

# Course Descriptions

Spring 2018



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

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# Undergraduate Courses

## CAS PH 100 A1

## Introduction to Philosophy

Professor Walter Hopp

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:25PM-2:15PM*

This class will cover three major and interrelated philosophical topics. The first is happiness. What does it take for a human life to go well? How is wellbeing connected with pleasure? With moral virtue? Is a person's wellbeing determined entirely by the totality of his or her experiences? The second topic is death. Is death a bad thing for the person who dies? What, if anything, is wrong with suicide? Is immortality something we do or should desire, and if so, under what conditions? The third topic is the meaningfulness or significance of human life. Is human life absurd? If it is, how should we conduct ourselves?

## CAS PH 100 B1

## Introduction to Philosophy

Professor Michaela McSweeney

*Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-1:45PM*

This course is an introduction to philosophy that is centered on the theme of persons and their relation to the world. What is it to be a person? How do, and should, we as persons relate to the rest of the world? We'll start out by asking epistemological questions—questions about knowledge. How can we know things about the world? How can we know that there are other people, for example? Or that the external world exists? We'll then turn to metaphysical questions: what is it to be a person, and to persist as the same person over time? Can people travel through time? We'll then turn to moral (and more metaphysical!) questions about persons: what is it to be morally responsible for an action? What is it to be mentally ill? How should we treat mental illness and the mentally ill? When, if ever, is punishment justified? How do these three issues intersect? Finally, we will turn to philosophical questions that, very roughly, are about what gives our lives meaning. What is it to be authentic to ourselves? Is authenticity a source of meaning in our lives?

This course emphasizes *doing* philosophy in addition to learning about philosophical theories. While we will engage in careful discussions of texts, students will also focus on constructing, discussing, and writing their own philosophical arguments.

## CAS PH 150 A1

## Introduction to Ethics

Professor Daniel Star

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*

What is morality? What does morality require of us in our daily lives? We look both at theories that specify what morality requires of us and at specific moral issues to which these theories apply. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

**CAS PH 150 B1****Introduction to Ethics**

Professor TBA

*Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:15PM*

What is morality? What does morality require of us in our daily lives? We look both at theories that specify what morality requires of us and at specific moral issues to which these theories apply. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

**CAS PH 150 C1****Introduction to Ethics**

Professor Benjamin Crowe

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM*

How ought I to live? What is the good life? What are the qualities that make a person good? Are all people self-interested, or is altruism possible? How can we evaluate moral judgments? Ethics is the enterprise of disciplined reflection on questions like these. In the first half of this course, we begin by examining both classic and contemporary philosophical approaches to these topics. In the second half of the course, we will investigate skeptical and feminist criticisms of these approaches, as well a prominent non-European (i.e., Confucian) stream of moral philosophy.

**CAS PH 159 A1****Philosophy and Film**

Professor Aaron Garrett

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:25PM-2:15PM*

In this class we will investigate philosophical issues connected with film including: Is film art? Is there anything that is distinctive about film as a medium? What distinguishes film genres? Is there a clear distinction between documentary films and fiction films? Why do we watch horror films and tragedies if they involve feeling unpleasant emotions? What do films express or mean? On what basis do we evaluate films and are some films better than others? Is moral art superior as art? The course will have a film viewing component. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

**CAS PH 160 A1****Reason and Argumentation**

Professor Judson Webb

*Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-10:45AM*

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 Derek Anderson

*Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:15PM*

This course is an introduction to philosophical methods of inquiry and discourse. We will have three major aims. The first is philosophical. We aim to understand the nature of reason and argumentation; the course will serve as an introduction to logic, epistemology, and philosophy of language. The second is practical. We aim to improve our ability to reason, construct arguments, and identify fallacies. The third is social. Reason and argument are central to the process of social change. In order to achieve a more just society, we need to reason together and argue with one another in ways that facilitate change of belief in the direction of knowledge and social justice.

## CAS PH 223 A1

## Philosophy of Sport

Professor Michaela McSweeney

*Tuesday, Thursday 3:30PM-4:45PM*

This course focuses on many different kinds of philosophical questions about sports. While we will not discuss all of these issues, some of what we may cover includes: what makes something a sport? What is different about sports and games? Why do we value sports and athletes? Should we value sports and athletes? Are athletes virtuous? Are sports aesthetically valuable, like art is? Is engaging in risky sports (e.g. rock climbing, football, base jumping) morally wrong? How should the data about concussions and CTE affect how we think about and treat football as a sport? Should we let children play football? Should we shut down the NFL? Why do we explicitly segregate sports by gender, when we do so with almost nothing else anymore? Is this justified? Are college athletes exploited? Should they be paid? Why is “taking a knee” so contentious? Does peaceful protest have different stakes if it is done in the national spotlight? Is football racist? What counts as ‘performance enhancement’? How, if at all, can we justify the line between unacceptable steroid/performance enhancement and acceptable performance enhancement? How should we understand the phenomenon of fanaticism about sports?

This course strongly emphasizes *doing* philosophy. Students will be encouraged to develop their own philosophical ideas and views, and to engage in critical reflection about the roles sports play in our society.

## CAS PH 246 A1

## Indian Philosophy

Professor Amod Lele

*Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-1:45PM*

Indian philosophy in a comparative context, with special emphasis on Hindu nondualism. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

**CAS PH 248 A1****Existentialism**

Professor Walter Hopp

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:05AM-9:55AM*

The central philosophical and literary figures commonly regarded as existentialists are broadly united in their skepticism concerning the power of traditional philosophical or scientific analysis to render human thought and action intelligible, the value they place on individual authenticity, and the importance they assign to emotionally exceptional states of mind for the full disclosure of human (and even non-human) reality. In this course we will examine works by Kierkegaard, Dostoevski, Nietzsche, Kafka, Camus, Sartre, and de Beauvoir. We will be especially concerned with what these thinkers have to say about the condition of modern humanity, the ability of science to explain human action, the authority of moral laws, the importance of individual “authenticity,” and the “absurdity” of human life, either with or without God.

**CAS PH 251 A1****Medical Ethics**

Professor Russell Powell

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:25PM-2:15PM*

Explores moral philosophical issues that arise in connection with medicine and emerging biotechnologies. Examines topics such as the right to healthcare, research ethics, euthanasia, abortion, concepts of death and disease, and assisted reproductive technologies. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

**CAS PH 251 B1****Medical Ethics**

Professor Victor Kumar

*Tuesday, Thursday 3:30PM-4:45PM*

Explores moral philosophical issues that arise in connection with medicine and emerging biotechnologies. Examines topics such as the right to healthcare, research ethics, euthanasia, abortion, concepts of death and disease, and assisted reproductive technologies. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

**CAS PH 253 A1****Social Philosophy**

Professor Tian Yu Cao

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM*

Through a reading of some selected texts we will examine modern and contemporary theories of society, concerning its nature and the direction of its evolution. The philosophical and sociological discussions are framed in terms of the complicated relationship between individuals and society, and between civil society and the sovereign power.

**CAS PH 255 A1****Law, Philosophy, and Society**

Professor Hugh Baxter

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:30PM-3:20PM*

This course will examine sequentially two or three important issues, such as capital punishment, abortion, and democratic self-government, from the perspectives of philosophy, constitutional law, and social science. The aim is to understand not just these important public issues but also the differences, tensions, and sometimes resonances among the three disciplinary approaches. Graded work will consist in two 1000-1300 word papers and a take-home final examination.

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

Professor Marc Gasser-Wingate

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*

A survey of ancient Greek philosophy, with an emphasis on Plato and Aristotle. Topics will include: the fundamental nature of reality, how we know anything about it, wisdom, virtue, and human happiness.

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

Professor David Roochnik

*Tuesday, Thursday 11:00AM-12:15PM*

An overview of Ancient Greek Philosophy that covers the pre-Socratics, the Sophists, Plato and Aristotle.

## CAS PH 310 A1

## History of Modern Philosophy

Professor Charles Griswold

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM*

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. Time permitting, we will also read some contemporary articles that pick up on some of the themes we have discussed.

## CAS PH 310 B1

## History of Modern Philosophy

Professor Daniel Dahlstrom

*Tuesday, Thursday 9:30AM-10:45AM*

What, if anything, makes it appropriate to designate a certain kind of thinking “modern”? With this question in mind, this course begins by tracing the rise of modernity in Europe in terms of five rubrics: *art* (e.g., Flemish primitives, the Italian Renaissance), *religion* (e.g., the Reformation), *science and technology* (e.g., Galileo’s telescope), *economics* (e.g., Marco Polo, trading companies, the banking system, the concentration of capital, and the development of colonialism), and *politics* (e.g., the distinction of public and private in the work of Machiavelli, Montaigne, and Hobbes). Following the sketch of this historical backdrop, the course pursues its main purpose of introducing students to European philosophical thinking from 1600 to 1900 and its ongoing legacies in the present. To that end, the course focuses on the following representative studies in modern philosophy:

Descartes’ *meditations on first philosophy*, with its accounts of radical doubt, the proofs for the existence of God, the difference between imagining and thinking, and the real distinction of body and soul;

Hume’s *enquiry concerning human understanding*, with its account of impressions and ideas, belief and causation, the verbal dispute over liberty and necessity, and the advantages of a mitigated skepticism;

Kant’s *prolegomena to any future metaphysics*, with its account of pure intuitions and concepts, analytic and synthetic as well as a priori and a posteriori judgments, and what makes mathematics and physics possible; and

Nietzsche’s *genealogy of morals*, with its account of the origins of “good,” “bad,” and “evil,” the role of resentment in traditional morality, and the link between conscience, guilt, and cruelty.



**CAS PH 340 A1****Metaphysics and Epistemology**

Professor Derek Anderson

*Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:15PM*

This course is an exploration of knowledge, truth, and reality from a number of different perspectives. We will begin with a worldview according to which there is one objective reality grounding a relation of objective truth in representation, where truths about this reality are always objectively knowable through judicious uses of science and rationality. We will then proceed to raise questions about this worldview through a survey of Marxist, feminist, Black feminist, Indigenous, and Postcolonial African philosophies. Questions we will address include the following. To what extent is reality a social construction? Does access to knowledge depend on one's social identity? How does our political ideology shape our epistemic vantage point? Is there a cogent notion of truth that transcends all such vantage points? Is there one, true logic or are there many different equally good logics? How do Indigenous knowledge systems problematize the colonialist European roots of analytic philosophy's received views in metaphysics and epistemology? How does an anti-colonial epistemology reshape our metaphysical picture of the universe?

**CAS PH 350 A1****History of Ethics**

Professor Benjamin Crowe

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4:40PM-5:30PM*

In this course we will examine major fault lines in the history of moral philosophy. From the ancient period, we will focus on the centuries-long battle between Epicureans and Stoics regarding the highest good, moral psychology, and other key issues. From the modern era, we will explore the moral philosophies of Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill, whose central ideas are still contested by loyal partisans to this day. Finally, we will look at the moral perfectionism and social ethics of two major thinkers in the British Idealist tradition, T.H. Green and F.H. Bradley, who criticized both the Kantian and utilitarian positions, and whose work set the stage for the subsequent development of moral theorizing in much of the English-speaking world.

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

Professor Juliet Floyd

*Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:15PM*

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 409 A1 (Cross PH 609)****Maimonides**

Professor Michael Zank

*Monday 6:30PM-9:15PM*

A study of major aspects of the thought of Maimonides. Primary focus on the Guide of the Perplexed, with attention to its modern reception in works by Baruch Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, Leo Strauss, and others. Also offered as CAS RN 420.

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

Professor Aaron Garrett

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*

This class will focus on three influential British philosophers – John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume -- who argued that most or all of what can be known by human beings is known through experience (which included but was not reducible to sense experience). How each of these philosophers understood experience, how each envisioned the type of philosophy best able to investigate experience, and what each took to be the consequences of focusing on experience will be explored. We will also discuss some of the most notable philosophers who engaged with them such as Catherine Cockburn Trotter and Thomas Reid. Topics covered will include the status of innate ideas, the theory of ideas and representation, the problem of abstraction, cause and effect, belief, primary and secondary qualities, substance, personal identity, and skepticism.

## CAS PH 412 A1

## Philosophy of the Enlightenment

Professor James Schmidt

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:05AM-9:55AM*

A critical examination of that family of philosophical and political movements that called itself "the Enlightenment." Students analyze key texts by Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Smith, Rousseau, Voltaire, Diderot, Jefferson, Madison, Kant, and Hegel. Also offered as CAS PO 592 and CAS HI 514.

## CAS PH 418 A1 (Cross PH 618)

## Marx and Marxism

Professor Tian Yu Cao

*Wednesday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

In this introductory course, Marxism will be treated mainly as a conceptual framework for understanding history and society (including economy, politics and culture), and also as a critique of capitalism and a program of transforming the capitalist society for human emancipation, with an analysis of both its philosophical and ethical presuppositions and its conceptions of a post-capitalist society. The evolution of its theoretical bases, through its three stages (classical Marxism of Marx and Engels; the Soviet orthodoxy and its critics; and contemporary Marxisms) will be critically examined, and its practical (political, economic and cultural) impacts on the historical course since its inception briefly outlined.

## CAS PH 424 A1 (Cross PH 624)

## Wittgenstein

Professor Juliet Floyd

*Monday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

An investigation of ethical, social, political and other normative questions affecting everyday life in a hyperconnected, computationally-driven world. We will explore, test and extend the theory of *Apparatgeist* developed by sociologist James E. Katz, a co-PI on the Mellon Sawyer Seminar grant in 2017-2018, explore philosophical origins of our world, and critically examine outstanding humanistic challenges. The historical reality and legacy of Wittgenstein and Turing will be characterized and explored. Once a month the seminar will meet concurrently with Professor James E. Katz's PhD seminar in philosophical aspects of Emerging Media, involving a workshop and **Mellon Sawyer Seminar**. The workshop will run typically from 2:30-3:55pm, followed by a public event from 4-6pm. Students are required to come to the public event and stay until 5:15pm at least; undergraduates will allow PhD students to take the lead during discussions of cutting-edge themes at the Workshops.

**CAS PH 426 A1 (Cross PH 626)****Phenomenology**

Professor Daniel Dahlstrom

*Thursday 3:30PM-6:15PM*

This course is an introduction to phenomenology, as it is presented in writings of three thinkers largely responsible for introducing phenomenological analysis into 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy: Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. The course aims at demonstrating the distinctiveness of each thinker's approach to phenomenology in terms of their respective views of such themes as consciousness, reductions, ontology, science, and embodiment.

**CAS PH 445 A1 (Cross PH 645)****The Philosophy of Love**

Professor Daniel Star

*Friday 11:15AM-2:00PM*

What is love? What different forms does it take (e.g. parental love, romantic love)? Is love non-rational or are there reasons of love? We 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 Russell Powell

*Wednesday 6:30PM-9:15PM*

Medicine and health care offer a unique opportunity to explore the nature of humanity and the world and to ask fundamental questions concerning the nature of birth, life, and death, and what it is to be a person. Readings from both classical and contemporary writings in ethics, medicine, law, and public health policy.

**CAS PH 454 A1****Community, Liberty, and Morality**

Professor Charles Griswold

*Monday, Wednesday 2:30PM-4:15PM*

Does a free community require shared values? Does political liberty require a shared conception of virtue? Furthermore, must political liberty be sustained by a communal religious outlook—and if so, which one? Alternatively, if multiple religious views are permitted in a free society, how is a regime of mutual toleration to be established and how is religious liberty to be defined? Is the cause of civic virtue and liberty better served by a sort of free market of religions rather than a state-enforced civic religion? And finally, how can rival religious and secular claims about the foundations of political authority be negotiated in a free community? This seminar focuses on these and related questions concerning the role that religion should play in a free and peaceful society. Readings are drawn from a variety of classical and contemporary thinkers.

This seminar is open only to undergraduate students who have taken at least two prior philosophy courses or have obtained the permission of the instructor to enroll. The seminar emphasizes class discussion and participation.

**CAS PH 457 A1 (Cross PH 657)****Action, Interpretation, and Narrative**

Professor C Allen Speight

*Tuesday 3:30PM-6:15PM*

What is the role of story or narrative in human understanding? Why do we tell stories and what is their importance in our lives? This seminar will explore the revived contemporary debate among philosophers, literary theorists and others about the importance of narrative for issues in moral psychology, agency and personal identity. Readings will include works by MacIntyre, Ricoeur, G. Strawson, Carroll, Velleman, Goldie, Currie, Lamarque, Bakhtin, Benjamin and Arendt, among others, as well as relevant literary and historical works and films.

**CAS PH 462 A1 (Cross PH 662)****Foundations of Mathematics**

Professor Akihiro Kanamori

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM*

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 465 A1 (Cross PH 665)**

**Philosophy of Cognitive Science**

Professor Judson Webb

*Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-1:45PM*

Can humans be thought of in analogy with machines? The course examines questions of natural and artificial intelligence in light of traditional theory and of recent research in computer science and artificial intelligence.

# Graduate Courses

**CAS PH 609 A1 (Cross PH 409)****Maimonides**

Professor Michael Zank

*Monday 6:30PM-9:15PM*

A study of major aspects of the thought of Maimonides. Primary focus on the Guide of the Perplexed, with attention to its modern reception in works by Baruch Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, Leo Strauss, and others. Also offered as CAS RN 420.

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

Professor Aaron Garrett

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10AM-11:00AM*

This class will focus on three influential British philosophers – John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume -- who argued that most or all of what can be known by human beings is known through experience (which included but was not reducible to sense experience). How each of these philosophers understood experience, how each envisioned the type of philosophy best able to investigate experience, and what each took to be the consequences of focusing on experience will be explored. We will also discuss some of the most notable philosophers who engaged with them such as Catherine Cockburn Trotter and Thomas Reid. Topics covered will include the status of innate ideas, the theory of ideas and representation, the problem of abstraction, cause and effect, belief, primary and secondary qualities, substance, personal identity, and skepticism.

**CAS PH 618 A1 (Cross PH 418)****Marx and Marxism**

Professor Tian Yu Cao

*Wednesday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

In this introductory course, Marxism will be treated mainly as a conceptual framework for understanding history and society (including economy, politics and culture), and also as a critique of capitalism and a program of transforming the capitalist society for human emancipation, with an analysis of both its philosophical and ethical presuppositions and its conceptions of a post-capitalist society. The evolution of its theoretical bases, through its three stages (classical Marxism of Marx and Engels; the Soviet orthodoxy and its critics; and contemporary Marxisms) will be critically examined, and its practical (political, economic and cultural) impacts on the historical course since its inception briefly outlined.



## CAS PH 624 A1 (Cross PH 424)

## Wittgenstein

Professor Juliet Floyd

*Monday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

An investigation of ethical, social, political and other normative questions affecting everyday life in a hyperconnected, computationally-driven world. We will explore, test and extend the theory of *Apparatgeist* developed by sociologist James E. Katz, a co-PI on the Mellon Sawyer Seminar grant in 2017-2018, explore philosophical origins of our world, and critically examine outstanding humanistic challenges. The historical reality and legacy of Wittgenstein and Turing will be characterized and explored. Once a month the seminar will meet concurrently with Professor James E. Katz's PhD seminar in philosophical aspects of Emerging Media, involving a workshop and **Mellon Sawyer Seminar**. The workshop will run typically from 2:30-3:55pm, followed by a public event from 4-6pm. Students are required to come to the public event and stay until 5:15pm at least; undergraduates will allow PhD students to take the lead during discussions of cutting-edge themes at the Workshops.

## CAS PH 626 A1 (Cross PH 426)

## Phenomenology

Professor Daniel Dahlstrom

*Thursday 3:30PM-6:15PM*

This course is an introduction to phenomenology, as it is presented in writings of three thinkers largely responsible for introducing phenomenological analysis into 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy: Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. The course aims at demonstrating the distinctiveness of each thinker's approach to phenomenology in terms of their respective views of such themes as consciousness, reductions, ontology, science, and embodiment.

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

Professor Juliet Floyd

*Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:15PM*

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 645 A1 (Cross PH 445)****The Philosophy of Love**

Professor Daniel Star

*Friday 11:15AM-2:00PM*

What is love? What different forms does it take (e.g. parental love, romantic love)? Is love non-rational or are there reasons of love? We aim to answer these and other philosophical questions by focusing on contemporary philosophical writings on love.

**CAS PH 647 A1****Asian Philosophy**

Professor Diana Lobel

*Tuesday, Thursday 2:00PM-3:15PM*

An intensive seminar in primary texts and key ideas of theology and religious philosophy as developed in representative world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism. Second course in a year-long sequence. Each semester may be taken independently.

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

Professor Russell Powell

*Wednesday 6:30PM-9:15PM*

Medicine and health care offer a unique opportunity to explore the nature of humanity and the world and to ask fundamental questions concerning the nature of birth, life, and death, and what it is to be a person. Readings from both classical and contemporary writings in ethics, medicine, law, and public health policy.

**CAS PH 657 A1 (Cross PH 457)****Action, Interpretation, and Narrative**

Professor C Allen Speight

*Tuesday 3:30PM-6:15PM*

What is the role of story or narrative in human understanding? Why do we tell stories and what is their importance in our lives? This seminar will explore the revived contemporary debate among philosophers, literary theorists and others about the importance of narrative for issues in moral psychology, agency and personal identity. Readings will include works by MacIntyre, Ricoeur, G. Strawson, Carroll, Velleman, Goldie, Currie, Lamarque, Bakhtin, Benjamin and Arendt, among others, as well as relevant literary and historical works and films.

**CAS PH 662 A1 (Cross PH 462)****Foundations of Mathematics**

Professor Akihiro Kanamori

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20PM-1:10PM*

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 665 A1 (Cross PH 465)****Philosophy of Cognitive Science**

Professor Judson Webb

*Tuesday, Thursday 12:30PM-1:45PM*

Can humans be thought of in analogy with machines? The course examines questions of natural and artificial intelligence in light of traditional theory and of recent research in computer science and artificial intelligence.

**GRS PH 801 A1****Ancient Philosophy I**

Professor Marc Gasser-Wingate

*Wednesday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

A close reading of Plato's *Theaetetus*.

**GRS PH 820 A1****Contemporary Philosophy**

Professor Victor Kumar

*Thursday 6:30PM-9:15PM*

The topic of this course is evolution and ethics. Our aim is to learn about the evolution of morality and its philosophical implications. The course will have three sections. In the first, we'll survey important recent scientific work on the biological and cultural evolution of morality. In the second, we'll explore evolutionary debunking arguments. We'll read philosophers who argue that evolution is incompatible with moral objectivity along with those who argue that moral intuitions are an untrustworthy relic of our evolutionary past. In the final section of the course, we'll explore a range of philosophical issues that fall under "evolutionary ethics." For example, we'll ask whether understanding the evolutionary history of morality suggests that moral progress is unattainable and we'll also examine feminist criticisms of evolutionary psychology.

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

Professor Susanne Sreedhar

*Tuesday 6:30PM-9:15PM*

GRS PH 854 will be an in-depth study of the political theory of Thomas Hobbes. We will focus mostly on *Leviathan* (1651) but will consult both his earlier and later texts when relevant. We will also be reading a good deal of recent secondary literature on Hobbes.

This course can fulfill a distribution requirement for Modern or Practical.

**GRS PH 994 A1****Placement Proseminar**

Professor Daniel Star

*Wednesday 2:30PM-5:15PM*

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.