PHIL 101a - History of Western Philosophy: Ancient  Mr. Seidman
1 unit(s)  
MW 12:00PM-1:15PM

The course will concentrate on the ethical and metaphysical thought of Plato and Aristotle. We will consider their answers to two questions that both see as intimately connected: What is a good life for a human being? And: what is it for something to exist?

PHIL 101a - History of Western Philosophy: Ancient  Mr. Raymond
1 unit(s)  
TR 10:30AM-11:45AM

This course provides an introduction to Western philosophy from the pre-Socratics to the Stoics of the Roman Empire. Our focus will be the ancient conception of philosophy as an art of living, and on different views of eudaimonia, or happiness - the ultimate goal of a human life. Our principal texts will include Plato’s Socratic dialogues, Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics, the letters of Epicurus, and Marcus Aurelius’ Meditations.

PHIL 101a - History of Western Philosophy: Ancient  Mr. Raymond
1 unit(s)  
TR 1:30PM-2:45PM

This course provides an introduction to Western philosophy from the pre-Socratics to the Stoics of the Roman Empire. Our focus will be the ancient conception of philosophy as an art of living, and on different views of eudaimonia, or happiness - the ultimate goal of a human life. Our principal texts will include Plato’s Socratic dialogues, Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics, the letters of Epicurus, and Marcus Aurelius’ Meditations.

PHIL 105a - Philosophical Questions  Ms. Church
1 unit(s)  
TR 3:10PM-4:25PM

What is the significance of the different attitudes that we adopt towards other people, towards our surroundings, and towards ourselves? Trust, resentment, forgiveness, love, sentimentality, horror, irony, and awe can shape our lives in profound ways, but their roles are often puzzling. A close consideration of these attitudes serves as an introduction to some fundamental philosophical problems concerning the nature and limits of knowledge, morality, art, and truth.
PHIL 106a - Philosophy and Contemporary Issues
Mr. Kelly
1 unit(s)
MW 10:30AM-11:45AM

*Just War Theory.* This course will explore the contemporary philosophical literature on Just War Theory. The past decade has seen an explosion of philosophical work on war, with important consequences for our thinking about both the ethics and law of armed conflict. We will examine classical formulations of the just war doctrine, as well as the challenge posed by revisionist just war theorists. Readings will include Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust Wars* and Jeff McMahan's *Killing in War.*

Open only to freshmen; satisfies college requirement for a Freshman Writing Seminar.

PHIL 106a - Philosophy and Contemporary Issues
Mr. Holloway
TR 12:00PM-1:15PM

*Democracy.* This course will explore democracy in the 21st Century as a philosophical question. We will consider recent movements like the *indignados* in Spain, public spaces like Tahrir Square in Egypt, and hashtags like #iranelection and #Jan25 against the backdrop of the invention of democracy in ancient Athens. We will then think about democracy more philosophically as a desire to act and speak in public space, and we will question whether modern representative governments allow for a sufficient sense of equal political participation. Finally, we will reflect on what it means to be unable to participate in politics or, in more dire cases, to be excluded from any form of political life. Readings will include works from Hannah Arendt, Jacques Derrida, Jacques Rancière, Miguel Abensour, Étienne Balibar, Giorgio Agamben, and Ta-Nehisi Coates, among others.

PHIL 110a – Early Chinese Philosophy
Mr. Van Norden
TR 12:00PM-1:15PM

An introduction to Chinese philosophy in the period between (roughly) 500 and 221 B.C., covering Confucians, Taoists and others. Among the topics discussed by these philosophers are human nature, methods of ethical education and self-cultivation, virtues and vices, and the role of conventions and institutions in human life.

PHIL 215a - Phenomenology and Existential Thought
Ms. Borradori
1 unit(s)
MW 10:30AM-11:45AM

Since the ancient Greeks, philosophy has interpreted the drama of human life in terms of knowledge rather than will, truth rather than passion. During the 20th century, phenomenology and existentialism offer the most radical critique of this “intellectualist” view of both philosophy and the self. A new cognitive value is attributed to moods, beliefs, and states of consciousness as well as to some spheres of human interaction such as
authenticity, temporality, and intentionality. In this course, we shall explore the great arch of existential and phenomenological thought as developed by Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, De Beauvoir, Merleau-Ponty, and Levinas.

Prerequisite: one unit of Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 220a - Metaphysics                         Mr. Winblad
1 unit(s)                                       TR 1:30PM-2:45PM

This course examines a number of interlocking metaphysical topics, among them the relationship between reality and the mind, the nature of consciousness, the apparent tension between free will and causal necessitation, personal identity, the reality of time, and the problem of why anything at all exists. Questions about the status of metaphysical inquiry itself will also be addressed.

Prerequisite: one 100-level course in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 230ab - Symbolic Logic                     Mr. Winblad
1 unit(s)                                       MW 12:00PM-1:15PM

One of the traditional branches of philosophy, logic is concerned with understanding valid inference. It rests on the idea that what makes premises imply conclusions can be clarified by abstracting to some extent from their content, concentrating instead on their formal features. This course examines the modern approach to making these features more transparent, focusing on the construction and application of formal languages, interpretations, and inferential rules. Employing a metalogical perspective, it also addresses the adequacy of these methods.

PHIL 233a – T.M. Scanlon's *What We Owe To Each Other*   Mr. Seidman
0.5 unit(s)                                      TR 3:10PM-4:25PM

T.M. Scanlon’s *What We Owe To Each Other* is a landmark contribution to contemporary moral philosophy. Scanlon’s book aims to explain what we are arguing about when we debate whether an action is morally wrong. In the course of answering this question, Scanlon offers original approaches to a number of central philosophical topics, including the nature of reason and rationality, of value, and of individual well-being. We engage in a careful reading of this important book, as well as some philosophical responses to it.

Prerequisite: one 100-level course in Philosophy.
Second six-week course.
PHIL 234a - Ethics
Mr. Seidman
1 unit(s)
TR 10:30AM-11:45AM

Why be moral? What does morality ask of us? What is the relation between morality and self-interest? What is happiness? What is the relation between a happy life and a meaningful life? Are there objective answers to ethical questions? Or are whatever answers we give no more than the expressions of our subjective attitudes? These are some of the questions this course seeks to address. We proceed by reading seminal texts in the Western moral philosophical tradition alongside writings by contemporary moral philosophers.

Prerequisite: at least one 100-level course in Philosophy.

PHIL 238a – Social and Political Philosophy
Mr. Kelly
1 unit(s)
MW 1:30PM-2:45PM

This course will introduce students to the history of and to contemporary debates within political philosophy. Our focus will be upon the relationship between justice and equality.

Prerequisite: one 100-level course in Philosophy.

PHIL 240a - Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics
Ms. Borradori
1 unit(s)
MW 1:30PM-2:45PM

The course studies the philosophical debate on art both historically and thematically. We will contrast ancient and medieval conceptions of art with our contemporary intuitions about what constitutes originality and creativity. We will discover that the roots of such intuitions are in the 18th century, when aesthetics is born as the study of the reasons that make some sensory experiences distinctly artistic, beautiful or sublime. However, the idea that art may be an autonomous field of human expression is soon called into question by thinkers such as Hegel and Schopenhauer. We shall follow the legacy of their attempt to de-aestheticize art into the 20th century, in the context of both philosophy’s debate on the nature of metropolis and the modernist revolution in all the arts, but especially in architecture. In the last portion of the course, we shall explore the most radical dismantling of the aesthetic edifice in the work of artists and theorists, including Michel Foucault, Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida, Zaha Hadid, and Peter Eisenman.

Prerequisite: one 100-level course in Philosophy.
PHIL 242a - Philosophy of Music  Ms. Church
1 unit(s) TR 12:00PM-1:15PM

Music is an important part of our experience – familiar and yet strange, releasing us from thinking but also revealing new ways of thinking. This course addresses philosophical themes as they appear in music, providing a more visceral sense of alternative perspectives on the world, and expanding our appreciation what music has to offer. We will listen to many different types of music – old and new, classical and popular, with discussion focused around topics such as the difference between music and sound, the ‘space’ of music, the expression of emotion in music, the significance of repetition, historical versus ahistorical interpretations, time and timelessness. Readings will be drawn from a variety of philosophers, including Levinson, Scruton, Deleuze, Schopenhauer, Langer, Adorno, Kivy, Nussbaum, and Walton.

Prerequisite: one course in Philosophy or one course on musical theory or musical culture.

PHIL 250a - Feminist Theory  Ms. Narayan
1 unit(s) MW 9:00AM-10:15AM

(Same as Women's Studies 250) The central purpose of the course is to understand a variety of theoretical perspectives in feminism - including liberal, radical, socialist, psychoanalytic and postmodern perspectives. We explore how each of these feminist perspectives is indebted to more 'mainstream' theoretical frameworks (for example, to liberal political theory, Marxism, and psychoanalysis). We also examine the ways in which each version of feminist theory raises new questions and challenges for these 'mainstream' theories. We attempt to understand the theoretical resources that each of these perspectives provides the projects of feminism, how they highlight different aspects of women's oppression and offer a variety of different solutions. We look at the ways in which issues of race, class and sexuality figure in various theoretical feminist perspectives and consider the divergent takes that different theoretical perspectives offer on issues such as domestic violence, pornography, housework and childcare, economic equality, and respect for cultural differences.

Prerequisite: one unit of Philosophy or Women's Studies.

PHIL 281a - Confucius  Mr. Van Norden
0.5 unit(s) TR 3:10PM-4:25PM

This first-six-week course is an introduction to the sayings and dialogues of Confucius and his immediate disciples as recorded in the Analects. We shall examine the historical context of Confucius, and his views on the virtues, human nature, ethical cultivation and his Way for living and organizing society. Requirements include faithful attendance and weekly response essays.

No prerequisites. First six-week course.
PHIL 310a - Seminar in Analytic Philosophy: Philosophy of the Ordinary
Mr. Winblad
1 unit(s)
T 3:10PM-5:10PM

In this seminar, we examine an approach to philosophy that seeks, not to solve philosophical problems, but to dissolve them, returning us to a relationship with ourselves and the world that more traditional philosophical methods may obscure. It is sometimes said that this approach, devised by Wittgenstein and developed further by Austin and Strawson, aims at revealing the extraordinary in the ordinary. We study key texts by these thinkers, as well as works by contemporary representatives of this distinctive philosophical perspective.

Prerequisite: 200-level philosophy course or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 320a - Seminar in the History of Philosophy: Kant
Ms. Church
1 unit(s)
M 7:00PM-10:00PM

In-depth reading and discussion of Kant’s three great Critiques: *Critique of Pure Reason*, *Critique of Practical Reason*, and *Critique of Judgment* -- dealing with epistemology, metaphysics, morality, and aesthetics. Students will gain an understanding of Kant’s central arguments and some important relations between these arguments.

Prerequisite: upper level philosophy courses or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 320a - Seminar in the History of Philosophy: Plato’s Erotic Dialogues
Mr. Raymond
1 unit(s)
M 3:10PM-6:10PM

This seminar is devoted to a careful study of several Platonic dialogues—notably *Charmides*, *Symposium*, and *Phaedrus*—that make erôs (“love” or “erotic desire”) a central theme. Our aim will be to understand how Plato inherits and transforms Greek cultural attitudes toward homosexuality and pederasty, beauty and desire, body and soul, and moral education in constructing Socrates’ “erotic art” of philosophy. Since our readings include some of Plato’s most impressive artistic achievements, we will want to ask how the aesthetic features of the dialogues relate to the explorations of erôs contained within them.

Prerequisite: upper level philosophy courses or permission of the instructor.
This seminar focuses on questions about capitalism, globalization, and economic justice. A central project of this course is to understand the different ways in which capitalism is conceptualized by various thinkers and philosophical perspectives. We will critically evaluate the benefits and problems attributed to capitalism as a global economic system. We address debates on private property and the division of labor, and examine the functions of states, markets, corporations, international institutions like the IMF and WTO, and development agencies in economic globalization and their roles in securing or undermining human rights. Readings will include the works by figures such as Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Karl Polanyi, Peter Singer, Thomas Pogge, Antonio Negri, Immanuel Wallerstein, and Zygmunt Bauman.

This seminar will conduct an in-depth study of the first volume of Karl Marx’s *Capital.*

Prerequisites: at least three courses in Philosophy.