

**Contract Instructor Opportunities
Fall 2016/Winter 2017
Carleton University, Department of Philosophy**

Pursuant to Article 16 of the CUPE 4600 Unit 2 Collective Agreement, applications are invited from members of the CUPE 4600-2 bargaining unit and other interested persons to teach the following Philosophy courses during the Fall 2016 and Winter 2017 terms:

FYSM 1208 [1.0 credit]: First Year Seminar: Looking at Philosophy

This is a full year course.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the nature and practice of philosophy by looking at some of the most important problems and issues that have occupied the attention of philosophers throughout history. Typical questions might concern the existence of God, knowledge of an external world, free will and determinism, the objectivity of morality. Students will learn some of the main positions that have been taken on these issues, along with prominent arguments that have been offered for and against these different positions. The goal of the course is to stimulate students' thinking about the chosen questions and provoke them to form views about them. The objective is not merely for them to understand how philosophers and others have answered these questions, but to understand and evaluate their arguments, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, possibly trying to improve upon them. Students should be encouraged to formulate their own arguments and defend them, as far as they are able.

FYSM 1209 [1.0 credit]: First Year Seminar: Contemporary Moral, Social, and Religious Issues

This is a full year course.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the nature and practice of philosophy by looking at some important ethical and social problems and issues that are prominent in the contemporary world. Typical questions might abortion, affirmative action, racism, human rights, children's rights, world hunger, capital punishment, euthanasia, censorship, pornography, legal paternalism, animal rights and environmental protection. Students will learn some of the main positions that have been taken on these issues, along with prominent arguments that have been offered for and against these different positions. The goal of the course is to stimulate students' thinking about the chosen questions and provoke them to form views about them. The objective is not merely for them to understand how philosophers and others have answered these questions, but to understand and evaluate their arguments, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, possibly trying to improve upon them. Students should be encouraged to formulate their own arguments and defend them, as far as they are able. Students will also learn prominent moral theories that are relevant to those arguments and issues.

PHIL 1000 [0.5 credit]: Introductory Philosophy: Fields, Figures and Problems

Scheduled in both Fall and Winter semesters.

This course will introduce students to some of the main branches of philosophy, such as epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, social philosophy, and aesthetics. In each of the branches that are covered, students will learn one or more of the perennial philosophical problems in that branch (e.g. knowledge of external world, free will and determinism, the possibility of objective morality possible, the nature of social justice), and in addition, the answers and arguments given on these questions by eminent historical and/or contemporary philosophers. The goal of the course is to stimulate students' thinking about the chosen questions and provoke them to form views about them. The objective is not merely for them to understand how philosophers and others have answered these questions, but to understand and evaluate their arguments, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, possibly trying to improve upon them. Students should be encouraged to formulate their own arguments and defend them, as far as they are able.

PHIL 1200 [0.5 credit]: The Meaning of Life**Scheduled in Fall semester.**

This course is intended as an introduction to philosophical issues surrounding the enduring question of life's meaning. Through a consideration of a number of philosophical writings on the topic (particularly from 19th century, 20th century, and contemporary authors in the Western philosophical tradition), students will be familiarized with various examples of all three major approaches to life's meaning, viz. supernaturalist (including religious) approaches, naturalist approaches, and nihilist (or pessimistic) approaches. Along the way, students will be introduced to some basic aspects of expressing their own views on such a topic in the form of a philosophical essay.

PHIL 1301 [0.5 credit]: Mind, World & Knowledge**Scheduled in both the Fall and Winter semesters.**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to philosophical inquiry and argumentation applied to a number of central problems of epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of mind/language/psychology. Thus, questions concerning the nature of knowledge, minds, persons, language, and the external world will be explored. Among the issues to be considered are the following: What conditions must be satisfied, for example, if a person is to know something? How can we respond to skeptics who insist that genuine knowledge is impossible? How does the mind relate to the body and the external world? Does the mind differ from the body? How can we know that others have minds and are not complex robots? Do we know ourselves in a privileged way? What makes humans so different from primates and other "advanced" species? What does thinking consist in? Can we think without language? How do we acquire language? Do we have innate ideas/concepts or do we acquire all of them through experience? Do we need to posit a designer/creator (e.g. God) to deal with these questions? Can scientific discoveries (e.g. in neurosciences) help shape the answers to these questions? Historical and contemporary readings may be combined, but this course should prepare students to succeed in 2000-level courses in contemporary analytical philosophy of mind and contemporary analytical philosophy of language, while remaining interesting and accessible to students who will not take more philosophy.

PHIL 1550 [0.5 credit]: Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues**Scheduled in Fall semester.**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the nature and practice of ethics and social philosophy by looking at some important ethical and social problems and issues that are prominent in the contemporary world. Typical questions might be abortion, affirmative action, racism, human rights, children's rights, world hunger, capital punishment, euthanasia, censorship, pornography, legal paternalism, animal rights and environmental protection. Students will learn some of the main positions that have been taken on these issues, along with prominent arguments that have been offered for and against these different positions. The goal of the course is to stimulate students' thinking about the chosen questions and provoke them to form views about them. The objective is not merely for them to understand how philosophers and others have answered these questions, but to understand and evaluate their arguments, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, possibly trying to improve upon them. Students should be encouraged to formulate their own arguments and defend them, as far as they are able. Students will also learn prominent moral theories that are relevant to those arguments and issues.

PHIL 1610 [0.5 credit]: Great Philosophical Ideas, Part 1**Scheduled in Fall semester.**

Major figures and developments in philosophy from the early Greeks to the year 1400. Descriptive and comparative approach, providing an understanding of the place of philosophers in the history of thought. Appreciation of critical reasoning is included for comprehending philosophical developments.

PHIL 1620 [0.5 credit]: Great Philosophical Ideas, Part 2**Scheduled in Winter semester.**

Major figures and developments in philosophy after the year 1400. Descriptive and comparative approach, providing an understanding of the place of philosophers in the history of thought. Appreciation of critical reasoning is included for comprehending philosophical developments.

PHIL 2001 [0.5 credit]: Introduction to Logic
Scheduled in both Fall and Winter semesters.

An introduction to the techniques and philosophical implications of propositional and predicate logic with emphasis on translation of expressions into symbolic form, testing for logical correctness, the formulation and application of rules of inference, and the relation between logic and language. While the course will be accessible to students with non-philosophical backgrounds, the textbook and assignments will provide students with basic knowledge of propositional and predicate logic that are assumed by higher-level courses in philosophy.

PHIL 2003 [0.5 credit]: Critical Thinking
Scheduled in both Fall and Winter semesters.

This course introduces students to basic principles of informal and formal reasoning. The main objective of the course is to enhance students' capacity for critical thought in everyday life as well as in more specialized contexts. Topics explored in the course typically include: the nature and identification of arguments as reasons for belief; logical strength in deductive, inductive, and abductive arguments; common informal and formal argumentative fallacies; the method of counterexamples and other strategies for assessing the truth of argument premises; core insights from the probability calculus for estimating likelihoods; dealing with expert disagreement; and the special concerns of thinking critically about moral matters.

PHIL 2101 [0.5 credit]: History of Ethics
Scheduled for Fall semester.

This course follows the evolution of some key ideas in ethical theory, over a span of three thousand years, starting with the earliest moral frameworks to the present. By studying the major ethical works of the past, we hope to make progress with contemporary moral problems and with the refinement of our own ethical views. We shall therefore devote as much time to critical discussions that focus simultaneously on the claims of contemporary ethical theories and the claims and arguments in our primary texts (as to historical discussions). Typical questions that are still central to ethical theory, and that are addressed by the writers we will be examining, include: What is the best kind of life for humans? How should we define, and how can we attain, 'happiness' or 'well-being'? What is the significance of other people's happiness or well-being to our own? What do we owe to others? Which 'others' matter? Is moral goodness or rightness based on character, intentions, observance of rules or rights, or the consequences of one's actions? Is 'goodness' as a character trait as important as the 'goods' that are the results of actions or policies? Which results matter most to 'goodness'? In what ways can actions and intentions be 'rational'? Can moral principles be rationally justified? Do practical or moral principles reflect truths about our nature as human beings? What is the relationship between 'facts' and 'values'? Are there any universal ethical truths?

PHIL 2103 [0.5 credit]: Philosophy of Human Rights
Scheduled in Winter semester.

The content and teaching of this course will focus on the justifiability of human rights. Thus the distinction between having a human right, as a moral guarantee, and enjoying a human right (insofar as it is respected, protected and fulfilled) will be drawn, and prominent lines of argument (both historical and contemporary) for and against particular human rights or classes of human rights will be presented. These will include prominent philosophical approaches, e.g., utilitarian, Kantian, contractarian, libertarian, and basic rights approaches. Students will engage critically with these debates, considering objections to the arguments, and drawing their own conclusions as to which of the arguments stand up best to the objections, and thus which views on the contested human rights are supported by the strongest arguments. Relativism will be covered as well as pluralism, i.e. the prospect that human rights may be justifiable from within many different cultural traditions and moral perspectives. Historical and contemporary readings may be combined, but this course should prepare students to succeed in upper-level courses in contemporary social and political philosophy, while remaining interesting and accessible to students who will not take more philosophy.

PHIL 2106 [0.5 credit]: Information Ethics**Scheduled in Winter semester.**

Ethical aspects of the influence of information technology on intellectual property rights, privacy, free speech, work and society. Also included are an introduction to philosophical ethics and discussions of moral responsibilities of IT professionals, codes of professional ethics, hacker ethics, viruses and software piracy.

PHIL 2201 [0.5 credit]: Introduction to Marxist Philosophy**Scheduled in Fall semester.**

Students in this course will learn the philosophical views of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the context of their social and political views, in the aftermath of the French Revolution, and in the midst of the workers' uprisings in Europe thereafter. The theory of history developed by Marx and Engels – historical materialism, which predicted that workers' revolutions were inevitable – will be read, discussed, and analyzed. Students will also understand and discuss Marxian normative views on such topics as humanism, human goods and the nature of a 'truly human' life, democracy, inequality, and power. The goal of the course is to stimulate students' thinking about these questions and provoke them to form views about them. The objective is not merely for them to understand how Marx, Engels, and others have answered these questions, but to understand and evaluate their arguments, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, possibly trying to improve upon them. Students should be encouraged to formulate their own arguments and defend them, as far as they are able.

PHIL 2380 [0.5 credit]: Introduction to Environmental Ethics**Scheduled in Fall semester.**

This course addresses a series of questions relevant to the evaluation of environmental issues from a philosophical perspective. Why is the natural environment valuable? Does it possess value only insofar as it provides us with some instrumental good or does it have inherent worth independent of that which human beings derive from it? Should we preserve and protect the natural world for its own sake or simply for our own? How might the answers we give to these questions inform our environmental activism and our public policies? In an attempt to address these questions, the course will look at various arguments philosophers have offered regarding the natural world's value, and assess various strategies that have been proposed and pursued in the name of respecting and/or preserving our natural environment. Material for this course may be drawn from both historical and contemporary philosophy, and from both the analytic and the continental tradition. While the course will be accessible to students with non-philosophical backgrounds, its methods of evaluation will prepare students to succeed in upper level courses in ethics and social and political philosophy.

PHIL 2408 [0.5 credit]: Bioethics**Scheduled in Winter semester.**

Ethical and political issues in medicine, public health, biotechnology, and the life sciences. Topics will include some or all of the following: reproductive ethics, research on human subjects, animal research and treatment, justice and health care, physician-patient relationships, death and the end of life, and genetic engineering.

PHIL 2501 [0.5 credit]: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind**Scheduled in Fall semester.**

An introduction to major philosophical issues in the philosophy of mind. Among other topics, this course will cover the main approaches to the mind-body problem (including, dualism, physicalism, and functionalism) as well as views about the nature of consciousness, personhood, and non-human intelligence. While the course will be accessible to students with non-philosophical backgrounds, its selection of assigned readings and methods of evaluation will prepare students to succeed in upper level courses in philosophy of mind.

PHIL 2540 [0.5 credit]: Personal Identity and the Self

Scheduled in Fall semester.

This course is centred on two key aspects of persons, what it is to be one person at a time and over time, and what the self is (if selves exist). The belief that you are responsible only for what you did or caused to have done earlier, and you are entitled only to what was assigned to you or you merited earlier are central to our way of life – to the legal system, property, contracts, the educational system (think of the effort devoted to preventing plagiarism), and even interpersonal relations. Here some key questions are: What makes a person the same person over time – body, mind, conscious memory, or what? Can one person transform into a different person in a single body over time? Is there a rule, one person/one body, or can several persons inhabit a single body at a time or especially ‘taking turns’ over time (several people in one body)?

As to selves, each of us thinks of his or her self as being what (or who) s/he is. But do selves even exist or is the conscious mind all there is? If selves exist, what is a self? If selves exist, do we make them in the course of coming to have a sense of who we are and who we were, or are they independent of what we do? Is having a self necessary for being a decision-maker responsible for what s/he does?

Using both philosophical and psychological writings, we will explore issues such as these in this course. The objective is not merely to read what philosophers and others have written about them, but to understand and evaluate their arguments, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, possibly trying to improve upon them. Some time may also be devoted to the closely related question of what is going on in the self/mind when someone has what we call a mental illness. Is what is called mental illness even an illness? A further closely related issue that may be explored is the issue of immortality, i.e., can we continue to exist as ourselves beyond the death of our body?

PHIL 2550 [0.5 credit]: Moral Psychology

Scheduled in Winter semester.

Moral psychology is the study of how psychological factors such as emotions and reasoning enter into making decisions about moral questions, question such as, ‘What should I do in this situation’, ‘Was what person X did right?’, ‘Is social policy (private practice) Y fair and just?’, ‘When the government did W, was that the best thing to do?’ Everyone agrees that psychological factors play a role when we choose answers to such questions but there is great disagreement about what that role is. And what it should be.

A philosophical course on moral psychology makes heavy use of what experimental psychology has learned about how psychological factors do in fact enter into moral decision-making but it goes beyond how these factors in fact work in two important ways. First, a philosophical course looks at conceptual issues: ‘What, exactly, is an emotion?’ ‘What kind of reasoning is relevant to making decisions about moral questions?’ Second, a philosophical course looks at normative (‘ought’) questions.

Ought questions about moral decision-making take two forms: First, how, if at all, should emotions enter into making decisions about moral issues (here views range all the way from ‘not at all, emotions just get in the way of making good decisions’ (Kant) to ‘entirely; what other basis for making moral decisions could there be?’ (Hume)). And if emotions and/or rationality should enter into moral decision-making in some way, what emotions, in what way, and what form of rational thinking, in what way? Second (and closely related), what factors maximize the chances of making good moral decisions? We all know that some emotions lead to extremely bad moral decisions, extremist, racist, irrational emotions about certain religions or groups of people for example. But how would we make moral decisions if we want to maximize the chances of us making good ones?

Among the questions to be discussed: What is an emotion?, What is it to be motivated?, What do Rationalists and what do Sentimentalists say about how moral decisions are and should be made?, Is empathy necessary for making sound moral decisions?, What role do and should the various virtues play in moral decision-making?, Altruism: is it possible?, and, How might morality have evolved?

The objective of the course is not just to read what philosophers and psychologists have written about moral psychology, but to understand and evaluate the evidence and arguments that they offer, recognizing strengths and weaknesses and augmenting evidence and especially argument where possible.

PHIL 3320 [0.5 credit]: Contemporary Ethical Theory

Scheduled in Winter semester.

Topics will include utilitarianism, consequentialism, virtue and deontology, and may also include libertarianism, communitarianism, egoism, neo-Kantianism, social contract ethics, feminist ethics, and moral rights, as well as various meta-ethical perspectives such as realism, relativism, expressivism and nihilism.

PHIL 3350 [0.5 credit]: Philosophy, Ethics, and Public Affairs

Scheduled in Fall semester.

The Calendar description for this course calls for it to be taught in one of three ways. (a) It could focus on a single philosopher who has been highly influential on contemporary social and political philosophy. (b) It could focus on a particular theory, set of theories, or school of thought that has been similarly influential. (c) It could take up a policy issue or related set of policy issues that deserve great attention in political philosophy or applied ethics. Instructors should design the course to ensure that topics are sufficiently coherent and important in contemporary social and political philosophy, applied ethics, and/or normatively informed policy discussion. Contract instructors are invited to discuss their designs with permanent Philosophy faculty or the Chair. The goal of the course is to stimulate students' thinking about the chosen questions and provoke them to form views about them. The objective is not merely for them to understand how philosophers and others have answered these questions, but to understand and evaluate their arguments, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, possibly trying to improve upon them. Students should be encouraged to formulate their own arguments and defend them, as far as they are able.

PHIL 4100/5000 [0.5 credit] (Special Topic): Animal Ethics

Scheduled for Fall semester.

This seminar will explore contemporary normative work on the relationships between human and nonhuman (particularly, domesticated) animals, with a view to enhancing our understanding of what it means to flourish in a just interspecies community. Particular topics to be discussed include (but are not limited to) the nature and aims of pet ownership, the consumption of meat and animal products, varieties of appropriate human-animal relationships, permissible interventions in the lives of domesticated animals, and the main normative models of response to the special vulnerabilities and social capacities of domesticated animals.

Application Procedures and Deadlines:

Required Professional Qualifications: MA Degree in the appropriate field.

Closing Date: Monday, April 11, 2016, 12:00 pm.

All applicants must apply to the Department Head in writing and in relation to each course for which they wish to be considered:

Professor David Matheson
Chair, Department of Philosophy
Carleton University
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As per Article 15.3 of the current CUPE 4600 Unit 2 Collective Agreement, applicants are required to submit an up to date CV, including a complete listing of all courses taught within the CUPE 4600 Unit 2 bargaining unit at Carleton University. Candidates who have already contacted the department and submitted a CV recently need only indicate their interest in particular courses. NOTE that when applying to classes for which they have incumbency, applicants shall not be required to (re)submit documentation beyond their updated CV.

Pre-Posting Hiring Decisions:

The following courses have been assigned to graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, or visiting scholars. These courses are not open for applications but the department will contact the most senior incumbent to review their rights under Article 17.6 of the CUPE 4600-2 Collective Agreement:

- N/A for the 2016/17 academic year