

## Spring 2021 Electives- Description List

**Course:** The Challenge of Justice (PHIL116001)

**Professor:** Joshua Synder or Katherine Jackson-Meyer

**Time:** TTH 3:00-4:15 or TTH 1:30-2:45

**Description:** This course satisfies the introductory requirement for students taking the minor in Faith, Peace, and Justice Studies. Other students interested in examining the problems of building a just society are welcome. This course introduces the student to the principal understandings of justice that have developed in the Western philosophical and theological traditions. Care is taken to relate the theories to concrete, practical and political problems, and to develop good reasons for choosing one way of justice rather than another. The relationship of justice to the complementary notion of peace will also be examined. Special attention is paid to the contribution of Catholic theology in the contemporary public conversation about justice and

**Level:** Undergrad Elective

**Prereqs:** none

**Coreqs:** none

**Course:** The American Divide: Philosophy of Inequality (PHIL171101)

**Professor:** Cherie McGill

**Time:** MWF 1:00-1:50

**Description:** This is an Enduring Questions course and is open to freshmen only. Concern over inequality in the U.S. has shown itself in movements like Occupy Wall Street, the Fight for a Fifteen Dollar Minimum Wage, and Black Lives Matter. These courses will examine the meaning, causes, and consequences of inequality from the perspectives of Philosophy and Economics. Providing a broad picture of the current state of the U.S. economy, and analyzing the role of economic policy in determining opportunities and outcomes, the courses will prepare

humans and non-humans, and examining the moral implications of that relation. This will involve analyzing how we have imagined our relationship with non-humans in the past (and why), and evaluating human decision-making in relation to animal welfare. Some of the questions that we



**Course:** Mass Incarceration: Philosophical and Theological

**Professor:** Micah Lott

**Time:** 3:00-4:15

**Description:** This course

**Course:** Philosophy and Theology

**Course:** Existentialism and Philosophy of Existence: Sartre

**Professor:** Giampiero Basile

**Time:** MWF 12:00-12:50

**Description:** The course focuses on two fundamental questions concerning Existentialism and the Philosophy of Existence. The first question is about the relationship between existence as freedom and transcendence. According to every account of the philosophy of existence, existence is a synonym for freedom. This freedom can be understood, on one side, as an original structure of the human condition and self-determination, so that human being transcends itself through its own project, becoming, by its own decision, what it is not yet. On the other side, human freedom can be conceived as the answer to a call, so that existence does not mean the self-positing of human being, but has its own source in some form of transcendence. The second question concerns the idea of the philosophy of existence as, at the same time, a philosophia perennis and a specific historical event. Throughout the history of philosophy, there have been philosophers who deal with existential questions and criticize a merely speculative idea of existence. Both questions will be treated with reference to Sartre, Heidegger, Hannah Arendt, and Jaspers.

**Level:** Undergrad Elective

**Prereqs:** none

**Coreqs:** none

**Course:** What is Racism (PHIL334401)

**Professor:** Jorge Garcie

**Time:** Online Asynchronous

**Description:** The course will examine philosophical approaches to the questions: In what does racism consist? What are some of its principal types? What grounds its injustice and connection to

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**Course:** Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche: Art, Religion (PHIL421101)

**Professor:** Vanessa Rumble

**Time:** TTH 10:30-11:45

**Description:** In the aftermath of the French Revolution, Hegel, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche rushed to define the larger significance of the French Revolution, witnessing in so doing to the definitive arrival of modernity in Europe. The philosophers propose three quite compelling presentations of the role of art and religion in the modern world. While Hegel stages a dialectic which calls for the repeated crucifixion and resurrection of reason, Kierkegaard offers a consequential reinterpretation of the notion of original sin as anxiety, and Nietzsche points us "beyond the law." We will look at the development of their thinking through key works, turning ultimately to the critiques offered by Heine, Marx, and Weber.

**Level:** Undergrad Elective

**Prereqs:** none

**Coreqs:** none

**Course:** Philosophy of Mental Illness (PHIL432001)

**Professor:** Katherine Harster

**Time:** TTH 1:30-2:45

**Description:** This course explores historical and contemporary models of mental illness.



**Course:** Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Philosophy (PHIL440801)

**Professor:** Elisa Magri

**Time:** TTH 3:00-4:15

**Description:** This course will explore the sources of alienation that emerged in the nineteenth century and its impact on the twentieth century. We will start with an overview of the challenges brought about by Kant's philosophy with particular regard to the relation between nature and freedom, before reading and examining Schiller, Hegel, Marx, and Marcuse. Students will become familiar with the project and ideals that shaped Classical German Philosophy and their relevance for twentieth-century social philosophy.

**Level:** Undergrad Elbat ess Ae aeseE



**Course:** Classical Chinese Philosophy (PHIL447601)

**Professor:** You Jiang

**Time:** TTH 4:30-5:45

**Description:** This course is an introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy and designed to introduce students to the major philosophical schools of classical China, including the Confucian, Mohist, Daoist, and Buddhist schools. Through lectures, discussions, and reading of select primary and secondary sources, we will explore the formulations and subsequent transformations of key beliefs, doctrines, practices, and institutions that characterized specific cultural, educational, spiritual, and philosophical traditions. Satisfies core requirement for Cultural Diversity.

**Level:** Undergrad Elective

**Prereqs:** none

**Coreqs:** none