

GRADUATE COURSES for 2017 – 2018

TERM ONE

Course	Title	Instructor	Length
6B03 - Seminar in Ethics	Seminar in Ethics - Expressive-Collaborative Ethics and Reparations	Gedge	3 hrs.
<p>In this course we will explore Margaret Urban Walker's 'expressive-collaborative' approach to naturalized ethics, with particular attention to her treatment of moral repair. In <i>Moral Understandings</i>, Walker construes morality as a set of practices of responsibility, whose participants are accountable to one another. Nonetheless, inequalities among participants in moral relationships jeopardize standing, authority, voice and wellbeing. Practices of moral repair, such as reparative justice, aim to rectify such damage, and to create, restore and stabilize moral relationships. We will critically assess Walker's approach by bringing it into dialogue with the recommendations made in <i>Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future</i>, the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.</p>			
6C03 - Phil of Constitutional Law	On the Authority and Interpretation of Constitutions	Waluchow	3 hrs.
<p>The focus of this course will be Joseph Raz's theories of <i>authority</i> and <i>interpretation</i>. Following an examination of his general views on these matters, we will turn to an exploration of the implications of these views for the authority and interpretation of constitutions.</p>			
6I03 - Medieval Philosophy	Thomas Aquinas On Human Nature	Johnstone	3 hrs.
<p>In this course we will examine Thomas Aquinas' views on human nature. Our main text will be the section of Aquinas' <i>Summa Theologiae</i> concerned with the nature of human beings (ST 1a QQ 75-89), roughly the first half of what has traditionally been known as the "Treatise on Man." This is arguably the most philosophically rich section of Aquinas' entire masterwork. We will consider Aquinas' views, as expressed in this section of the <i>Summa</i>, on such topics as: the nature of the soul and its relation to the body, the capacities of the soul, desire and voluntary action, emotion, freedom of the will, sense perception and its relation to thought, the acquisition of knowledge, self-knowledge, and life after death.</p> <p>We will read the entire text in a modern English translation, with an accompanying commentary. You will be expected to read around 20 pages of the text each week and to be prepared to discuss this material in a seminar format. We will occasionally dip into other, related works by Aquinas (some are included in appendices to our edition of the text, while others are available online). This is an (upper-level) introduction: no prior familiarity with Aquinas, or with medieval philosophy in general, will be presupposed.</p>			
753 - Selected Topics in Early Modern European Philosophy(1600-1800)	Leibniz: Monads, Composition and Force	Arthur	3 hrs.
<p>In this course we will be exploring Leibniz's philosophy, taking as our starting point his claim that he introduced his 'monads' in order to resolve the problem of the composition of the continuum. On that premise, we will be studying his views on the composition of matter, atoms, substance, forms, force, and the infinite.</p> <p>We will also be investigating his theories of space and time.</p>			
761 – Topics in the Philosophy of Language	The Insights and Blindspots of Inferentialism	Griffin	3 hrs
<p>I think it was Geach who said that Locke's <i>Essay</i> is like a mail order catalogue – you only buy from it what you want. Brandom's <i>Making It Explicit</i> (Harvard, 1994) is like the data plan for your cell phone – it is all but impossible to know what buying it has committed you to. There are multitudinous components tied together in cunningly-designed package-deals and unadvertized options protected by obscure caveats and complex preclusions, the whole bundled in an immense document of carefully written, but almost impenetrable, prose. Nonetheless, when it comes to the really fundamental questions about intentionality Brandom's may just be the best data-plan on the market. The purpose of the course is to make clear what it involves and to suggest ways to make it better.</p>			
764 – Selected Topics in Social and Political Philosophy	Hannah Arendt	Enns	2.5 hrs
<p>This seminar will focus on Hannah Arendt's political thought with a view to understanding our contemporary political predicaments.</p>			
743 - PhD Seminar	None	Sassen	3 hrs
Description			

TERM TWO

Course	Title	Instructor	Length
6D03 - Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy	TBA	Olson	3 hrs.
Description	TBA		
6K03 - Seminar in Ancient Philosophy	Plato On Pleasure	Johnstone	3 hrs.
<p>In this course we will examine Plato's complex and often fascinating views on the nature and value of pleasure. Key questions will include: What <i>is</i> pleasure, according to Plato? Does he recognize different varieties of pleasure (e.g. bodily pleasures vs. intellectual pleasures, attitudinal pleasures vs. sensations)? If so, in what ways do they differ - and why do they all count as pleasures, on his account? Also, what is the <i>value</i> of pleasure, according to Plato? Did he ever espouse a form of hedonism: the view that (some kind of) pleasure is the (sole) good, as some interpreters have thought? Did he ever espouse a form of asceticism: the view that pleasure (or perhaps just certain kinds of pleasures) should be avoided entirely? How did he understand the relationship between pleasure and motivation/desire? At the end of the day, how did he regard the value of pleasure in relation to the goodness of a life?</p> <p>Since Plato returned to these issues often, in many different works, we will examine selected passages from a range of different Platonic dialogues. These will include (but will not necessarily be limited to) the <i>Protagoras</i>, <i>Gorgias</i>, <i>Phaedo</i>, <i>Republic</i>, <i>Timaeus</i> and <i>Philebus</i>.. We will look especially closely at the <i>Philebus</i> – a late dialogue that contains Plato's fullest discussions of the nature and varieties of pleasure, and of its role in a good life. Time permitting, we will conclude by examining Aristotle's discussions of pleasure in the <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, which are largely framed as a response to Plato.</p>			
756 - Topics in Recent European Philosophy	Foucault and Deleuze	Allen	2.5 hrs
<p>We will cover a selection of Foucault's major works and, toward the end, Deleuze's book on Foucault.</p>			
759 - Topics in Applied Ethics	Global Health Ethics 2017	Emerson	3 hrs
Description			
761 – Topics in the Philosophy of Language	Pragmatics and Its Relationship to Semantics	Stotts	3 hrs
<p>Within philosophy of language, semantics is the study of what words themselves mean. Pragmatics, on the other hand, is the study of issues related to actual language use in context: how communication works, what kinds of acts we can perform with language, and how we can convey much more than the literal meanings of the words we use. In this seminar, we will discuss a variety of topics within pragmatics, such as speech act theory, the norms that guide communication, and theories of metaphor. We will also discuss issues connected to the boundary between semantic and pragmatic content. Much work within pragmatics assumes that semantic and pragmatic content are distinct from each other, but the question of exactly how to distinguish them is fraught with controversy. Our aim will be to reach a good general understanding of pragmatics and its relationship to semantics, while also delving into a few select topics in greater depth.</p>			
767 - Selected Topics in Aesthetics	Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty	Sassen	3 hrs
<p>Reading Heidegger's <i>The Origin of the Work of Art</i> and Merleau Ponty's aesthetics essays: "Cezanne's Doubt", "Indirect Language and the Voices of Silence" and "Eye and Mind".</p>			
743 - PhD Seminar	None	Sassen	
Description			