

# CU Denver Philosophy Department

## Spring 2022 Course Listings:

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

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**Section 001****M/W 11:00 PM - 12:15 PM****G. Zamosc**

Introduction to Philosophy: Relationship of the Individual to the World. Introductory course in philosophy that focuses on some of the central questions of philosophy, including theories of reality and the nature of knowledge and its limits. The knowledge of these areas is essential to the student for informed participation in the resolution of contemporary problems in today's society. This course counts towards PHIL major and PHIL minor.

**Section H01****Hybrid, T/Th 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM****D. Hildebrand**

Does life have meaning? This deceptively simple question will provide our entry point into philosophy. We will read and discuss a number of writers, from Plato to the present, who investigate this question. A range of fascinating topics will enter into our inquiry; these may include technology and art, religion and science, advertising and consumerism, and existential questions such as our place in the universe and our responses to death and mortality. This course counts towards PHIL major and PHIL minor.

**Section H02****Hybrid, M/W 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM****R. Metcalf**

An introductory course in philosophy that focuses on some of the central questions of philosophy, including theories of reality and the nature of knowledge and its limits. The knowledge of these areas is essential to the student for informed participation in the resolution of contemporary problems in today's society. This course counts towards PHIL major and PHIL minor.

**Section E01****Online****D. Mehring**

This introductory course will examine the position of five major philosophers (Plato, Epicurus, the Stoics, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche) on perennial philosophical conundrums (What is the good life? Is there life after bodily death?) In a manner that is both understandable and relevant. In addition to reading the philosophers' writings, we will read Alain de Botton's *The Consolations of Philosophy*. This course counts towards PHIL major and PHIL minor.

### PHIL 1020- Introduction to Ethical Reasoning

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**Section 001****T/Th 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM****D. Mehring**

In this course we will examine the major ethical theories that Philosophers have proposed for answering moral dilemmas: Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism, Deontology, Stoicism, Feminist Ethics, and Virtue Ethics. But since, "Theory without practice is empty," we will consider how these different theories are applied 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 consider the important questions of how to be a responsible truth-teller—and when to depart from the truth. We will examine such questions as when it is permissible (even necessary) to "slant" the truth? Under what conditions we need to (in the words of Mark Twain) "learn how to lie healingly and well." In addition, each student will construct their own personal Code of Ethics or Mission Statement. This course counts towards PHIL major and an Ethics minor.

**Section 002****T/Th 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM****D. Mehring**

SEE SECTION 001 This course counts towards PHIL major and an Ethics minor.

**Section 003****M/W 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM****D. Reeves**

This course will provide a journey into moral reflection. Its aim is to invite students to subject their own views about ethics to critical examination. We will work towards three goals. The first is to explore several moral issues that raise questions about ethics and justice in today's diverse and complex society. We will ask how a just society might distribute the things we prize – income and wealth, duties and rights, powers and opportunities, offices and honors in the right way; how ought each person be awarded her or his due. The second goal will be to understand and evaluate the role of

philosophy and critical thinking in addressing issues such as financial bailouts, affirmative action and the death penalty. We will ponder three central ideals or ways of thinking about ethical issues: virtue, freedom and welfare. The third goal is for students to engage in constructive discussion of the issues presented. A subset of this goal will expose students to diverse views while exploring and developing their own positions. This course counts towards PHIL major and an Ethics minor.

**Section E01** **Online** **D. Mehring**  
SEE SECTION 001 This course counts towards PHIL major and an Ethics minor.

**Section H01** **Hybrid, M/W 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM** **S. Walker**  
The purpose of this course is to provide the student with useful tools for solving ethical problems. We will investigate major positions from the philosophic tradition of ethics from Plato to Sartre. We will work toward the understanding of moral terminology and the development of moral reasoning through the examination of contrasting ethical theories. We will consider such issues as virtue, rights, and our obligations to others. This course counts towards PHIL major and an Ethics minor.

## PHIL 2441- Logic, Language, and Scientific Reasoning

**Section 001** **T/Th 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM** **TBA**  
**Section 002** **T/Th 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM** **M. Tanzer**  
The aim of this course is to develop critical thinking, specifically by learning the rules and methods by which legitimate rational arguments are constructed, as well as learning the rules and methods by which to recognize faulty argumentation. The course will examine both deductive and inductive logic, the latter being the type of reasoning that guides scientific reasoning. Our assessment of the key elements that constitute proper argumentation will include the examination of the functions of the basic parts of an argument, the understanding of the formal structure of arguments, and the recognition of logical fallacies. This course counts towards PHIL major, PHIL minor and the PHIL of Science minor.

**Section 003** **M/W 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM** **TBA**

**Section 004** **TBA** **TBA**  
**Section E01** **Online** **B. Hackett**  
This course teaches the basics of systematic reasoning and its relation to the sciences. We begin the semester by focusing on the logician's notion of an argument. What, exactly, counts as an argument? What is the difference between a "true statement" and a "good/sound argument"? After discussing answers to questions like these, we learn two simple ways of objectively assessing the reasoning in simple, easily understood deductive arguments. Next, we learn how to systematically represent the reasoning in less simple arguments, allowing us to accurately understand and effectively evaluate the ones that matter (e.g., concerning science, morality, religion, politics). Finally, we learn methods for conducting systematic inquiry in both the deductive and physical sciences. In an effort to encourage the mastery of learned skills, we practice techniques throughout the semester on various simple arguments. Since these methods are usefully applied to any academic inquiry, this course aims to be one of the most useful college courses you will take. This course counts towards PHIL major, PHIL minor and the PHIL of Science minor.

## PHIL 3022/5022- Modern Philosophy

**Section 001** **M/W 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM** **C. Shelby**  
The period of Western philosophy commonly referred to as "modern" (roughly the end of the 16th century to the end of the 18th century) is often presented as a period narrowly focused on questions of epistemology: questions concerning the nature and extent of human knowledge. In our course we will examine some of these basic epistemological themes, while attempting to broaden that scope a bit by also surveying some of the metaphysical themes that modern thinkers inherit from classical and medieval philosophy. We will be reading and discussing texts by Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, and Kant. Some of the basic questions we will be addressing are as follows: how does the strictly causal realm of matter in motion relate to the mental, subjective character of knowledge, and what can we claim about the nature of subjectivity within that relation? Similarly, can philosophy establish a foundation for knowledge that can save scientific inquiry from the challenges of skepticism?

## PHIL 3200- Social and Political Philosophy

**Section H01** **Hybrid, M/W 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM** **S. Walker**

We will consider major issues in the history of political philosophy. In particular we will discuss the two dominant political theories of the last 500 years, modern Liberalism and Socialism. In doing so we will consider the impact different conceptions of human nature have on both the choice of political philosophy and the method for its development. We will read such philosophers as Plato, Hobbes, Marx, Sartre, Nozick, Rawls, and Jagger.

## PHIL 3500- Ideology and Culture: Racism and Sexism

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### Section 001

M/W 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

B. Lisle

This course explores, in detail, the way ideology functions within culture. Particular attention will be placed on the way ideological forces work to foster and maintain racist and sexist forms of thought and behavior. We will begin by analyzing the nature and scope of ideological forces as cultural forces, and then we will explore various ways certain contemporary thinkers claim it may be possible to resist or eliminate racist and sexist thinking within an individual and collectively. One basic question we will be asking: to what extent can one escape ideologically founded thinking? Is it possible, in other words, for one to gain a self-critical relation to one's own culture, especially since cultural traditions seem to mask themselves within the guise of common sense or conventional wisdom? This course counts towards a PHIL major, PHIL minor and Ethics minor.

### Section 002

M/W 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

B. Lisle

SEE SECTION 001 This course counts towards a PHIL major, PHIL minor and Ethics minor.

### Section 003

Tu/Th 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

B. Lisle

SEE SECTION 001 This course counts towards a PHIL major, PHIL minor and Ethics minor.

### Section E01

Online

B. Jeong

In this course, we discuss the issues of racism and sexism with a focus on the relationship between self and other. We begin with the basic philosophical questions concerning the idea of the self, and then learn how the self is socially constructed in its relation to an 'Other.' While considering how gender and racial differences shape our identities, we come to identify and examine critically the social norms of whiteness, patriarchy and heterosexuality underlying our self-understanding and relational practices. This course fulfills the CU Denver Cultural Diversity Requirement. This course counts towards a PHIL major, PHIL minor and Ethics minor.

## PHIL 4220/5220- Aesthetics Philosophy of Art

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### Section 001

Thursdays 5:00 PM – 7:50 PM

D. Hildebrand

This course presents an introduction to the philosophy of art and aesthetics. We will be considering all sides of the communication that is art: the creative process of artists, the nature of artworks, and an audience's ability to experience, interpret, and evaluate art.

## PHIL 4350/5350- Philosophy of Science

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### Section E01

Online

B. Hackett

This course examines some of the central philosophical questions concerning the nature of scientific investigation, such as the logical relation of evidence to hypothesis, the objective adjudication of competing hypotheses, the logical function of modeling in empirical inquiry, the criterion for a classificatory system to underwrite induction and explanation, the explanatory relationships between the differing sciences, as well as the theoretical and pragmatic function of scientific law and its relationship to explanation. This course counts towards a PHIL minor and PHIL Science minor

## PHIL 4450/5450- Punishment, and Social Justice

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### Section H01

Hybrid, T/Th 2:00PM - 3:15PM

S. Tyson

What is the role of prisons in the US? Are they necessary? Are they effective? Are there alternative ways to address harm? In this course, we will explore theories of punishment and theories of redressing harm that do not rely on punishment. We will use the critical tools of philosophy to think about what prisons do, how they shape the world we live in, and what alternatives might be.

## PHIL 4790/5790- Nietzsche

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### Section 001

W 5:00 PM - 8:20 PM

G. Zamosc

In this course we will examine the thought of Friedrich Nietzsche through some of his most important and influential works. Some of the texts we will read include: *The Birth of Tragedy*, *The Untimely Meditations*, *Beyond Good and Evil*, and *The Genealogy of Morals*. One explicit aim of the class will be to explore whether and how Nietzsche's thought changed during the course of his intellectual development. Another goal will be to try to understand not just Nietzsche's various criticisms of the philosophical tradition but his positive contributions to it as well: that is, the ideals and values he sought to promote.

## **PHIL 4812/5812- Socrates**

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### **Section H01**

**Hybrid, M/W 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM**

**R. Metcalf**

In this course we will look closely at the obstacles to forming a clear understanding of Socrates--for example, the fact that he himself wrote nothing, and consequently, all that we know about him comes from the writings of other thinkers who conflict among themselves--and we will study those texts that may offer us some significant clues. Students will have the opportunity to form their own interpretations of Socrates, as well as tackle issues like Socrates' price of testing/cross-examining interlocutors, Socrates' moral philosophy and political theorizing, Socrates' views of eros and self-knowledge, and so on. This course counts towards the PHIL major, PHIL minor and Ethics minor.

## **PHIL 4833/5833- Existentialism**

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### **Section 001**

**T/Th 3:30PM - 4:45PM**

**B. Lisle**

The lasting appeal of Existentialism as a literary, philosophical, and artistic movement has much to do with its overall approach to basic human questions, such as: how to live in a seemingly absurd world full of incomprehensible forces and events. For example, when one lives during a time of war, it becomes tempting to conclude that life is absurd, that justice is an impossible ideal, and that beauty is only a temporary distraction. This course is an investigation of some of the central themes in the Existentialist tradition, including some of the most famous late 19th and early 20th Century writers in that tradition. We will be focusing on the writings of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, and Beauvoir.