
2800 Open Topics in Philosophy - African Philosophy

SEC	200	1:00 - 1:50	MWF	HLMS 229	Wingo
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This course critically examines the concepts of **personhood** and **humanity** that are at the core of the perennial moral, legal, and cultural debates over euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion, and the nature of citizenship and community. This course examines how African experiences provide alternative approaches to issues of personhood. For instance, many of the qualities of even secular Western morality are rooted in the Judeo-Christian idea that humans are created in the image of God. Given that Africa's spiritual experiences were dramatically different from European experiences, it is not surprising that African thought should have developed in a distinctive way. This course explores the African humanistic foundation of morality and compares it with the Kantian Categorical Imperative, Utilitarianism, Natural Rights Ethics, and Divine Command Ethics. This course encourages a critical examination of fundamental presuppositions in moral philosophy, and fosters and deepens intellectual sensitivity to the plurality of cultures. Because this is partly a comparative approach to ethics, students read texts written by African and Western Philosophers.

3000 History of Ancient Philosophy

SEC	001	11:00 - 12:15	TR	HALE 240	Lee, M.
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This course is meant to introduce philosophy majors to the central issues and problems in ancient Greek philosophy. We will focus on the work of the two greatest philosophers of the period, Plato and Aristotle, and will examine their theories in ethics, political philosophy, psychology, metaphysics, and epistemology. It is also designed to satisfy the Core Historical Context requirement, by presenting and examining the development of ideas in the context of 5th and 4th century classical Greece. Required text: S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, and C. D. C. Reeve (eds.). *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*, 3rd edn (Indianapolis: Hackett, Oct 2006, ISBN 0-87220-769-2).

3010 History of Modern Philosophy

SEC	001	12:30 - 1:45	TR	HALE 260	Kaufman
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Introduces modern philosophy, focusing on the period from Descartes through Kant. In addition to careful analysis of philosophical arguments, attention is paid to the way in which philosophers responded to and participated in major developments in the 17th and 18th century, such as the scientific revolution.

3100 Ethical Theory

SEC	001	10:00 - 10:50	MWF	KTCH 235	Heathwood
	880	12:00 - 12:50	MWF	HLMS 177	Heathwood

We make value judgments – e.g., "It's wrong to eat meat," "The situation in the Middle East right now is really bad," "Happiness is good" – all the time. But what are we doing when we do this? Are we describing an objective moral reality, or just expressing our feelings? Are such statements ever true? Can we ever know one to be true? If there are moral facts, are they just a subclass of the natural facts about the world? These are some questions in metaethics, to which the first part of this course will provide an introduction.

Then we will turn to normative ethics, where we attempt to figure out which moral claims – and in particular, which fundamental moral principles – are actually true. Our main questions will be, What makes an act right or wrong?, and, What makes a state of affairs good or bad? Consequentialists believe that an act's rightness or wrongness is to be explained solely in terms of how good or bad its outcome would be. We will explore this theory in detail, as well as theories about what makes an outcome good or bad. Deontologists reject the view that consequences are all that matter, and believe in constraints against certain kinds of act (e.g., killing) even when doing so would lead to an overall better outcome. We will explore deontology as well.

3140 Environmental Ethics

SEC	001	9:30 - 10:45	TR	HLMS 237	Youkey
	002	11:00 - 12:15	TR	HLMS 229	Youkey
	003	12:30 - 1:45	TR	CLUB 13	Hale

Examines major traditions in moral philosophy to see what light they shed on value issues in environmental policy and the value presuppositions of the economic, ecological, and juridical approaches to the environment.

3160 Bioethics

SEC	001	12:00 - 12:50	MWF	HLMS 237	Peirce
SEC	002	2:00 - 3:15	TR	DUAN G2B47	Chwang

Analysis of ethical problems involved in such issues as abortion, euthanasia, organ transplants, eugenics, treatment of the patient as a person, and the institutional nature of the health care delivery system.

3180 Critical Thinking: Contemporary Topics

SEC	001	11:00 - 11:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 177</i>	Sturgis
	002	1:00 - 1:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 177</i>	Sturgis
	003	3:30 - 4:45	TR	<i>HLMS 193</i>	
	004	12:00 - 12:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 241</i>	Talbot
	880	10:00 - 10:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 220</i>	Talbot

Looks at a selected topic such as nuclear disarmament, racial and sexual discrimination, animal rights, or abortion and euthanasia by examining issues through the lens of critical philosophical analysis. Reviews the reasoning behind espoused positions and the logical connections and argument forms they contain.

3190 War and Morality

SEC	001	11:00 - 11:50	MWF	<i>KTCH 234</i>	Mott
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Focuses on moral issues raised by war as a human institution. What are the justifications, limits, and alternatives? Does the advent of nuclear weapons change the nature of war?

3200 Social and Political Philosophy

SEC	001	1:00 - 1:50	MWF	<i>MUEN E417</i>	Wyckoff
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Systematic discussion and analysis of such philosophic ideas as community, freedom, political power, and violence.

3260 Philosophy and the International Order

SEC	001	10:00 - 10:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 237</i>	Bates
	002	12:00 - 12:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 229</i>	Bates

Considers philosophical topics concerning the international economic, political, and legal systems. Topics that may be considered include the nature of international law, war and peace, humanitarian intervention, international justice, world hunger, and human rights.

3340 Epistemology

SEC	001	1:00 - 1:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 241</i>	Tooley
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Studies some of the main topics of theory of knowledge, such as evidence, justification, prediction, explanation, skepticism, and concept acquisition.

3410 History of Science: Ancients to Newton

SEC	001	11:00 - 11:50	MWF	<i>EDUC 155</i>	Brindell
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Surveys the history of science up to Newton, including the emergence of scientific modes of thinking from religious and philosophical roots in the Near East and Greece to the development of these modes in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Culminates with Isaac Newton and the 17th century scientific revolution.

3480 Critical Thinking and Writing in Philosophy

SEC	001	9:30 - 10:45	TR	<i>HLMS 177</i>	Potter
	002	12:30 - 1:45	TR	<i>HLMS 196</i>	Potter

Focuses upon the fundamental skills, methods, concepts, and distinctions that are essential for the study of philosophy. The basic skills covered include the writing of philosophy papers, the reading of articles, and the extraction and evaluation of arguments.

3600 Philosophy of Religion

SEC	001	9:30 - 10:45	TR	<i>HLMS 229</i>	Monton
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We'll discuss whether God exists, and if so, what the nature of God is, and other issues in the philosophy of religion.

3700 Aesthetic Theory

SEC	001	10:00 - 10:50	MWF	<i>HLMS 229</i>	Fisher
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Introduces major theories of aesthetics and contemporary discussions of problems, e.g., the nature of art and the problem of evaluations in art.

3800 Open Topics in Philosophy - Eastern Philosophy

SEC	001	3:30 - 4:45	TR	<i>DUAN G131</i>	[unassigned]
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4010 Single Philosopher - Rousseau (same as Philosophy 5010)

SEC 001 2:00 - 2:50 MWF HLMS 245 Mills

Of all the great philosophers, none is more contradictory, infuriating, or exhilarating than Rousseau. We'll be reading widely in Rousseau's political philosophy (the two *Discourses*, *On the Social Contract*, and *Considerations on the Government of Poland*) and philosophy of education and religion (*Emile*), as well as his stunningly revelatory *Confessions*, epistolary novel *Julie*, or the *Nouvelle Heloise* (the best-selling novel of the 18th century), and his poignant *Reveries of the Solitary Walker*. We will even listen to the opera for which he wrote both libretto and score! Students will write two 8–10 page papers, and one 15–20 page final paper, revised and expanded from one of the two shorter papers; grad students will also give a brief class presentation.

4040 Studies in 20th Century Philosophy

SEC 001 2:00 - 3:15 TR KOBL 300 Hanna

Classical analytic philosophy is a philosophy of logic, language, meaning, mind, and knowledge that was practiced mainly by European philosophers between 1900 and 1950. Classical phenomenology is a philosophy of logic, language, meaning, mind, and knowledge that was practiced mainly by European philosophers between 1900 and 1950. So what is the basic difference between them, if any? This course will address that meta-philosophical question, as well as various deeply important first-order issues about the nature of logic, language, meaning, mind, and knowledge raised by classical analytic philosophers & classical phenomenologists. Works to be discussed include essays or parts of books by Brentano, Moore, Frege, Husserl, Russell, Meinong, Carnap, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, and Quine.

4260 Philosophy of Law (same as Philosophy 5260)

SEC 001 2:00 - 2:50 MWF GUGG 2 Talbot

Considers philosophical topics concerning law and the U.S. legal system. Topics that may be considered include the nature of law, relations between law and morality, justifications of punishment, the moral duty to obey the law, and law and liberty.

4360 Metaphysics

SEC 001 11:00 - 12:15 TR ECON 205 Rupert

Traditional and contemporary theories of the basic categories of reality and the human relationship to it, including universals, substance, identity, change, mind and body, free will, and modality.

4450 History and Philosophy of Physics (same as Philosophy 5450/Physics 4450)

SEC 001 12:30 - 1:45 TR DUAN G2B47 Monton

Part of the goal of philosophy is to study the fundamental nature of reality, but in part that's the goal of physics too. What does physics have to say about fundamental philosophical issues like the nature of space and time, whether the universe is deterministic, and whether holism is true? We're going to explore these issues in this course. About half the class will focus on the implications of relativity theory, and the other half will focus on the implications of quantum theory. No prior knowledge of relativity theory or quantum theory will be assumed.

4490 Philosophy of Language (same as Philosophy 5490)

SEC 001 3:30 - 4:45 TR HLMS 229 Barnett

Philosophers of language are for the most part not concerned with features unique to English, French, Japanese, or any other specific language. They are rather interested in features common to all languages. What interests them is the *nature* of language. What is a language? What is meaning? What are the essential ingredients of a language? What is the role of language in communication? By virtue of what are sentences of a language true or false? How in the first place can language be about the world? How does language facilitate our thinking about the world? Must the structure of language match the structure of the world? By addressing these questions, we shall try to gain a greater understanding of the nature of language, meaning, and truth.

4600 Theology Forum

SEC 001 5:00 - 6:00 T HLMS 196 Monton

Discusses a variety of theological and philosophical topics. Some reading, much discussion, occasional guest speakers. May be repeated up to 3 total credit hours with permission of instructor.

4800 Open Topics in PhilosophySEC 001 3:30 - 4:45 TR *HLMS 196* Forbes**Contemp Phil Issues:** [Contact Graeme.Forbes@colorado.edu for course description.]SEC 002 3:30 - 4:45 TR *HLMS 237* Norcross

Ethics and Animals: We commonly assume that human beings have certain rights, prominent among which are the right to life and the right to self-determination. These general rights encompass the more specific rights not to be bred and killed for food, and not to be experimented on without our consent. The situation appears to be different with respect to nonhuman animals. Many animals are bred, often in quite unpleasant conditions, in order to be slaughtered and eaten by humans. Many other animals are forcibly subjected to experiments designed to test products or processes whose sole aim is to benefit humans. Very few of these animals sign consent forms. It appears to be a common assumption that animals don't have the same rights as humans, and even that they don't have rights at all. The topic of this course is whether the assumption can be justified. We will consider both the utilitarian approach of Peter Singer that animals deserve equal consideration with humans, and the deontological approach of Tom Regan that animals have equal moral rights with those of humans. We will also study the work of some cognitive ethologists on the cognitive abilities of animals.

4830 Senior Seminar in PhilosophySEC 002 2:00 - 3:15 TR *HLMS 177* Cleland**What is Life?** [Contact Cleland@colorado.edu for course description.]