

## SUNY Buffalo State Philosophy Course Offerings Fall 2020

**ALL PHILOSOPHY COURSES FOR THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER WILL BE DELIVERED ONLINE AND SYNCHRONOUSLY. ALL COURSE ACTIVITY COMPLETED ONLINE, REQUIRES SOME OR ALL SCHEDULED INTERACTIVE ONLINE SESSIONS IN WHICH DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS OCCURS IN REAL TIME, WITHOUT DELAY. USE OF AN INTERNET CONNECTED COMPUTER IS REQUIRED.**

**PHI 101: Introduction to Philosophy**  
**CRN 2010 1:40pm - 2:55pm TR**

**Dr. Kimberly Blessing**

This course is specifically designed to introduce first-year students to some of the major figures and issues in Western Philosophy. Some of the Big Questions we will consider include: What is the point of liberal education?; Are things always as they seem?; Does God exist?; Am I free or ruled by fate?; Is there an afterlife?; What is happiness?; Am I living a good life?; Who am I and what do I value?; What is the meaning of life?; What is the nature of friendship?; Etc. Emphasis will be placed upon reading philosophical texts and recognizing and evaluating arguments. Students will also develop and enhance critical thinking skills and apply them in reading and discussing philosophical texts. Students who successfully complete this course should develop a deeper understanding of yourself, and a heightened sense of wonder about the world in which we live. Maybe even a love of wisdom. Students who do well in this course enjoy reading and writing, relish being challenged intellectually, enjoy reading and writing (placed into CWP 102 in their first semester.)

**Required Course Texts:** Frankfurt, On Bullshit (Oxford); Plato, Apology (Grube, trans.; Hackett); Voltaire, Candide (Wooton, trans., Hackett); Warburton, A Little History of Philosophy (Yale University Press).

**PHI 102: Introduction to Ethics**  
**CRN 2777 12:00pm-12:50pm MWF**

**Dr. John Draeger**

This course explores a variety of social and moral questions. Should the public good outweigh private concerns? Do we have a duty to help those in need or is it enough that we leave them alone? Should the government sanction abortion, euthanasia, stem cell research, same sex marriage or capital punishment? This course will not resolve any of these important questions. However, in considering them, we will gain a better understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

**Required Course Text: No Textbook required**

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### **PHI 102: Introduction to Ethics**

**Dr. John Torrey**

**CRN 3489 3:00pm-4:15pm MW**  
**CRN 3698 4:30pm-5:45pm TR**

This course is designed to introduce students to different philosophical approaches to value theory and social and political philosophy. The primary question driving this course is, "How should we live together?" This notes, in particular, questions of justice, freedom, morality, and human nature through the work of various thinkers, including Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Patricia Hill Collins. In addition, the course will challenge students to be proactive in shaping and forming their own worldview. In order to achieve these aims, students will learn the skills to create and evaluate arguments.

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

### **PHI 102: Introduction to Ethics**

**Dr. John Abbarno**

**CRN 4233 6:00pm-8:40pm M**

Various views of how we ought to live and how society should be organized, considered in the context of discussions about the "good" life and "good" society. Several ethical issues shall be presented which underscore the breadth of meaning one can offer for the "good society."

**Required Course Text:** *Sommers & Sommers, Vice and Virtue in Everyday Life (VV) Rachels, James, Moral of Moral Philosophy (EMP)*

**Recommended:** Read the current new magazines such as Time

### **PHI 221: Philosophy and Yoga**

**Dr. Leigh Duffy**

**CRN 4258 1:00pm-1:50pm MWF**

In this course, we shall explore theory in and the practice of yoga. We will examine the eight limbs of yoga and put them into practice through the course of the semester. Students will be practicing the more familiar physical part of yoga during class and will learn about and involve themselves with the other seven limbs. We will discuss the big philosophical questions such as "what is the self?," "what is the nature of reality?," "what are the correct forms of knowledge?," and "what does it mean to be good?" among others, from the perspective of this tradition.

**Required Course Text:** *Yoga: Discipline of Freedom: The Yoga Sutras Attributed to Patanjali, Barbara Stoller Miller (translator) (Bantam Publishing); The Living Gita: The Complete Bhagavad Gita – A Commentary for Modern Readers, Sri Swami Satchidandanda (Integral Yoga Publication)*

## SUNY Buffalo State Philosophy Course Offerings Fall 2020

### **PHI 317: Ancient Philosophy**

**Dr. Leigh Duffy**

**CRN 4259 12:00pm-12:50pm MWF**

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:** TBA

### **PHI 335: God and Religion**

**Dr. Kimberly Blessing**

**CRN 4274 3:00pm – 5:40pm W**

Philosophy of religion is the branch of philosophy that applies philosophical reasoning and methodology to matters concerning God and religion. This course will focus attention on God and religion as presented in the Judeo-Christian tradition, mainly Christianity. We shall read selections from philosophers including: Anselm, Aquinas, Pascal, Voltaire, Hume, Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky, Bertrand Russell, John Hick, etc. We shall touch upon various topics and issues in philosophy of religion including: traditional proofs of God's existence and critiques of these proofs; the problem of evil and various responses to this problem; alternatives to the traditional proofs; differences between faith and reason; critiques of religion, etc.

**Additionally, we will use the following books:** Hume, David. *Dialogues on Natural Religion* (Hackett Publishers); Kreeft, Peter. *Christianity for Modern Pagans: Pascal's Pensées* (Ignatius Press); Voltaire. *Candide* (Wotton, trans.; Hackett Publishers). Additional readings are posted online.

### **PHI 360: Race and Progress**

**Dr. John Torrey**

**CRN 4312 3:05pm-4:20pm TR**

The questions of African-American philosophy are diverse and address a number of unique issues. African-American philosophy refers here to conceptually and analytically rigorous philosophical studies of topics closely related to the social, legal, economic, historical, and cultural experiences of the descendants of African slaves in the United States. In this course, we will examine the notion of progress for African-Americans by engaging questions such as: What is progress for the African-American community? Has the concept of race changed due to progress? Does political solidarity among African-Americans promote progress? Why is the measure of progress in the African-American community often ignoring the status of African-American women? Does progress require the end of racism? Looking at how African-American philosophers have responded to these questions across history can help us investigate what progress means in contemporary times.

**No texts required**

## SUNY Buffalo State Philosophy Course Offerings Fall 2020

**REL 104: Introduction to Religious Studies**  
**CRN 4310 8:00am-8:50am MWF**

**Dr. Elizabeth Lenegan**

This is a general introduction to religious studies. We will examine what is important in religions generally, ethics, basic questions, philosophy, beliefs about good and evil, the afterlife, and why they work as they do. The emphasis is on religions in general rather than analyzing a specific religion

**REL 321: World Religions**  
**CRN 1490 4:30pm - 7:15pm W**

**Dr. Elizabeth Lenegan**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the major religions of the world- Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The values, rituals, doctrines and practices of these traditions will be explored.

**Required Course Text:** *Molloy, Experiencing the World Religions* (7th Edition)

**REL 360: Western Monotheisms**  
**CRN 4311 1:40pm-2:55pm TR**

**Joseph Marren**

This course is an examination of the belief systems of the three major Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam). It will provide a brief overview of the core beliefs and theological challenges as they evolved in contact with each other. Parallels with Hellenistic thought will also be examined as the basis for ontotheology. Ideas and efforts toward ecumenism will be explored.