Philosophy Courses Ì Spring 2025

PH 101   Introduction to Philosophy   3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the study and the practice of philosophy. Through the analysis of historical and contemporary texts, class discussions and lectures students gain an understanding of philosophy both as a discipline and as a way of asking—and attempting to answer—fundamental questions about ourselves and the world. The emphasis is both on learning about philosophy and on doing philosophy.

Open to first- and second-year students or by permission of

PH 222   Law, Property, (In)Humanity   4 Cr.

A study of the law from legal, philosophical, and human rights points of view. The focus will be on the philosophical conceptions of personhood and property that have been at the basis of property law for 300 years and that shape disadvantageously and in a material manner contemporary communities of color. Special attention is given to how American treaty and property law has been used an instrument of disenfranchisement and oppression of the Native American and African American communities. The challenge that modern property law poses for environmental activism is also considered.

Fulfills Bridge Experience and Humanistic Inquiry requirements. Flexible 4th credit hour

T/TH   11:10 – 12:30   R. Lilly

PH 223   Love & Friendship   3 Cr.

An exploration of love and friendship as understood in a variety of contexts from ancient Greece to the contemporary world. Students will learn how a number of philosophers think about personal bonds, self-love, the effect of gender inequality in shaping intimate relations, the difference between infatuation and enduring affection, and the power of love and friendship to fuel political movements.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Cultural Diversity requirements.

T/TH 12:40

PH 316   Artificial Intelligence   4 Cr.

An examination of the conceptual foundations of artificial intelligence (AI) and the moral dimensions of our increasing reliance on it. Issues we address in this course include: What is intelligence, and what makes an AI

PH 375 Senior Portfolio   4 Cr.

A capstone course in which students develop a portfolio of representative work in philosophy. Students will compile at least three research papers from previous course work, which will form the basis of their senior portfolio. The development of the portfolio will have at least three stages: (1) a re-envisioning and significant revision of a previous research paper, including doing further research into scholarly literature on the topic and with an opportunity to explore interdisciplinary connections; (2) the redevelopment of that paper into a short presentation; and (3) a reflection exercise in which students synthesize their work in the major, considering the ways their interests have developed over the course of their time at Skidmore and the ways in which these might inform their future endeavors. Open to senior Philosophy majors.

Prerequisites: senior philosophy major or permission of instructor.

Sec. 001   W/F 10:10 - 12:00   S. Kizuk
Sec. 002   W/F 12:20 - 2:10   S. Kizuk