

PHILOSOPHY

Spring 2023 Courses

(Upper level PHIL courses have no mandatory prerequisites, but 3 hours of lower level PHIL is recommended)

PHIL 3312: Science & Culture

Our culture today is inundated with discussions of “science.” Many matters of ethics or public policy depends upon a scientific claim. But these claims often, themselves, ultimately depend upon some philosophical view about the nature of science itself.

In this course we will examine a variety of difficult and controversial philosophical questions about the nature and scope of scientific inquiry, including but not limited to: “Is Reiki a science? Is string theory a science?”, “Can science provide ‘objective’ knowledge of reality?”, “What kinds of ethical values can we use in science, if any?”, “What are ‘laws of nature’?”, and many others.

General topics will include:

i) the demarcation problem, ii) scientific methodology, iii) the problem of induction, iv) scientific realism vs. anti-realism, v) scientific explanation, vi) laws of nature, and vii) science and values.

Prof. Fritts – Mon/Wed 1:40-2:55



PHIL 3347: Philosophy of Law

We live our lives in the context of laws; law may even have a hold on us before we are born and after we die. But why?

This course offers students an opportunity to think critically about law as a powerful social force. We will begin by philosophically exploring the purpose of law and its relationship to justice and social order. We will then explore the historical and political effects of law in terms of both their intended and unintended consequences.

Each student will develop an original critical analysis of a particular law that determines how and whether that law fulfills the purpose of law. This course thus uses the historical development of law as an opportunity to ask urgent contemporary questions about the meaning of freedom and justice in the 21st century.

Prof. McAuliffe – Online, no virtual meetings

PHIL 3350: Eastern Thought

This course will explore some of the most significant concepts and problems in the history of Indian, Chinese, and Japanese cultures. We’ll look at themes such as the nature of reality, selfhood, and ethics, and explore some concepts that may already be familiar to Western audiences (like karma, nirvana, and mindfulness) as well as some that aren’t so familiar. Along the way we’ll also delve into the religious beliefs, histories, and philosophical schools of traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. In addition, we’ll critically interrogate the definitions and boundaries of categories such as “spirituality,” “religion,” and “philosophy” – and particularly “Western” and “Eastern.”

Prof. Norton – Tues/Thur 10:50-12:05

Cross-listed as RELS 3350

UA Little Rock

PHILOSOPHY

and Religion

Spring 2023 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. McAuliffe – 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. Robinson – Tues/Thur 12:15-1:30

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

Core Curriculum: Humanities

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



**SCHOOL OF
HUMAN INQUIRY**

For more information: philosophy@ualr.edu