

PHILOSOPHY@WWU.EDU | SUMMER 2022
SIX WEEKS ONLY! | JUNE 21ST-JULY 29TH

PHIL 107: Critical Thinking | Online Asynchronous | BCOM GUR!

Sherlock Holmes was famous for his ability to solve crimes that baffled everyone else, but he didn't have any superpowers. So what was the secret to his success? In this course we'll study the powerful engines that drive good reasoning, no matter what puzzle you're trying to solve. If we can figure out what good reasoning looks like, then we'll have a better chance of being able to find our bearings when reasoning is complicated by things like ignorance, disagreement, and contempt.

PHIL 113: Philosophy of Religion | Online Asynchronous | HUM GUR!

In Philosophy 113, we're going to answer Big Questions like... Can we say anything true about God? What would God be like if there were a God? Can there be a good God when there's so much horrendous evil and suffering? Can general features of the universe give good reasons to think God exists? Can we be free if God foreknows everything? How are God and morality related? Can an educated person have faith in God, without irrationality or hypocrisy? What is faith, anyway?

PHIL 320: Ethical Theory I | F2F MWF 10:00-11:30 | NO PRE-REQ!

We know that at least some things are overrated. But could *happiness* be overrated? This summer we will look at theories of human wellbeing (understood as what makes life go well for us), theories of happiness (understood as a psychological state, or a mood), alongside putative sources of happiness (ways to become happier in our lives advanced in both Eastern and Western traditions). There are a million (or so) popular books/lists outlining how to foster our happiness. Sleep! Be grateful! Help others! rank high. But if there's more to living well than merely feeling happy, it would be wise for us to consider whether any such advice must be incomplete.

Phil 350: Political Philosophy | F2F MWF 2:30-4:00 | HUM GUR!

Why not *socialism*? Why not *capitalism*? These questions entitle two very short books we will examine this summer. While the feasibility and desirability of socialism is defended in the former, just the opposite is defended in the latter. With battling analogies—Cohen's camping trip alongside Brennan's Mickey Mouse Club parody of it—we will dive deep into questions regarding the grounds of property rights, optimistic and pessimistic views of human nature, and finally, competing conceptions of utopia.

Phil 355: Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art | F2F MWF 1:00-2:20 | HUM GUR!

A properly targeted joke could feel like a slap in the face. Is it okay to appreciate immoral jokes that punch down or are knowingly unwelcome? (Consider: Dave Chappelle) When alleged moral failings of an artist come to light, is it still permissible to engage with their work? (Consider: JK Rowling) This summer we will investigate questions related to immoral artworks. Some worry that (over)moralizing art crowds out aesthetic evaluation and robs us of space for creativity and inspiration. Others emphasize the corrupting effects of even *pretending* to enjoy immoral art, and the role that such appreciation plays in sustaining oppressive norms. Together we'll tackle these issues by discussing a wealth of controversial cases.