

PHILOSOPHY

Spring 2022 Courses

PHIL 3310: Theories of Knowledge

How do we answer the skeptic's claim that we do not really know anything?
Does it matter?
How should we define knowledge?
When is it appropriate to claim that we really **know** something?
Is knowledge valuable in and of itself, or are our knowledge claims simply a means of maintaining and asserting our beliefs?
Is the scientific method our best (and perhaps only) means of gaining knowledge?
Is there such a thing as the truth?

In this course, we will look at four dominant accounts of knowledge (coherence, foundation, naturalized, and reliabilist theories) as well as some alternative views. We will also assess various attempts to redefine the nature and limits of knowledge and rational choice, and what we mean by natural and artificial intelligence.
Prof. Thomas – Online, no virtual meetings

PHIL 4333: Feminist Theory

This course will engage with some of feminist theory's most fundamental and most recent texts to think critically and deeply about how gender works. Beginning from the perspective that gender is both social and political, we will explore the ways that normative power conditions how one comes to experience gender. We will pay close attention to the work of feminists of color, queer feminists, and trans feminists, as the history of feminist thought teaches us that it is crucial to centralize the experiences of those most marginalized by the power dynamics we explore. We will also think carefully about theory in general: what it is, how best to read it, what it is for, and what its relationship is or should be to political actions. The complex set of themes, methods, and ideas that constitute Feminist Theory can help each of us deepen our understanding of how history and power impact our society, our communities, and ourselves.
Prof. McAuliffe – Tu/Th 10:50-12:05

Graduate section available: PHIL 5333

PHIL 3322: Contemporary Philosophy

Some of the most exciting and original work in contemporary philosophy has been done in France in the period beginning roughly in 1890 and continuing up to the present. The contemporary French philosopher Alain Badiou has claimed that there is a unity to much of this work constituting what he calls both the 'programme' and the 'adventure' of French philosophy. Badiou suggests that the adventure of this philosophy lies in an exchange or dialectic between a philosophy of life on the one hand and a philosophy of the concept on the other. In this course we will explore this claim by looking at how a range of French thinkers tackle some of the central topics of philosophy. With significant and creative contributions being made to our understanding of time, perception, free will, power, subjectivity, difference and language we will read texts by Bergson, Sartre, Foucault, Merleau-Ponty, Derrida and Deleuze.
Prof. Robinson – Mon/Wed 1:40-2:55

UA Little Rock

PHILOSOPHY

and Religion

Spring 2022 Courses

PHIL 1310: The Philosophical Life

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.

Prof. Atkins – Online, no virtual meetings

Core Curriculum: Humanities

PHIL 1330: Intro to Critical Thinking

This course introduces students to basic skills and methods for critical reasoning and analysis of arguments. It focuses on the recognition of informal fallacies; the nature, use, and evaluation of arguments in ordinary language; and the characteristics of deduction and induction.

Prof. Jauss – Online, no virtual meetings

PHIL 2320: Ethics & Society

also available: PHIL 2321

Ethics & Society—Professional Applications

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 may include: deontology, utilitarianism, and virtue theory.

Multiple sections, multiple modalities
—consult Class Schedule for details

Core Curriculum: Humanities

RELS 2305: World Religions

This course examines the global patterns of contemporary world religions as symbol systems and expressions of discrete, coherent world views. It focuses on the particular histories, practices, and beliefs of major world religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Prof. Hale – Online, no virtual meetings

RELS 3300: Theories of Religion

This course will examine a variety of theoretical approaches and methods—from both the past and the present—used in the study of religions. How has “religion” been defined historically? How can we define its boundaries today? Is religion primarily about answering the ultimate questions in life, providing a guide

for how to live a good life, providing an organizational structure for society, or something else? We will cover different basic methodical perspectives used in the study of religion—“insider” vs. “outsider”, “substantive” vs. “functional”, “interpretive” vs.

“explanatory”, etc.—and discuss their various advantages and disadvantages in scholarly contexts. We will also pay special attention throughout the course to the ways in which factors such as race, gender, politics, and socioeconomics have shaped thinking about religion and religious beliefs, traditions, practices, and communities.

Prof. Taylor – Online, no virtual meetings

Required for the Religious Studies Minor

RELS 3363: Psychology of Religion

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.

Prof. Jones – Online, no virtual meetings

Cross-listed as PSYC 3363

For more information: philosophy@ualr.edu