**Philosophy**

**Summer**

**PHI 151**

**Intro to Philosophy**

**Dr. Paula Smithka**

**Online – multiple sections**

Aristotle says, “For it is owing to their wonder that people both now begin and at first began to philosophize”.  
  
Philosophy begins in wonder. It’s about asking fundamental questions—questions like, “Does God exist?”; “What is the nature of reality?”; “Is what I perceive really the way things are?”; “What is a Self?”; “Am I the same person over time?”; “What makes an action morally right?” “What is justice?”  
Study philosophy and unlock your mind!

**Fall**

**PHI 151**

**Intro to Philosophy**

**Dr. Michael Dearmey**

**Online – multiple sections**

An introduction to a great intellectual tradition, the oldest and most fundamental of the sciences--philosophy the love of wisdom. From the ancient Greeks to the present philosophers have asked basic questions about the nature of reality and the human condition, and, using evidence and sound reasoning, have developed theories which are meant to explain the nature of things. If you are intrigued by mysteries and puzzles about the world, the wisdom sciences of philosophy are worth exploring.

**PHI 151**

**Intro to Philosophy**

**Dr. Paula Smithka**

**M/W 9:30-10:45AM or M/W 11:00AM-12:15PM**

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**PHI 171**

**Ethics and Good Living**

**Dr. Ian Dunkle**

**Online**

What is it to live well? This is one of the oldest and most foundational questions in philosophy, and for good reason: what could be more important than understanding how to live well?—Maybe, actually living well!—Granted. But how can we hope to live well unless we have at least some idea of what that is?  
Answering this question is hard, though, for several reasons, including these: First, it seems to be ambiguous (to live uprightly? to maximize self-interest?). Second, common answers are ambiguous; there are different senses in which something might be good for you. Third, popular opinions on the good life contradict one another (consider what your parents tell you about the importance and non-importance of pursuing a lucrative career). But where else can we get a footing on the question except in popular opinions?  
This course explores the central philosophical puzzles and controversies regarding the good life and introduces students to major accounts offered in both the history of philosophy and in contemporary value-theory. Throughout the course students will also develop skills of critical thinking and argument analysis.

**PHI 351**

**Critical Thinking**

**Dr. Ian Dunkle**

**Online CHAT – T/TH 11:00AM-12:15PM**

How is it possible to learn what you don’t already know; how do we acquire knowledge? Sure, you could just find someone who does know and listen passively to what they say. But how will you know that they know what they’re talking about? And even if they do, is having the ability to parrot someone else’s knowledge the same as having that knowledge yourself? Acquiring knowledge seems paradoxical.  
The solution: we acquire knowledge by building on prior knowledge through logical inference. The purpose of this course is to study and master the art of advancing knowledge through inference. We will study formal logical inference, informal logical rules and fallacies, statistical inference, and causal reasoning. Unlike in a logic course, our focus will always be on applying these skills to actual questions we all care about.  
Two main learning objectives of this course are: (1) to be able to analyze arguments, represent them in standard form, and evaluate them; and (2) to become competent in the sort of reasoning required for excelling on the LSAT.

**PHI 451**

**Philosophy of Politics**

**Dr. Sam Bruton**

**Online**

Turned off by present-day political squabbling and self-serving politicians but still care about how society is organized and run? Then political philosophy is for you. Learn what the greats have had to say about it: Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Marx. We will also discuss some contemporary approaches, including libertarianism, communitarianism, and egalitarianism, as well as some current debates in contemporary America. The class will be fully online and asynchronous, with regular video lectures, discussion boards, and short writing assignments. Join the conversation!

**PHI 452/552**

**Health Care Ethics**

**Dr. Ian Dunkle**

**T/TH 2:30-3:45PM**

In this course, students will learn how to reach morally sound decisions in healthcare. The course will begin with moral theory as it applies to medical decision making. Then we will consider each of the four general principles of biomedical ethics in turn, surveying specific issues that arise in the application of each: these principles are Respect for Patient Autonomy, Justice, Beneficence, and Non-maleficence. Some of the specific issues we’ll cover along the way include how to respect the autonomy of intellectually disabled persons; whether the use of AI in medical technology can enhance healthcare professionals’ ability to promote autonomy; the extent to which reproductive healthcare serves to benefit the patient; the extent to which contraceptive healthcare is compatible with non-maleficence; and the extent to which various disabilities represent illnesses or harms.

**PHI 462/562**

**Evil**

**Dr. Michael Dearmey**

**Online**

Theories of evildoing and wrongdoing, and what can be done to prevent or lessen the worst forms of human behavior. The focus is on transnational evils, which involve multiple agents, planning, and which transcend the boundaries of single nation states. Included are genocide, slavery, child slavery, torture, terrorism, and the destruction of the earth's biosphere.

**Religion**

**REL 131**

**Comparative Religion**

**Dr. Timothy Gutmann**

**M/W 2:30-3:45PM**

Comparative Religion: Why are we here? What ultimately matters in life? What do we have in common with people around the world and through history, and how are we different? For centuries, the term “religion” has been used to include ideas of what is sacred, what is forbidden, what is out of this world, and what is everyday, and the stories and ideas that inspire us to think these ways. Comparative Religion is a class for everyone curious about religion, both the religion they know and what they want to know more about. The way we will do this is by encountering others on their own terms, their sacred books, their holy images, their reverent art and practice. We will be thinking about how these ideas and traditions are similar and different from each other. Doing this is what religious studies is all about, and we will be learning a little about how scholars in this field approach sources such as ours to the extent that they help us make sense of religion in its human complexity.

**REL 131**

**Comparative Religion**

**Dr. Amy Slagle**

**T/TH 9:30-10:45AM**

**REL 345**

**Magic and the Occult**

**Dr. Amy Slagle**

**T/TH 1:00-2:15PM**