

# SUNY Buffalo State Philosophy Course Offerings

## Fall 2018

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### FALL SEMESTER 2018

#### **PHI 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

**Dr. Leigh Duffy**

**CRN 2325 9:00am-9:50am**

**MWF**

**CRN 2048 1:00pm-1:50pm**

**MWF**

This course will take a thematic approach to some basic philosophical topics including the nature of knowledge, God/religion, the nature of mind, and morality. This course will expose students to basic philosophical issues and develop their ability to think critically about such issues. This exposure will probably challenge some basic beliefs, so an open mind and a willingness to consider other beliefs are necessary.

**Required Course Text:** *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Martin Fischer, eds. (Oxford University Press)

#### **PHI 103: Intro to Logic**

**Dr. Julian Cole**

**CRN 4076 1:00pm-1:50pm**

**MWF**

Every day we are bombarded with information that attempts to persuade us to act in various ways. This information includes material from newspapers and magazines, political broadcasts, pamphlets on various causes, television ads, details of investment opportunities, and many other sources. The primary aim of this course is to provide students with some of the intellectual tools that are available for evaluating this information. Specifically, we shall be considering a number of common fallacies to which arguments in these media often fall prey. A secondary aim of this course is to aid students in clearly understanding, representing, evaluating, and writing arguments, particularly arguments found in everyday contexts.

**Required Course Text:** *No Textbook Required*

#### **PHI 107: Intro to Math Logic**

**Dr. Julian Cole**

**CRN 2817 11:00am – 11:50am**

**MWF**

This class will introduce two types of mathematical models for assessing the formal correctness of reasoning. In particular, Venn diagrams will be discussed as geometric models for assessing categorical syllogisms, while sentential and monadic predicate logics will be discussed as algebraic models for assessing the types of arguments associated with these logics.

**No texts required**

#### **PHI 300: Emotions**

**Dr. Leigh Duffy**

**CRN 2958**

**12:00pm-12:50pm**

**MWF**

The capacity for reason is often taken to be the distinguishing feature of human beings. However, humans are also unique in the gamut of emotions they are able to experience. While some emotions are displayed in ways very similar to animal behavior, other emotions are much more sophisticated and almost seem to require a higher intellect. Yet, there is a tendency to view emotions as in direct conflict with reason and logic. Philosophically speaking, there is much to discuss when it comes to emotions!

The entry point into Philosophy of Emotions for this class is in comparing different theories of this broad class of emotions. Considering different theories of mind, if emotions are mental events, are they merely physical events? Is there something other than what is experienced in the body? Do all emotions require a belief? Is there a

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difference between an emotion, a mood, and a mere reaction? These and other related questions having to do with the nature of emotions, as a subset of mental events, will be the focus of the first half of the class. Once students have an understanding of the different theories of emotions generally speaking, we will pick one or two emotions to focus on in order to better understand the subtleties around them (e.g. fear & startle happiness & joy, or envy & jealousy). With time permitting, we will also address the questions of what emotions can tell us about the world, whether or not animals have emotions and what would it mean for a robot or highly developed machine to have emotions.

**Required Text:** *Philosophy & the Emotions* ed. Stephen Leighton and *Thinking About Feeling* ed. Robert Solomon

**PHI 304: Philosophy of Law**  
**CRN 4075 9:25am – 10:40am**

**Dr. John Draeger**

This course will explore a variety of questions. Why should we obey the law? Why should laws have authority over us? How are law and morality related? How are law and economics related? What is the difference between civil and criminal law? What is the relationship between legislators and the courts? This course will not resolve any of these important questions. However, in considering them, we should have a better understanding of the law as a complex social institution that helps govern our lives. **Required Course Text: TBA**

**PHI 310: History of Ethics**  
**CRN 2149 6:00pm – 8:40pm M**

**Dr. John Abbarno**

Historical study of the writings of great Western philosophers as they examine ethical questions about self-interest, freedom, duty, and happiness in regard to the moral life. This course will include assignments that demonstrate the impact of these theories on contemporary moral problems. Includes Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Mill, and Hume.

**PHI 317: Ancient Philosophy**  
**CRN 2824 10:00am – 10:50am MWF**

**Dr. Leigh Duffy**

This course traces the emergence of ideas that will form the foundation of a great deal of subsequent intellectual history. Not only is Ancient philosophy fascinating in its own right, but it is also of particular importance for us, as it is the basis for much of later science, philosophy, psychology, and society. We will examine the views of the Ancients, largely Plato and Aristotle but others as well, on matters such as knowledge, the nature of reality, the nature of humanity, the universe, happiness, goodness, and the proper way for society to function. Studying the Ancients should also allow us to gain some insight into our own, modern world and to better understand what it means to be human and to live an intelligent and worthwhile human life.

Pre-requisite: Upper-division status or one or more course in philosophy. Required Course Text:

**PHI 351: Ethics Bowl**  
**CRN 2825 4:30pm – 5:45pm MW**

**Dr. Julian Cole**

This course will prepare students for a competition in which they are judged on their ability to deploy intricate ethical reasoning in addressing case studies from practical and professional ethics. Students will develop well-informed opinions about ethically complex, everyday scenarios, orally present these opinions and supporting arguments, and provide critical oral responses to the opinions and arguments of other students and judges.

**Required Text:** James Rachels' *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* (any edition), McGraw Hill. ISBN: 0-07-3122547-4.