

# Course Descriptions

Spring 2019



**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 Derek Anderson

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

Introduces the nature of philosophical activity through careful study of major philosophical topics. We will discuss a wide variety of topics including the nature of reality, knowledge, justice, the mind, the distinction between appearance and reality, subjectivity and objectivity, the question of God's existence, and the nature and significance of human life. We will also consider the role that cultural and political perspectives play in shaping our philosophical understanding of life's deepest questions. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Critical Thinking and Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meaning.

**CAS PH 100 B1****Introduction to Philosophy**

Professor Derek Anderson

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

Introduces the nature of philosophical activity through careful study of major philosophical topics. We will discuss a wide variety of topics including the nature of reality, knowledge, justice, the mind, the distinction between appearance and reality, subjectivity and objectivity, the question of God's existence, and the nature and significance of human life. We will also consider the role that cultural and political perspectives play in shaping our philosophical understanding of life's deepest questions. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Critical Thinking and Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meaning.

## CAS PH 110 A1

## Great Philosophers

Professor Ian Dunkle

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

The history of philosophy is full of terrific questions and some surprising answers. For instance, Plato asks us, *If God makes the rules, what rules does God follow in making them?* Aristotle wants to know how good friends can be good persons while still being made better by their friendship. Sextus Empiricus asks what ultimate reason we have to hold our beliefs to be true, and he tries to show that we have just as good a reason to reject all of them as to hold onto any of them. When is it permissible to kill, and why; in defense of the state, in defense of ourselves, in desperate suicide? Thomas Aquinas says: Yes (but only if you're authorized to do so), No (or at least not intentionally), and No. René Descartes wants to prove that world around us really exists (wait! there's a question about whether the world exists?). What is human desire? Arthur Schopenhauer argues that it's a pointless pursuit of things we don't really care about under the delusion that they matter, and he thinks sexual desire is a case in point! Friedrich Nietzsche wants to know the *value* of our moral values, and he argues that our current moral values literally make us sick. Martha Nussbaum asks, *What is an emotion?*, and she argues that our emotions are actually value judgments about the world around us. This course introduces students to philosophical inquiry by pursuing these questions and considering whether these and other surprising answers stand up to scrutiny.

## 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 Aaron Garrett

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

An introduction to moral philosophy through historical (Aristotle, Hume, Kant) and contemporary readings. Questions discussed will include: What sorts of reasons are there to be moral? Can luck influence moral value? What are the different types of normative moral theories? Are there unsolvable moral dilemmas? We will also discuss a some practical moral issues, such as animal welfare.

## **CAS PH 150 C1**

## **Introduction to Ethics**

Professor James Kinkaid

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

Many of us want to lead meaningful lives. But what is it for a life to be meaningful? What makes some lives better or more meaningful than others? Can life as a whole have some significance or meaning? Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.

## **CAS PH 160 A1**

## **Reason and Argumentation**

Professor Alisa Bokulich

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

Knowing how to think, reason, and argue well is essential for success in all disciplines and in everyday life. The aim of this course is to strengthen and develop your critical thinking skills; you will learn how to make good arguments and how to critically evaluate the arguments of others. This course will emphasize both real everyday examples, such as those drawn from newspaper articles, and examples of scientific reasoning drawn from various science journals.

This course fulfills a single unit in the following BU Hub area(s): Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Critical Thinking.

## **CAS PH 160 B1**

## **Reason and Argumentation**

Professor Derek Anderson

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:15AM-12:05PM*

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 242 A1

## Philosophy of Human Nature

Professor Paul Katsafanas

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

This course will examine the way in which Darwin, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud undermine traditional conceptions of human nature. These thinkers teach us to be suspicious of our ordinary assumptions about religion, human distinctiveness, the conscious mind, the role and status of morality, and the uplifting effects of civilization. Ideas to be discussed include: that introspection and conscious thought may conceal more than they reveal; that the moral categories with which we understand ourselves and our social roles may be pathological; that traditional moral philosophy may be superficial; that the philosophical and political debates about the best form of social organization may be emanations of underlying material forces; that civilization may require a profound form of inner division; that modernity might foster nihilism and loss of meaning. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the three following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Historical Consciousness, Critical Thinking.

## CAS PH 246 A1

## Indian Philosophy

Professor Amod Lele

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

How should we human beings respond to the fact of our own suffering and the suffering of others? Is there such a thing as righteous anger or violence? Is reality as we know it an illusion? Is the self real? What is truth and how can we know it? What benefits do we obtain from meditation practice?

These are some of the questions asked by Indian philosophers throughout the ages. In this class you'll learn about what it has meant to think philosophically outside of a Western context, and explore a philosophical topic of particular interest to you.

This course counts for Hub credit in:  
Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings  
Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy  
Critical Thinking

**CAS PH 247 A1****Introduction to Chinese Philosophy**

Professor Guy Schuh

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

Is human nature fundamentally good or fundamentally bad? How can we best achieve an enduring social order? What is the shape of a life well lived? This class examines such questions in the context of the classical period in Chinese philosophy, focusing on (1) Kongzi (Confucius), (2) Mozi, (3) Mengzi (Mencius), (4) Zhuangzi, and (5) Xunzi. A primary goal of the course is to expose students to the richness, vitality, and plurality of the philosophical scene in ancient China. Topics discussed include moral virtue, music, education, and the ethics of war. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy, Critical Thinking.

**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 a diverse group of thinkers, but are 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, 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," the scope and nature of human freedom, and the "absurdity" of human life, either with or without God.

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

Professor Ian Dunkle

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

This course focuses both on contemporary medical ethics and bioethics more broadly. The first part of the course introduces student to what has become the received tradition in medical ethics—*Principlism*. We will consider (1) what this view is, (2) what alternatives to it have been offered, and (3) what the fundamental philosophical arguments are for the ethical principles invoked by this view. This last investigation will complicate the tradition and expose the student to broader issues in philosophical ethics. The second part of the course introduces the student to philosophical work on a range of bioethical issues awareness of which is essential to being a mindful, ethical medical professional.

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

Professor Russell Powell

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

This course will survey ethical issues that arise in connection with medicine and emerging biotechnologies. It will examine topics such as the right to healthcare, research on human subjects, euthanasia, abortion, cloning, genetic selection, disabilities, and the biomedical enhancement of human capacities. Students can expect to gain not only training in the concepts and methods of moral philosophy and the logic of argumentation, but also the resources needed for assessing ethically difficult questions that healthcare professionals routinely face. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry and Life's Meanings, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.

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

Professor Hugh Baxter

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

This course will examine two issues – capital punishment and either abortion or 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 256 A1****Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality**

Professor Susanne Sreedhar

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

This course explores philosophical questions that arise about gender and sexuality. What is sexism? What is oppression? What is the correct response to sexism and oppression? How many sexes are there? How many genders? What is sexual orientation? What is sexual perversion? What are sexual ethics, including questions about the value and status of monogamy, polyamory, promiscuity, and adultery? What are the moral status of practices such as sex work and pornography?

Also offered as CAS PO 396 and CAS WS 396.



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

Professor C Allen Speight

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

What makes something a work of art? Is a Banksy painting that shreds itself a work of art? Is a forgery? How do different arts (painting, sculpture, dance, architecture, photography, etc) relate to different aspects of our aesthetic experience of the world? What is the relationship between art and political life: is there ever a good reason to censor art? Has technology transformed our experience of art? This course will explore several famous philosophical theories of art (Hume, Kant, Schiller, Heidegger, Benjamin, Dewey and Collingwood) and discuss them in connection with numerous specific examples of artwork in the various genres, accompanied by visits to Boston-area arts installations.

**CAS PH 270 A1****Philosophy of Science**

Professor Judson Webb

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

Uses scientific examples from the study of physics, biology, and mind. Focuses on the aims of science, the nature of scientific understanding, the structure and interpretation of scientific theories, and the development of science. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.

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

Professor Brian Julian

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

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

Prereq: one philosophy course or sophomore standing.

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

Professor David Roochnik

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

An introduction to the major thinkers of classical Greek philosophy, in particular 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 several topics in 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 relation of mind to body, the nature of personal identity, the problem of free will, and the theological problem of evil. The complicated and surprising dialectic between empiricist, rationalist, idealist, and vitalist views will be a recurring concern, as will the relation between science, religion, and philosophy. Readings include selections from Astell, Bacon, Conway, Descartes, Princess Elisabeth, Hume, Leibniz, and Locke, among others. Time permitting, we will also read some contemporary articles that pick up on themes that we have discussed.

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

Professor Judson Webb

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

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.

Prereq: one philosophy course or sophomore standing.

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

Professor Walter Hopp

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

Metaphysics and epistemology are the most fundamental subject matters in philosophy. In this course we will examine a number of central issues in each field and at their intersection through the study of both historical and contemporary works. We will be especially concerned with questions regarding the nature and metaphysical status of both concrete and abstract objects and whether and how we can come to know about such things. We will be especially concerned with determining whether and to what extent our own powers of perception and thought enable or prevent us from representing objects as they objectively are.

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

Professor Aaron Garrett

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

A general introduction to the history of moral philosophy from Plato and Aristotle to Iris Murdoch.

**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.

Prereq: CAS PH300

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

Professor Paul Katsafanas

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

The century between the publication of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* in 1781 and Nietzsche's final works of 1888 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*.

*Undergraduate Prerequisites: CAS PH 310; and one other philosophy course.*

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

Professor Alisa Bokulich

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

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 primary 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 454 A1****Community, Liberty, and Morality**

Professor Charles Griswold

*Monday, Wednesday 2:30PM-3:45PM*

Does a free community require shared values? Must those values, and hence political liberty, in turn be sustained by a communal religious outlook—and if so, which one? If diverse 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 and defended? Is the cause of civic virtue and liberty better served by a sort of free market of religious and moral views or by state-enforced commitments and values? How can rival religious and secular claims about the foundations of political authority be reconciled in a free community? What are some of the arguments for and against freedom of speech and inquiry? This seminar will focus on these and related questions concerning the complex relation between value, civic unity, religion, and liberty. In effect, we will reflect on the meaning of “E pluribus unum” in the context of a free society. Readings will be 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 460 A1 (Cross PH 660)****Epistemology**

Professor Daniel Star

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

An examination of some of the central questions concerning the nature, scope, sources, and structure of knowledge.

Prereq: CAS PH310

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

Professor Akihiro Kanamori

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

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.

Prereq: (CASPH461) or consent of instructor.

**CAS PH 463 A1 (Cross PH 663)****Philosophy of Language**

Professor Juliet Floyd

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

A survey of classic and contemporary issues and debates in the philosophy of language. Topics include the nature of propositions and the nature of truth; literal vs. figurative uses of words; meaning, describing, and referring; prosody; language acquisition; speech act theory and communication pragmatics; gender in language, lying, bullshitting, misleading, and the uses of testimony. We will study so-called "ordinary language philosophy" in relation to traditional philosophy of logic and language, focusing on the writings of Cavell, Austin, and others in this tradition.

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

Professor Victor Kumar

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

This course is about the cognitive science of moral progress. We'll read important recent scientific work on human cognition and then explore its philosophical implications regarding the possibility and feasibility of moral progress. Are humans inherently and irremediably tribal? Does evolutionary theory support a conservative or liberal approach to social change? Is reasoning an effective way of changing moral attitudes?

**CAS PH 472 A1 (Cross PH 672)****Philosophy of Biology**

Professor Russell Powell

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

Conceptual problems in biology; unity or pluralism of science; hierarchy theory; biological explanation; evolutionary theory, teleology and causality, statistical explanation; the species problem; mind and the brain; and language in animals and humans.

(CASPH310 & CASPH360) and one other philosophy course, or consent of instructor.

**CAS PH 482 A1 (Cross PH 682)****Topics in Modern and Contemporary Philosophy**

Professor James Schmidt

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

Topics vary from semester to semester; may be repeated for credit as topics change.

Prereq: any one philosophy course from CAS PH 410-439, or consent of instructor.

Professor Diana Lobel

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

What is happiness? How can we achieve a balanced, healthy, fulfilling life? Classical thinkers such as Aristotle, Plato, Chuang Tzu; Stoic, Epicurean, Confucian, Buddhist paths; comparison with contemporary studies of happiness and mindfulness.

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

Professor Paul Katsafanas

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

The century between the publication of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* in 1781 and Nietzsche's final works of 1888 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*.

*Undergraduate Prerequisites: CAS PH 310; and one other philosophy course.*

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

Professor Alisa Bokulich

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

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

Professor Daniel Star

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

An examination of some of the central questions concerning the nature, scope, sources, and structure of knowledge.

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

Professor Akihiro Kanamori

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

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 663 (Cross PH 463)****Philosophy of Language**

Professor Juliet Floyd

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

A survey of classic and contemporary issues and debates in the philosophy of language. Topics include the nature of propositions and the nature of truth; literal vs. figurative uses of words; meaning, describing, and referring; prosody; language acquisition; speech act theory and communication pragmatics; gender in language, lying, bullshitting, misleading, and the uses of testimony. We will study so-called "ordinary language philosophy" in relation to traditional philosophy of logic and language, focusing on the writings of Cavell, Austin, and others in this tradition.

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

Professor Victor Kumar

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

This course is about the cognitive science of moral progress. We'll read important recent scientific work on human cognition and then explore its philosophical implications regarding the possibility and feasibility of moral progress. Are humans inherently and irremediably tribal? Does evolutionary theory support a conservative or liberal approach to social change? Is reasoning an effective way of changing moral attitudes?

**CAS PH 672 A1 (Cross PH 472)****Philosophy of Biology**

Professor Russell Powell

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

Conceptual problems in biology; unity or pluralism of science; hierarchy theory; biological explanation; evolutionary theory, teleology and causality, statistical explanation; the species problem; mind and the brain; and language in animals and humans.

**CAS PH 682 A1 (Cross PH 482)****Topics in Modern and Contemporary Philosophy**

Professor James Schmidt

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

Topics vary from semester to semester; may be repeated for credit as topics change.

**GRS PH 811 A1****Topics in the Philosophy of Kant I**

Professor Sally Sedgwick

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

This course focusses primarily on Kant's practical philosophy. We will consider his account of human freedom and its supreme practical law, the categorical imperative. We will also examine his defense of the thesis that his theoretical philosophy (his transcendental idealism) provides the basis for his practical philosophy. Our texts will include selections from: the *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, the *Metaphysics of Morals*, the *Critique of Pure Reason*, as well as secondary sources.

**GRS PH 860 A1****Epistemology**

Professor Michaela McSweeney

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

This course is, roughly, about the epistemology/perception ("perception"?) of *that which we can't seem to perceive*: abstract objects, logic, moral properties, etc. (Because of the topic, it will probably involve some metaphysics here and there, but the focus is more on epistemology/perception.)

We'll read at least some of the following (absolutely no guarantee all of this will end up on the syllabus): (a) work on intuition/perception of the "third realm" (e.g.: Bengson, Chudnoff); (b) work on the relationship between perception, obstacles to perception, and knowledge (e.g Helton, portions of Bence Nanay's book manuscript, *Seeing Things You Don't See*); (c) work on moral epistemology (likely: portions of Sarah McGrath's book manuscript, *Moral Knowledge*); (d) work on epistemology of logic (e.g. Josh Schechter, Gillian Russell) (none of this work will be technical/you don't need a strong logic background to understand it).

**GRS PH 880 A1****Pragmatism & Social Practice**

Professor David Decosimo

*Thursday 12:30PM-3:15PM*

This doctoral seminar considers a range of contemporary philosophers who formulate and approach questions concerning meaning, conceptual content, language, truth, 'realism,' 'social construction', justice, justification, value, and other topics by focusing on social practices and their explanatory power. Our aim will be to understand and assess the arguments of such figures and the disputes and distinctions among them. We will also explore the value of such perspectives for our own philosophical work. Among the philosophers to be considered are figures such as Donald Davidson, Robert Brandom, Hilary Putnam, Richard Rorty, Cheryl Misak, Jeffrey Stout, John McDowell, José Medina, Ian Hacking, Elizabeth Anderson, and others.

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

Professor Michaela McSweeney

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

A continuation of GRS PH 993. 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.