Introduction to Philosophy

In this course we will think deeply about two issues that universally concern us as human beings: (1) What is political freedom? (2) What attitude should we take towards our own death? In addition to engaging these philosophical questions, this course aims at developing skills of board academic and practical value. These include expanding vocabulary and learning to read critically, write effectively and reason appropriately. Individual and Society requirement.

PHIL 101 – Critical Thinking

A practical course designed to improve a student's reasoning skills. Emphasis is on recognizing bad reasoning as well as developing skill at evaluating, formulating and presenting arguments. Individual and Society requirement.

NATIONAL STATISTICS SHOW that philosophers rule the LSAT, GRE, and GMAT and are accepted at a very high rate to medical school!

PHIL 102 - Introductory Logic

What makes Sherlock Holmes a good detective? He uses deductive reasoning to reach his conclusions to solve cases, meaning he arrives at his conclusions with logical certainty. In this course we will explore fundamental concepts of deductive reasoning in symbolic logic.

Students will develop powerful skills to reason well and to think abstractly, both of which are prized in any field but especially in law, medicine, and the physical sciences. (Natural World – no lab course. Quantitative Reasoning requirement.

Session II (6/15 – 8/5)

PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy

TR 10:45-1:15

T. Hanck

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PHIL 101 – Critical Thinking

MW 5:30-8:00

B. Kidd

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PHIL 107 – What is Art?

MW 5:30-8:00

N. Curry

What do Kanye's album "Yezyus", horror movies, and manga have in common with Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Shakespeare's plays, and haiku poetry? One might say that they are all works of art. In this course, we will ask the question "What is Art?" in two ways. In the first part of the course, we will consider some historical and recent attempts at defining art—and we will wonder whether 'art' is something that can be defined at all. In the second part of the course, we will take up some of the issues that arise when pondering the role that art plays in our lives. For example: Does art (most of which is fictional) teach us about real life? Why are we interested in genres like horror and tragedy that are designed to make us feel frightened or sad? Are some works of art immoral. Creative Arts requirement.

PHIL. 110 – Philosophy of Love and Sex

MW 12:00-1:40

Z. Harmon

In the contemporary world, love and sex are often considered two of the most important components of a flourishing life. In this course, we will consider the implications of this fact and explore a number of philosophical issues raised by the topics of sexuality and romantic love. Questions discussed will include: What is romantic love and what distinguishes it from the love between friends or family members? What is the nature of sexual desire and how is it most properly expressed? Is there a right or wrong way to love someone? WARNING: This course will involve discussion of explicit topics including sexual intercourse, homosexuality and rape. If frank discussion of such topics will offend or otherwise bother you, do not take this course. Individual and Society requirement.

PHIL. 115 – Death

TR 10:45-1:15

M. Hurwitz

Over two thousand years ago Plato argued that people are led to commit injustice because they fear death. But this fear, he argues, comes from the belief that death is a bad thing? An assumption we have good reason to reject. Is death a bad thing? Is there an afterlife? How does your attitude toward death influence your conduct in life? We will examine answers to these questions with the help of great thinkers in the tradition of Western philosophy. We will also consider what these answers entail for the ethics of taking life (in cases of war, abortion, suicide, and withholding aid from the needy. Individual and Society requirement.

PHIL. 202 – Philosophy of Psychology

MWF 8:00-9:40

J. Baxter

We have minds and we have brains and the two are clearly connected. But what exactly is the relation between mind and body? Are they separate but interacting, only one thing with two different descriptions or is the mind nothing at all?

INTERESTED IN ADVICE ABOUT PHILOSOPHY COURSES? Feel free to ask your favorite teacher, or Departmental Advisor Mr Albert Hernandez (805 University Hall, ahern093@las.uic.edu), or DUS Prof Constance Meinwald (meinwald@uic.edu)

Session I (5/18 – 6/11)

PHIL. 100 – Introduction to Philosophy

MTRF 1:00-3:55

R. Hadisi

A survey of traditional problems concerning the existence and nature of God, freedom, justification, morality, etc. Readings from historical or contemporary philosophers. Individual and Society course.

PHIL 101 – Critical Thinking

MTRF 9:00-11:55

N. Shoaii

This is a course about reasoning: What makes for good reasoning? What are pitfalls of reasoning? In this course, we will explore some of the basic concepts in modern logic to try to answer these questions. We will also look at a few themes in modern philosophy to get a taste of some of the tools that can help us reason more effectively. Individual and Society requirement.

PHIL. 102 - Introductory Logic

MTRF 1:00-3:55

J. Gottlieb

In this course, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of symbolic logic via a study of sentential and predicate logic. By the end of the course, students will gain competence in analyzing arguments, translating ordinary English sentences into a formal language, as well as the methods of truth-tables, truth trees, and natural deduction in sentential logic. By equipping yourself with the tools of basic symbolic logic, you will learn both to express your ideas more clearly and differentiate 'bad' patterns of reasoning from 'good' ones--two skills that will serve you well time and time again. Quantitative Reasoning requirement.

MTRF 9:00-11:55

D. Haar

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