

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS/ DESCRIPTIONS DE COURS

**FOR COURSES IN SUMMER/ÉTÉ 2014 PLEASE SEE THE SECTION ON MODR COURSES**

### FALL AND WINTER

#### GL/PHIL 1611 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

Fall — Monday 11:00-12:00 & Wednesday 10:00-12:00

This course introduces students to some of the enduring problems of Philosophy; problems that have interested generations of philosophers, and yet resist definitive solution. We begin with fundamental issues at the core of Epistemology (Theory of Knowledge), such as: What is knowledge? Can anything be known with certainty? Can we have knowledge of the past? Of the future? How can inductive reasoning be justified? The course then turns to topics in Metaphysics. Questions studied in this area include: Is a human being a purely physical entity, or is there something such as a mind or soul? Is human freedom possible? Can we be responsible for our actions?

Readings will be drawn from historical and contemporary sources.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 1611 3.0

Course credit exclusion: GL/PHIL 1410 3.00 and AP/PHIL 1000 6.00

Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their first or second year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

#### GL/PHIL 1612 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY II

Winter — Monday 11:00-12:00 & Wednesday 10:00-12:00

This course introduces students to some of the enduring problems of Philosophy; problems that have interested generations of philosophers and yet resist definitive solution. In this course, we focus on Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. Some of the fundamental questions considered in the study of Ethics are: Is morality all relative, or are there any absolute standards, standards that are universally applicable? Is the morality of an act completely determined by its consequences? Are we capable

of acting contrary to our own self-interest? Why should we be moral? In the final section on Philosophy of Religion we consider questions such as: Does Pascal's Wager justify religious belief? Is human freedom compatible with divine foreknowledge? Would a perfectly good, all-powerful God permit evil and suffering in the world?

Readings will be drawn from historical and contemporary sources.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 1612 3.0

Course credit exclusion: GL/PHIL 1420 3.0

Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their first or second year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

#### GL/PHIL 1690 6.0 INTRODUCTION À LA PHILOSOPHIE : LES GRANDS PENSEURS

mardi et jeudi 15 h à 16 h 30

Ce cours cherche à mettre en évidence les fondements philosophiques de la pensée occidentale par l'étude d'œuvres marquantes. Le choix des textes au programme vise plusieurs buts à la fois :

- initier les étudiants à l'histoire de la philosophie occidentale ;
- les sensibiliser, en même temps, aux problèmes philosophiques et aux solutions classiques qui y ont été apportées ;
- mettre en lumière les sources et les présuppositions de nos propres façons de penser (autant en science qu'en morale ou en politique) ; et — mettre aussi en lumière, plus particulièrement, les rapports qu'ont entretenus la philosophie et les sciences auxquelles elle a donné naissance.
- En plus d'une certaine dose de culture générale, les étudiants devraient en principe obtenir ainsi des repères leur permettant de mieux se situer dans leur milieu culturel et de mieux apprécier la place qu'ils occupent dans le monde d'aujourd'hui.

Identique à : GL/HIST/HUMA 1690 6.0

Professeur : G. Moyal

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première ou deuxième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.

**GL/PHIL 2605 6.0 TRUTH, MIND AND REALITY**

Tuesday — 12:00-3:00

This course is an introduction to central areas and problems of philosophy, as considered from a contemporary analytic perspective. It is divided into three sections: (i) Theory of Knowledge (ii) Metaphysics and (iii) Philosophy of Mind. In the first section, Theory of Knowledge, we will be concerned with questions such as: What is knowledge? What are the scope and limits of our knowledge? What should we believe? In the second segment, Metaphysics, the course will deal with issues such as: Are universals real? What is causality? The last section, Philosophy of Mind, will take on problems such as: What is the relation between the mental and the physical? What is the self? What are the conditions of personal identity?

This course is particularly recommended for those who intend to go on in Philosophy.

Students who have little or no previous experience with Philosophy should seriously consider taking GL PHIL 1611 3.0 and 1612 3.0 before attempting PHIL 2605 6.0.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 2605 6.0  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 2615 3.0 MORAL QUESTIONS AND SOCIAL POLICIES**

Winter — Monday 6:00-9:00

This course examines a select number of moral issues, and their social policy implications, which arise in connection with human persons, animals, and the environment. Topics include concepts of personhood, the definition of death, abortion, doctor-assisted suicide, the morality and legalization of euthanasia, the ethical treatment of animals and the environment, stem cell research, and human cloning.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 2615 3.0  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 2620 6.0 REASON AND FEELING IN MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

Monday — 12:00-3:00

Is there a conflict between reason and feeling? What role does each play in belief and knowledge? Is morality based on an appeal to reason or on subjective feeling? This course will examine such questions in the context of modern philosophy, and will study the writings of philosophers such as Descartes, Hume and Kant, among others.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 2620 6.0  
Course Credit Exclusions: GL/PHIL/HUMA 2620 6.0, GL/PHIL/HUMA 2650 6.0  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 2640 6.0 LOGIC**

Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-12:00

Logic, in the philosophical tradition, is the study of the general principles which make certain patterns of argument reasonable and others unreasonable. The focus will be on acquiring methods to assist us in appraising our reasoning as correct or incorrect, valid or invalid. These methods will, of course, vary with the area of logic being studied. The course will cover propositional logic, predicate logic and the logic of relations. As well, we will pursue those philosophical issues which arise naturally in the study of logic.

Cross-listed to: GL/LIN/MODR 2640 6.0  
Professor: To be announced

Note: This course may be taken to satisfy the Modes of Reasoning requirement.

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 2645 6.0 ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL THEORY**

Thursday — 12:00-3:00

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle are the three most important and therefore most famous philosophers of antiquity. (They were friends more or less, and lived roughly at the same time around 400 B.C.). They raised and answered questions which have stood the test of time: the questions still arouse curiosity and provoke ingenuity in answering them. They raised questions like ‘What is justice?’, ‘What is the nature of human sexuality?’, ‘What would the best political community be like?’, ‘What does it mean to say something is?’, ‘What is art?’, and many others.

Their reasons for raising such questions, the way they raise them, and how they answer them are as interesting as their answers. Some of their answers have been disproved; although in the attempt to do so many alternatives have been proposed. (Understanding the original answers can shed light on understanding the more familiar alternatives.) To say that their direct and indirect influence on us, how we think, how we talk, what we believe, has been immeasurably great is to say too little. Sometimes they are amusing.

Cross-listed to: GL/POLS/ SOSC 2645 6.0

Course credit exclusion: AP/PHIL 2015 3.0 and GL/PHIL 2630 6.0

Professor: J. Gonda

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 2923 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND SOCIAL THOUGHT**

Winter — Tuesday &amp; Thursday 10:30-12:00

An introduction to philosophical reasoning as it pertains to questions concerning law and society. More specifically, we’ll ask what justification there is for having a legal system. Is law necessary to protect individuals against one another, or perhaps to realize a higher value? Or is the legal system an institution that a fully developed society could do without? What would an ideal state look like? What aspects of human life would it regulate? How much decisional power would it grant its citizens? We will examine the theories of several great philosophers on these and related questions.

Cross-listed to: GL/SOSC 2923 3.0

Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 2923 3.0 INTRODUCTION AU DROIT ET À LA PENSÉE SOCIALE**

Hiver — mercredi 12h à 15 h

Une introduction au raisonnement philosophique tel qu’il s’applique aux questions concernant le droit et la société. Nous poserons notamment la question de savoir dans quelle mesure il est justifié d’avoir un système juridique. Un tel système est-il nécessaire, soit pour protéger les individus les uns contre les autres, soit pour réaliser une autre valeur importante? Faut-il plutôt dire que les institutions juridiques seraient superflues dans une société pleinement développée? Comment ces institutions doivent-elles idéalement être structurées? Quelle place doivent-elles laisser à la participation des citoyens? Nous examinerons les théories de plusieurs philosophes importants sur ces questions.

Identique à : GL/SOSC 2923 3.0

Course credit exclusion : AP/PHIL 2015 and GL PHIL 2630 6.00

Professeur : à déterminer

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première, deuxième ou troisième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l’approbation du professeur.

**GL/PHIL 2925 3.0 PHILOSOPHY OF LAW**

Fall — Tuesday &amp; Thursday 10:30-12:00

This course will be concerned with certain very general, conceptual questions about the nature of law and the proper limits of criminal law, such as the distinguishing features of a legal order — what makes it different from other types of social order. It will examine the relation between law, morality and democracy. In particular, it will discuss those issues in contemporary debates which focus on the role of law as a tool in pursuit of equalities, as protector of individual liberties, as a tool of democratic self-rule, and the tensions between these roles. Readings on the general questions will include:

- positivism, legal ordering and morality,
- adjudication,
- feminist approaches to rule of law,
- law as a protector of individual liberty, and
- law as a tool of democratic self-rule.

They will be followed by readings on contemporary issues in which the tensions in the topics above are of particular force. These particular problems will include: hate propaganda, civil disobedience, and pornography.

Cross-listed to: GL/SOSC 2925 3.0  
Professor: J. Baker

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

### **GL/PHIL 2925 3.0 PHILOSOPHIE DU DROIT**

Automne — Mercredi 12 h à 15 h

Ce cours se veut une introduction générale à la philosophie du droit contemporaine. Il comprendra deux parties.

La première concernera la question qui est traditionnellement vue comme formant le cœur de la philosophie du droit, à savoir, dans quelle mesure il y a un lien entre ce que le droit devrait être et ce que le droit est. Nous étudierons les deux réponses à cette question qui ont le plus marqué le dernier demi-siècle : la version du positivisme juridique mise de l'avant par H. L. A. Hart, suivant laquelle il existe une division stricte entre droit et morale, et la théorie du droit comme intégrité défendue par Ronald Dworkin, suivant laquelle on ne peut interpréter correctement le droit tel qu'il est qu'en tentant d'établir ce qu'il devrait être.

La seconde partie du cours portera sur un problème plus spécifique. Nous essaierons de voir dans quelle mesure il est acceptable que la responsabilité civile et la responsabilité criminelle d'une personne soient influencées par la chance. Est-il juste de faire une distinction en droit civil entre le conducteur négligent qui frappe un enfant et celui qui n'en frappe pas par simple chance (parce qu'aucun enfant ne se trouve sur son chemin) ? Est-il juste de faire une distinction en droit criminel entre la personne dont la tentative de meurtre échoue et celle dont la tentative réussit lorsque la seule différence entre leurs situations tient à un facteur hors de leur contrôle (le fait que la victime portait une veste anti-balle, par exemple) ?

Identique à : GL/SOSC 2925 3.0  
Professeur : à déterminer

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première, deuxième ou troisième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.

### **GL/PHIL 3611 3.0 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

Fall — Monday 3:00-6:00

This course analyses central questions in political philosophy. Topics are drawn from: liberalism and its critics, theories of justice, coercion and its justification, liberty, and equality.

The focus of this course is on analyzing key arguments found in major texts of political philosophy. The aim is to allow students to engage critically with the field's leading thinkers and to acquire a good understanding of issues that are at the heart of recent discussions. This is achieved by close and careful reading of the texts and a critical evaluation of the arguments found in the text.

Cross-Listed to GL/SOSC 3611 3.0  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

### **GL/PHIL 3631 3.00(FALL) PHILOSOPHY OF RACE**

Fall — Wednesday 3:00-6:00

This course examines the notion of racism - what exactly it is - and what role, race should play in our political arrangements and in our personal lives.

The focus of this course is racial justice. The aim is to allow students to engage critically with the field's leading thinkers, and to acquire a deep understanding of the competing approaches to this deeply vexing social issue.

Cross-listed to GL/SOSC 3631 3.0  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 3642 3.0 BUSINESS ETHICS**

Winter — Thursday 3:00-6:00

This course is an examination of the central moral issues raised by business activities and practice. It begins with an exploration of various utilitarian and respect-for-persons ethics, and traces out the very different results they yield in ethical decision-making. Then, by way of case studies, we will examine a host of specific business-related issues: employee rights, affirmative action, “reverse discrimination,” fairness in advertising, and the duties of corporations in protecting the environment.

Cross-listed to: GL/ECON/SOSC 3642 3.0

Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 3657 3.0 (EN) PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

Fall — Monday 12:00-3:00

This course is concerned with the nature of mind and its relation to the material world. Is there a mind (or soul or self) that is distinct from the body? How are thought, sensations and emotions related to states of the brain and body? What is a person? As well as these questions, a selection of the following topics will be discussed: thinking, intention, emotions, motives, memory and the unconscious.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 3657 3.0

Course Credit Exclusions: GL/PHIL 3012 3.0 (Fall 2000), GL/PHIL 3016 3.0 (Winter 2002, 2003), GL/HUMA 3016 3.0 (Winter 2002, 2003)

Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 3660 6.0 EN EARLY MODERN POLITICAL THEORY**

Western political thought from Machiavelli to Marx. The political theories of thinkers such as Machiavelli, the radicals of the English civil war, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel and Marx are considered, not as abstract ideas but as responses to, comments on, defences or critiques of historical events and social realities.

See the Political Science Department.

**GL/PHIL 3905 3.0 (EN) DESCARTES AND THE REFORM OF THE SCIENCES**

Winter — Wednesday 3:00-6:00

This course focuses on Descartes's greatest achievement: the overhaul of the sciences and of their philosophical and metaphysical foundations. The course examines both the (Aristotelian) antecedents that Descartes overturns and the new philosophical/scientific principles which he proposes instead.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 3905 3.0, GL/MODR 3905 3.0 (EN),

Professor: Georges Moyal

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 3934 3.0 (EN) BELIEF, TRUTH AND KNOWLEDGE**

Winter — Monday 12:00-3:00

What are we entitled to believe? What can we claim to know? These are the questions which underlie all study in epistemology.

This course will pursue these questions by focusing on several topics which are of current interest in the field. Topics include: the nature of knowledge (what is knowledge?); the two competing models of knowledge (the foundations theory vs. the coherence theory); the dependence of knowledge on context; the program of naturalistic epistemology.

Cross-listed to: GL/MODR 3934 3.0 (EN)

Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 4215 3.0 (EN) TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY:  
RHETORIC**

Winter — Wednesday 12:00-3:00

This course will study Plato's *Gorgias* and the *Apology*. These texts provide the Platonic teaching about Rhetoric: the *Gorgias* states the principles; the *Apology* is a case study. Their teaching is at the foundation of Rhetoric as a liberal art.

Prerequisite: Twelve credits in Philosophy  
Professor: J. Gonda

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 4237 3.0 (EN) MORAL PHILOSOPHY II**

Winter — Tuesday 3:00 – 6:00

This course proposes an advanced study of some central questions in ethical theory. Topics are drawn from: Kantian ethics, contractualism, practical reasoning, choice and responsibility, theories of agency, and the limits of ethical theory.

Prerequisite: six credits in Philosophy.  
Course credit exclusion: AP/PHIL 4070 3.00.  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 4305 3.0 (EN) KANT**

Fall — Wednesday 12:00 – 3:00

This course is dedicated to a careful reading of Kant's monumental opus *The Critique of Pure Reason*, supplemented with some of Kant's other writings in theoretical philosophy as well as a sampling of the secondary literature.

Prerequisite: Twelve credits in Philosophy  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

**GL/PHIL 4315 3.0 (EN) TOPICS IN METAPHYSICS**

Fall — Thursday 3:00 – 6:00

This course examines some central issues in contemporary metaphysics: the problem of universals, concrete particulars and their persistence through time. It also deals with differing conceptions of modality, with particular attention to the existence of propositions and possible worlds.

Prerequisite: Twelve credits in Philosophy.  
Professor: To be announced

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

## MODES OF REASONING

The Modes of Reasoning courses described in the following pages are those offered by the Department of Philosophy.

Note that these courses are not philosophy courses and therefore do not count as credits toward a philosophy major; however they can be used to satisfy the logic requirement for a philosophy major. Only one Modes 17xx 6.0 course may be taken for credit.

### GL/MODR 1711 6.0 CRITICAL THINKING

Section A: Thurs 9:00 - 12:00  
 Section B: Wed 12:00 - 3:00  
 Section C: Tues: 3:00 - 6:00  
 Section D: Wed 3:00 - 6:00

Section A Summer 2014: Monday & Wednesday 6:30 - 9:30

The principles of logic underlie everything which will be taught in this course. In one part of the course, we will concentrate on the way in which these principles are manifested in ordinary language. We will first learn how to recognize the arguments in a text and how to develop greater comprehension of what one reads by analyzing the author's arguments into premises and conclusions. A significant proportion of the course will deal with techniques for distinguishing good and bad arguments — both deductive and inductive (probabilistic) arguments. Other topics will include an examination of some of the common fallacies which we frequently commit and accept.

Having mastered the basic tools of critical thinking, we will apply them to a discussion of selected philosophical problems. These problems may include: fatalism with regard to the future; faith versus reason. There will also be a section devoted to legal reasoning.

The primary concern of the course will be to develop skills in critical thinking, and clear and coherent writing.

Professors:  
 Section A: To be announced  
 Section B: To be announced  
 Section C: To be announced  
 Section D: To be announced  
 Section A Summer: To be announced

This course is open to students in their first or second year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

### GL/MODR 1716 6.0 LOGIQUE FORMELLE ET INFORMELLE

Mardi et jeudi 10h30 à 12h

Ce cours intéressera ceux et celles qui veulent améliorer leurs capacités d'identifier, d'évaluer et de présenter arguments et explications. On étudiera la logique propositionnelle élémentaire, les diverses fonctions du langage dans l'argumentation, les critères des définitions, les distinctions entre les raisonnements déductifs et non-déductifs (par ex. : les raisonnements par analogie). Les arguments analysés dans ce cours seront tirés de diverses sources et diverses disciplines (par ex. : revues savantes et populaires). Une partie de ce cours sera consacrée au raisonnement juridique.

Identique à : GL/LIN 1716 6.0  
 Professeur : G. Moyal

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première ou deuxième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.