

# Philosophy & Religious Studies

*Course Listings*

*Summer & Fall 2020*



**UA**  
**LR** | DEPARTMENT OF  
PHILOSOPHY AND  
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

## Summer 2020 Courses

All Summer 2020 courses will be offered online.  
Consult **Class Search** for section numbers and CRNs.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Term (May 26–June 29):

**Intro to Critical Thinking – PHIL 1330**  
Prof. Joseph Spino

**Ethics and Society – PHIL 2320**  
Prof. Robinson

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Term (July 6–August 7):

**Ethics and Society – PHIL 2320**  
Prof. Thomas

**World Religions – RELS 2305**  
Prof. Hale

**Social & Political Philosophy – PHIL 3346**  
Prof. McAuliffe

Social political philosophy is the philosophy of power: how it works, who can wield it, and how it transforms social life. This course will consist in a philosophical investigation of how social-political power was theorized in Liberal Democratic theory and how power is transforming in the transition into contemporary forms of Neoliberalism. As race, class, gender, and sexuality have always been crucial sites for the enactment of social and political power, our discussion will take care to prioritize the role that domination and privilege have played in the development of modern societies. We will have the opportunity to look at urgent political questions not from the perspective of partisan politics but through an investigation into the origin, development, and critique of some of modernity's most essential concepts: persons and states, freedom and rights, labor and property, and life and death.

**Fulfills Philosophy major area: Moral/Political**

*Summer course offerings may change subject to availability of instructors and expected enrollment; check the Schedule of Classes online or ask your advisor for the most up-to-date information.*

## Fall 2020 Introductory Courses:

### The Philosophical Life — PHIL 1310

Prof. McAuliffe — MWF 10:00-10:50 (CRN: 61178)

This course is a survey of basic themes in philosophy, addressing such fundamental concerns as the nature of morality and beauty, the relation of mind and body, and the existence of free will, through discussion and analysis of readings.

**Required for the Philosophy Major and Minor**

**Now fulfills Core Curriculum requirement: Humanities**

### Ethics and Society — PHIL 2320

Multiple Sections On-Campus and Online,  
see Class Search for details

This course features a study of selected texts reflecting a variety of ethical systems—with at least one major text from each of four historical periods. Ethical theories examined will include: deontology, utilitarianism, and virtue theory.

**Fulfills Core Curriculum requirement: Humanities**

### Introduction to Logic — PHIL 2350

Prof. Thomas — MW 12:15-1:30 (CRN: 63130)

An introduction to deductive logic, including translation of sentences into formal systems, immediate inferences, syllogisms, formal fallacies, proofs of validity, and quantification.

**Includes LSAT prep unit**

### World Religions — RELS 2305

Prof. Taylor — WEB (CRN 61377 / UALR Online: 62231)

This course examines the beliefs, practices, histories, and selected sacred texts of major Eastern and Western religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It emphasizes themes that reflect common values across different religious perspectives while acknowledging key differences.

**Fulfills Core Curriculum requirement: Humanities**

## Fall 2020 Upper-level Courses:

### Medical Ethics — PHIL 3335

Prof. Watson — WEB (CRN: 64047 / UALR Online: 64048)

In this course, we will focus on thinking critically about ethical challenges that arise in medicine. The course is organized around the three areas of medical procedures and decision-making, medical research, and medical resources. We will consider ethical challenges surrounding specific types of medical decisions, such as genetic testing, decisions to withdraw or withhold medical treatment, decision-making with undocumented patients, and medical decisions for children; we will consider ethical challenges for medical research, like privacy, informed consent, and the moral challenges of international clinical trials; and we will consider ethical challenges connected to public health and scarce medical resources, like organ transplantation, triage, and disability. Special emphasis will be placed on the relationship between ethical theory and policies (both public and private) governing medical practice.

**Philosophy Major: counts toward Moral/Political area**

### Ancient Greek Philosophy — PHIL 3345

Prof. Robinson — WEB (CRN: 64050 / UALR Online: 64051)

“Ancient Greek Philosophy” refers to both a historical period and an early part of the development of the Western philosophical tradition. In this course, we will consider the work of some of the Pre-Socratics, of Plato, of Aristotle, and of some of their immediate successors. This period of philosophical development saw the Western beginnings of now well-established branches of thought, including metaphysics, ethics, and aesthetics. The assertions of these ancient thinkers have shaped modern-day understandings of morality, politics, and conceptions of the soul, to name only a few. The ancient Greeks investigated the character of human knowledge, questioning its source and scope, the connection between knowledge and the emotions, and the very nature of reality. Our approach will aim at gaining a working knowledge of key themes in Ancient Greek Philosophy and thus a strong foundation for further intellectual inquiry.

**Philosophy Major: counts toward History of Philosophy area**

**Ethics Bowl — PHIL 3386****Prof. Norton — Day/Time TBD (CRN: 62816)**

This course is an upper-level applied ethics course taught with a focus on specific case studies created by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics for the regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. Students will have the opportunity to engage with ethical problems on a wide range of topics (past examples include euthanasia laws, student loan forgiveness, gun control, environmental policy, workplace conduct, and more).

Work on the case studies will allow students to improve not only their research and writing abilities, but their oral communication and teamwork skills as well. Much of the course will involve structured, in-class debate. While the course will prepare students for the Ethics Bowl competition, participation on the Ethics Bowl Team is not required—*but it is encouraged!*

For more information about the Ethics Bowl Team, visit:  
<http://ualr.edu/philosophy/orgs/ethics-bowl/>

For more information about the structure, rules, and guidelines of Ethics Bowl competitions, as well as cases from past years, visit:  
[appe-ethics.org/ethics-bowl/](http://appe-ethics.org/ethics-bowl/)

**Contact Dr. Norton (mbnorton@ualr.edu) prior to registering****Religion, Society, and Culture — RELS 4321****Prof. Hale — TR 10:50-12:05 (CRN: 63071)**

This course deals with the anthropology of religion, so we will read and discuss material dealing with religion from an anthropological perspective. The articles we read will focus on religion as it is practiced, rather than abstract or idealized ideas about religion. Topics will include myth, ritual, shamanism, altered states of consciousness, healing, witchcraft, and sorcery. The class will be conducted mainly through discussions. Insights from various backgrounds and fields of study are encouraged.

**Cross-listed as ANTH 4321 and SOCI 4321****Philosophy of Race — PHIL 4373****Prof. McAuliffe — MW 1:40-2:55 (CRN: 64053)**

The meaning of race seems to change daily as national conversations confront which inequalities and violence are effects of racial injustice. This course will help us understand how we got here, by exploring the conceptual history of racial categorization in the U.S. We will engage the philosophy of race in order to (1) understand how race is a socially constructed, political category and (2) examine decolonization and abolition as ongoing political struggles. Readings and discussion will emphasize the ways that race, gender, sexuality, class, and nationality affect each other. Engaging with the philosophy of race will help us anticipate how up to the minute changes in the social world will affect the future of social justice in the U.S.

**Dual-listed for Graduate credit: PHIL 5373 (CRN: 64054)****Psychology of Religion — RELS 3363****Prof. Jones — WEB (CRN: 61872 | UALR Online: 62532)**

Understanding religious behavior and experience has long been an interest in psychological research. Religion, however, has proven to be a difficult area for traditional scientific approaches and research given the seemingly unique place and scope that it has in our lives. This course will seek to examine various psychological perspectives on religion with particular focus on the varieties of religious experience, the nature of religious belief, psychological interpretations of religious experiences and practices, the findings of neuroscience with regards to religious phenomena, and the role of religion via its intersection and application in counseling.

**Cross-listed as PSYC 3363**