

FALL 2017
PHIL 3130 AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY
Section MW3
Registration Code 17362
Monday, Wednesday 3:40 – 4:55pm
PROFESSOR DANIEL CAMPOS

Course Description

In this course we will examine a variety of American approaches to classical philosophical topics, including (a) the origin and purpose of the natural world, (b) the nature and place of human beings within it, (c) the sources and types of human knowledge, (d) the nature of community, and (e) the origin, purpose, and legitimacy of social relations and institutions such as freedom, slavery, and democracy.

We will study a plurality of views, both of those figures who are usually considered “classical American philosophers” and of other “thinkers” from the feminist, Native-, African-, and Hispanic-American traditions. They may include Sagoyewatha, Ralph Emerson, Henry Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Charles Peirce, Frederick Douglass, William James, W.E.B. Du Bois, Jane Addams, John Dewey, and Alain Locke.

By the end of the course, the student should be able to reflect on the distinctive characters and mutual influences of these views and to articulate a personal position on whether there indeed exist “American philosophies.”