100- & 200-Level
Introductions to Philosophy

100 (1 & 2)  Intro to Phil: Survey of Problems
MW 10:30-11:20A  TANKE
Break-out Section (1) F 10:30-11:20A
Break-out Section (2) F 9:30-10:20A
This course introduces students to the history of philosophy, understood as both an academic discipline and a basic human need.

100 (3)  Intro to Phil: Survey of Problems
MW 9:30-10:20A  STOLL
What is real? What exists? What’s the truth? These are the sorts of questions “philosophically minded” individuals have been pondering for millennia, and they are the sorts of questions we will be approaching in this class. This class will therefore put great emphasis, not just on reading canonical material in order to survey the problems addressed by our ancestors, but on generating our own questions and discussions on the basis of the reading material.

101 (1, 2, & 3)  Intro to Phil: Morals & Society
MW 9:30-10:20A  KIPNIS
Break-out Section (1) F 9:30-10:20A
Break-out Section (2) F 10:30-11:20A
Break-out Section (3) F 11:30-12:20P
An introduction to systematic thinking on ethics, social philosophy, legal philosophy, and political philosophy.

101 (4)  Intro to Phil: Morals & Society
MW 8:30-9:20A  WIDDISSON
The primary aim of this course is for students to gain a systematic understanding of conceptions of morality and to recognize moral reasoning in discussions of contemporary issues in society.

102 (1)  Asian Traditions
MW 10:30-11:20A  LIU
Asian Traditions is an introduction to the philosophies of China, Japan and India. We will read and discuss important early Chinese texts such as the Analects, Dao De Jing, Zhuangzi, as well as Japanese Zen Buddhism and early Indian Buddhist scriptures. The focus will be on Chinese Daoism which has been brought into dialogue with environmental philosophies, and its discourses with other traditions.

103 (1)  Intro Phil: Environmental Philosophy
TR 9:00-10:15A  ODIN
This is an introduction to environmental philosophy in east-west perspective, including such issues as animal rights, sustainability, environmental ethics, land aesthetics, conservation, ecology, and concepts of nature.

110 (1)  Intro to Deductive Logic
MW 10:30-11:20A  HOFFMAN
Logic, as a branch of philosophy, is the study of correct reasoning. The primary objects of logic are arguments—roughly, claims supported by reasons—and the basic aim is to identify principles according to which arguments are good or bad. This course serves as an introduction to deductive logic: propositional logic, predicate logic, and formal proofs.

111 (1 & 2)  Intro to Inductive Logic
MW 9:30-10:20A  CHATURVEDI
An introduction to inductive logic and basic probability theory, focusing on how we reason and act under conditions of risk and uncertainty.

212 (1)  Between Ancient & Modern Philosophy
TR 9:00-10:15A  ALBERTINI
My course discusses men and women philosophers who have written their texts in post-classical Latin or Arabic, thus allowing us to consider for the Middle Ages Christian and Muslim positions dealing with similar issues.

280 (1)  Meaning of War
TR 10:30-11:45A  BONTEKOE
A new course exploring a range of answers to the two basic questions: Why do we fight wars? And, in moral terms, how should we fight wars?

Upper-Division Undergraduate Courses

301 (1)  Ethical Theory
TR 10:30-11:45A  TSAIL
This course covers some of the main systematic approaches to issues in moral philosophy in the Western tradition.

306 (1)  Philosophy of Art
MW 1:30-2:20P  TANKE
This course introduces students to the philosophical questions raised by the postulate that there is a unique class of objects known as “artworks.”

307 (1)  Theory of Knowledge
MW 10:30-11:20A  DALMIYA
A philosophical study of the nature and limits of human knowledge and justified belief.

310 (1)  Ethics in Health Care
W 12:15-2:45P  KIPNIS
A critical examination of selected ethical issues arising in the application and organization of biomedical resources.

311 (1)  Philosophy & Aesthetics of Film
W 3:30-6:00P  TANKE
This course acquaints students with the major landmarks in the history of cinema, and provides them with the resources for conducting a rigorous analysis of the art of cinema.

350 (1)  Indian Philosophy
MW 1:30-2:20P  DALMIYA
This course introduces students to the diversity of, and argumentation in, the philosophical traditions of ancient India.

370 (1)  Chinese Philosophy
TR 9:00-10:15A  CHENG
An up-to-date comprehensive and in depth introduction to Chinese Philosophy with original text use.
414F (1)  WMvts & Pds: Cont Rationalism
CHAKRABARTI
An in-depth reading of texts by Descartes, Malebranche, Spinoza, and Leibniz, especially focused on their concepts of Substance, God, Human Bondage and Freedom.

448 (1) Individual Philosophers/Topics
AMES
The Department of Philosophy will host the 11th East-West Philosophers’ Conference May 25-31, 2016. This course is dedicated to exploring the conference theme “PLACE” and preparing students for full participation in this historical event by reading the works in the subfield of “philosophy of place,” many of which have been written by prominent philosophers attending the conference.

448 (2) Individual Philosophers/Topics

492 (1) Philosophy with Children
JACKSON Examines the theory and practice of doing philosophy with children. The principles of practice apply to “children” in elementary, intermediate, high school, and undergraduate classrooms.

493 (1) Teaching Philosophy
JACKSON Supervised work in elementary, middle, and high school classrooms, facilitating philosophical inquiry with students. (Practicum)
Pre: 492 or consent.

611 (1) Studies in Ethics
TSAI This course will examine recent work in ethics.

Fourth year students may take graduate-level courses with instructor’s approval.

Graduate Seminars

720 (1) Seminar on Individual Philosophers
CHAKRABARTI A contemporary critical participatory seminar on Ludwig Wittgenstein’s Tractatus, Blue and Brown Books, and Philosophical Investigations, involving training in multiple-draft writing and discussion-leading by the students.

730 (1) Seminar in Islamic Philosophy
ALBERTINI This seminar is an introduction to contemporary Arab thought. It will discuss its critique of Arab reason and explore its creative dialogue with both Western and Muslim philosophers from the classical period.

780 (1) Seminar in Japanese Philosophy
ODIN This is a graduate seminar on Japanese philosophy of religion, including both traditional Japanese teachings as well as the Kyoto School of modern Japanese thought culminating in a Christian-Buddhist interfaith dialogue based on the principle of nothingness.

Full course descriptions are available on the table outside Sakamaki D-305.

Course Offerings

SPRING 2016 in the Department of Philosophy

Revised 11/16/2015

“I understand ‘food for thought,’ but I still can’t let you pay with your philosophy thesis.”