THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, AND CLASSICAL STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS FALL 2012

PHILOSOPHY COURSES

HGS 200/Genocide & Human Rights

01 (82228) Winston 12:30-3:20PM T

This course is designed to provide a foundation course for the new Holocaust and Genocide studies minor. It will be taught without prerequisites so that all students will be able to enroll in it as their first course in this minor program.

Students will learn about the vital concepts, definitions, scholarly debates, and theories relevant to the study of the Holocaust and other ethnic and political genocides. They will compare and analyze several instances of genocide and mass violence, including the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, and the genocides Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur and develop an understanding of the preconditions, causes and warning signs of genocide and mass violence.

Students will also study the development of the idea of international human rights and humanitarian law and its relationship to the Holocaust and other cases of genocide and mass violence in the 20th century and will review the record of failure of states and the international community to effectively prevent and suppress genocide. At the end of the course we will consider the topics of humanitarian intervention, conflict prevention, and the responsibility to protect as possible means for preventing future cases of genocide and mass violence.

Requirements include two take-home essay exams, an article presentation, and a cumulative final exam. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 100/Introduction to Philosophy

01 (80797) Howarth 2:00-3:20PM MR 02 (80798) Howarth 3:30-4:50PM MR

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

01 (80791) Staff 8:30-9:50AM TF 02 (80792) Staff 10:00-11:20AM TF 03 (80793) Kang 12:30-1:50PM TF 04 (80799) Kang 2:00-3:20PM TF 05 (82226) Denissov 7:00-8:20PM 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

01 (80788) Taylor 12:30-1:50PM MR 02 (80789) Taylor 2:00-3:20PM 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, rights 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 220/Metalogic

01 (82227) Denissov 5:30-6:50PM MW

Prerequisite: PHL 120 or permission of instructor

Course in the study of predicate logic, including mixed quantification, relations, identity, and definite descriptions. Soundness and completeness theorems for the sentence and predicate logics. Selected additional topics in logical theory and the philosophy of logic. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 275/Philosophy of Law

01 (80794) Roberts 9:00:11:50AM W

Prerequisite: One philosophy course or sophomore standing or permission of instructor

In this course, we consider the nature of law and the relation between legal and moral theory. Is an immoral "law" really a genuine *law* at all? If a law is a law whether it is immoral or not, then how can there be any *moral* obligation to obey the law? How the Constitution is to be interpreted and applied is no easy task—and one we generally leave to the courts. But we can, and should, ask the question what makes one court opinion superior to another. When does the U.S. Supreme Court, for example, "get it right"? Whether we are reading the Constitution or evaluating court opinions, the question arises whether moral principle has any *legitimate* role to play. Should moral principle be set aside in favor of the plain text of the provision under scrutiny? In favor of majority opinion? In favor of the opinions of the drafters, or ratifiers? If moral principle seems like a good alternative, then how are we to figure out what that moral principle is?

We will be especially interested in how the Fourteenth Amendment guaranty of liberty, and specifically privacy, is to be understood. We think our rights of liberty protect us against state interference except in those instances in which our choices harm other people. We will be particularly concerned with how this principle is to be applied in cases such as wrongful life,

human cloning, commercial surrogacy and parental choice with respect to traits of offspring. Grades will be determined by exams, papers and class participation. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

This course satisfies requirements for the interdisciplinary concentration in Law and Society and the interdisciplinary minor in Politics, Law and Philosophy. It also satisfies requirements for the specialization in Law and Philosophy within the Philosophy major.

PHL 350/Ethical Theory 01 (80790) Taylor 10:00-11:20AM MR *Prerequisite:* One 200-level course in philosophy or permission of instructor

In this course we will critically address the competing ethical traditions of deontology and utilitarianism. We will initially focus on the views of Immanuel Kant and J.S. Mill, critically engaging with both. We will then address the more contemporary discussion of these theories, drawing on the work of J.J.C. Smart, Bernard Williams, and Christine Korsgaard. We will conclude the course by examining the philosophical methodology that we have used in our discussions of the ethical theories we address, focusing especially on the role that moral intuitions play in the construction of theories. To this end we will address some of the current work that is being done in experimental philosophy. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 391/Independent Study TBA

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy and permission of instructor

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

PHL 470/Advanced Topic: Metaphilosophy 01 (82229) Kamber 5:30-8:20PM W *Prerequisite:* Two courses in philosophy at the 200 level or above.

Metaphilosophy is the philosophy of philosophy. It is the branch of philosophy that studies the nature, methods, and purposes of philosophy. Metaphilosophy is nearly as old as philosophy itself. Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume, Kant, and Wittgenstein were great metaphilosophers as well as great philosophers. Yet despite its illustrious history, metaphilosophy is a neglected subject. The proliferation of specializations in philosophy over the past fifty has prompted many philosophers to focus their research on increasingly narrow areas of inquiry and the writings of other philosophers whose interests overlap their own. Some doubt that anything of importance can be said about philosophy as a whole.

The seminar will strive to show that a good deal can be learned about philosophy as a whole by trying to answer questions such as: 1) How do philosophers distinguish their discipline from other knowledge-seeking endeavors such as science, mathematics, and religion. 2) What are the standards by which one philosophical argument is judged better than another? 3) What is the role of intuitions in philosophy? 4) Why can't philosophers agree on the solution or dissolution of philosophical problems by philosophical methods? Readings for the seminar will include selections from Richard Kamber's manuscript *Why Philosophers Can't Agree* as well as works

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by Ludwig Wittgenstein, Saul Kripke, Richard Rorty, Nicholas Rescher, Colin McGinn, Michael Dummett, Timothy Williamson, Gary Gutting, Jesse Prinz, Shaun Nichols, and Joshua Knobe. Students will be shown how to use experimental research to address philosophical problems.

This seminar is highly recommended for rising junior and senior philosophy majors. All students in the seminar will be asked to write a final paper that examines a philosophical problem from a metaphilosophical point of view. Senior philosophy majors will be encouraged to write final papers that deal with problems raised in their senior projects or theses. (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

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 advisor.

RELIGION COURSES

REL 100/Basic Issues in Religion

01 (80904) Rech 8:30-9:50AM TF 02 (80912) Rech 10:00-11:20AM TF

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

01 (80905) Sinha 2:00-3:20PM MR 02 (80906) Staff 4:00-5:20PM MR 03 (80910) Dehghani 8:30-9:50AM TF 04 (82230) 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

01 (80907) Thomas 8:30-9:50AM MR 02 (80908) 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 112/Hinduism & Hindu Thought

01 (80909) Sinha 12:30-1:50PM MR

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the main ideas of Hinduism through an exploration of those issues which reveal basic beliefs, attitudes and the important values in the Hindu religious community. The course will combine a broadly historical approach highlighting major movements and persons with a focused exploration of some philosophical issues which shape and inform the Hindu worldview. Topics to be covered include the Vedas and the Upanishads, Yoga and the Bhagavad Gita, and the contemporary Hindu revivalist movements. The course will attempt to combine scholarship with a concern for an appreciative understanding of the subject. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

REL 113/Islam & Islamic Thought

01 (80913) 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 120/Early Judaism

01 (80914) Staff 2:00-3:20PM MR

This course will cover the development of Jewish history and religious life from the Biblical through the medieval periods. Particular attention will be paid to literary sources, the historical development of ideas, and Jewish ritual cycles. We will, for example, examine the development of the celebration and meaning of Jewish festivals, life cycle events and practices. Also probed will be the growth of Jewish law and understanding of Scriptures. There is no requirement for any previous understanding of Judaism—all students are encouraged to enroll. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 370/Scripture in Context (same as HIS 330)

01 (80911) Hlubik 8:30-9:50AM MR

Scripture in Context investigates the books of the Hebrew Bible (Christian Old Testament) using contemporary historical critical, cultural, archeological, literary and other academic tools of analysis in order to provide students with a deeper appreciation of the meaning of these texts. We will examine the possible meanings which these texts had in their original written or oral forms, and how they were reinterpreted and re-edited to reflect new meanings they took on as time went on, and finally how their meanings changed when they were formed into the canons of Holy Scriptures for Jews and Christians. The course will challenge traditionally held views in the Judeo-Christian tradition that these writings are always inerrant, applicable to daily living, easy to understand, and the direct words of God. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

HONORS COURSES

HON 203/Issues in Philosophy

01 (82121) Preti 10:00-11:20AM MR 02 (82231) Preti 12:30-1:50PM 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)

CLASSICAL STUDIES

CLS 250/Introduction to Greek Mythology

01 (80601) Gruen 2:00-3:20PM MR 02 (80602) Gruen 4:00-5:20PM MR 03 (80603) Staff 4:00-5:20PM TF

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 306/History of the Byzantine World (same as HIS 306)

01 (82553) Karras 12:30-1:50PM MR

An investigation of the late Roman Empire and its evolution into the Byzantine world, 4th to the 12th centuries. (LL: Social Change in Historical Perspective; Global)

CLS 321/The Art of Greece

01 (82610) Riccardi 12:30-1:50PM MR

The course will deal with major monuments of Greek architecture, painting, sculpture, and minor arts from the Late Bronze Age through the Hellenistic Period. The emphasis will be on developments in Athens, the Peloponnesos and the mainland but monuments of art and architecture in Magna Graecia, Asia Minor, and the Greek islands will be included as well. Major emphasis will be placed on the principal forms of Greek art and architecture, with their stylistic development and social context. Students will also be introduced to questions of production and trade, as well as the religious, political, and social roles of Greek art. Different archaeological theories and interpretations and their relationship to Greek art and architecture will also be included. Slide lectures, museum trips, and critical and theoretical texts will be used to illustrate and illuminate the meanings and purposes of Greek art and architecture of this important period. (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts)

GRE 201/Intermediate Greek

01 (82232) Haynes 10:00-11:20PM TF

Prerequisite: GRE 102 or equivalent

Concentration on translation, appreciation, and interpretation of great works of the ancient Greek world. (LL: Language-Modern & Classical)

LAT 101/Latin I

01 (80745) Pilney 12:30-1:50PM MR 02 (80746) Staff 12:30-1:50PM TF

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)

LAT 102/Latin II

01 (80747) Pilney 2:00-3:20PM MR

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)

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01 (82233) Haynes 12:30-1:50PM TF

LAT 201/Intermediate Latin *Prerequisite:* LAT 102 or equivalent

Concentration on translation, appreciation, and interpretation of great authors of the Roman world. (LL: Language-Modern & Classical)