

# PHILOSOPHY

## Department of History and Philosophy

### FACULTY

#### FULL PROFESSOR(S)

W. Newbigging, B.A. (McMaster), Cert. traduction (Paris), M.A. (McMaster), Ph.D. (Toronto);

#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR(S)

R. Rutherford, B.Ed. (New Brunswick), M.A. (McMaster), Ph.D (York)

#### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR(S)

W. Johnston, B.A., M.A. (Sask), Ph.D. (Cambridge)

#### SESSIONAL FACULTY

J.C. Elvy, B.A.A. (Ryerson), B.Ed., M. Ed. (Queens);

A. Fabiano, B.A. (Hons), B.Ed., M.A. (Windsor);

S. Redmond, B.A. (Hons), M.A., Ph.D. (Ottawa)

#### PROFESSOR(S) EMERITUS

J. R. Abbott, B.A. (Hons), M.A., Ph.D. (Toronto);

L. Bannerman, B.A. (Hons), M.A. (British Columbia), M.A. (East Asian Studies), Ph.D. (Toronto), Cert. School of Chinese Studies (Toronto);

I. W. Brown, B.A., M.A., (McGill), Ph.D. (Lehigh);

F. R. Guth, B.A. (Hons), M.A., L.Ph. (Ottawa), Ph.D. (Toronto);

J. J. Rajnovich, B.A. (Hons), M.A. (Toronto), B.Sc. (LSSU), M.Sc. (McMaster), Ph.D. (Western Ontario)

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Course offerings may not enable students to complete the Philosophy program on a full-time basis. Students considering this program should consult their academic advisor to confirm plans to complete the degree.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS (General)

#### Single Major PHILOSOPHY

##### First Year

- PHIL 1116/1117\*
- 24 additional credits, of which 6 must be from Group II (Social Sciences) and 6 from Group III (Sciences).

##### Second Year

- 12 credits from PHIL 2276/2286 (or 2325) PHIL 2305 (or 3306), PHIL 2505
- 18 elective credits

##### Third Year

- 18 credits in Philosophy, upper-year level.
- 12 elective credits

\*Minimum grade of 60% required.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS (General)

#### Combined Major PHILOSOPHY

##### First Year

- PHIL 1116/1117\*

##### Second Year

- 12 credits from PHIL 2276/2286, PHIL 2305 (or 3306), PHIL 2505

##### Third Year

- 12 credits in PHIL, upper year

\* Minimum grade of 60% required.

### PHILOSOPHY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*Prerequisites: Unless otherwise noted, registration in courses beyond the first year level normally requires completion of an introductory level course in Philosophy or permission of the department. Students should consult the department for further information.*

Course offerings will not guarantee that the Philosophy program will be available on a full-time basis. Students considering this program should consult their academic advisor to confirm plans to complete the degree.

#### PHIL 1116 Critical Thinking

This course will introduce the basics of informal logic, including analytical reading, critical thinking, argument analysis and construction, and problem solving. Enough of the rudiments of formal logic will be presented to assist in critically evaluating inferences. (LEC 3) (3 cr)

#### PHIL 1117 Introduction to the Problems of Philosophy

This course introduces students to the “Big Questions” in Philosophy. Questions on reality, God, self, mind, knowledge, values and freedom will be explored, and the great philosophers and schools of philosophy will be introduced. (LEC 3) (3 cr)

#### PHIL 2006 Approaches to European Philosophies of History

A lecture-seminar course designed for history majors and others with an interest in European historical developments and historical literature. This course will concentrate on varieties of interpretation, concepts, structures and research techniques. *Students may not receive credit for both HIST 2006 and PHIL 2006.* (LEC 2, TUT 1) (3 cr)

#### PHIL 2106 Philosophy of Love and Hope

This course is a philosophical inquiry into the nature of love and hope, drawing on both classical and contemporary sources. The course will provide both phenomenological descriptions and ontological/categorical analyses of love and hope. (LEC 3) (3 cr)

**PHIL 2216 Principles of Environmental Ethics**

Students will critically examine the philosophy of the environment by addressing both theoretical and practical issues. Through the exploration of the foundations of ethical theory, students develop their understanding of modern environmental challenges. Areas of study of in this course include animal rights, future generations, deep ecology, and the connection between science, technology and the environment. A focus of the course is on students developing their own skills in moral decision-making and policy formation by analyzing various philosophical perspectives. *Prerequisites:* PHIL 1116/1117. *Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 2216 and PHIL 2215. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2217 Topics in Environmental Ethics**

This course investigates the impact of modern perspectives on various debates in environmental philosophy including global climate change, pollution, sustainable development, conservation and wilderness management, and the health of ecosystems in industrial societies. A central goal of this course is to assist students in developing interpretive and evaluative skills that will not only prove useful in constructing insightful academic positions but will help them in their own personal lives. This seminar course uses the literature as a basis for facilitating class discussions and understanding current perspectives in environmental philosophy. *Prerequisites:* PHIL 1116/1117. *Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 2217 and PHIL 2215. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2245 Philosophy of Art and Literature**

How are we to distinguish between art and non-art? It is held by some that works of art and literature neither require nor are capable of explanation: their sense is shown in the works themselves. Yet critical interpretations and theories of art proliferate. The focus of the course will be on the possibility that the meaning of a work depends on, perhaps is even co-created by our looking, reading, listening, etc., in appropriate ways. Classical and contemporary theories of art will be explored, in a wide range of philosophical traditions. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 2276 Ideas and the Origins of Modernity**

This course will survey the history of ideas that influenced western society from the later medieval period to the middle of the nineteenth century. By considering a wide variety of authors, from Christine de Pisan and Niccolo Machiavelli to Thomas Paine, Mary Wollstonecraft and Karl Marx, students will learn about the political, social, religious, and cultural ideas that formed the foundations of modern western thought. *Students may not retain credit for more than one of HIST 2276, PHIL 2276 and PHIL 2325. (LEC 2, TUT 1) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2286 A History of Ideas of the Modern World**

This course will survey the history of ideas that influenced western society since the middle of the nineteenth century. By considering a wide variety of authors, such as Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, Emmeline Pankhurst, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Simone de Beauvoir, students will learn about the political, social, religious, and cultural ideas that have influenced the development of modern western society. *Students may not retain credit for more than one of HIST 2286, PHIL 2286 and PHIL 2325. (LEC 2, TUT 1) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2305 Origins of Western Philosophy**

The philosophers of ancient Greece developed many of the themes which have dominated ethical, political, metaphysical, and psychological debates down to modern times. In this course, we will study these and other major trends in Greek thought, with special emphasis on the work of Plato and Aristotle, in order to examine them as philosophical arguments in their own right and to address the legacy of Greek thought in shaping contemporary culture. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 2325 Reason and Experience in Early Modern Philosophy**

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, European thought was transformed by revolutions in scientific discovery and method and by the withering of religious authority in the political and moral spheres. In response to this, philosophy began to rethink its own pivotal questions: what can be known; what is it to be human, and what actions are morally justified? In this course we will examine representative works of this period, emphasizing three distinct but related approaches to answering these questions; that knowledge is confined to what is given to us immediately in our perceptual experience, or empiricism; that knowledge is concerned only with what conforms to the laws of reason, or rationalism; and the claim, made by Immanuel Kant, that the two together make up what can be known and what must be done. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 2346 Principles of Biomedical Ethics**

This course examines current themes in biomedical sciences and draws connections with traditional ethical theory in medical decision making. Special attention is given to the issues of patient consent, reproductive technology, research with human and animal subjects and abortion. Comprehensive understanding of the issues at stake and ability to analyze the positions taken in these controversies define the aims of this course. *Prerequisites:* PHIL 1116/1117. *Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 2346 and PHIL 2345. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2347 Biomedical Ethics: Case Studies**

This course comprises a critical examination of traditional and modern moral reasoning and its application to current themes in biomedical sciences. Special attention is given to the issues of genetics, infectious diseases, organ transplantation, euthanasia, and AIDS. Comprehensive understanding of the issues at stake and ability to analyze and evaluate the various positions taken in these controversies define the aims of this seminar course. *Prerequisites:* PHIL 1116/1117. *Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 2347 and PHIL 2345. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2505 Critical Thinking and Argumentation**

The central goal of this course is to help students develop interpretive and evaluative skills and dispositions that will be useful to them in their courses and in their personal lives. Various aspects of language and logic will be studied in order to evaluate correctly arguments and explanations from a variety of disciplines and contexts. *Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. (LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 2527 Current Ethical Issues**

A critical normative examination of significant current ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, suicide, war, pollution, affirmative action, capital punishment, biotechnology, censorship and pornography, Aboriginal rights, etc., will be undertaken. *Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 2525 and 2527. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2546 Values, Ethics and Morality**

The course comprises a critical examination of moral reasoning, argument and decision; and the process and ingredients of a moral judgement. A survey of major moral theories and their role in moral reasoning will be undertaken. *Students may not retain credit for more than one of PHIL 2526, 2545 or 2546. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2746 Communications Media and Values**

This course is a philosophical exploration of the ethical and cultural implications of the rapid growth and proliferation of diverse new communication media, such as computers and electronic networks. Specific topics of interest may include: virtual reality, virtual community and multiple identities on electronic networks; artificial intelligence; comparing information and knowledge; programming codes and language; ethical issues surrounding privacy, data quality, database security, and intellectual property; electronic communications, the global village, and changes in the nature of civilizations. *(LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2876 Business Ethics**

The aim of this course is to explore ethical issues which arise in the management of a modern corporation, such as the goals and functions of the firm, corporate social responsibility, conflicts between personnel, organizational and societal values, international and environmental issues, and the firm's duties to workers, consumers and other stakeholders. *Students may not retain credit for both ADMN 4066 and PHIL 2876. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2877 Professional Ethics**

The aim of this course is to explore ethical issues which arise in the conduct of the professions. It will examine the notion of a profession itself and the role of technical/scientific expert knowledge in modern society. Professions considered will be drawn primarily from medicine and health care, the law, engineering, social work and psychological counselling. *(LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 2916 Science and Philosophy**

This course is a philosophical study of the approaches to the material world by modern physical science. The nature of modern science, elements of the scientific method, and other epistemological issues will be emphasized. *Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 2916 and PHIL 2915. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 3306 Topics in Ancient Philosophy**

This is an advanced course on the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle. *(LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 3316 Medieval Philosophy**

Beginning with early Western European philosophers and continuing up to the Renaissance, the course will trace, in the writings of some of the more important Medieval authors, the assimilation and transformation of several important ideas of Greek philosophy. *Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 2315 and 3316. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 3326 Topics in Early Modern Philosophy**

This is an advanced course on the philosophical issues arising from the rise of scientific thinking in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. *(LEC 3) (3 cr)*

**PHIL 3335 History of Modern Philosophy II: the Continental Tradition**

In the wake of attempts to create a kind of antagonism between rational thought and bodily experience, philosophers in Europe in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and throughout the nineteenth century, argued for a set of radical affinities between the rational and the empirical, between the way we think and the way we live. As a result, the philosophical project that has come to be called transcendental philosophy identifies as areas of philosophical concern a wide range of social, political and historical themes. These themes include the nature of time, the relationship between politics and history, the essence of community, and the impact of one's historical situation on the way one thinks. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 3415 Contemporary Philosophical Analysis**

A study of selected authors and problems in twentieth century English and American philosophy. Areas from which topics will be drawn include philosophy of mind, language, and value. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 3475 Existentialism**

Existentialism is one of the most important philosophical currents of our times. Its origin is traced through the thought of Kierkegaard and Nietzsche and through the contribution of Heidegger. Other authors will also be discussed. Principal themes studied will be existence, freedom, absurdity, and search for meaning. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 3485 Marx, Marxism and Socialism**

A study of the foundations of Karl Marx's wide ranging critique of modern society, stressing its philosophical roots and implications, both in substance and in method; and the subsequent diversity of interpretations in Socialism from the nineteenth century to the present day, with special emphasis on Canadian Socialist theory and theory of the labour movement. *(See also POLI 3485.) (LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 3635 Philosophy of Religion**

A systematic inquiry into the meaning of religious language. Current tools of philosophical analysis are used to interpret classical and modern texts which deal with religious truth, structures of pain and alienation, death, and other selected topics. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**PHIL 3875 Philosophy and Psychology**

Some main philosophical problems concerned with everyday explanations of human behaviour; and explanations found within experimental and clinical psychology. How do methods of verification, types of concepts, prediction, etc., differ from one case to the other? What bearing do questions in philosophy of mind have on explanations in psychology of human behaviour? A representative variety of psychological theories and techniques will be discussed. *(LEC 3) (6 cr)*

**HIST 3926 History and Historians: Ideas and Methods**

Will be accepted as a half-course philosophy credit for philosophy majors. *See History 3926. Prerequisite: A first year course in History or Philosophy or permission of the department. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*