

PHILOSOPHY AT USU • SPRING 2017

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (BHU) (taught by Clark or Kleiner; see schedule for sections and times): *an introduction to the biggest questions of philosophy. What is real? What do we know? What is justice? What are our obligations? Does God exist?*

PHIL 1320: The Good Life (BHU) (Kleiner; MWF 9:30-10:20): *This course is an interdisciplinary course with readings drawn from history, literature, philosophy, and theology. Course readings focus broadly on the question of the good life for human beings, with a focus on the distinction between civilization and barbarism in the soul and in the polis.*

PHIL 2200: Deductive Logic (QI) (Huenemann; T/Th 3:00-4:15): *This course applies a math-like science of symbols to human arguments, with an aim toward understanding validity - the science of what really “follows from” what.*

PHIL 2400: Ethics (BHU) (Clark; MWF 8:30-9:20): *We will study judgments concerning what is good or bad, right or wrong, and how judgments are justified and related to action. Big topics include relativism, subjectivism, absolutism, freedom, and responsibility.*

PHIL 3110: Medieval Philosophy (Sherlock; T/Th 9:00-10:15): *We will study seminal philosophers in each of the three great monotheistic traditions of western civilization, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - e.g., Maimonides, Aquinas, and Avicenna.*

PHIL 3180: Contemporary European Philosophy (Kleiner; MWF 1:30-2:20): *This course explores trends in 20th century European philosophy through careful readings of Heidegger and the postmodern philosophers who follow in his wake, including Derrida, Levinas, and Marion. Themes include phenomenology, hermeneutics, anti-scientism, ethics, alterity, God, and the notion of the gift.*

PHIL 3580: Ethics and Economic Life (DHA) (Holberg; MWF 2:30-3:20): *Are the ethical concerns involved in business really different from those involved in living a morally upright and happy human life? How much does ethics matter for economic success? Our aim is to better understand what economic life encompasses, the ethical implications of various economic theories, and what ethical characteristics are bound up with doing business.*

PHIL 3820: Theories of Sex and Gender (DHA) (Holberg; MW 3:30-4:15): *What is the best way for thinking about gender and sex? as chosen identities? as embodied difference? as social structure? none of the above? Why do discussions of power dominate some kinds of work on sex and gender? Is there immoral sex? What would make sex ethical or unethical? Why does sex make us a little crazy?*

PHIL 4300: Epistemology (DHA) (Huenemann; T/Th 12:00-1:15): *What do we know, and how do we know it? What sorts of illusions and deceptions are humans prone to fall for? How might the various fields of knowledge relate to one another? Is there a shape to knowledge - or is it only a jumble of facts?*

PHIL 4530: Ethics and Biotechnology (DSC) (Sherlock; T/Th 1:30-2:45): *Critical evaluation of ethical issues of genetic engineering in biotechnology, including biological engineering and cloning of plants, animals, and humans. Presents basic science of genetic engineering and biotechnology. NOTE: Students majoring in the humanities seeking DSC credit should sign up for this course as ADVS 3200 (same course, different prefix & number).*

PHIL 4900: Special Topics - “Virtue Ethics” (Clark; T/Th 3:00-4:15): *Virtue ethics begins by explaining the specific character traits that make a person a morally good person. For the Ancients, the virtues were absolutely necessary for living a good and happy life (eudaimonia). We will begin with the works of various ancient philosophers (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, etc.), and then examine more contemporary works by modern-day virtue ethicists. Eventually, we will look at various applications of virtue ethics to controversial ethical issues.*