

# Philosophy Course Descriptions – Spring 2021

CRN	Course	Sec	Crd	Course Title	Faculty	Days	Times	Limit	Prerequisite
-----	--------	-----	-----	--------------	---------	------	-------	-------	--------------

30072	PH113	01	3	Logic & Critical Thinking	Olsen	MWF	12:00-12:50	20	
-------	-------	----	---	---------------------------	-------	-----	-------------	----	--

The goal of this course is to foster sound reasoning. Logic, as the art of reasoning, teaches us how to draw inferences, formulate arguments, and evaluate the thinking of ourselves and others. This course will cover many different 'types' of logic including deductive, inductive, and critical thinking, all of which are intimately related and are mutually supportive in the development of good reasoning skills. The materials and concepts that we will cover can help you to become a better thinker, writer, and a more effective communicator. From logical puzzles to Venn diagrams to symbolic proofs, this course is also an excellent preparation for the GRE, LSAT, or MCAT. It requires both quantitative thinking and facility with language.

**Meets university quantitative reasoning requirement.**

30047	PH211	01	3	Ethical Theory/Moral Issues	Money	MWF	1:00-1:50	10	
30133	IN250	01						15	Sophomore Standing

The first part of the course focuses on ethical theory. Our focus will be on the issue of whether a criterion for moral judgment can be identified and plausibly defended. When we judge an action to be morally right or morally wrong, what (if anything) makes such judgments correct or true? Our central readings will come from Kant's *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Mill's *Utilitarianism*, and selections from various proponents of contractarian moral theory. The remainder of the course will focus on two moral issues: (1) abortion and (2) suicide and euthanasia.

**Meets the university US Cultural Studies requirement.**

30147	PH215	01	3	Business Ethics	Roark	TR	8:00-9:15	25	
-------	-------	----	---	-----------------	-------	----	-----------	----	--

This course will critically examine the role of ethics within a business environment. We will examine both ethical relationships within a business such as employers and employee relations as well as ethical relationship between business and broader society such as business and consumer relations. The course will be structured around the following five topics: corporate social responsibility, rights and obligations of employees and employers, justice and fair practice, distributive justice, and advertising marketing and the consumer. These topics will be examined by considering both historical and contemporary texts and case studies.

30523	PH215	02	3	Business Ethics	Roark	TR	9:30-10:45	15	
30525	IN251	12						5	

This course will critically examine the role of ethics within a business environment. We will examine both ethical relationships within a business such as employers and employee relations as well as ethical relationship between business and broader society such as business and consumer relations. The course will be structured around the following five topics: corporate social responsibility, rights and obligations of employees and employers, justice and fair practice, distributive justice, and advertising marketing and the consumer. These topics will be examined by considering both historical and contemporary texts and case studies.

**Meets the university US Structural Studies requirement.**

---

30082	PH305	01	3	Philosophy of Law	Money	MWF	11:00-11:50	10	
30083	PO305	01						10	

The first unit of the course will focus on theories of constitutional interpretation within the legal system of the United States. Our primary focus will be on the theory of constitutional interpretation known as "originalism." We will read proponents as well as critics of originalism. We will consider a range of important theoretical issues, including: How should judges interpret the constitution? What role (if any) should moral principles play in their interpretation? What is the role of judges in relation to democratically elected legislatures? In "hard cases," do judges create law ("legislate from the bench") or do they work to discover the correct legal answer to the case before them?

The second unit of the course will focus on a range of general philosophical issues regarding the nature of law. Our primary focus will be on the theory of legal positivism as expressed in H.L.A. Hart's classic work, *The Concept of Law*. We will also read selections by critics of legal positivism.

The third and final unit of the course will focus on Peter Suber's fictional work, *The Case of the Speluncean Explorers*. We will use this text to continue and extend our examination of legal philosophies and theories of legal adjudication. Students will role-play as a member of the Supreme Court of Newgarth and write a judicial opinion in which they determine the fate of the defendant(s).

---

30567	PH310	01	3	Political Philosophy	Roark	TR	2:00-3:15	10	
30202	PO310	01						10	

In this course, we will examine attempts by philosophers within the Western philosophical tradition to answer the following three questions. First, what justification (if any) can be given for the existence of the state? Second, what reason is there (if any) for preferring one kind of state to another? Third, what justification is there (if any) for placing limits on the power of the state to intervene in the lives of its citizens?

**Meets the College of Arts & Sciences "historical studies" requirement.**

---

30199	PH312	01	3	Minds and Persons	Hartsock	TR	3:30-4:45	15	
-------	-------	----	---	-------------------	----------	----	-----------	----	--

In this course, we will examine the nature and relationships between minds and persons. Some central questions include: What is a person? What is the mind and what is its relationship to the brain and to the self? What is consciousness, how is it possible, and why do we have it? What makes a person at two different times one and the same person? These and other related questions may be approached from a variety of philosophical perspectives, including, historical texts, the philosophy of psychology and science, cognitive science, and contemporary philosophical work.

---

30419	PH360	01	3	Ethics of War & Peace	Roark	TBA	Online	10	
30551	IN350	13						15	Junior Standing
30421	PH260	P01						5	

This course introduces students to some of the most central theoretical issues within the topics of: war, human rights, and international law. This introduction is done primarily through the use of Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust Wars* as well as a number of supplemental texts. Walzer's book utilizes a number of historical examples in order to yield a just war theory. One very important cross-over question, of which there are many, between war and human rights that we will consider is whether or not people (or the governments of people) have a moral obligation to intervene (by waging war) when the basic human rights of others are placed in jeopardy or simply disregarded.

---

---

30528	PH366	01	1-3	Appellate Legal Reasoning-Moot Court	Money	MWF	3:00-4:50	10
30529	PO366	01						10

The course relies on a "simulation" model in which we conduct mock appellate hearings in class. Students will roll-play as attorneys and/or judges. The simulation employs the "closed case" method that is used at most moot court competitions. The closed case file will be the file that is going to be used at the Model Illinois Government Moot Court Competition, which will be held February 25 – February 28, 2021. The case file includes numerous items: a statement of the facts of the case, the rulings by the lower courts, select legal precedents, relevant federal and/or state statutory provisions, and relevant constitutional provisions. The simulation involves no research that goes beyond the materials provided in the closed case file. On the basis of this material, students complete a range of assignments designed to engage students in the central aspects of appellate legal reasoning and prepare them for the competition. While participation in the competition is not required in order to take the course, it is highly recommended. Any student wishing to take the course for three credits must participate in the competition. There are some costs associated with participation, but these are held to a minimum. Room, transportation, and some meals are provided for the students who participate. Participating students are responsible for an individual registration fee (approximately \$40) and those meals that are not provided. More information will be provided in class and is available upon request.

Note: In light of the COVID pandemic, the MIG simulation and associated moot court competition may or may not take place. If it takes place, it will likely take place remotely. If it is cancelled, we will do our best to replicate the experience on campus.

Note: This class runs in a "block format." The class starts January 25 and ends March 20.

Note: The class can be taken for 1, 2, or 3 credit hours. If a student wishes to take the course for 3 credit hours, she must participate in the moot court competition. Students wishing to take the course for 1 or 2 credit hours should meet with Dr. Money to discuss further.

---

30084	HN350	02	3	Philosophy on Personal Identity	Money	MWF	9:00-9:50	18	Honors Program
-------	-------	----	---	---------------------------------	-------	-----	-----------	----	----------------

In this course, we will utilize a range of historical and contemporary philosophical texts to facilitate engagement in critical thinking about a puzzling aspect of persons. What makes a person at two different times the same person? What is it, if anything, that makes "you" (i.e., the person who is reading this course description now) the same person as the person who began reading this description only a few moments before? What is it, if anything, that makes you now the same person as the person who enrolled at Millikin University many months ago? Depending on what is involved in the continued existence of a person over time, there are implications regarding the survival conditions for persons. For example, is it possible for "you" to survive the destruction of your physical body, including your brain? What might this even mean? There may also be implications regarding the importance of survival. Is survival of crucial importance? Or, as Derek Parfit puts it, might there be ways of dying that are about as good as ordinary survival? We will explore these and related issues over the course of the semester.