

Course Descriptions

Spring 2015



Boston University College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Department of Philosophy

Updated: 10/29/14 10:14 AM

Undergraduate Courses

CAS PH 100 A1**Introduction to Philosophy**

Professor Walter Hopp

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

In this class we will examine a number of topics, including: the nature and extent of human knowledge, the nature of happiness or wellbeing, and the nature and significance of a variety of human emotions. It will be challenging, but a number of very bright people have agreed to help us out, including: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Seneca, David Hume, Iris Murdoch, Martha Nussbaum, and more!

CAS PH 100 B1**Introduction to Philosophy**

Professor Anderson

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00AM-12:00PM

Introduces the nature of philosophical activity through careful study of major philosophical topics. Topics include happiness, knowledge, and God's existence. How is knowledge acquired? What reasons are there for supposing that God exists? Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CAS PH 150 A1**Introduction to Ethics**

Professor Daniel Star

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00PM-3:00PM

What is morality? What does morality require of us in our daily lives, if it requires anything at all? Are there moral truths? Are they universal, or subjective? What is the relationship between morality and religion? Should I care only about myself? To the extent that I do care about my self-interest, how might I determine what would make my own life go well? Answering such questions will help us to understand what the most important features of morality and ethics are. We will look both at ethical theories that attempt to specify what self-interest and morality require of us, and at more specific topics that it makes sense to think very carefully about when considering these theories, e.g. war, abortion, law, personal relationships, the environmental crisis, and the future of humanity.

CAS PH 150 B1**Introduction to Ethics**

Professor Paul Katsafanas

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-11:00AM

We judge that some lives are better than others, that some actions are right and others wrong, that some pursuits are valuable and others disvaluable. But what is the basis for these claims? What makes a life good, an action right, a pursuit valuable? In this course we will examine some of the most interesting attempts to answer these questions. Readings will be drawn from Aristotle, Hobbes, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Schopenhauer, Marx, and Nietzsche. As we read these thinkers, we will address the following questions: do human beings seek happiness? Is happiness equivalent to pleasure? Is happiness achievable? Are we moved exclusively by self-interest, or do we have altruistic motives? What is freedom, and do we aspire toward it? Is there a connection between freedom and morality? Might certain economic and social arrangements undermine human flourishing? Might traditional morality itself be dangerous?

CAS PH 150 C1**Introduction to Ethics**

Professor Benjamin Roth

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:30PM

How should we live? How should we act? What duties do we have? Should we try to maximize pleasure? Respect other people's autonomy and rationality? Embody specific virtues, like courage and generosity? This course will involve the close study of John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism*, Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and, more briefly, some contemporary proponents of those thinkers' views (including Peter Singer and Alasdair MacIntyre). Rather than progressing chronologically, we will work our way backward, examining past theories for relevance to our lives now.

CAS PH 160 A1**Reason and Argumentation**

Professor Max Weiss

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00PM-2:00PM

A systematic study of the principles of both deductive and informal reasoning, calculated to enhance students' actual reasoning skills, with an emphasis on reasoning and argumentation in ordinary discourse. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CAS PH 160 B1**Reason and Argumentation**

Professor Judson Webb

Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-2:00PM

A systematic study of the principles of both deductive and informal reasoning, calculated to enhance students' actual reasoning skills, with an emphasis on reasoning and argumentation in ordinary discourse. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CAS PH 242 A1**Philosophy of Human Nature**

Professor Peter Bokulich

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:30PM

Consideration of how questions about human nature receive philosophical formulation through analyzing depth, courage, authority, intensity, possibility, transcendence, tradition, adventure, unity, sex, struggle, and peace. Discussion of past and recent work in philosophical anthropology. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CAS PH 245 A1**Philosophy and Religion**

Professor Diana Lobel

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:30PM

An introduction to the philosophy of religion, which explores questions such as the existence and nature of God, God's place in the good life, and the spiritual quest. Both classical and contemporary works are studied. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CAS PH 248 A1**Existentialism**

Professor Daniel Dahlstrom

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the basic themes of existentialist thought, a philosophical movement that rose to prominence in Europe in the decades between the First and Second World Wars. In particular, the course will discuss existentialist approaches to such themes as anxiety, death, decision, authenticity, truth, ethics, nothingness, freedom, possibility, "bad faith," and history. The course focuses on the most prominent elaboration of those themes in the first half of the twentieth century and on the views of those nineteenth century thinkers who anticipated and heavily influenced the movement in the twentieth century. The course combines lectures with class discussions, based upon readings of classic existentialist treatises.

CAS PH 251 A1**Medical Ethics**

Professor Benjamin Sherman

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

In this course we will consider the situations medical professionals sometimes face that raise distinctly ethical questions, explore ways to respond to ethical dilemmas, and discuss some important ethical controversies in modern medicine. Students will learn to distinguish ethical questions from other sorts of tough questions medical professionals face, including scientific and legal questions. By studying the major ethical principles and theories that guide medical practice, students will develop their ability to engage in moral reasoning when faced with difficult decisions. And by covering important contemporary controversies, the course will prepare students for some of the debates they are likely to face in their professional lives, and give them a clear understanding of the different ethical positions that motivate these debates.

CAS PH 259 A1**Philosophy of the Arts**

Professor C Allen Speight

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

What makes something beautiful? How do different arts (music, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, film, drama) relate to our aesthetic experience of the world? Explores several philosophical theories of art through specific examples of artwork. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CAS PH 265 A1**Minds and Machines**

Professor Judson Webb

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-11:00AM

Examines efforts of artificial intelligence to model the human mind and explain human thought. Explores the historical and mathematical origins of such efforts, and the psychological and philosophical assumptions on which they depend. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

CAS PH 271 A1**History of Science**

Professor Tian Yu Cao

Tuesday, Thursday 3:30PM-5:00PM

Considering the centrality of science in our world today, it is essential that students in all fields—including natural sciences and engineering as well as the social sciences and the humanities—appreciate both the role of science in society and its nature as an intellectual system. One way to acquire this perspective is through studying history of science. In this course we will examine key events in the history of science and the historiographical problems as to how the evolution of the history of science is to be understood. The seminal discoveries in the rise of modern science will be surveyed. Special attention will be given to the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries, both to assess its reaction to ancient modes of thought, and to define the conceptual foundations of subsequent progress in physics and biology. In particular, we shall study the emergence and development of relativity theories and quantum theory in physics, and of evolutionary theory and molecular genetics in biology. In addition, various views on the nature of scientific progress, offered by Sarton, Koyre, Popper, Merton, Kuhn, Lakatos, as well as the social constructivist and the postmodernist, will be briefly examined. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to understand the nature of the conceptual developments in modern science, to appreciate the character of the interactions between modern science and society, and to appreciate the philosophical, religious, and other cultural issues involving science. The student will thus be in a position to understand how science has become a dominant social, cultural, and intellectual force in the modern world.

CAS PH 272 A1**Science, Technology, and Values**

Professor Alisa Bokulich

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00AM-12:00PM

The goal of this course is to come to a deeper and more reflective understanding of the nature of science and technology, their ethical implications, and their impact on society. As citizens, business people, and policy makers we cannot afford to be ignorant of the developments in science and technology. As scientists, engineers, or healthcare professionals—or even simply as consumers—we cannot afford to be ignorant of the ethical, social and political implications of our practices. In this course we shall examine some of the important ways in which science, technology, society, and values are interconnected. The course will include case studies of particular technologies such as nanotechnology, prescription drugs, GM crops, social robots, and surveillance technologies.

CAS PH 300 A1**History of Ancient Philosophy**

Professor Manfred Kuehn

Tuesday, Thursday 3:30PM-5:00PM

Classical Greek philosophy, with a concentration on the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle.

Prerequisite: One philosophy course or sophomore standing.

CAS PH 300 B1**History of Ancient Philosophy**

Professor Benjamin Roth

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00PM-2:00PM

This course will involve the close study of Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Republic*, and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, *Politics* (in part), and *Poetics*. The last we will read alongside Sophocles' tragedy *Antigone*. Taking our lead from these texts, our primary concerns will be Plato's and Aristotle's accounts of human nature, ethics, politics, and literature.

CAS PH 310 A1**History of Modern Philosophy**

Professor Charles Griswold

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00PM-2:00PM

This course offers an examination of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy, with emphasis on the nature and extent of knowledge (including our knowledge of the existence of the external world), the nature of personal identity, the problem of free will, and the theological problem of evil. The complicated and surprising dialectic between empiricist, rationalist, and idealist views will be a topic throughout, as will the relation between science, religion, and philosophy. Readings from Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, and Hume, among others.

Prerequisites: one philosophy course or sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

CAS PH 310 B1**History of Modern Philosophy**

Professor Max Weiss

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

An examination of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy from Descartes to Kant, with emphasis on the nature and extent of knowledge. Readings include Descartes, Locke, Spinoza, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

Prerequisite: One philosophy course or sophomore standing.

CAS PH 360 A1 (Cross PH 633)**Symbolic Logic**

Professor Juliet Floyd

Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-2:00PM

An introductory survey of the concepts and principles of symbolic logic: valid and invalid arguments, logical relations of statements and their basis in structural features of statements, analysis of the logical structure of complex statements of ordinary discourse, and the use of a symbolic language to display logical structure and to facilitate methods for assessing the logical structure of arguments. We will cover the analysis of reasoning with truth-functions ('and', 'or', 'not', 'if...then') and with quantifiers ('all', 'some'), attending to formal languages and axiomatic systems for logical deduction. Throughout, we aim to clearly and systematically display both the theory underlying the norms of valid reasoning and their applications to particular problems of argumentation. The course is an introduction to first-order quantificational logic, a key tool underlying work in foundations of mathematics, philosophy of language and mind, philosophy of science and parts of syntax and semantics. It is largely mathematical and formal in character, but lectures will situate these structures within the context of questions raised in contemporary philosophy of language and mind.

CAS PH 411 A1 (Cross PH 611)**British Empiricism**

Professor Aaron Garrett

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:30PM

A close reading of John Locke's *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, George Berkeley's *Three Dialogues*, and David Hume's *A Treatise concerning Human Nature*. In addition we will also read contemporary discussions and reviews by Catherine Trotter and others. Topics covered will include the theory of ideas, knowledge and belief, primary and secondary qualities, and causation.

CAS PH 412 A1**Philosophy of the Enlightenment**

Professor Charles Griswold

Monday, Wednesday 5:00PM-6:30PM

Shortly before his death, Rousseau opened his last work with these words: “I am now alone on earth, no longer having any brother, neighbor, friend, or society other than myself.... But I, detached from them and from everything, what am I? That is what remains for me to seek” (trans. Butterworth). A common thread through Rousseau's oeuvre is the question of the self: what we are by nature, who we have become, and how self and other are related. That question provides the general focus of the seminar, and leads us into the heart of debates about “the Enlightenment.”

More specifically, we will focus on four interconnected issues: freedom (both “natural” or of self, and economic as well as political); the loss of freedom and authenticity, and the ensuing “theatricality” of self; “pitié” (compassion, pity) and sympathy as rival means of understanding as well as identifying with self and other, and the challenge of self-love or egoism, as well as of narcissism; and narrative as a way of understanding, explaining, and unifying. Rousseau’s famous polemic against commercial society as well as the arts, sciences, and letters commonly thought of as high achievements of “the Enlightenment” is closely tied to his reflections about the self. Both commercial society and these achievements of the Enlightenment both express and further the degradation of self—or so his polemic claims. That polemic will therefore demand our attention as well.

Throughout, we will counterpoise Rousseau’s thought to that of his near contemporary, Adam Smith, as well as take up recent philosophical work on these issues, the better to work out our own position. We will, then, discuss quite a few different authors, both 18th century and contemporary, though the Rousseau-Smith “debate” will provide the fulcrum for opening up the issues mentioned above.

PH 412 is open only to undergraduate students, and will emphasize discussion. The class size will be kept to about 15 so that extended dialogue is possible.

CAS PH 413 A1 (Cross PH 613)**Kant**

Professor Manfred Kuehn

Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-2:00PM

A study of Kant's critical philosophy, focusing on one or more of his works.

Prerequisite: (CASP310) and two other philosophy courses, or consent of instructor.

CAS PH 415 A1 (Cross PH 615)**Nineteenth-Century Philosophy**

Professor Paul Katsafanas

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:30PM

The century between the publication of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* in 1781 and Nietzsche's collapse into insanity in 1889 was arguably the richest and most profound period of philosophical thought since antiquity. During this time, philosophers produced a series of astonishingly deep and ambitious works that rethought traditional philosophical aspirations and introduced some of the most difficult questions that philosophy has learned to ask. Must philosophy always begin with undefended assumptions, or could it be presuppositionless? Can philosophy be all-encompassing and systematic, or is the aspiration for systematicity a form of pathology? Is there a way of moving past traditional dualisms such as reason/passion, mind/world, and freedom/nature? How can philosophy avoid treating concepts as eternal and immutable, instead recognizing their historicity? What role does religious experience have in philosophy? Does modernity promote or undermine human flourishing? Might structural features of human agency render happiness impossible? Could most of us be victims of false consciousness and ideology? Might we be alienated from ourselves? How, if at all, can we achieve authenticity? Might morality be an obstacle to human flourishing? Texts include Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, Feuerbach's *The Essence of Christianity*, Marx's *Communist Manifesto* and *German Ideology*, Schopenhauer's *The World as Will and Representation*, and Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morality*.

CAS PH 424 A1 (Cross PH 624)**Wittgenstein**

Professor Juliet Floyd

Thursday 3:30PM-6:30PM

An intensive study of Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*, with contemporary philosophical problems in mind and some attention to Wittgenstein's overall development. Our focus will be Wittgenstein's talk of "aspects" in relation to problems about truth, meaning, representation, and the notions of perception and experience. One of our main points of focus will be the connection(s) between aspect-talk and truth, because these notions are often held apart in commentary. Themes covered include the nature of concept-possession, normativity, the structure of as-phrases, the scope and character of logic, the nature of predication, Wittgenstein's criticisms of mentalism and various forms of psychologism, questions about what it is to follow a rule, to understand a language, and to express a thought. Readings by Block, Brandom, Cavell, Kripke, McDowell, Putnam, Russell, Travis, Sellars and Wollheim will be paired with specific passages from Wittgenstein.

CAS PH 436 A1 (Cross PH 636)**Gender, Race, and Science**

Professor Alisa Bokulich

Monday 2:00PM-5:00PM

This course is an examination of issues arising at the intersection of feminist philosophy, philosophy of race, and the history and philosophy of science. We shall examine questions such as the following: How have views about gender and race changed over the history of science and the history of philosophy? Is 'race' a genuine scientific category or just a social construct? Why are there still so few women and minority scientists? Has the content of science been affected by the fact that it has been carried out almost exclusively by white men? The course will begin with historical readings such as Kant and Darwin and will continue up to contemporary articles. The goal of this course is to come to a deeper and more critically reflective understanding of both the history of the concepts of race and gender and the various roles that these concepts continue to play in contemporary science.

CAS PH 440 A1 (Cross PH 640)**Metaphysics**

Professor Peter Bokulich

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

A survey of basic questions in contemporary metaphysics that may include reality, time, change, free will, personal identity, and causation.

CAS PH 451 A1 (Cross PH 651)**Contemporary Ethical Theory: Love**

Professor Daniel Star

Monday 10:00AM-1:00PM

What is love? When I love someone, what is it that I am loving? Is love non-rational, or are there reasons of love? In other words, are there times when I should love particular people, and particular ways I should act in virtue of the fact that I love particular people? If there are reasons of love, how are they to be compared to impartial moral reasons? We will aim to answer these and other philosophical questions by focusing on contemporary philosophical writings on love.

CAS PH 452 A1 (Cross PH 652)**Ethics of Health Care**

Professor Benjamin Sherman

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-11:00AM

This seminar will consider whether ethical standards in medical practice should change as science and technology progress. We will examine the philosophical principles underlying conventional standards of medical ethics, to focus on two central questions: Is there good reason for ethical standards to be as they are now? As technology advances, how should our ethical codes adapt?

CAS PH 454 A1 (Cross PO 392)**Community, Liberty, Morality**

Professor Judith Swanson

Tuesday, Thursday 3:30PM-5:00PM

Concerns liberalism and its critics: Locke's classical liberalism, Rousseau's critique, the American Founders' adaptation, Hegel's revision, Marx's attack, progressive liberalism, and Hayek's response. Themes include law, rights, freedom, equality, property, consent, toleration, religion, marriage, exploitation, participation, revolution, and social justice.

CAS PH 460 A1 (Cross PH 660)**Epistemology**

Professor Walter Hopp

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-11:00AM

Human life and wellbeing depend essentially on people knowing about stuff, and we take it for granted that there's a lot of knowledge out there. Is there really? What kinds of things are in fact known or knowable? What is the structure of knowledge? Does it rest on foundations? And what is the role of consciousness in knowledge?

CAS PH 462 A1 (Cross PH662)**Foundations of Mathematics**

Professor Kanamori

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

Axiomatic set theory as a foundation for, and field of, mathematics: Axiom of Choice, the Continuum Hypothesis, and consistency results. Also offered as CAS MA 532.

Prerequisite: (CASP461) or consent of instructor.

CAS PH 470 A1 (Cross PH 670)

Philosophy of Physics

Professor Tian Yu Cao

Wednesday 5:00PM-8:00PM

An introductory survey of fascinating problems in contemporary philosophy of physics. The basic ideas and main features of physical theories, which touch upon nature at its most fundamental level and interact most crucially with philosophy, are outlined, so that students will have a road map of the central problems in the field. Throughout, the driving theme is the entanglement of a radical revision in our conceptualization of the world (which is forced upon us by the changes in the physical picture of the world due to major developments in modern physics) with central philosophical issues in metaphysics and epistemology. Some areas of discussion include: the nature of space and time in relativity theories; probability and irreversibility in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics; the understanding of measurement, locality, causality, reality and objectivity in quantum theory; ontology, virtual entities, and attitudes toward infinities in quantum field theory.

In-depth conceptual analysis will be carried out in a non-technical way, without requiring either a thorough understanding of the technical details of physical theories or major competence in mathematics. The course is designed primarily for those who have a deep interest in philosophy of physics, or in theoretical physics, and plan to pursue advanced study in these areas. But it is also accessible to those who are interested mainly in the ideas of modern physics, or in the relevance of physics as a testing ground for general philosophical claims.

CAS PH 480 A1 (Cross PH 680)

Topics in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

Professor David Roochnik

Tuesday 6:00PM-9:00PM

"Every man is born an Aristotelian or a Platonist. I do not think it possible that anyone born an Aristotelian can become a Platonist; and I am sure that no born Platonist can ever change into an Aristotelian" (Samuel Taylor Coleridge).

Are Plato and Aristotle as fundamental, and fundamentally different from one another, as Coleridge thought? PH 480/680 will examine this question by comparing them on four topics. First, we will study Plato's treatment of **courage** in the *Laches*. Then we will see what Aristotle says about courage in *Nicomachean Ethics* (NE) III.6-9. Our second topic will be **moderation** (Plato's *Charmides*; Aristotle's NE III.10-13). Our third will be **friendship** (*Lysis*; NE VIII-IX). Finally we will compare what Plato and Aristotle say about the **philosophical life** itself in the *Symposium* and NE X.

Graduate Courses

CAS PH 611 A1 (Cross PH 411)

British Empiricism

Professor Aaron Garrett

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:30PM

A close reading of John Locke's *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, George Berkeley's *Three Dialogues*, and David Hume's *A Treatise concerning Human Nature*. In addition we will also read contemporary discussions and reviews by Catherine Trotter and others. Topics covered will include the theory of ideas, knowledge and belief, primary and secondary qualities, and causation.

CAS PH 613 A1 (Cross PH 413)

Kant

Professor Manfred Kuehn

Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-2:00PM

A study of Kant's critical philosophy, focusing on one or more of his works.

CAS PH 615 A1 (Cross PH 415)

Nineteenth-Century Philosophy

Professor Paul Katsafanas

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:30PM

The century between the publication of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* in 1781 and Nietzsche's collapse into insanity in 1889 was arguably the richest and most profound period of philosophical thought since antiquity. During this time, philosophers produced a series of astonishingly deep and ambitious works that rethought traditional philosophical aspirations and introduced some of the most difficult questions that philosophy has learned to ask. Must philosophy always begin with undefended assumptions, or could it be presuppositionless? Can philosophy be all-encompassing and systematic, or is the aspiration for systematicity a form of pathology? Is there a way of moving past traditional dualisms such as reason/passion, mind/world, and freedom/nature? How can philosophy avoid treating concepts as eternal and immutable, instead recognizing their historicity? What role does religious experience have in philosophy? Does modernity promote or undermine human flourishing? Might structural features of human agency render happiness impossible? Could most of us be victims of false consciousness and ideology? Might we be alienated from ourselves? How, if at all, can we achieve authenticity? Might morality be an obstacle to human flourishing? Texts include Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, Feuerbach's *The Essence of Christianity*, Marx's *Communist Manifesto* and *German Ideology*, Schopenhauer's *The World as Will and Representation*, and Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morality*.

CAS PH 624 A1 (Cross PH 424)**Wittgenstein**

Professor Juliet Floyd

Thursday 3:30PM-6:30PM

An intensive study of Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*, with contemporary philosophical problems in mind and some attention to Wittgenstein's overall development. Our focus will be Wittgenstein's talk of "aspects" in relation to problems about truth, meaning, representation, and the notions of perception and experience. One of our main points of focus will be the connection(s) between aspect-talk and truth, because these notions are often held apart in commentary. Themes covered include the nature of concept-possession, normativity, the structure of as-phrases, the scope and character of logic, the nature of predication, Wittgenstein's criticisms of mentalism and various forms of psychologism, questions about what it is to follow a rule, to understand a language, and to express a thought. Readings by Block, Brandom, Cavell, Kripke, McDowell, Putnam, Russell, Travis, Sellars and Wollheim will be paired with specific passages from Wittgenstein.

CAS PH 633 A1 (Cross PH 360)**Symbolic Logic**

Professor Juliet Floyd

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An introductory survey of the concepts and principles of symbolic logic: valid and invalid arguments, logical relations of statements and their basis in structural features of statements, analysis of the logical structure of complex statements of ordinary discourse, and the use of a symbolic language to display logical structure and to facilitate methods for assessing the logical structure of arguments. We will cover the analysis of reasoning with truth-functions ("and", "or", "not", "if...then") and with quantifiers ("all", "some"), attending to formal languages and axiomatic systems for logical deduction. Throughout, we aim to clearly and systematically display both the theory underlying the norms of valid reasoning and their applications to particular problems of argumentation. The course is an introduction to first-order quantificational logic, a key tool underlying work in foundations of mathematics, philosophy of language and mind, philosophy of science and parts of syntax and semantics. It is largely mathematical and formal in character, but lectures will situate these structures within the context of questions raised in contemporary philosophy of language and mind.

CAS PH 636 A1 (Cross PH 436)**Gender, Race, and Science**

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CAS PH 640 A1 (Cross PH 440)**Metaphysics**

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CAS PH 652 A1 (Cross PH 452)**Ethics of Health Care**

Professor Benjamin Sherman

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Professor Walter Hopp

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CAS PH 662 A1 (Cross PH462)**Foundations of Mathematics**

Professor Kanamori

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM

Axiomatic set theory as a foundation for, and field of, mathematics: Axiom of Choice, the Continuum Hypothesis, and consistency results. Also offered as CAS MA 532.

CAS PH 670 A1 (Cross PH 470)

Philosophy of Physics

Professor Tian Yu Cao

Wednesday 5:00PM-8:00PM

An introductory survey of fascinating problems in contemporary philosophy of physics. The basic ideas and main features of physical theories, which touch upon nature at its most fundamental level and interact most crucially with philosophy, are outlined, so that students will have a road map of the central problems in the field. Throughout, the driving theme is the entanglement of a radical revision in our conceptualization of the world (which is forced upon us by the changes in the physical picture of the world due to major developments in modern physics) with central philosophical issues in metaphysics and epistemology. Some areas of discussion include: the nature of space and time in relativity theories; probability and irreversibility in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics; the understanding of measurement, locality, causality, reality and objectivity in quantum theory; ontology, virtual entities, and attitudes toward infinities in quantum field theory.

In-depth conceptual analysis will be carried out in a non-technical way, without requiring either a thorough understanding of the technical details of physical theories or major competence in mathematics. The course is designed primarily for those who have a deep interest in philosophy of physics, or in theoretical physics, and plan to pursue advanced study in these areas. But it is also accessible to those who are interested mainly in the ideas of modern physics, or in the relevance of physics as a testing ground for general philosophical claims.

CAS PH 680 A1 (Cross PH 480)

Topics in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

Professor David Roochnik

Tuesday 6:00PM-9:00PM

"Every man is born an Aristotelian or a Platonist. I do not think it possible that anyone born an Aristotelian can become a Platonist; and I am sure that no born Platonist can ever change into an Aristotelian" (Samuel Taylor Coleridge).

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GRS PH 827 A1**Heidegger**

Professor Daniel Dahlstrom

Monday 3:00PM-6:00PM

The aim of this course is to investigate Heidegger's phenomenology in his first Freiburg lectures (1919-1920); his views of art and science in the "Origin of the Work of Art" (1935/36) and "The Age of the World-picture" (1938) respectively; his conception of the need to overcome metaphysics, formulated in his 1940 lectures "Nietzsche's Metaphysics" and "European Nihilism" and his essays "The Word of Nietzsche: God is Dead," and "Overcoming Metaphysics" (1936-1946); and finally his discourse on thinking, letting-go, and letting-be (1955).

GRS PH 854 A1**Seminar in Political Philosophy**

Professor Aaron Garrett and Professor David Lyons

Thursday 4:00PM-7:00PM

In this seminar we will systematically consider and critically appraise anarchism, understood as a family of theories about the nature and morality of political association. Topics to be discussed will include criticisms of the state, the problematic nature of political authority, civil disobedience, anarchist accounts of freedom, and the varieties of anarchism. We will also discuss criticisms of anarchisms associated with Marx, Nozick, Klosko and others and associated problems such as coordination, the need for taxation, and the goods connected with the state. Primary texts will include A. John Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*, Robert Paul Wolff, *In Defense of Anarchism* and Michael Huemer, *The Problem of Political Authority*.

GRS PH 994 A1**Placement Proseminar**

Professor Alisa Bokulich

Wednesday 5:00PM-8:00PM

A workshop seminar offering advanced graduate students the opportunity to present and discuss work-in-progress (dissertation chapters, papers for job applications, journal submissions). A serious commitment to regular and continuing attendance is expected.