### **MINICATALOGUE**

# THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & CLASSICAL STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS SPRING 2012

# PHILOSOPHY COURSES

PHL 100/Introduction to Philosophy

Sec.01 (41229) Howarth 2:00-3:20PM MR
.02 (41237) Howarth 3:30-4:50PM MR
.03 (41240) Sisko 12:30-1:50PM MR
.04 (42331) Denissov 7:00-8:20PM MW

Introductory problem-based level course that includes the fundamentals of philosophical argument, analysis and reasoning, applied to a series of issues in logic, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Topics covered may include: logical validity, theories of knowledge and belief, the nature of mind, the nature of reality, arguments for the existence of God, and theories of the nature of right and wrong. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 120/Introduction to Logic

Sec.01 (41230) Roberts 8:30-9:50AM TF
.02 (41231) Roberts 10:00-11:20AM TF
.03 (41232) Kang 12:30-1:50PM TF
.04 (41233) Kang 2:00-3:20PM TF
.05 (42330) Denissov 5:30-6:50PM MW

The goal for this course is to enable students to achieve mastery of two systems of symbolic logic – sentence logic and predicate logic. In this connection, students will learn how to translate between the natural language and each of the two formal logics. They will also learn how to construct proofs in the context of each of the two formal logics. In addition, the concepts of truth-functionality, validity, completeness and soundness will be explored. Outcomes for the course include a deeper understanding of the power and precision of the natural language, as well as an increased ability to write and think with creativity, precision and rigor. Grades are determined by scores on a series of in-class exams and a final exam. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Writing Intensive)

(This course is recommended for pre-law students and satisfies a requirement for the Law and Society Interdisciplinary Concentration.)

PHL 135/Contemporary Moral Issues Sec.01 (41239) Taylor 10:00-11:20AM MR .02 (41241) Taylor 12:30-1:50PM MR

This course provides an introduction to ethics, one of the main branches of philosophy. It aims to familiarize students with basic concepts and theories in ethics, and with how they may be applied to a range of contemporary moral issues. Topics discussed may include racism, sexism, treatment of the handicapped, abortion, euthanasia, cloning, capital punishment, our obligations to the disadvantaged, the treatment of non-human animals, just war, and the like. Students will be encouraged to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own moral values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 205/History of Modern Philosophy Sec.01 (41234) Taylor 8:30-9:50AM MR *Prerequisite:* One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

In this course we will address some of the most central (and exciting!) questions in philosophy through the work of some of the most important philosophers within the Western tradition. Drawing primarily on the work of the Rationalists Descartes, Leibniz, and Spinoza, and the Empiricists Locke, Berkeley, and Hume, together with the work of Kant, we will address three major issues: How can we have knowledge of the external world? Does God exist? Do humans possess free will? Since all three of these issues are live philosophical questions this course will not merely focus on providing an exegetical account of the views of the above philosophers whose work we will read. Although you will become familiar with their views we will also examine these philosophers' work critically, and seeing how and in what way it has implications for contemporary philosophical debates. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Writing Intensive)

PHL 246/Aesthetics Sec.01 (41977) Kamber 5:30-8:20PM W *Prerequisite:* One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

This semester PHL 246 Aesthetics will emphasize the implications of research in psychology and anthropology for key issues in the philosophy of art and beauty. Our study of perennial questions like "What is art?" and "Is beauty in the eye of the beholder?" will make use of data gathered from published surveys and from surveys of our own design. See, for example, my 2009 survey, "What Is Art?" <a href="http://tcnj.qualtrics.com//SE?SID=SV\_1XDFWfu8svZWgu0&SVID=Prod">http://tcnj.qualtrics.com//SE?SID=SV\_1XDFWfu8svZWgu0&SVID=Prod</a>

In addition to selections from philosophical classics by Plato, Aristotle, and Hume and analytic philosophers like Monroe Beardsley and Noël Carroll, readings will include Nancy Etcoff's *Survival of the Prettiest*, and Denis Dutton's *The Art Instinct*. There will also be a unit in the course on film as an art form. The usual prerequisite of one course in philosophy will be waived for students with a strong interest in the fine or performing arts or with strong interest in the psychology of art and beauty. Please direct any questions you may have about this course to Richard Kamber at <a href="mailto:rkamber@tcnj.edu">rkamber@tcnj.edu</a>. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 250/Philosophy of Religion Sec.01 (41235) Le Morvan 2:00-3:20PM TF *Prerequisite:* One course in philosophy or religion or permission of instructor

This course critically examines major issues, views, and positions in the philosophy of religion. Topics include the nature of religion and divinity, religious diversity, the problem of evil, philosophical arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, ethics and religion, and science and religion. Students will be encouraged to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own religious values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 255/Biomedical Ethics Sec.01 (41236) Winston 12:00-1:50 M *Prerequisite*: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor 12:30-1:50 R

Biomedical ethics is the name given to an area of research lying on the interdisciplinary border between medicine, biology, philosophy, and law that deals with questions concerning the ethical and social policy dimensions of medicine, nursing and the allied health care professions. The course will begin with a unit on ethical theory in which students will learn some basic ethical

theory including the ethical principles of autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, and justice. These principles will then be used to analyze various ethical issues arising in clinical practice and medical research. Topics that will be addressed in the course include: medical confidentiality and privacy, experimentation with human subjects, artificial reproduction, genetic engineering and cloning, organ transplantation, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, and public health policy. Students will be evaluated on article presentations, case analyses, role-playing exercises (ethics committee simulations), and a term paper on a topic in the field of biomedical ethics which will substitute for a final exam. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 375/Law & Ethics Sec. 01 (41242) Roberts 12:00-1:20PM TF

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy

In this course, we will discuss points of intersection between moral principle and the law. We will focus on the sorts of *consequentialist* moral theories (the idea that agents ought to create the most happiness, or *wellbeing*, they can) that many theorists believe fit nicely with the law and can help us interpret and apply the law. Our broad question will be what we owe to future persons. We will begin with a consideration of the tort of "wrongful life." There, the argument is that the child-plaintiff is owed damages because that child was *harmed* when parents, or an obstetrician or fertility specialist, caused that child to exist (or failed to cause that child *not* to exist) to begin with. Can a genetic impairment ever make a person's life *less* than worth living? Can bringing a person into an existence worth having ever *harm* that person? If we are obligated *not to bring* the *miserable* child into existence, does it follow that we are obligated *to bring* the happy child into existence? If the latter point holds, then what implications does that point have for the right *not* to procreate that many people think we have under the Fourteenth Amendment? Still another collection of issues arises when we understand that consequentialism seems to be on a collision course with Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection guaranty. Can consequentialism embrace an ideal of equality? Is consequentialism inherently at odds with equality?

Logic is *not* a prerequisite for this course and no prior work in logic will be assumed. However, as background, we will explore some basic concepts in modal logic, deontic logic and identity. While logic problems will be distributed and discussed, completion of those problems will *not* be required for this course. Interested students may, however, complete work in these logics in lieu of some of the other work required for this course.

This course counts toward the Law and Society Interdisciplinary Concentration and the Politics, Law and Philosophy Interdisciplinary Minor. It is required for the concentration in Law and Philosophy within the philosophy major. Requirements for the course will include a presentation, a short paper, a long paper and class participation. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 391/Independent Study TBA

Prerequisite: Two 200-level courses in philosophy and permission of instructor

Independent study of a particular philosophical topic, in close consultation with a member of the department.

PHL 410/Theory of Knowledge Sec.01 (41979) Le Morvan 10:00-11:20AM TF *Prerequisite:* Two 200-level courses in philosophy or permission of instructor

This course critically examines major issues, views, and positions in epistemology. Topics include: What is the epistemic point of view? What is truth? What does it take for a belief to be justified? What is epistemic justification? What kinds of epistemic justifications are there, if

any? What kinds of epistemic desiderata are there? What is knowledge? What kinds of knowledge are there? What is skepticism? What kinds of skepticism are there? Can any of these skepticisms be answered? If so, how? Students will be encouraged to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own epistemic values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 493/Senior Project Research

**TBA** 

Prerequisite: Senior standing as a philosophy major and permission of instructor

Independent research under the guidance of a full-time faculty member on a mutually agreed-on topic. Students will be expected to define a topic suitable for a capstone project, conduct a series of appropriate literature reviews, and develop a writing plan.

PHL 494/Senior Project

**TBA** 

Prerequisite: PHL 493 and permission of instructor

A writing project prepared under the advisement of a member of the philosophy faculty. Students must complete a carefully researched and written, in-depth work in philosophy on a topic of significance in philosophy, selected by the student in consultation with faculty and written under the close supervision of a faculty member who serves as advisor.

PHL 495/Senior Thesis Research

TBA

Prerequisite: Senior standing as a philosophy major and permission of instructor

Independent research under the guidance of a full-time faculty member on a mutually agreed-on topic. Students will be expected to define a topic suitable for a capstone thesis, conduct a series of appropriate literature reviews, and develop a writing plan.

PHL 496/Senior Thesis

TBA

Prerequisite: PHL 495 and permission of instructor

A substantial writing project prepared under the advisement of a member of the philosophy faculty. Students must complete a carefully researched and written, in-depth work in philosophy on a topic of significance in philosophy, selected by the student in consultation with faculty and written under the close supervision of a faculty member who serves as adviser.

# **RELIGION COURSES**

REL 100/Basic Issues in Religion

Sec.01 (40350) Rech 8:30-9:50AM TF .02 (40358) Govantes 5:30-6:50PM MW

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to: 1) different ways of analyzing religion as part of human culture, 2) different forms of religious expressions (such as rites), and 3) different religious beliefs. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 110/World Religions

Sec.01 (40351) Dehghani 8:30-9:50AM TF .02 (40352) Dehghani 10:00-11:20AM TF

This course focuses on the exploration of the world's major religious traditions. Students will examine and compare the essential teachings, and the historical and cultural context, of most or

all of the following: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and one or more additional non-western traditions. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

REL 111/Buddhism & Buddhist Thought

Sec.01 (40353) Thomas 8:30-9:50AM MR .02 (40354) Thomas 10:00-11:20AM MR

This course will study the historical and philosophical development of Buddhism from its origin in India to its modern day practice in Japan and Tibet. It will explore the essential teachings and practice of Buddhism both in its early and modern form found in India, Sri Lanka, China, Japan and Tibet. It will examine both primary texts from various Buddhist traditions and secondary materials in order to gain a better appreciation for this religious tradition which has survived in Asia for centuries and is gaining popularity in the West in recent times. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

REL 113/Islam & Islamic Thought

Sec.01 (40356) Catovic 5:30-6:50PM MW

This course will examine the rise and development of philosophical thought in Islam. It will begin with looking at the background in which early theological explorations in Islam began. It will explore these early theological/philosophical explorations, which were in large measure based on political events and ideas that in turn led to the further development of theology and philosophy. It will examine the transfer of ancient Greek wisdom into Arabic language and Islamic thought and the role it played in the development of Islamic civilization. The focus will be upon some of the most influential medieval Muslim philosophers such as al-Kindi, Avicenna, al-Ghazali and Averroes. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

REL 121/Modern Judaism

Sec.01 (40355) Greenbaum 12:30-1:50PM MR

This course will examine the fundamentals, history and development of the Jewish faith and way of life. The relationship between Jewish historical experience and the evolving theological responses to that experience will be traced. Primary texts, drawn primarily from the Jewish experience in the modern period, will be examined as illuminations of this relationship. The vocabulary of Jewish theological expression will be explored as it relates to the history of Jewish philosophical inquiry. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 305/Ancient Christianity

Sec.01 (40357) Hlubik 10:00-11:20AM MR

Ancient Christianity will focus on the emergence of early Christianities during the first five centuries of the Common Era, in the Roman Empire and surrounding areas. The course will take into account the philosophical, political, cultural, and religious interactions (conflicts and differences within emerging communities) which shaped and challenged it as it evolved into the Catholic Orthodox faith. Beliefs, liturgical practices, scriptures, and structures of authority will be examined. We will also address issues of anti-Jewish sentiments, issues involving the theological understanding and role of women and the role of violence within the Church. Readings of primary and secondary sources will be critically analyzed and discussed in class, and there will be a research paper, several critical thinking papers on readings assigned, a midterm and final exam as well. Students MUST be willing to read assigned readings ahead of time to foster lively class discussions. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 320/Holocaust: Historical Sec.01 (40359) Rech 10:00-11:20AM TF & Relg. Perspectives

This course will provide a background to the actual events and an introduction to the historiographic, philosophical and religious dimensions of the Holocaust. The main focus of the course will be interpreting the causes, events, and lessons in light of the historical, philosophical, and religious perspectives. This course will lead students to a fuller understanding of the Holocaust and its effect on contemporary religious and philosophical life. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 373/Women & Spirituality:
The Feminine Divine

Sec.01 (42445) Hopps 10:00-11:20AM MR

This course focuses on the intersections of feminism and spirituality, examines the experiences of women in a variety of spiritual traditions, and examines how worldview is shaped by historical context. The question of how feminists connect to, critique, transform, and remember spiritual experience will be considered. The course explores several aspects of spirituality including language, ritual and creativity; it also considers what happens when feminists alter, shape, retell and interpret rituals and traditions. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Gender)

# **CLASSICAL STUDIES COURSES**

CLS 250/Introduction to Greek Mythology Sec.01 (41134) Gruen 2:00-3:20PM MR .02 (41135) Gruen 4:00-5:20PM MR

This course is an introduction to ancient Greek mythology through primary texts such as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, Sophocles' *Ajax*, et al. We shall focus on the Trojan War cycle of myths and its greatest heroes in order to understand how the ancient Greeks explored important aspects of their society through literature that ostensibly presents mythological events and characters. Attention is also given to visual representations of myth in sculpture and on vases and to differentiating the ancient Greek concept of "myth" from our own. (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts)

CLS 304/History of the Roman Empire Sec.01 (42502) Karras 12:30-1:50PM MR (same as HIS 304)

The Roman imperial system at its height and its ultimate decline and/or transformation after the third century CE. (LL: Global; Social Change in Historical Perspectives)

CLS 305/Ancient Christianity Sec.01 (42501) Hlubik 10:00-11:20AM MR (same as HIS 305 and REL 305)

Course focusing on the emergence of early Christianities during the first four centuries of the Common Era, in the Roman Empire and surrounding areas. The course will take into account the philosophical, political, cultural, and religious interactions (conflicts and differences within emerging communities) which challenged Christian groups and gradually shaped the Catholic Orthodox faith. Beliefs, ritual practices, scriptures, and structures of authority will be examined. We will also address issues of anti-Jewish sentiment, issues involving the theological understanding and role of women, and the role of violence in these developments. (LL: Social Change in Historical Perspectives; World Views & Ways of Knowing)

CLS 325/Sex & Gender in Greco-Roman Antiquity (same as WGS 306) Sec.01 (41980) Haynes 10:00-11:20AM TF

As familiar and contemporary as many aspects of ancient Greece and Rome seem to us today, a significant difference with our own culture marks their respective attitudes toward sex and gender. Ancient constructions of sexual categories, and the social and political implications of these categories, provide both an important window onto social history and an opportunity to investigate critically the ways in which we construct these categories today. This course examines the topic of ancient sexuality both for its own sake, as historical knowledge, and as it relates to our own attitudes, values, and practices, as a sort of "dialogue" between past and present. Students will be introduced to both the literary texts and material culture that offer a window on this topic, and will study as well as interrogate current methodologies for interpreting the various categories of evidence. Topics to be covered include the concept of sex and gender as social and political constructs; myths of matriarchy and patriarchy; the legal and political status of both sexes; medical, "scientific" notions of the body' the gendering of space; and attitudes toward family and social networks. This course will also emphasize the Greeks' and Romans' different concepts of sex and gender and the ideological implications of these differences. (LL: Gender)

CLS 404/Women in Classical Art (same as AAH 404 and WGS 404)

Sec.01 (42486) Riccardi 2:00-4:50 R

This course focuses on the roles of women in ancient Greece and Rome as revealed through art and architecture. It is designed for students who interested in learning about the contribution of women to the style, function, and evolution of Greek and Roman art and society. Examination of objects and monuments and analysis of critical and theoretical texts will be the principal means of investigation used in class, and out-of-class research projects on a relevant topic will be pursued by all students. The course is open to students in any major and will fulfill requirements for students in Art History, Women's and Gender Studies, Classical Studies, and for students seeking to fulfill the goals of the Liberal Learning program as one of the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts courses that also fulfills the Gender Civic Responsibility.

GRE 102/Learning Classical Greek through the New Testament II Prerequisite: GRE 101 or equivalent

Sec.01 (41981) Haynes 12:30-1:50PM TF

A continuation of GRE 101, completing the study of grammar, syntax and vocabulary. Students will read selections from the New Testament as well as Classical authors that complement the study of the New Testament. (LL: Language-Modern & Classical)

LAT 101/Latin I

Sec.01 (41221) Pilney 12:30-1:50PM MR

This course is the first part of a two-semester introduction to the elements of classical Latin, and aims at allowing students to read classical Latin texts as quickly as possible. The focus of the course is the vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of classical Latin, but linguistic and cultural history will also be treated. (LL: Language-Modern & Classical)

Sec.01 (41220) Pilney 2:00-3:20PM MR

LAT 102/Latin II

Prerequisite: LAT 101 or equivalent

A continuation of Latin I, completing the study of the elements of the language. Students will also read abbreviated selections from the works of great authors of the Roman period. (LL: Language- Modern & Classical)

LAT 201/Intermediate Latin

Sec.01 (41222) Jensen 4:00-5:20PM MR

Prerequisite: LAT 102 or equivalent

Concentration on translation, appreciation, and interpretation of great authors of the Roman

world. (LL: Language-Modern & Classical)

# **HONORS COURSES**

HON 203/Issues in Philosophy

Sec.01 (42027) Sisko 4:00-5:20PM MR

Problem-based course that will introduce the student to the fundamentals of argument, analysis and reasoning, applied to a series of issues including logical validity, theories of knowledge, the nature of mind, the nature of reality and ethics. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

HON 272/Philosophy of Religion

Sec.01 (42028) Le Morvan 12:30-1:50PM TF

This course critically examines major issues, views, and positions in the philosophy of religion. Topics include the nature of religion and divinity, religious diversity, the problem of evil, philosophical arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, ethics and religion, and science and religion. Students will be encouraged to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own religious values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

HON 355/Biomedical Ethics

Sec.01 (42329) Winston 12:00-1:50PM M 12:30-1:50PM R

Biomedical ethics is the name given to an area of research lying on the interdisciplinary border between medicine, biology, philosophy, and law that deals with questions concerning the ethical and social policy dimensions of medicine, nursing and the allied health care professions. The course will begin with a unit on ethical theory in which students will learn some basic ethical theory including the ethical principles of autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, and justice. These principles will then be used to analyze various ethical issues arising in clinical practice and medical research. Topics that will be addressed in the course include: medical confidentiality and privacy, experimentation with human subjects, artificial reproduction, genetic engineering and cloning, organ transplantation, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, and public health policy. Students will be evaluated on article presentations, case analyses, role-playing exercises (ethics committee simulations), and a term paper on a topic in the field of biomedical ethics which will substitute for a final exam. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)