Bachelor of Science in Business and Computer Science

Approved Ethics Courses

<u>L30 Phil 120F   Problems in Philosophy</u>   3.0 Units

Description: This course serves as an introduction to philosophy in the western analytic tradition. The course will place a strong emphasis on learning how to read philosophical texts and how to assess and produce compelling philosophical arguments. We shall discuss questions in epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of religion, such as: What is knowledge? What can we know? What is a mind, and is it distinct from a brain? Can we prove whether or not God exists? Is it rational to be religious?

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

<u>L30 Phil 131F   Present Moral Problems</u>   3.0 Units

Description: An investigation of a range of contemporary moral issues and controversies that draws on philosophical ethics and culturewide moral considerations. Topics may include: racism, world hunger, war and terrorism, the distribution of income and wealth, gender discrimination, pornography, free speech, lesbian and gay rights, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and animals and the environment.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

<u>L61 FYP 150A   First-Year Seminar: What Did Confucius Say? Ethics, Power, and the Great Books of China</u>   3.0 Units

Description: How do we live a good life? What is the basis of our moral decisions? Is the government responsible for creating an ethical society or is it up to individuals? Such questions were central to philosophical debates in China, yet they are of universal relevance and remain so today. The writings of Chinese thinkers in response to these questions are among the most profound and powerful in human history. This course begins with perhaps the most influential of these thinkers-Confucius. It will then turn to his near contemporaries-Mengzi, Mozi, Laozi, and Zhuangzi-and the profound impact of their work on subsequent Chinese (and East Asian) social and cultural history. We will focus on close readings of primary texts, in translation. Class discussion will aim to develop critical reading and presentation skills as we delve into the interpretation of these texts and consider their relevance in present day politics, film, and popular culture. No previous knowledge of Chinese philosophy or literature is assumed. Course is for first-year, non-transfer students only.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM BU: BA EN: H

L30 Phil 202A   Puzzles and Revolutions: Text and Tradition   3.0 Units

Description: What makes a scientific idea revolutionary? Are there reliable social mechanisms by which scientific revolutions come to pass? Can anything general to be said about the caste of mind conducive or inimical to formulating and accepting revolutionary scientific ideas? Are there important similarities between scientific and social revolutions? To explore these questions, we will read primary source material from revolutionary thinkers in physics, biology, and psychology (e.g., Copernicus, Galileo, Darwin, Mendel, Freud and Skinner). We will also read from the abundant secondary literature on the nature and necessity of scientific revolutions. Students will have the opportunity to read and research about the history of science while thinking about the nature of scientific progress and the engines that drive scientific change.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L30 Phil 233F   Biomedical Ethics   3.0 Units

Description: A critical examination, in the light of contemporary moral disagreements and traditional ethical theories, of some of the moral issues arising out of medical practice and experimentation in our society. Issues that might be discussed include euthanasia, genetic engineering, organ transplants, medical malpractice, the allocation of medical resources, and the rights of the patient.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETHCFH: MH EN: H

L30 Phil 234F   Business Ethics   3.0 Units

Description: Study of the nature and justification of economic systems, business organizations, and business practices. Focus on contemporary business and the ideology it embodies. Discussion of moral problems arising in business includes both the analysis of structural factors that cause them and the evaluation of courses of action that might resolve them.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L30 Phil 235F   Introduction to Environmental Ethics   3.0 Units

Description: This course is a general survey of environmental ethics. After examining some central theoretical approaches to ethics, we will address a range of ethical issues surrounding animal rights, biocentrism, corporate responsibility, climate change, future generations and sustainability, species extinction, and wilderness protection.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L30 Phil 315   Philosophy of Mind   3.0 Units

Description: An introduction to philosophical' analyses of the nature of mind, especially those developed by contemporary philosophers. The focus will be on questions such as the following: What is a mind? How does it relate to a person's brain? How does it relate to a person's body and the external world? Can a mind exist in a very different kind of body (e.g., a computer or a robot)? Does thinking require a language-like code? If so, can non-linguistic species think? What is it to have a mental image or to experience pain? Prereqs: one course in Philosophy at the 100 or 200-level, or permission of the instructor. Priority given to majors in Philosophy & PNP.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L30 Phil 331F   Classical Ethical Theories   3.0 Units

Description: Intensive readings of great works in the history of ethics, especially by Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, and Mill. Topics may include: the sources of moral knowledge, the nature of practical moral judgment, the moral role of emotion and desire, weakness of will, moral autonomy, and the universality of moral norms. Prerequisites: one course in Philosophy at the 100 or 200-level, or permission of the instructor.
Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L30 Phil 345F   Issues in Applied Ethics: Free Speech   3.0 Units

Description: Advanced study of a selected topic in applied ethics. Abstract ethical theories and methods are brought to bear on the moral problems that arise in an area of social and professional practice such as medicine, business, law, journalism, engineering, or scientific and humanistic research. Possible topics include: reproductive healthcare and policy, the just distribution of medical resources, the social responsibilities of corporations, accountability in the media and public office, and the ethics of research on or affecting human subjects. Prerequisites: one course at the 100 or 200-level in applied ethics; or permission of the instructor.
Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L30 Phil 346   Philosophy of Law   3.0 Units

Description: This course will first focus on the philosophical foundations of law, examining both the relationship between law and rules, as well as the types of legal reasoning. Second, the course will focus on philosophical issues that arise in the key substantive areas of law: contracts, torts, property, criminal law, and constitutional law, as well in specialized areas such as family and employment law. The course will end with a brief discussion of several problems in legal ethics. Prerequisites: one course in Philosophy at the 100 or 200-level, or permission of the instructor. Priority given to majors in Philosophy & PNP.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L93 IPH 427   Technology and Feminist Practice: Gender Violence Prevention Tools   3.0 Units

Description: How can we best use technology, and the tools and insights of the Digital Humanities in particular, to promote effective approaches to addressing gender-based violence? What are the most effective ways to bridge the innovations of the research university with the everyday work of practitioners seeking to prevent violence or intervene in its aftermath? What are the ethics involved in constructing tools for public and professional use? Which interests should govern the choices in content, design, and dissemination of information? This course will introduce students to the strategies and challenges of devising technological tools for violence prevention for use beyond the classroom. Class readings and discussions will be supplemented by hands-on project work with Washington University's Gender Violence Database and lab sessions that focus on skill-building in digital project construction. Prerequisite: For undergraduate students, L77 393 01 or previous work experience with the Gender Violence Database. Graduate students by permission of instructor.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L93 IPH 440   The Ethics, Politics, and Law of Big Data   3.0 Units

Description: This course will explore the phenomenon of "big data"--the use of very large data sets that make new predictive algorithms and other advanced data analytics possible--and will provide an opportunity to think critically about the applications of new information technologies and to develop an awareness of their ethical and political context. We will begin by addressing the philosophical question of what, if anything, is special about big data--what makes today's digital data ecosystems different from the ways in which scholars, governments, and businesses have used data and statistics for centuries. We will then examine questions about the ethics, politics, and law of contemporary information technology. Topics will include the moral philosophy of privacy; the theoretical foundations of American and European privacy law pertaining to big data; the ethics of using predictive algorithms in criminal sentencing and marketing; the ethical considerations that bear on academic research using "big data"; and differences and similarities between the ways in which computer code ("West Coast Code") and laws ("East Coast Code") regulate conduct. Readings will include excerpts from Ian Hacking's The Taming of Chance, Safiya Umoja Noble's Algorithms of Oppression, Cathy O'Neil's Weapons of Math Destruction, Evgeny Morozov's To Save Everything, Click Here, and Frank Pasquale's The Black Box Society. Assignments for the course will include both academic papers and practical exercises, such as drafting a mock privacy policy for a tech company accumulating large quantities of personal data about its consumers.

Attributes: A&S IQ: HUM EN: H