato embarks upon in the Republic in constructing a just society, as well as connected issues he raises in the dialogue concerning the nature of human motivation, the distinction between belief and knowledge, the distinction between appearance and reality, the importance of a proper education to the human good, and the role of art and beauty in furthering

the common good. Alongside Plato, we will read various works of secondary literature, journalistic pieces, and works of fiction this semester, all inspired by *The Republic*.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **CCIV257, COL341**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL306 Sophist, Statesman, Philosopher: Plato's Later Metaphysics and Politics

How is it possible to speak falsely? Plato connects this question with a puzzle he inherits from the great pre-Socratic philosopher Parmenides: to speak falsely is to speak about what is not; but in speaking about what is not, we ascribe being somehow to not-being, which sounds like a contradiction. This seminar will focus on the metaphysical, epistemological, and political issues generated by Parmenides's puzzle and explore Plato's solution to them in two of his later-period works: the *Sophist* and the *Statesman*. In the process, we will see how Plato rethinks his theory of forms in these dialogues, how he learns to let go of Socrates, how a sophist should be distinguished from a philosopher, and how all of this is relevant to politics and the art of ruling.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-CHUM**

Identical With: **CHUM331, COL335**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL310 Concepts of Matter: A Brief Philosophical History of the Concept of Matter

In this course, we will explore changing notions of matter in Western thought from classical Greek thought through the quantum revolution in physics, and philosophical debates about their implications. We will begin with views of matter in Plato, Aristotle, and the ancient atomists and how they were interrelated with views of human beings: the devaluation of matter and the body in Platonist and Gnostic thought, the perhaps surprisingly positive attitude taken toward death without a hope of continued existence by the materialist Lucretius, and the appropriation of Aristotle's hylomorphic philosophy into Christian theology and scholastic science in the late middle ages. We will then look at the emergence of a conception of "material substance" in the 17th century, examining the differences between the mathematical formulations of Galileo and Descartes and those of atomists such as Gassendi. The remainder of the section will focus on the rise of materialism and reactions against it: Descartes and Hobbes on the question of whether human beings are merely machines, the Newton-Leibniz debate about the activity of God in nature, Laplace's demon and the deterministic interpretation of classical mechanics, and the 19th-century reactions of romanticism and spiritualism. Finally, we will examine the radical and counterintuitive changes in the notion of matter occasioned by quantum mechanics, as well as interpretations that put consciousness and subjectivity back into the collapse of the wave function. We will consider whether contemporary physics really has the kind of notion of "material substance" needed for a traditional form of materialism before concluding with readings from philosophers and physicists in the recent revivals of dualism and panpsychism.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Identical With: **CHUM313**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL321 American Pragmatist Philosophy: Purposes, Meanings, and Truths

This course sketches and evaluates an American tradition of more or less overtly pragmatist thinkers in philosophy and the human sciences, stretching

roughly from Emerson and Peirce at the beginning; through William James, George Herbert Mead, and John Dewey in the heyday of the pragmatist public intellectual; to recent and current writers as diverse as Cornell West, Robert Brandom, Richard Rorty, Ian Hacking, and Ruth Millikan. These thinkers offer variations on the premise that all meanings gesture not only backward to facts and things but also forward to the practical circumstances and purposes of interpreters. As purposes shift, so do meanings, and as meanings shift, so does truth—for whether we accept a claim as true depends above all else on its meaning. Pragmatist theories have been subjected to frequent caricature as implying that ideas can mean whatever we take them to mean or that what is true varies according to what each individual finds convenient and expedient to believe. What does it mean, then, to retain a sense of respect for truth? While some pragmatist accounts do explicitly deflate the importance of the concept of truth, others claim not only to respect truth but to offer an account of truth that allows us to inquire more clearly into the evolving but real meaning of moral judgments, religious and aesthetic claims, psychological attributions, and other deeply contested candidates for human belief.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL337 Comparative Philosophy

This seminar will explore the substantive and methodological issues that arise when one takes seriously the idea that philosophy has been, and continues to be, practiced within multiple traditions of inquiry, in many different ways, and in many different languages. We will examine and critique some of the ways in which "comparison" has been used, as well as examine arguments that comparison across traditions is, in fact, impossible. Although most of our attention will be focused on written academic research, we will also attend to the challenges and benefits of interacting directly with philosophers in other countries and cultures.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-CHUM**

Identical With: **CHUM368, CEAS258**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL338 Comparative Political Philosophy

Undertaking "comparative philosophy" means to do philosophy by drawing on multiple philosophical traditions. In this course, we will study key topics in political philosophy, such as the justification of political authority, the legitimacy of public critique of social rituals, and the scope of liberty and rights—from both modern Western and contemporary East Asian perspectives. We will examine potential obstacles to comparative theorizing, as well as benefits that can arise both for currently dominant traditions (e.g., Western liberalism) and for alternatives to liberalism such as Chinese and Korean Confucianism.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **CEAS338**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL347 Ethics, Ecology, and Moral Change

People commonly recognize that in facing global climate crises, we need to change our habits and practices. Yet our activities are bound up with our perceptions and with our embodied experience of value and possibility. This seminar dives into recent attempts to radically rework our ways of understanding and inhabiting the world. As the flip-side of environmental alienation is alienation from our embodiment, our sessions will incorporate movement and other challenges to sedentary classroom habits.

Given an account of thinking and action as always actively embodied and embedded in our surroundings, we will consider the hypothesis that shifts in action emerge together with shifts in perception. Radical accounts of metaphor and its uptake will help us develop accounts of perceptual change. Our readings will follow a variety of metaphorical directions, including animism and animacies, affordance and hyperobject, process, event and intra-action, native and other, inflammation and balance, dwelling and death, consumption and sustainability. How -- and with what risks and unexpected outcomes -- can these patterns of recognition help in orienting us to the challenges of environmental interdependence and volatility?

This course benefits from collaborative visits with philosopher-dancer Jill Sigman, via Wesleyan's Creative Campus Initiative. Sigman will co-shape discussion and activities during at least two of our sessions.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **ENVS347**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL351 Deconstruction and Politics

Following the later work of Jacques Derrida, we will investigate the significance of the concepts of sovereignty and democracy in some important texts of 20th-century continental philosophy. We shall attempt to understand why these notions are taken at face value and yet still pose many problems for that tradition. Why did democracy and sovereignty give rise to many complications and paradoxes while, at the same time, they continue to hold a vital conceptual import within the political as such. We will thus ask why are political philosophies so invested in sovereignty and democracy? Ultimately, we will consider the possibility of a close affinity between the political and the rhetorical, and will try to understand why democracy and sovereignty tend to exceed conceptual grasp. Because our approach will be primarily deconstructive, we shall also attempt to compare it to other modern and contemporary approaches.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL353 Blackness in the Anthropocene

To deny the "unprecedented" geological impact of humans' force on nature is now practically untenable. Theorists in the humanities, nonetheless, remain unimpressed with what this "new era" has afforded us in terms of critical potential. From accusations that what we now call the "Anthropocene" has merely established a hegemony of brute facts at the expense of critique, to concerns about the multiple ways in which the term continues to obscure catastrophic socio-ecological relations, it is fair to say that the scenes of the "Anthropocene" are still contested terrains. The aim of this course is to investigate the Anthropocene's many forms of socio-political erasures and theoretical "blind-sights." We will examine the ways in which Anthropocene discourses have been powerful at disavowing racial antagonism in our current ecological crisis. More specifically, in this course, will study the ecological negative effects on black communities around the globe with the aim to questions the shortcomings of ethics in Anthropocene times. We will explore questions like "who are 'recognizable/legitimate' victims in environmental disasters," "do events like hurricane Katrina or the migration crisis teach us anything about our human condition," and "what is the 'post' in post-humanism." We will read philosophical works ranging from Immanuel Kant and Baruch Spinoza to Rosi Braidotti and Karen Barad.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **AFAM353**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL354 Hope and Hopelessness in an Age of Mass Incarceration

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world. Over 2 million people are caught in the criminal justice system today. A disproportionate number of those incarcerated are people of color, particularly black, Latino/a, and indigenous men. Women, too, are a growing part of the prison population, as are queer, transgender, and gender-nonconforming people. Young people, particularly impoverished black youth, are funneled into correctional supervision through the school-to-prison pipeline. For many people in the country today, avoiding prison seems hopeless.

This interdisciplinary course, grounded on philosophical reflections on hope, liberty, respect, and exclusion, will critically explore the moral, psychological, ethical, social, and political issues raised by mass incarceration in the United States. We will be particularly interested in whether and under what conditions hope is possible for those marginalized under the carceral system.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-CHUM**

Identical With: **CHUM354**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL355 Necropolitics and Black "Fugitive" Politics

In his important essay interrogating the (im)possibility of black sociality, Fred Moten attempts to find an order of black social life which would unfold in the very confrontation between black (social) death and the law. However, as he argues, this form of black life would be "reducible neither to simple interdiction nor bare transgression." The form of black life that interests Moten is essentially one of "fugitivity." In a recent response to Moten's text, David Marriott worries that "by writing blackness as ceaseless futgitivity," Moten advances "a position in which blackness is only black when it exceeds its racial disavowal" and therefore blackness "can only be recognized as black in so far as it escapes the racism of its history." In this course, we will trace and follow the implications of Moten's intervention. More specifically, we will explore what forms and figures of sovereignty an aesthetics and politics of fugitive subjectivity could yield given that "black life" remains arguably the most precarious form of living under various contemporary "necropolitical" apparatuses of sanctioned racial exclusion, control, persecution and--in worse cases--genocide. Key figures will include Frantz Fanon, Achille Mbembe, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Jared Sexton, David Marriott, Fred Moten, Christina Sharpe, Saidiya Hartman, Alexander G. Weheliye, Elizabeth Povinelli, and Gayatri Spivak.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-CHUM**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL357 Animal Minds

Can animals reason? Do they form intentions, do they have beliefs, might they act ethically? What do other animals know? How can we know what they might know, and what can exploring the minds of other animals tell us about our own minds? In this course we will attempt to answer these questions by adopting a largely comparative perspective and examining philosophical, scientific, psychological, and popular writing about minds. We will examine evidence for mindedness and reasoning in social species. We will also explore the ethical implications of this research.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL359 Michel Foucault: Power and Its Products

Is power productive of reality? What does Michel Foucault (1926-1984) mean when he famously declares that power is not just prohibitive, but productive? Foucault's work has been enormously influential in the fields of philosophy, social theory, history, anthropology, queer theory, and feminist theory, among others. The primary topic of Foucault's work is the way in which we have come to categorize not only our world but ourselves and in particular to categorize ourselves in terms of madness, criminality, disease, and sexuality. Foucault, however, is interested in more than these categories themselves: he aims to investigate the conditions through which these categories come to be seen as capable of capturing truths about ourselves. This investigation leads him, in the mature phase of his work that begins in the 1970s, to the problem of power, which is best thought of as a set of relations and not as a thing or a possession. Foucault takes power relations to be (a) implied in relations of knowledge and (b) to be "productive," in a certain sense, of social reality. In this course, we will try to clarify the relationship between power, the production of the social, and knowledge in Foucault's work.

On the one hand, to call power productive opens the door to a major reconsideration of the basic problems of social and political philosophy, which can no longer be assured of having a timeless set of basic questions or objects (the state, the citizen-subject). On the other hand, there is a risk in this approach of ascribing almost magical qualities to power and of reifying it. Since his death, Foucault's thought has often been taken to end up in a curious impasse, caught between extreme activism that accepts no system of power as established and cynicism that sees co-optation everywhere and resistance as futile. What are the political implications of Foucault's shifting conception of power? What follows for our understanding of ourselves? What is really at stake in the ways that we classify and categorize ourselves today?

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL360 Continental Philosophy's Others

This seminar will attend to some of the ways in which philosophers of race, Subaltern thinkers, and "postcolonial" philosophers have engaged with the European philosophical archive (more specifically in this case, deconstruction and contemporary French theory). The aim of this course is to focus on some aspects of the debates that emerged from the confrontation between voices intervening from the "margins" of mainstream continental thought and discourses traditionally perceived to be at the center of knowledge production and/or epistemological practices. We will attempt to assess when, where, and how these "philosophies from the borderlands" have had important bearings on contemporary debates in political philosophy and social theory. We will assess both individuals and collective forms of criticism, not only on geographic frontiers but also on liminal and alternative spaces within the same geographic and institutional location, such as the American academy.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL362 Origins of the Human Mind

Since classical antiquity, philosophers have often characterized human beings by way of contrasts between ourselves and nonhuman animals, particularly in terms of mental abilities humans possess and nonhuman animals (putatively) lack, such as reasoning and language. Only recently, however, have the sciences--particularly evolutionary biology, cognitive psychology, anthropology, and cognitive ethology--begun to offer the tools needed to characterize differences

in the cognitive toolkits of different species and to attempt to piece together hypotheses about how human minds differ so greatly from those of our nearest relatives, the great apes, in spite of our genetic similarity and the comparatively brief period since the time of our last common ancestors. In this course, we will read several recent works by philosophers and scientists presenting theories of the evolution of distinctively human cognition.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL366 Bodies, Machines, and Meaning: Cultural Studies of the Sciences

Cultural studies of the sciences shift the focus of interdisciplinary science studies from understanding the sciences as producing and justifying knowledge to understanding them as meaning-making and world-transforming practices. Cultural studies attend to scientific meaning-making at multiple levels, and to the interactions among them: concrete material relations among bodies, technologies, and their settings or situations; verbal, visual, corporeal, mathematical, and other expressive performances; and social, cultural, or political institutions, practices, boundaries, and movements across and within them. Cultural studies of science also emphasizes political engagement with scientific practices and their broader cultural entanglements. This course explores what it means to do cultural studies of science, with a focus on three interrelated themes: alternative conceptions of what it means to make claims and reason about what happens in "nature"; case studies in how scientific meaning and understanding are embodied and prosthetically extended technologically; and some specific conceptual and material relations among scientific understandings of life, bodies, sex, reproduction, and being human.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Identical With: **SISP366**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL368 The Ethics of Captivity

There are a variety of forms of captivity and a wide array of individuals who are kept in captivity. In this course, we will explore the conditions of captivity (including prisons, zoos, laboratories, and sanctuaries) and explore the variety of ethical and political issues that captivity raises for humans and other animals.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **SBS-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL383 Mind, Body, and World

Social-pragmatist conceptions of language and mind have sought to accommodate the normativity of meaning and justification within a broadly scientific, naturalistic understanding of ourselves and the world by treating mental life as grounded in public practices and norms of communication in partially shared causal circumstances. Such accounts have sometimes been criticized for neglecting the experiential, affective, and first-personal aspects of mind and, at other times, for disconnecting linguistic communication from accountability to the world. This advanced seminar critically assesses some influential recent efforts to account for objective accountability, perceptual experience, first-person perspectives, and affectivity as constructive components of broadly social-pragmatist approaches to mindedness. With a brief introduction to Quine's and Davidson's criticisms of semantic empiricism as background, we will examine John McDowell's attempt to develop a post-Davidsonian empiricism, Hubert Dreyfus's phenomenological dualism of bodily coping and linguistic articulation, Alva Noe's treatment of perception as bodily activity, John

Haugeland on embodied "existential commitment," and Rebecca Kukla and Mark Lance on the pragmatic normativity of the space of reasons.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL385 Understanding Life and Mind

Philosophical conceptions of mind and language are now typically "naturalistic" in the sense that they take these phenomena to be part of the natural world and understandable scientifically. Naturalistic conceptions of mindedness (and many of the sciences of mindedness) still mostly take their lead from a Cartesian tradition of understanding mindedness as an "internal" representation of an "external" world, now located in the brain or central nervous system rather than an immaterial soul. This advanced seminar instead explores the possible philosophical significance of recent developments in evolutionary and developmental biology for understanding mindedness. The course takes up four primary themes: organism/environment entanglement; relevant background from the recent emergence of an "extended evolutionary synthesis;" reconceptions of mindedness as ways organisms inhabit and respond to environments rather than as internal representations; and the evolution and development of language as a form of evolutionary niche construction that coevolves with human organisms and ways of life.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-SISP**

Identical With: **SISP385**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL390 Topics in Metaphysics

This course explores recent discussions in metaphysics. Topics change from year to year. The topic of Spring 2018 is the metaphysics and philosophy of logic of the classical American pragmatists: Peirce, James, Royce, and Lewis.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **HA-PHIL**

Prereq: **(PHIL231 AND [PHIL201 or COL359 or CCIV217]) OR (PHIL231 AND [PHIL202 or COL360]) OR (PHIL231 AND PHIL292)**

PHIL401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL403 Department/Program Project or Essay

Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

PHIL404 Department/Program Project or Essay

Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)

Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

PHIL408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)

Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **A-F**

PHIL409 Senior Thesis Tutorial

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL410 Senior Thesis Tutorial

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL419 Student Forum

Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **Cr/U**

PHIL420 Student Forum

Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **Cr/U**

PHIL420A Student Forum

Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.

Offering: **Crosslisting**

Grading: **Cr/U**

PHIL465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate

Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL470 Independent Study, Undergraduate

Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

Credits: **1.00**

Gen Ed Area: **None**

Prereq: **None**

PHIL491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial

The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**

PHIL492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial

The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.

Offering: **Host**

Grading: **OPT**