

CU Denver Philosophy Department

2020 SUMMER COURSE LISTINGS

Legend

Fulfills Program Requirements

■ Philosophy Major

■ Ethics Minor

■ Philosophy Minor

■ Certificate in Ethics

■ Philosophy of Science

Subject to Change

Faculty members will be available during class time leading up to ZOOM meetings, if applicable

SUMMER COURSES

06/08/2020 – 08/01/2020

PHIL 1012- Introduction to Philosophy: Relationship of the Individual to the World



Section 001 TuTh 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM ZOOM Meetings: TuTh 12:00pm-1:00pm

M. Tanzer

This course will examine fundamental philosophical issues, primarily, although not exclusively, in the theory of knowledge and in ethics. The first half of the course, focusing on the theory of knowledge, will examine the thought of Plato and of David Hume; while the second half of the course, focusing on ethics, will look at the ethical theories of John Stuart Mill and of Immanuel Kant. This section of the course will also look at how the ethical theories of Mill and Kant have been applied to the problem of animal rights, by Peter Singer and Tom Regan.

Section E01

Online

C. Shelby

Big events give us reason to think about our lives, our values, and our thinking skills. Enormous, world-changing events give us even greater reason. We are bombarded with information, but not with training in reasoning skills to help us decide what we should believe. We are told to stay at home and to avoid contact with others, but people all over the country believe that their personal freedom is a fundamental right, more precious than anything else, and so they simply will not comply. If we do stay at home, out of what kind of obligation are we doing that? What makes us obligated? Being stuck at home forces us, these busy, distracted, generations, to slow down a little and decide what's really important, and who we want to be. In this course we will learn how to think about some big problems that our current, unique situation provides us with the opportunity and the time to consider.

PHIL 1020- Introduction to Ethical Reasoning



Section E01

Online

D. Mehring

In this course we will not only examine the major ethical theories (e.g., Utilitarian, Duty-based, Existentialist, etc.) But since "theory without practice is empty" we will consider how to apply these ethical theories in real-life situations. Questions of honesty are regarded as of the utmost ethical importance. Yet, virtually none of us have been taught how to tell the truth "at the right time, in the right place, in the right way, for the right reason, to the right person". Clearly, how one tells the truth is as important as what the truth is. This course will focus on questions of how to be an effective truth-teller—and when to depart from the absolute truth. We will consider such questions such as when is it permissible (even necessary) to "slant" the truth? Under what conditions do we need to (in the words of Mark Twain) "learn how to lie healingly and well?"



Section E01

Online

D. Mehring

What is Happiness? We are all striving to be Happy, but as the Great and Wise Philosopher Yogi Berra said, “If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll probably end up somewhere else.” This course will examine Philosophical theories of Happiness and Well-Being with an emphasis on the theories’ application to everyday life. We will consider those thinkers who endorse Happiness as the Highest Human Good (e.g., Socrates, Aristotle, the Stoics) and those thinkers who see Happiness as a lesser and often Over-rated Good (e.g., Kant, Frankl). Also considered are critics who dismiss Human Happiness as a Delusion (e.g., Schopenhauer and Freud). Students will examine these competing theories, apply these perspectives to their lives, and write their Personal, “Philosophy of Well-Being”.