Please note: No prerequisites are required for any summer courses.

FIRST SUMMER SESSION:

PHIL-UA 4; Life and Death; MTWR 1:30-3:05; Andrew Lee
This course will examine a variety of philosophical issues pertaining to life and death. These might include questions such as: What makes for a good life? Is death intrinsically bad? What is the nature of the self? What obligations do we have towards future persons who are not yet alive? This course probably won't teach you how you ought to live your life, but it will teach you how to reflect critically on some important and interesting philosophical issues. Readings will be primarily comprised of contemporary texts and articles.

PHIL-UA 70; Logic; MTWR 1:30-3:05; Dan Hoek
This course is a first introduction to logic. Logic is the study of how to reason well, or – putting it differently – how to make good arguments. It is an absolutely essential tool in philosophy and in mathematics, and a basic schooling in logic will benefit anyone who needs proficiency in the art of reasoning and argumentation.

In this course, you will learn what a valid argument is, and you will learn methods for checking whether or not a given argument is valid. You will also learn how to use and understand formal logical languages, and how to translate English arguments into the languages of logic. This will enable you to better assess other people’s arguments, and also to produce better arguments yourself.

Topics include propositional logic, predicate logic, formalisation, validity and proof.

PHIL-UA 78; Metaphysics; MTWR 3:30-5:05; Vera Flocke
Some things are real, others are not. A mirage is not a real oasis. A bucket of water, however, really quenches thirst. But which things are real? And how can we tell?

This course is a survey of classical topics in metaphysics, with a special emphasis on the question of what there is. We will discuss whether past objects exists (even though they are in the past), whether there are abstract entities (such as numbers or propositions), and the status of fictional entities, among other topics. We will also consider whether reality is the same for all of us, or somehow depends on a perspective.
SECOND SUMMER SESSION:

PHIL-UA 1; Central Problems in Philosophy; MTWR 3:30-5:05; Ben Holguin

This course is an introduction to some central issues in contemporary philosophy. The goal will be to practice thinking hard and writing clearly about questions like the following: Do you have free will? What, if anything, do you know? What's the relationship between your mind and your brain? Are you morally obligated to help those in need? What sort of changes (physical or otherwise) could you undergo before you'd stop being you?

PHIL-UA 21; History of Modern Philosophy; MTWR 1:30-3:05; Michelle Dyke

This course will provide an introduction to the works of some major figures in philosophy from the 17th and 18th centuries. Authors will include (but are not limited to) Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Hume and Kant. We will compare their views on a variety of topics in metaphysics & epistemology including knowledge and skepticism, causation, essence and identity, the relationship between the mental and the physical, and the role of God. Students will be encouraged to engage critically with the arguments of each author.

PHIL-UA 40; Ethics; MTWR 3:30-5:05; Mike Zhao

Are there any absolute moral principles? What is the good life for a human being? Is the authority of morality over us an illusion? How do people make moral judgments? This course will answer these questions.

PHIL-UA 50; Medical Ethics; MTWR 9:30-11:05; Camil Golub

This course is an introduction to several central questions in medical ethics, many of which are the subject of deep controversies in public life. For example: should someone with a degenerative disease have the right to end his life? Should parents be allowed to use prenatal genetic tests to select children who are less likely to be disabled? If a healthy donor wants to sell a kidney, should anyone intervene to prevent the sale? How should it be decided who receives medical treatment, when there aren't enough resources to treat everyone? Our goal will be to identify and analyze the philosophical positions and arguments behind the views advanced in such controversies. No background in philosophy or medicine will be assumed.
PHIL-UA 52; Philosophy of Law; MTWR 11:30-1:05; Chelsea Rosenthal

When can we morally break the law, and what is the relationship between law and morality? Can lawyers ethically represent murderers? When is criminal punishment justified, and have we criminalized too much? We’ll discuss these and other questions in this survey of the philosophy of law.

PHIL-UA 70; Logic; MTWR 6-7:35; Kyle Blumberg

This course is an introduction to the techniques of modern symbolic logic, in particular to sentential and predicate logic. Students will learn how to put arguments from ordinary language into symbols, how to construct derivations within a formal system and how to ascertain validity using truth tables or models.