**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**GRADUATE COURSES, SPRING 2018**

Tim Roche

**STUDIES IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY: STOICISM**

PHIL 4/6211

TTH 1:00-2:25, CL 333

<History>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Along with Epicureanism, Stoicism was the dominant philosophy in the ancient world from the middle of the third century BCE through the collapse of the Roman empire in the fifth century CE. Like other schools of Hellenistic philosophy, Stoicism addressed fundamental questions about the world and the role of human beings and other animals within it. It advanced philosophical views about how human beings should regard death, suffering, the emotions, and the external goods. It also offered explanations of the nature of the universe, the soul, knowledge, morality, the self, freedom, and God. The doctrines defended by the Stoics had a significant impact on the Christian fathers, medieval philosophers (especially Augustine and Aquinas), and the modern philosophers (especially Spinoza, Lipsius, Bishop Butler, and Kant). Moreover, in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries both academics and non-specialists in the history of philosophy have shown considerable interest in the therapeutic features of the Stoicism.

 The course involves a careful study of this immensely influential and popular philosophy system. To this end, we will explore Stoic metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, philosophy of mind, and theology. One specific aim of the course is to uncover the Stoic principles that influenced the emergence of the theory of natural law in European moral and political philosophy. A broader aim is to reveal why Stoicism was, and continues to be, an appealing philosophical way of life for many people.

**TEXTS**

**Required**

1. Long, A.A., and D.N. Sedley. 1987. *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, Volume 1. First edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0521275569.

2. Various articles uploaded to the eCourseware cite for the class.

**Recommended**

1. Brennan, Tad. 2007. *The Stoic Life: Emotions, Duties, and Fate*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0199217052.

2. Annas, Julia. 1992. *Hellenistic Philosophy of Mind*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 0-520-07659-1.

3. Long, A.A., and D.N. Sedley. 1989. *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, Volume 2. First edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-0521275576. (Note: this text is strongly recommended for students who possess reading knowledge of Greek and/or Latin. Moreover, the notes and comments in English are very useful even for those who lack such knowledge.)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Undergraduates: Regular attendance, a midterm paper, and a final paper.

Graduate Students: Regular attendance, a class presentation or midterm paper, and a final paper.

Shaun Gallagher

**PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

PHIL 4/6421

M 2:30-5:30, CL 333

<Theoretical>

<Cognitive Science Certificate>

**Course description**

The course will cover major issues and debates in recent philosophy of mind after reviewing some of the basic concepts and discussions. Topics include behaviorism; reductive, non-reductive, and eliminative versions of materialism; functionalism; phenomenal consciousness; computational models; mental causation; action, free will, notions of self, and more recent embodied, enactive and extended models of the mind. There will be some guest lectures, and some of the philosophers we will be reading will be visiting the philosophy department and the cognitive science seminar this semester.

NOTE: This is listed as a hybrid course. That means that some of the sessions are online, and some of the sessions are in class.

**TEXTS**

All texts will be available online.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

 Class participation in discussion

Class presentation (each student will be required to present a synopsis on a chapter and to facilitate discussion by introducing questions and background or secondary literature)

10-15 page research paper.

Mike Monahan

**Seminar in Continental Philosophy: Phenomenology, Social Identity, and Liberation**

PHIL 7/8030

R 2:30-5:30, CL 333

<Practical>

 Current debates surrounding social identities tend to revolve around the relation between categories such as race, gender, or sexuality (among others) and the status of such categories as “natural.” Whether they are *natural* (often understood as biological) or a mere *social construct* sets the stage for much of the debates about the moral and political merits of social identities and their relation to oppression and projects of liberation. If they are natural, then they are mind-independent parts of the physical world, and if they are not, then they are cultural artifacts. Most of the current work on these topics deals with the implications of social identities being cultural constructions, and what this means for their role in our lives (both descriptively and normatively). Phenomenology, however, draws our critical attention to the unquestioned commitment to the nature/culture divide (Husserlian phenomenology, for instance, effectively begins with a “bracketing” of the “natural attitude.” In calling to account this neat division between the natural and the cultural, we unsettle the standard landscape of these political debates in a profound way. This seminar will explore the implications of this phenomenological approach by engaging with recent texts examining questions of oppression, social identity, and liberation using the resources of the phenomenological tradition.

**TEXTS**:

Sara Ahmed - *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others* (Duke University Press, 2006)

Linda Alcoff - *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self* (Oxford University Press, 2005)

Lewis Gordon - *Fanon and the Crisis of European Man: An Essay on Philosophy and the Human Sciences* (Routledge, 1995)

Michael Monahan - *The Creolizing Subject: Race, Reason, and the Politics of Purity* (Fordham University Press, 2011)

Additional texts by Alia al-Saji, Sonia Kruks, Emily Lee, Mariana Ortega, and George Yancy, among others.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

2 Response papers (approx. 2,000 words each, offering a close analysis of a specific text)

Final Exam (in the format of a take-home essay exam, writing two 1,500 word responses to two different prompts intended to draw out larger themes running throughout the texts and course)

Tom Nenon

**Seminar in Major Figures: Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason**

PHIL 7/8020

Tuesday, 5:30-8:30, CL 333

<Theoretical>

 **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Kant proved to be accurate in the description of his own thinking as a revolution in philosophical approaches to metaphysics, epistemology, and ontology. The wide-ranging consequences of what would come to be known as his transcendental philosophy led to changes in his own thinking about a range of issues beyond metaphysics to ethics and aesthetics as well.

In this course we will focus on the first half of that ground-breaking work with particular emphasis on key passages from the introduction, the transcendental aesthetics and the transcendental logic. Unfortunately, we will only be able to point to and summarize key doctrines from the Transcendental Dialectic and the Transcendental Doctrine of Method towards the end of the semester.

**TEXT:** Immanuel Kant, *Kritik der reinen Vernunft,* Meiner edition, or any of the translaitons into English

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

There will be a take-home midterm examination that encourages each student to reflect on the material that has been covered until that time. Each student will also be required to submit a term paper and to prepare an in-class oral presentation of assigned text passages we will cover in class.

David Gray

**Seminar in Metaphysics: RECENT TOPICS IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF RACISM AND RACE**

PHIL 7/8414

Wednesday, 6:00-9:00, CL 333

<Theoretical>

A look at some recent debates in philosophy of racism and race at the intersection of cognitive and social psychology, epistemology, philosophy of language, and metaphysics.  Topics will include most of the following: history of racism, theories of racism, psychological accounts of racism, implicit bias, epistemic injustice, epithets and related problems in the philosophy of language, racial identity formation. and metaphysics of race. As this course fulfills a theoretical course requirement we will focus on both theoretical issues in philosophy of racism and race as well as how theoretical philosophy can shape our understanding of practical issues in philosophy of racism and race.

**TEXTS**

Primarily articles and chapters which will be provided on Ecourseware.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Graduate Students: Regular participation, ½ page weekly critiques, and either a final 20-page paper or 3 7-page papers.

Dr. Oller

**Cognitive Science Seminar**

PHIL 7/8514

Wednesday, 2:20-5:20, FIT 405

<Theoretical>

**Contact Dr. Oller for information about the seminar’s topic, requirements, and texts.**