

SUMMER

PHI 151

Introduction to Philosophy

Online

Dr. Paula Smithka

Aristotle says, “For it is owing to their wonder that people both now begin and at first began to philosophize”.

Philosophy begins in wonder. It’s about asking fundamental questions—questions like, “Does God exist?”; “What is the nature of reality?”; “Is what I perceive really the way things are?”; “What is a Self?”; “Am I the same person over time?”; “What makes an action morally right?”

Study philosophy and unlock your mind!

FALL

PHI 151

Introduction to Philosophy

Online (2 sections)

Dr. Michael DeArmey

Introduction to philosophical problems and questions by examining major philosophers. PHI 410/510 Classical Philosophy. A study of the origins of Western philosophy and culture, from the Pre-Socratics through Aristotle.

PHI 151

Introduction to Philosophy

M/W 9:30-10:45

Dr. Paula Smithka

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know what they're talking about? And even if they do, is having the ability to parrot someone else's knowledge the same as having that knowledge yourself? Acquiring knowledge seems paradoxical. The solution: we acquire knowledge by building on prior knowledge through logical inference. The purpose of this course is to study and master the art of advancing knowledge through inference. We will study formal logical inference, informal logical rules and fallacies, statistical inference, and causal reasoning. Unlike in a logic course, our focus will always be on applying these skills to actual questions we all care about.

PHI 406/506

Philosophy of Human Nature

M/W 11:00-12:15

Dr. Paula Smithka

Dr. Amy Slagle

This course is a cultural and historical exploration of the different portraits of Jesus of Nazareth produced and circulated from the first to the twenty-first centuries. Beginning with the political and religious context for the “historical Jesus,” we will study how the authors of the New Testament, extra-canonical Christian literatures, and church doctrine as well as modern scholarship responded to cultural expectations and pressures in crafting their various, often conflicting, portrayals of Jesus. In this course, special attention will be paid to the place of Jesus in non-Christian religions as well the different Jesuses that appear in art and film.

REL 131

Comparative Religion

M/W 11:00-12:15; M/W 2:30-3:45

Dr. Timothy Gutmann

How can we talk about what matters most to people? How can we think about what is sacred to us? How can we encounter strangers in space and time on their own terms? For centuries, the term “religion” has been used to include ideas of what is sacred, what is forbidden, what is out of this world, and what is everyday, and the stories and ideas that inspire us to think these ways. This is a class for everyone curious about religion, both the religion they know and what they want to know more about.

REL 490

Issues In Religion: Religion and Violence

M/W 9:30-10:45

Dr. Timothy Gutmann

Is religion a force for good or bad in the world? Does religious belief or belonging justify the use of violence? Ours is a course that asks questions like these, which have troubled people from diverse religious traditions for long periods in history. In our class, we will think together about just and unjust wars, terrorism and freedom fighting, and violence and nonviolence.