



Colorado College
Philosophy Department

2025-26
PHILOSOPHY
COURSES



Philosophy Courses by Block

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SENIOR COLLOQUIUM

Instructors: Marion Hourdequin and Juan Carlos González
BLOCKS 1-8



Who is this for?

- Majors and minors in Philosophy and History-Philosophy; may be repeated
- Students interested in exploring contemporary philosophical work
- Students eager to engage with visiting philosophical scholars
- Majors and minors willing to commit to attending the whole Colloquium lecture series and participating in a year-long adjunct course

Skills you'll develop:

- An ability to read critically philosophical texts on a wide range of topics
- Discussing and engaging with visiting scholars presenting sophisticated works

PHILOSOPHY AS A WAY OF LIFE

Instructor: Jonathan Lee

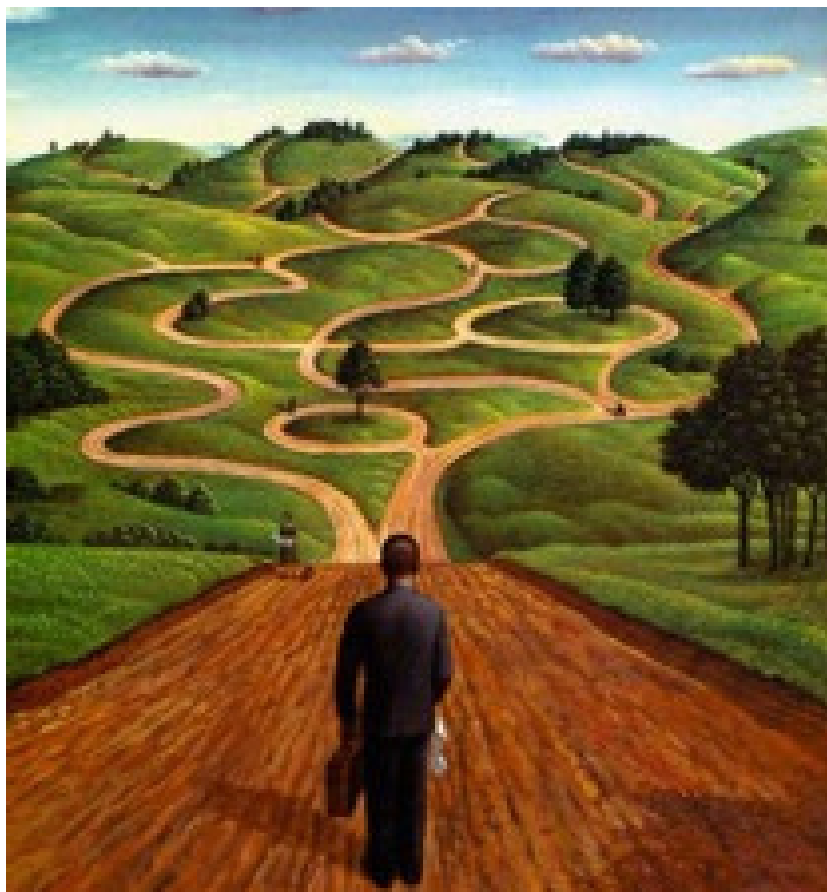
BLOCK 1

Who is this for?

- First-year students assigned by the First Year Program (FYP) - not open to regular enrollment
- FYP students transitioning to College life
- People interesting in exploring how thinkers across time and space have engaged with the challenging of living meaningfully

Skills you'll develop:

- An ability to read and reflect on challenging works
- An appreciation for the diversity and possibilities of human life
- Writing clearly
- Discussing complex and controversial ideas respectfully



TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: MAD WORLD: PSYCHOANALYSIS AND SOCIETY

BLOCK 1

Instructor: Cara Greene

Who is this for?

- People who feel like today's world is crazy-making
- People concerned about the mental health crisis
- People interested in learning more about psychological phenomena like depression, anxiety, aggression, 'groupthink', trauma, identification and projection on individual and collective levels
- People curious about the psychological dimensions of racism, nationalism, fascism, misogyny, transphobia, and consumerism
- People curious about why individuals act against their own interests
- Students interested in psychoanalysis, psychology, sociology, political theory, critical theory, and media studies
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Self knowledge
- Argumentation and writing
- Critical media analysis
- Oral communication
- Close reading and interpretation



EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 1

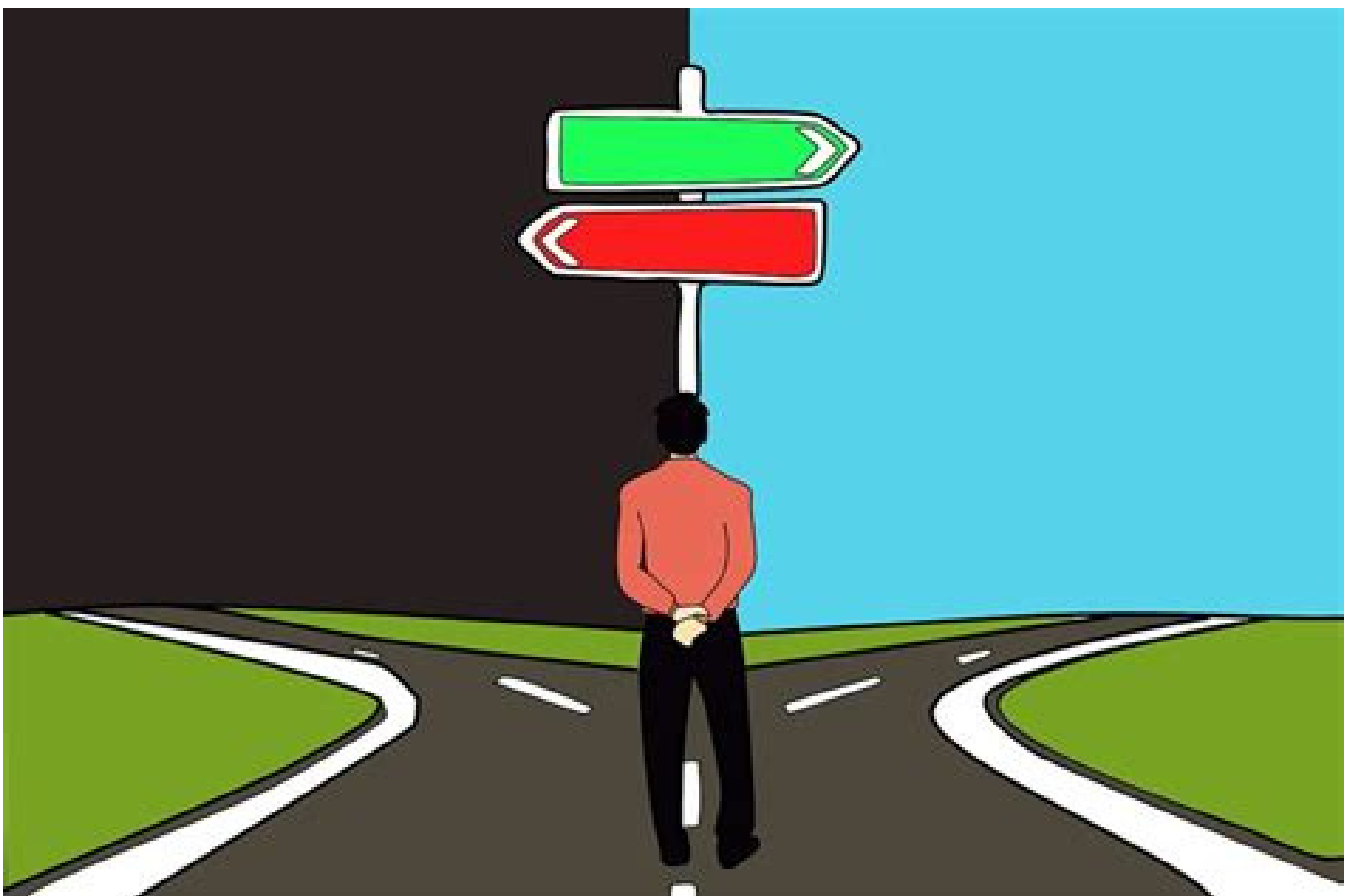
Instructor: John Riker

Who is this for?

- All students interested in understanding who we humans are
- Students interested in critiques of modern western culture

Skills you'll develop:

- Abilities to read and analyze difficult texts
- Abilities to think critically about important concepts about human life
- Abilities to write with rigor and conceptual complexity



PHILOSOPHY AND RACE

BLOCK 1

Instructor: Juan Carlos González

Who is this for?

- People who wonder what race is and what it means
- People who wonder what racism is, its impact on us, and how to combat it
- People who wonder about racial identities, their role, and impact on our lives
- People interested in social justice
- Students curious about philosophy and how philosophy can be applied to contemporary discussions of race and racism beyond college
- First-years are welcome!



Skills you'll develop:

- Critical thinking
- Critical reading
- Effective communication on sensitive topics
- Analytic writing
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Navigating disagreement toward common goals

HISTORY- PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR: ATLANTIC ENLIGHTENMENT

Cross-listed with History

BLOCK 1

Instructors: Dennis McEnnerney and Bryan Rommel-Ruiz

Who is this for?

- Open to all students, though one course in history or philosophy is recommended; may be repeated for credit if the topic differs
- History-Philosophy majors needing to one block of PH350/HY350 for the major
- All students open to exploring the positive and negative aspects of the Enlightenment
- Students interested in how to do philosophy historically and history philosophically
- People curious about how colonialism and imperialism affected the development of Western modernity, and vice versa
- Students who want to learn about the Haitian Revolution and other forms of anti-colonial resistance
- People curious about how notions of human rights and enlightened reason have both shaped and been shaped by the agency of colonized and enslaved peoples
- Students interested in learning about the French Revolution and the evolution of the public sphere – both within Europe and in the broader Atlantic world

Skills you'll develop:

- Critical thinking
- Oral and written communication
- Analysis of texts
- Interpretation of texts



HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

BLOCK 2

Instructor: Marion Hourdequin



Who is this for?

- First-year students assigned by First-Year Program (FYP) - not open to regular enrollment
- FYP students developing their writing skills
- People interested in exploring the natural and biological relations of humans and animals

Skills you'll develop:

- Clear, effective writing
- An ability to draft and revise essays and other forms of writing
- Developing ideas and critiquing your and others' writing

PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENT AND WRITING

BLOCK 2

Instructor: Cody Gomez



Who is this for?

- First-year students assigned by First-Year Program (FYP) - not open to regular enrollment
- People who want to improve their writing and reasoning skills
- People who like to read and discuss well-written essays on interesting subjects
- People who want to develop their own opinions
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try

Skills you'll develop:

- Logical reasoning
- Analytic writing
- Revising and editing
- Collaboration
- Critical reading

TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: PRAGMATIST CHALLENGES

BLOCK 2

Instructor: Dennis McEnnerney



Who is this for?

- All students curious about philosophy – a great course for both students new to philosophy and more advanced majors
- People interested in how American experiences have challenged traditional European approaches to understanding life
- Students interested in bringing together social experimenting and philosophical reflection to create human meaning
- People interested in recovering the forgotten philosophical innovations of Progressive Era African American and women community leaders
- Students who want to investigate the potentials of democratic practice in eras marked by conflict and stagnation

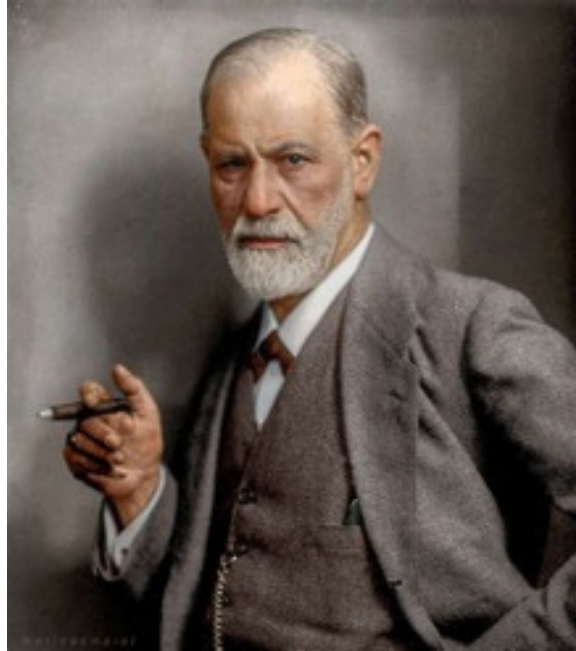
Skills you'll develop:

- Learning how social context illuminates and transforms thought
- Grasping ways to challenge the stultifying conformist tendencies of modernity
- Reading texts critically and writing clearly
- How to make sense of some of key problems of modern life

SIGMUND FREUD

BLOCK 2

Instructor: Rick Furtak



Who is this for?

- People curious about Freud and the evolution of his thought and practice
- Students interested in learning about philosophical psychology – a great first course!
- Anyone open to exploring the unconscious and psychosexual dimensions of life
- Students exploring the unseen yet felt aspects of modern cultures

Skills you'll develop:

- A nuanced understanding of human psychology
- An ability to read and critique challenging texts
- Writing about complex, meaningful problems of living

FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES

BLOCK 2

Instructor: Cara Greene



Who is this for?

- People interested in traditional, critical, intersectional, psychoanalytical, and decolonial-feminist thought
- People interested in how women are represented in visual art, film, and TV
- People who want to talk to visual artists, comedians, and filmmakers about gender and their creative processes
- People who want to learn about gender and gender-based oppression through the lens of philosophy
- Students interested in women and gender studies, media studies, sociology, and politics
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Close reading and interpretation
- Self-knowledge
- Argumentation and writing
- Critical media analysis
- Oral communication

METAPHYSICS

BLOCK 2

Instructor: Helen Daly



Body

Who is this for?

- People who wonder about big questions like: What is real? What am I? What are space, time, and freedom?
- People who feel like their other classes don't get down to the fundamental questions we all need to answer
- Prerequisite: at least one unit in Philosophy or consent of instructor

Skills you'll develop:

- Reading and evaluating complex arguments
- Developing and justifying your perspective on major philosophical questions
- Writing, revising, and presenting a philosophical argument of your own

GREEK PHILOSOPHY

Cross-listed with Classics

BLOCK 3

Instructor: Jonathan Lee



Who is this for?

- Anyone interested in the origins of what has come to be called “philosophy” in the Western tradition
- Anyone curious about the questions and texts that have shaped philosophical inquiry in the European tradition for 2500 years
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you’ll develop:

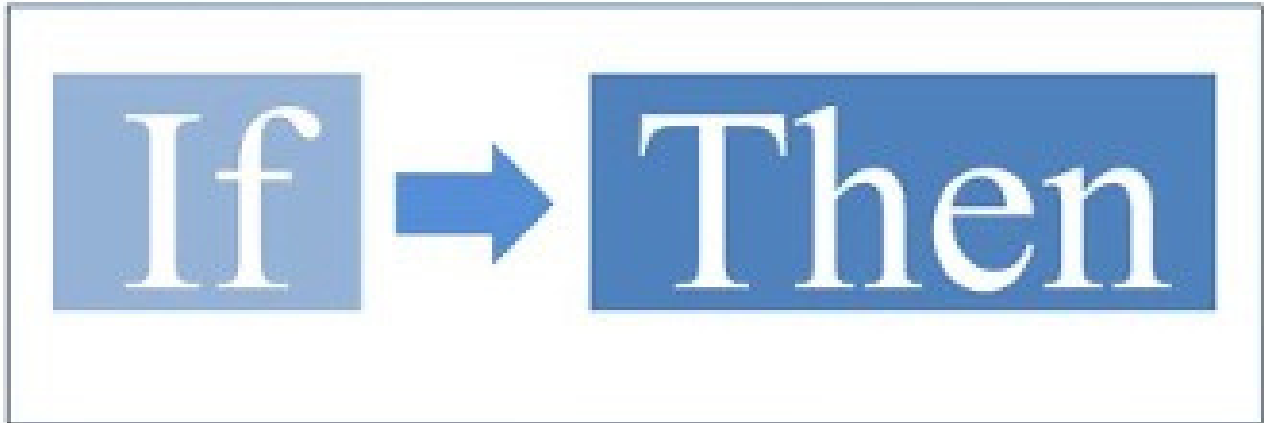
- Critical thinking
- Oral and written communication
- Analysis of texts
- Interpretation of texts



FORMAL LOGIC

BLOCK 3

Instructor: Helen Daly



Who is this for?

- People who would like to improve their ability to understand and create arguments
- People who enjoy puzzles
- People curious about the foundations of human reason
- No experience necessary—all are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Argument analysis
- Recognizing complex patterns
- Managing information
- Logical thinking

CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOANALYSIS

BLOCK 3

Instructors: John Riker and Marcia Dobson



Who is this for?

- Students who have at least one unit of Philosophy or consent of the instructors
- All students who want to explore concepts and practices for achieving self-knowledge and knowledge of how the human psyche works, how it can fall into dysfunctionality, and how it can alleviate its fragmentations.
- Any student who would like to engage with a number of contemporary psychoanalysts

Skills you'll develop:

- Abilities to understand in depth the human mind
- Abilities to read important texts and recent articles about how psychopathology develops and how it can be alleviated
- Abilities to write about complex concepts

PHILOSOPHY OF EMOTIONS

BLOCK 3

Instructor: Rick Furtak

Who is this for?

- Students who have completed at least one unit in Philosophy
- Anyone interested in understanding the better meaning of emotions
- People open to recognizing the ways emotions as productive of knowledge



Skills you'll develop:

- An ability to read and write about complex text and challenging problems
- Reflecting thinking about the role of emotions in our collective and personal lives
- Discussing sensitive issue with others in thoughtful and considerate ways

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

BLOCK 4

Instructor: Cara Greene

Who is this for?

- People interested in human relations with plants, animals, and the environment, and who want tools for understanding and explaining the value of the natural world
- People who want to think about the climate crisis and environmental issues from a philosophical perspective
- People interested in developing an intimate relationship with place and community (both human and non-human)
- People interested in Indigenous environmental thought
- People engaged in environmental activism and action
- People who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try – first years are welcome!
- People who like experiential learning
- People who want to understand theoretical frameworks about human relations with one another and the broader world

Skills you'll develop:

- Argumentation and writing
- Critical thinking
- Close reading
- Self-knowledge
- Storytelling and oral communication
- A richer sense of your own environmental ethical views and a greater capacity to articulate and discuss them



LATIN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 4

Instructor: Juan Carlos González

Who is this for?

- People interested in studying historically overlooked philosophers and philosophical traditions, including Indigenous philosophies
- People interested in learning about how concrete political, social, and historical circumstances shape philosophy (and vice versa)
- People interested in enduring issues in social and political philosophy
- People interested in the philosophy of social identity
- People interested in metaphilosophy and what goes into defining a philosophical tradition

Skills you'll develop:

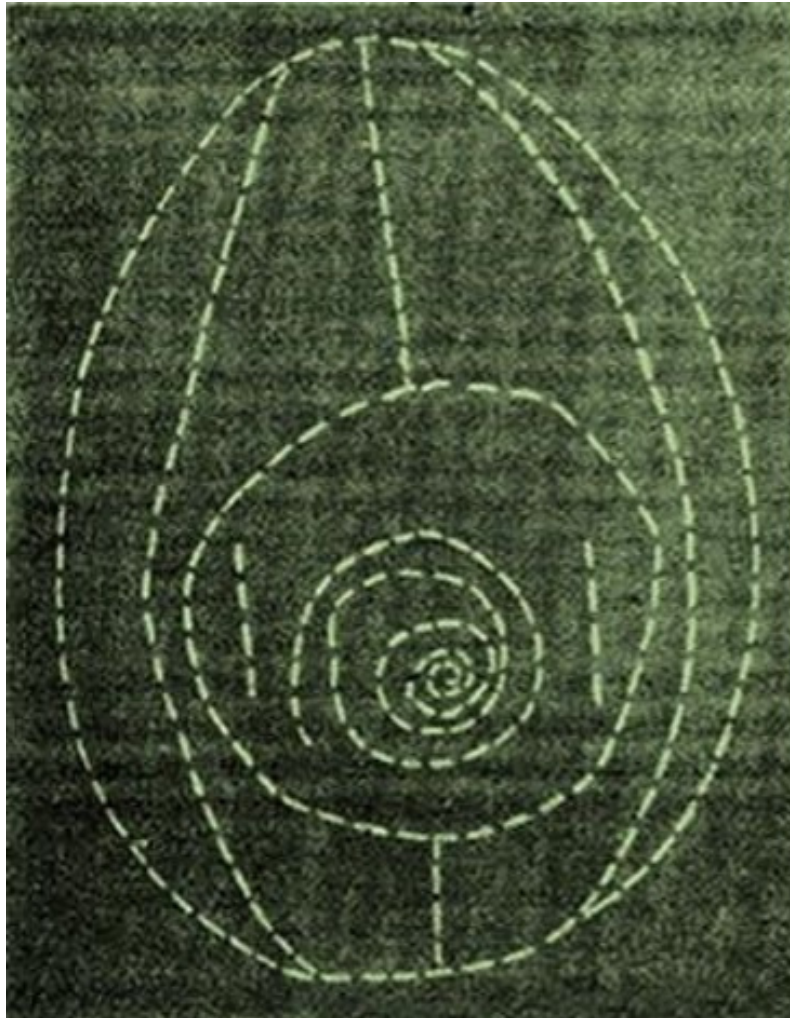
- Critical thinking
- Articulating complex thoughts orally and in writing
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Navigating disagreement toward common goals



**TEXT SEMINAR:
DELEUZE AND GUATTARI,
*A THOUSAND PLATEAUS***

BLOCK 4

Instructor: Jonathan Lee



Who is this for?

- Students who have taken at least one prior course in philosophy
- Anyone interested in contemporary European thought
- Anyone interested in alternative philosophical methodologies

Skills you'll develop:

- Critical thinking
- Oral and written communication
- Analysis of texts
- Interpretation of texts

TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: THE MEANING OF LIFE

BLOCK 5

Instructor: Rick Furtak



Who is this for?

- People seeking meaning in our complex world
- Students interested in the most basic philosophical problems of living
- Anyone seeking philosophical reflection – a great introduction to philosophy

Skills you'll develop:

- An ability to read and reflect on complex works and challenging situations
- How to write clearly and thoughtfully

TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: PSYCHOANALYSIS, SELF, AND CREATIVITY

BLOCK 5

Instructor: JP Rosensweig

Who is this for?

- Students who want to understand what it is to live an authentic life, and what blockages to such a life might be
- Students interested in creativity and the role it can play in our lives
- Students who want to discover how unconscious motivations can influence human lives
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Reading and comprehending difficult texts
- Learning to think and inquire philosophically
- Writing about complex ideas with clarity
- Better understanding oneself and others



CLASSICAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

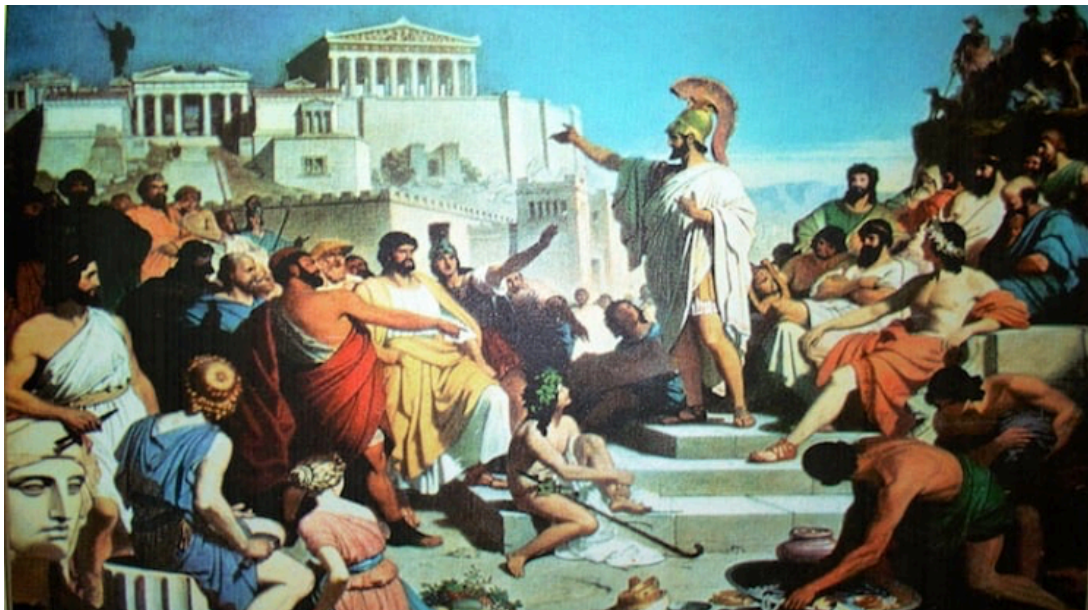
Cross-listed with Classics

BLOCK 5

Instructor: Dennis McEnnerney

Who is this for?

- People curious about the fundamental questions about life, nature, and power raised by Plato and Aristotle
- Students interested in exploring whether thought can contest brute power
- Students interested in pre-modern forms of politics and their implications for the contemporary world
- Anyone curious about philosophy and its origins as a discrete activity – first-year students welcome!



Skills you'll develop:

- Reading and interpreting complex and engaging texts
- Understanding how different historical circumstances shape norms and expectations – then and now
- Writing that connects both personal understanding and worldly concerns
- Recognizing and critiquing recurring patterns in personal, social, and political life

INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 5

Instructor: Jonathan Lee

Who is this for?

- People curious about questions that have puzzled Indian philosophers for 2000 years
- People interested in studying Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism philosophically
- People interested in non-Western philosophy, the history of philosophy, metaphysics, and/or philosophy of language
- People who see philosophy as a way of life
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Argumentation & writing
- Communication
- Close reading
- Mindfulness



MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 6

Instructor: Juan Carlos González

Who is this for?

- People interested in learning about the historical roots of philosophical issues, claims, and arguments that continue to vex philosophers today
- People interested in the question of whether God exists and what arguments can be offered for and against God's existence
- People interested in the question of whether we are free and what arguments can be offered for and against this claim
- People interested in the history and philosophy of sciences such as physics, biology, and psychology and the development of important scientific concepts like causality, force, and natural laws
- People interested in the question of whether (and how) scientific knowledge and religious faith can be compatible

Skills you'll develop:

- Critical thinking
- Articulating complex thoughts orally and in writing
- Analysis and interpretation of texts
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Navigating disagreement toward common goals



AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 6

Instructor: John Riker



Who is this for?

- Anyone who thinks philosophy should apply to real life
- People who want to deepen their relation to nature
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Read and comprehend difficult texts
- Think about and connect complex concepts
- Write about complex ideas with clarity and rigor

PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS OF IDENTITY

BLOCK 6

Instructor: Cody Gomez

Who is this for?

- Anyone curious about the role of social identities and in who we are as individuals or as a society
- People interested in politics and social justice
- People who wonder about their own identity, its sources, and how it comes to be
- Students curious about philosophy and how philosophy can be applied to contemporary discussions of identity beyond the classroom - first-years are welcome!



Skills you'll develop:

- Critical thinking
- Critical reading
- Introspection and communication
- Analytic writing
- Oral presentation
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Navigating diversity of experiences towards common goals

ADVANCED TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: TECHNO-NATURES

BLOCK 6

Instructor: Marion Hourdequin



Who is this for?

- Students who have taken at least one unit in Philosophy
- Anyone interested in how technology shapes humans and their relations with the environment
- People interested in ethical issues associated with emerging technologies - and the potentials of a more positive engagement with technological development
- Students interested in science and technology studies, bioethics, and environmental philosophy

Skills you'll develop:

- An ability to understand the ethical and human significance of technical developments
- Reading texts addressing complex, novel problems
- Writing and discussion skills

JUNIOR SEMINAR

Topic: Deceptive Language

BLOCK 6

Instructor: Helen Daly



Who is this for?

- Students interested in Jennifer Mather Saul's book, *Dogwhistles and Figleaves*
- People who want to study how politicians get away with saying terrible things, either to resist these tactics or to use them for their own nefarious purposes
- Open only to minors or majors in philosophy or related fields, or with consent of instructor
- Required for philosophy majors in their sophomore, junior, or senior year
- May be repeated for credit

Skills you'll develop:

- Advanced philosophical reading, writing, conversation, and oral presentation
- Cutting-edge understanding of a major philosopher and her new book
- Tactics for manipulating public opinion and for resisting manipulation

ETHICS

BLOCK 7

Instructor: John Riker

Who is this for?

- Anyone who wonders how to live a good life
- People who want to be true to themselves and do right by others
- People who want guidance in thinking deeply about the most important, basic questions that face all humans
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!



Skills you'll develop:

- Read and comprehend difficult texts
- Think about and connect complex concepts
- Write about complex ideas with clarity and rigor
- Relate philosophical ideas to how you live your own life

KIERKEGAARD: AN INTRODUCTION TO EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 7

Instructor: Rick Furtak

Who is this for?

- Anyone who wonders about love, anxiety, and meaning
- People who are interested in genuine Christianity
- Anyone who has ever asked whether there is a greater purpose behind human existence
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Interpret and analyze the methods used in addressing abstract questions, issues, and problems
- Engage with philosophical authors in their historical context
- Learn how to think and write more accurately and carefully



TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY: VOICE AND THE NON-HUMAN

Cross-listed with Italian and EV
BLOCK 7

Instructor: Amanda Minervini



Who is this for?

- Anyone eager to leave behind anthropocentrism and explore ethical ways of creating a more just interspecies world
- People who want to learn about the animal and non-human world and reject the domination and exploitation of animals
- Students interested in exploring and discussing historical, theoretical, and representational texts about nonhumans
- Open to all – no prerequisites except curiosity and openness!

Skills you'll develop:

- Understanding the terminology of nonhuman studies
- Recognizing and critiquing problematic distinctions between human and nonhuman or animal
- Reading and discussing complex texts effectively
- Synthesizing a wide range of materials in discussions and writing exercises

FORMAL LOGIC

BLOCK 7

Instructor: Cody Gomez

Who is this for?

- People who would like to improve their ability to understand and create arguments
- People who enjoy puzzles
- People curious about the foundations of human reason
- People interested in philosophy, computer science, linguistics, or mathematics
- No experience necessary—all are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Argument analysis
- Recognizing complex patterns
- Managing information
- Problem-solving
- Critical thinking

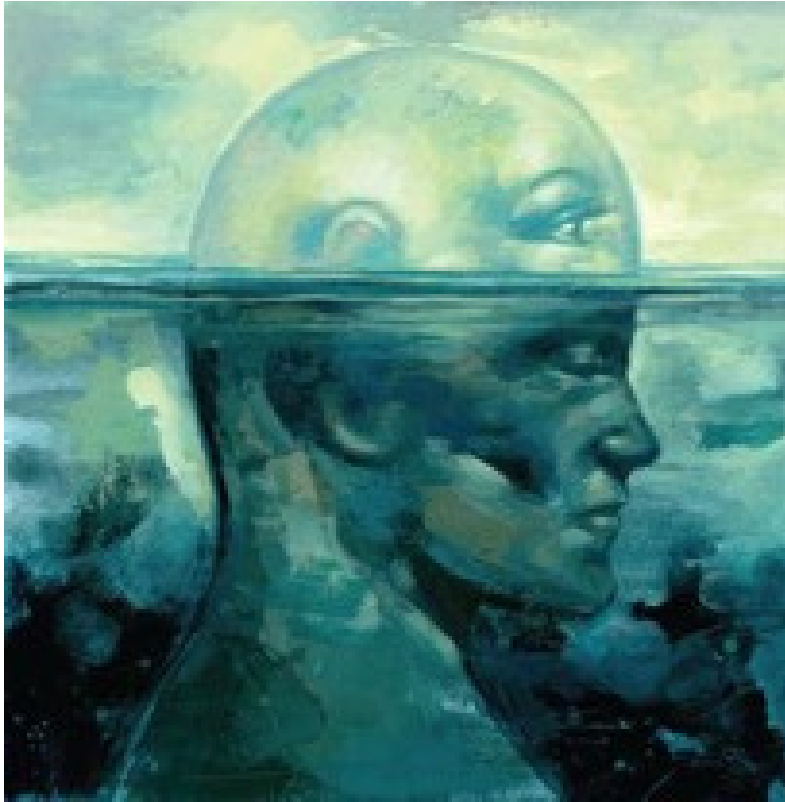


DISCOVERING THE UNCONSCIOUS

Cross-listed with Comparative Literature

BLOCK 7

Instructor: Marcia Dobson



Who is this for?

- Anyone interested in a wide-ranging survey of the development of psychoanalysis
- People keen to explore the unconscious dimensions of identity
- Students open to reading a wide variety of texts – theories, case studies, fictional works
- Open to all who are curious – a good introduction to psychoanalysis, philosophy, and literature

Skills you'll develop:

- Careful reading of complex and varied texts
- Writing and reflection on challenges central to human development
- Opening minds to dimensions of life often overlooked or hidden away

RECENT CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 7

Instructor: Jonathan Lee

Who is this for?

- Students who have taken at least one prior course in philosophy
- Anyone interested in contemporary European thought
- Anyone interested in alternative philosophical methodologies



Skills you'll develop:

- Critical thinking
- Oral and written communication
- Analysis of texts
- Interpretation of texts

PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENT AND WRITING

BLOCK 8

Instructor: Cara Greene

Who is this for?

- People who want to improve their writing, speaking, and reasoning skills
- People who want to win arguments at the dinner table
- People who like to read and discuss well-written essays on interesting subjects
- People who want to develop their own opinions
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Logical reasoning
- Analytic writing
- Revising and editing
- Collaboration
- Oral presentation
- Critical reading
- Critical thinking

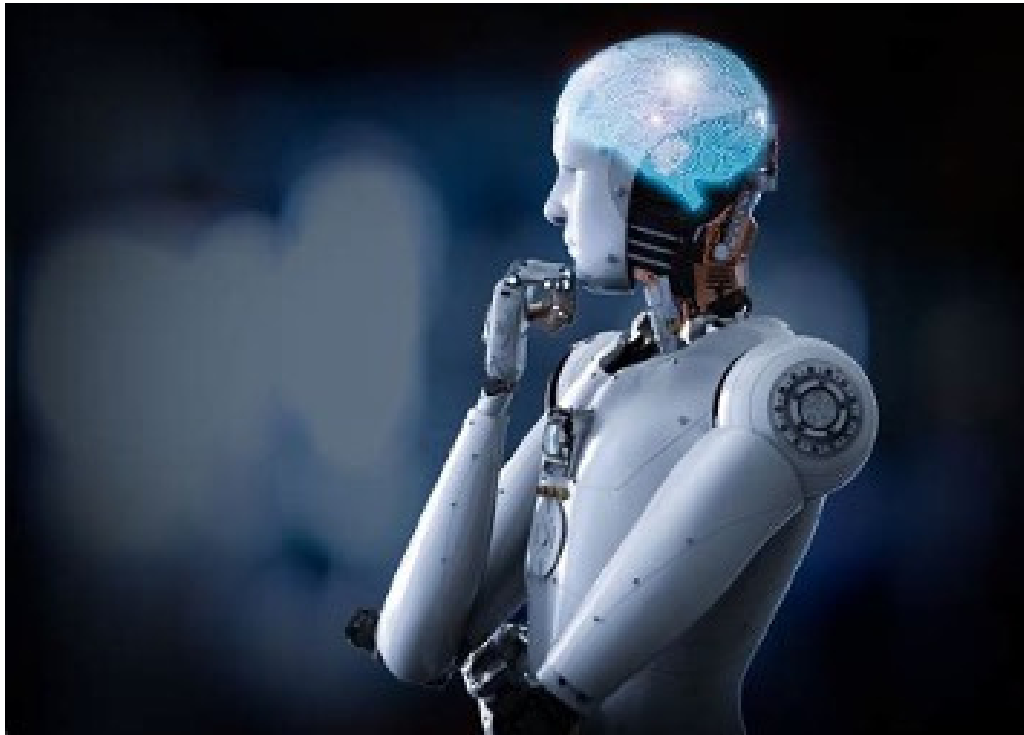


PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE FICTION

Cross-listed with Comparative Literature

BLOCK 8

Instructor: Helen Daly



Who is this for?

- People who like philosophy and/or science fiction
- People who would enjoy thinking more about the big philosophical ideas in sci-fi stories and movies
- No prerequisites – all are welcome!

Skills you'll develop:

- Reading, evaluating, and constructing philosophical arguments
- Reading/watching and interpreting complex works of fiction, in light of philosophical theories
- Speaking cogently about complex lines of reasoning

MODERN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

BLOCK 8

Instructor: Dennis McEnnerney



Who is this for?

- People who are concerned about modern alienation.
- People who ask themselves, “How did politics get here?” or “Where do we go from here?”
- Students interested in political theory
- Students who are curious about philosophy and would like to give it a try—first-years are welcome!

Skills you’ll develop:

- Close reading
- Political analysis
- Argumentation & writing
- Oral communication

PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOANALYSIS

BLOCK 8

Instructor: John Riker

Who is this for?

- Students who have taken one prior course in philosophy
- People who want to understand how philosophy and psychoanalysis are interconnected and mutually enriching
- People interested in seeing human psychology through a humanistic lens
- People who want to probe the depths of the human mind to see what ultimately is motivating us



Skills you'll develop:

- Read and comprehend difficult texts
- Think and write about complex concepts with clarity and rigor
- Better understand oneself and others

PHILOSOPHY SENIOR SEMINAR

BLOCK 8

Instructor: Rick Furtak

Who is this for?

- Senior Philosophy majors who have already completed their Senior Essay block
- Only the most intellectually refined people!



Skills you'll develop:

- Oral Presentation
- Revising and Editing
- Collaboration

