

### PHIL 3105 Landmarks in the History of Philosophy

Section MW11 RegCode 22040

M, W 11:00am - 12:15pm

**Instructor: Samir Chopra** 

Email: schopra@brooklyn.cuny.edu

In this class we will work our way through three classic works in philosophy: Plato's famous 'Death of Socrates' dialogues, Apology, Crito, Phaedo; Hume's An Enquiry Concerning The Principles of Morals; and Nietzsche's Beyond Good and Evil. We will study these classic works of ancient and modern philosophy in detail, examining them for their arguments and content, their style and rhetoric, and for what they teach us about what remains constant in philosophy and what changes.

# Phil 3111 Ancient Philosophy

Section EW6 RegCode 23241

W 6:30 - 9:15 PM

**Instructor: Andrew Arlig** 

Email: <a href="mailto:aarlig@brooklyn.cuny.edu">aarlig@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a>

This course will acquaint students with some of the central figures, themes, and positions in Ancient Greek Philosophy. Our center of gravity will be several key works of Plato. From this center we will work outwards, backwards toward Socrates and some of the Presocratics; forwards toward Plato's great student Aristotle, as well as the Stoics, Skeptics, Epicureans, and later Platonists. We will study Greek ruminations on the nature of reality, human knowledge and its limitations, and human happiness and flourishing.

# Phil 3121 Modern Philosophy

Section MY11 RegCode 22041 M, W 11:00am – 12:40pm

**Instructor: Daniel Campos** 

Email: dcampos@brooklyn.cuny.edu

In 1649 Rene Descartes traveled to Sweden to teach at the court of Queen Kristina. In addition to being a great philosopher, scientist, and mathematician, Descartes liked to sleep late. But he had to rise early and travel to Kristina's court to begin teaching at 5:00 AM. He caught pneumonia and died. What did Descartes have to say that was so exciting Kristina couldn't wait? Why was his work, and that of his philosophical interlocutors, so important?

As Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Bernoulli, and Newton revolutionized science, Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, and Hume shaped the modern philosophical worldview. What were their conceptions of the nature of reality? How could we attain knowledge of it? How should natural philosophy or science be practiced?

We will study these questions in order to understand how modern philosophy arose. This will help us understand what it means to be "modern" before deciding whether or not to jump onto the "postmodern" bandwagon.

# Phil 3203 Intro to Formal Logic

Section MW12 RegCode 22042

**Instructor: Robert Lurz** 

Email: rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu

M, W 12:50 - 2:05pm

An introduction to modern sentential and predicate logic. Among the topics are validity, consistency and proof, formal analysis of sentences and arguments in natural language.

# Phil 3210 Reasoning

Section MW3 RegCode 22043 M, W 3:40 – 4:55 PM

**Instructor: Michael Maumus** 

Email: <u>fletcher.maumus@gmail.com</u>

Examination and development of reasoning skills. Informal logic. Topics such as meaning, definition, the analysis of arguments, fallacies. Use of examples in reasoning to apply principles studied. Legal reasoning, support for claims about public policy, scientific and philosophical arguments.

### Phil 3305 Ethics and Personal Relations

Section TR9 RegCode 22044 T, TH 9:30 – 10:45am

**Instructor: Penny Repetti** 

Email: prepetti@brooklyn.cuny.edu

This is a philosophy course, the focus of which is on the study and application of ethics in relationships. We will examine both the positive and negative qualities/characteristics that are present in relationships and what makes these relationships successful or not. We will also be evaluating moral obligations to self, family, friends, etc. Some topics for the class may include: friendship, marriage, divorce, love and sex, parent-child relationships, lying, cheating, etc.

### Phil 3306 Ethics and Society

Section TR2 RegCode 22045 T, TH 2:15 – 3:30pm Section TR11 RegCode 22046 T, TH 11:00am – 12:15pm

**Instructor: Penny Repetti** 

Email: prepetti@brooklyn.cuny.edu

This is a philosophy course, the focus of which is on the study and application of ethics. Students will be exposed to several ethical theories, which they will utilize in their assessment of various ethical issues that arise in the world. Students will also learn to do the opposite--that is, look at various issues that arise in the world in order to assess the plausibility of various ethical theories. This will allow students to see how well these theories stand up in concrete contexts. Students will also learn how to support their views and through the use of reasoning, become open-minded critical thinkers. Some topics that we will be examining are: abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, etc.

Section MW11 RegCode 22047

M, W 11:00am - 12:15pm

**Instructor: Michael Menser** 

Email: mmenser@brooklyn.cuny.edu

The 21st century has brought with it a range of environmental problems that humanity (and the rest of the earth) have never encountered so what's Brooklyn College going to do about it? Global warming gets much of the press but mass extinction, soil degradation, water scarcity, and atmospheric and oceanic pollution pose problems potentially as catastrophic and NYC is feeling the impacts especially since Superstorm Sandy. Relatedly, a global economy heavily reliant upon oil, coal and gas threaten to further destabilize the global ecology as do further processes of economic development, urbanization, and population growth. And NYC is in the midst of a rebuilding effort which will spend 10s of billions to make us safer, but what kind of city do we want to create?

Mission of this class: 1) to become familiar with a range of ethical theories including human-animal rights, participatory democracy, environmental justice, and virtue ethics. 2) to be able to apply these theories to real world environmental cases both global and local and critique them; 3) to understand the historical, cultural, political and economic dimensions of environmental issues; 4) to critically assess the role(s) of the state, market, businesses, technologies and social movements for achieving sustainable development and "resilience"; 5) to understand the meanings of key terms in the debates: ecological footprint, sustainability, resilience, environmental racism/justice, food sovereignty, global warming, climate justice; green capitalism, "organic," commons. 6/ of special focus this term will be the food system and NYC's future given climate change and so much economic inequality.

So what should be done and who should do it? This is a central question in applied ethics.

We shall be especially focused on the issue of "sustainability" and sustainable development and related issues of agriculture, food, and democracy as they apply to both rural and urban areas. Brooklyn and Brooklyn College itself will be of particular focus as we look at activities and proposals to make the campus and the borough more "sustainable" and resilient and fights over just what that means. Also, students will be required to morally evaluate their own consumption practices and construct a project to make BC more sustainable/resilient.

### Phil 3310 Fundamentals of Professional Ethics

Section TR11 RegCode 48360 T, TH 11:00am – 12:15pm

**Instructor: Anatoly Nichvoloda** Email: <a href="mailto:nichvoloda@yahoo.com">nichvoloda@yahoo.com</a>

Conceptions of professions and their relationship to society. Professionals and ethics. Such topics as privacy, confidentiality, whistle-blowing, and conflicts of interest. Philosophical implications of Codes of Ethics of various professions.

### Phil 3315 Communication Ethics

Section TR11 RegCode 21463 T, TH 11:00am – 12:15pm

Instructor: Dena Shottenkirk

Email: dshottenkirk@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Explore issues concerning journalistic integrity, the ethical dilemmas in advertising, internet issues including privacy and governance, and the complex issues of censorship. This course addresses the concerns inherent in our written, visual, and verbal communications with one another. Pertinent philosophical texts include, among others, Kant, Rawls, Mill, and Aristotle. Learn to identify issues within the media and articulate arguments regarding them in the applied ethics course.

Section EM6 RegCode 48363 M 6:30 – 9:15pm

Instructor: Amanda Huminski

Email: ahuminski@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Critical examination of ethical issues related to communication, information, and the media. Freedoms and responsibilities. Consideration of such issues as: privacy, confidentiality, censorship, deception, propaganda, accuracy, fairness, intellectual property rights, conflicts of interest, obscenity and pornography, civility and offensive speech. Classical and contemporary philosophers.

#### Phil 3316 Medical Ethics

Section MW12 RegCode 22063 M, W 12:50 – 2:05pm

**Instructor: Anna Gotlib** 

Email: agotlib@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Have you ever wondered whether our system of medical care treats people fairly? Or whether we ought to be able to choose when, and how, to die? Or perhaps about the connection between the law, public policy, and your access to a doctor? Or whether our society is ready to deal with the possibility of global epidemics and pandemics, such as the current Ebola crisis? All of these questions, and more, reflect a rapidly-changing world of emerging biotechnologies, laws, and health care practices, placing significant pressures on our understanding of ourselves and our society. To ask difficult questions about how we are born, how we live, and how we die -- and to begin to offer some responses -- is the work of medical ethics. Specifically, this course provides an introduction to medical ethics by addressing issues arising from the application of various models of ethical decision-making (moral theory) to questions of medical care, biomedical research, and healthcare justice. We will also consider some critiques of the ethical models themselves, and then ask what kinds of social policies (if any) might adequately address the complexities inherent in biomedicine.

Topics to be discussed will include physician-nurse-patient relationships, human and animal research, emerging biotechnologies (such as stem cell research and cloning), neuroethics, health care and justice, public health and pandemics, and others. The format of the course is seminar-style discussion, with an emphasis on active student participation. There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Phil 3320 Foundations of Ethics

Section TY3 RegCode 22064 T, TH 3:40 – 5:20pm

**Instructor: Christine Vitrano** 

Email: cvitrano@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Theories in normative ethics attempt to explain and systematize our moral judgments. They also provide an account of our moral obligations and duties, suggesting a standard to regulate right and wrong conduct. In this course, we shall examine some of the most influential theories in the history of ethics.

This course begins with a study of the ancient moralists, including the work of Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus and Epictetus. We also discuss virtue ethics and what it implies about living the good life, psychological and ethical hedonism, and stoicism. Then we discuss the moral theories of Hobbes, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill and Sartre. Additional questions we consider include whether we are egoists by nature, whether morality is based on reason or emotion, whether a utilitarian or deontological approach to morality is more plausible and how existentialists differ from all the other moralists we have considered.

If you have any questions or would like to talk about this course, feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:cvitrano@brooklyn.cuny.edu">cvitrano@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a> or stop by my office hours, which are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 – 2:15 in room 3315 Boylan.

# Phil 3401 Metaphysics

Section TY9 RegCode 22065 T, TH 9:05 – 10:45am

**Instructor: Saam Trivedi** 

Email: trivedi@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Metaphysics, broadly understood as the study of reality, is often described as being at the abstract heart of Philosophy, with important connections to other branches of Philosophy from theory of knowledge to philosophy of mind to logic to ethics to aesthetics. In this class, we will discuss some central issues in contemporary analytic metaphysics such as: ontology; identity; properties; and causation. Both classic and contemporary readings will be used.

### Phil 3410 Epistemology: Knowledge and Belief

Section MY9 RegCode 22066 M, W 9:05 – 10:45am

**Instructor: Robert Lurz** 

Email: rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu

What are the limits to human knowledge and understanding? Can we know and understand anything? Can we distinguish appearance from reality? Are there things that we cannot (or should not) know or understand? What are they and why? This course is intended to introduce students to a number of important philosophical issues and theories on the nature of knowledge and rational belief. Issues such as – skepticism, foundationalism, coherentism, and kinds of knowledge – are examined and discussed from classical and contemporary philosophical perspectives. This is an excellent course for students who are interested in philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology, and philosophy of science.

# Phil 3420 Philosophy of Mind

Section MW11 RegCode 48351

M, W 11:00am - 12:15pm

**Instructor: Robert Lurz** 

Email: rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu

What is the true nature of the self, consciousness, and thought? How are they related to each other, to what goes on in our brains and bodies, and to the world in which we live? Can science or philosophy answer such questions? This course is intended to introduce students to a number of important issues in the philosophy of mind. Issues such as the mind-body problem, the problem of other minds, and the possibility of thought and consciousness in computers and animals are discussed and examined. This is an excellent course for students who are interested in philosophy, philosophy of psychology, and cognitive science.

# Phil 3422 Philosophical Issues in Cognitive Science

Section VS1 RegCode 22067 Times: TBA

Introduction to select foundational issues in cognitive science. Consideration of such topics as concept formation, meaning, representation, language, reasoning, consciousness, rationality, the human mind, and machine intelligence.

### Phil 3511 Philosophy of Literature and Film

Section TR11 RegCode 48354 T, TH 11:00am – 12:15pm

**Instructor: Saam Trivedi** 

Email: trivedi@brooklyn.cuny.edu

This course will deal with philosophical issues concerning literature, those pertaining to film, and those common to both art forms.

Issues in the Philosophy of Literature to be covered include some of the following: the definition of literature; fiction and our emotional reactions to it; the role of imagination in reading literature; metaphor; authorial intentions and interpretation; literature and morality; and literary appraisal.

Within the Philosophy of Film, we will discuss some of the following issues, in conjunction with appropriate movie viewings: the definition and medium of film; film and reality; film and language; film and art; film and fiction; the viewing experience and viewer-response; narration and emotion in film; and film's relation to knowledge and morality.

<sup>\*\*</sup>This class is an Independent Study. Please contact Department Chairperson Andrew Arlig if interested in enrolling. Chairperson Arlig's email is <a href="mailto:aarlig@brooklyn.cuny.edu">aarlig@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a>. \*\*

# Phil 3703 Political Philosophy

Section VS1 RegCode 21965 Times: TBA

History of theories of the underlying principles of law and social organization. Principles of just distribution; rule of men versus rule of law; natural law and social contract theories; social justice versus individual liberty. Such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Mill, Thoreau, Rawls, and Nozick are discussed.

# Phil 3704 Social Philosophy

Section EM6 RegCode 23245 M 6:30 – 9:15pm

Instructor: Samir Chopra

Email: <a href="mailto:schopra@brooklyn.cuny.edu">schopra@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a>

In this class we will examine social theory and social thought beginning with the Enlightenment and continuing on to twentieth-century postmodernism. The issues we will tackle will include equality, social justice, gender relations, political structures, family life, ethnic relations, and political economy. We will read philosophers, political scientists, psychologists, economists, novelists – all of whom contribute to our grappling with the complex questions facing societies and those who interact within them.

# Phil 3720 Philosophy and Feminism

Section TR2 RegCode 48329 T, TH 2:15 – 3:30pm

**Instructor: Christine Vitrano** 

Email: cvitrano@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Feminist philosophers bring new insights into many areas of philosophy, and they often present a critique of traditional western philosophy, which often neglects the woman's perspective. They also introduce new issues that are of special concern to women that have been previously overlooked.

This course will focus on the practical and theoretical concerns of feminists through a topic-based approach. We shall consider issues such as the influence of gender in the family, sexual harassment, pornography, abortion, the norms of feminine appearance, and whether our language needs to be reformed from a variety of feminist perspectives. This course is designed to give students who may not have a background in feminist thought a sampling of the philosophical contributions feminists have made.

If you have any questions or would like to talk about this course, feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:cvitrano@brooklyn.cuny.edu">cvitrano@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a> or stop by my office hours, which are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 – 2:15 in room 3315 Boylan Hall.

<sup>\*\*</sup>This class is an Independent Study. Please contact Department Chairperson Andrew Arlig if interested in enrolling. Chairperson Arlig's email is <a href="mailto:aarlig@brooklyn.cuny.edu">aarlig@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a>. \*\*

### Phil 3725 Philosophy of Race

Section MW12 RegCode 49096 M, W 12:50 – 2:05pm

**Instructor: Kobie Colemon** 

Email: kobie.Colemon47@brooklyn.cuny.edu

This course offers a philosophical examination of race and the question of its validity as a scientific, social, and census category. We will explore such issues as the metaphysical legitimacy and social reality of racial designations; race, subjectivity, and sense of self; mixed race persons; racial identities and their political effects; the continued use of racial categories as social/cultural norms; and the persistence of racism.

# Phil 3740 Philosophy of Law

Section MW2 RegCode 23247 M, W 2:15 – 3:30pm

**Instructor: Anna Gotlib** 

Email: agotlib@brooklyn.cuny.edu

This course explores the issues that arise at the intersection of questions about law and justice. We will critically analyze the nature and sources of law and legal institutions from the perspective of moral and political philosophy. Specifically, we will focus on topics such as equality and discrimination, the nature and sources of rights, the relationship between liberty and social (and governmental) control, the justification for punishment (including the death penalty), and the nature of, and approaches to, terrorism. We will engage with texts in legal history, legal philosophy, social and political philosophy, and court decisions.

# Phil 3920 Internship in Philosophy 1 / Phil 3921 Internship in Philosophy 2

Section VS1 RegCode 48333 / Section VS1 RegCode 48348 Times: TBA

**Instructor: Dena Shottenkirk** 

Email: dshottenkirk@brooklyn.cuny.edu

### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

- 1. ECPAT (anti-human trafficking org)
- 2. HOPE (job training organization)
- 3. Habitat for Humanity
- 4. NYC Fellowship for Affordable Housing (secures housing for HIV patients)
- 5. US Participatory Budgeting Project (direct democracy funding project)
- 6. Room to Grow (support for disadvantaged mothers/children)

LEGAL: Various lawyers' offices

BUSINESS AND PHILOSOPHY: Students can be placed in a particular business, and study in depth how business intersects with ethics.

ART AND PHILOSOPHY: Students interested in art can intern in a gallery or museum while studying issues in contemporary aesthetic theory.

# Phil 4105 Seminar in Problems of Philosophy

Section TR11 RegCode 48296 T, TH 11:00am – 12:15pm

**Instructor: Andrew Arlig** 

Email: aarlig@brooklyn.cuny.edu

This seminar is focused upon a philosophical examination of mysticism. We will ask what mysticism is, and how it is differentiated from other ways of knowing the divine. We will ask whether mysticism is a form of philosophy, or whether it is in some sense a distinct yet complementary, or even superior, way of knowing. We will examine some of the common claims made by mystics, such as that God's nature is ineffable ("beyond words"), or that access to God requires immediate presence and perhaps even "annihilation" of the self. While the course is centered around the concept of mysticism as a form of knowing - and therefore our study will span numerous periods and traditions - many of the readings will be drawn from Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern sources. Possible authors to be studied include: Lao Tsu, Plotinus, Pseudo-Dionysius, Ghazali, Rumi, Marguerite Porete, Julian of Norwich, Meister Eckhart, and Theresa of Avila.

Note: Enrollment in the seminar requires the permission of the Department. However, please be assured that the course will be constructed so that it will be accessible to students from a variety of disciplines, including Classics, History, and English. Please contact Professor Arlig directly with queries about the seminar. A draft syllabus should be available by mid-January.