**Seminar Descriptions for 2018-19**

*updated 7-13-18*

**Fall 2018**

**PHL 800/830—Proseminar/Seminar in Logic and Language (O’Rourke)**

 **Tues. 7:00 – 9:50 pm**

This hybrid seminar will combine detail about the profession of philosophy with close, critical attention to human communication. The multifarious roles of human communication in shaping identity and in creating community mark it as a crucial human activity. This seminar experience will involve closely reading and critically analyzing philosophical perspectives on human communication, including those from the philosophy of language, communication theory, and social epistemology. Much of the second half of the semester will focus on ethical aspects of human communication, including recent work on slurs, hate speech, and microaggressions.

A smaller but equally important part will involve attention to the practice of professional philosophy. In thinking about professional philosophy, we will attend to it both as practitioners and as philosophers. From the side of practice, the course will supply information about the profession, resources you can use in making decisions about your career, and opportunities to function as a research philosopher. From the philosophical perspective, we will attend critically to institutional structures and prevailing tendencies within the profession, as well as to metaphilosophical questions about our discipline.

The syllabus will include an integrated set of readings drawn from the philosophy of language (both semantics and pragmatics), communication theory, value theory, philosophy of action, metaphilosophy, social epistemology, and feminist epistemology. Graduate students in their second year and beyond interested in receive credit for this course should enroll I the 830 section of this course.

**PHL 820 – Seminar in Continental Philosophy (Ruíz)**

**Continental Feminisms and the Politics of Revolt Thurs. 4:10 – 7:00 pm**

This is a specialized survey course in continental philosophy geared towards students interested in feminist philosophical approaches to culture, politics, and especially issues of oppression and violence. It focuses on close readings of primary texts in continental feminisms, broadly construed to include poststructuralist, critical theorist and hermeneutic feminisms throughout the Global South. We will also take up core issues in anti-colonial feminisms that challenge deeply held assumptions about selfhood, discursivity, and the possibilities for freedom articulated in continental thought. We will ask whether past traditions and current trends in continental thought articulate a view of human existence compatible with the epistemic diversity and liberation projects throughout the Global South, and how one might proceed in light of our answer. Focusing on philosophical responses to different articulations of violence and oppression, we will read works by Julia Kristeva, Gayatri Spivak,  Sarah Kofman, Sandra Bartky, Nelly Richard, Judith Butler, Ofelia Schutte, Frantz Fanon, as well as more canonical authors like Michel Foucault and Friedrich Nietzsche. In the process, students will gain basic familiarity with core issues, key thinkers, and associated movements in continental thought such as poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, phenomenology, hermeneutics and critical theory, always with attention to practices of marginalization in the history of philosophy.

**PHL 860 – Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology (Dotson) Mon. 7:00–9:50 pm**

**Exploring Women of Color Feminist Epistemology and Purposeful Epistemology**

This class will cover a growing school of thought in analytic epistemology today, called, “purposeful epistemology." Some of its main proponents in analytic epistemology include Edward Craig, David Henderson, John Greco and Michael Williams. This particular vein of analytic thought has opened the door for Miranda Fricker’s work on epistemic injustice in professional philosophy. It also has the greatest capacity to intersect with women of color feminist epistemologies because the point and purpose of epistemology is a central question in women of color feminist thought. This class will interrogate the limitations and scope of intersections between purposeful epistemology and women of color feminist epistemologies, particularly Black feminist and Indigenous feminist epistemologies.

Class texts include, but may not be limited to: Lee Maracle, *Memory Serves*; Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*; Angela Davis, *The Angela Davis Reader*, *Freedom is a Constant Struggle, The Meaning of Freedom*; Edward Craig, *Knowledge and the State of Nature*;  David Henderson & John Greco’s edited volume, *Epistemic Evaluation: Purposeful Epistemology;* Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*.

**Spring 2019**

**PHL 801 – Teaching Philosophy (Ferkany) Weds. 7:00–9:50 pm**

This seminar introduces students to fundamental ideas in the philosophy of education, in the theory of teaching and learning, and to managing the practical challenges of teaching undergraduate philosophy. Unlike many other seminars, theoretical study in this course will largely be in the service of improving practice. Seminar assignments include regular reading, a teaching demo, a mock teaching interview, designing a syllabus and several assignments for an introductory level course, comparing your standards for grading student work to your professor’s and your peers’, and compiling a teaching dossier. Students bring their work to class, where we discuss it and offer suggestions.

Students also work with a faculty mentor (teaching a 100-300 level course) on the following: observing the mentor’s teaching (for one lecture) and discussing his/her teaching strategies; guest lecturing for the faculty mentor (observed by the mentor) and then meeting to discuss the student’s performance. (This faculty mentor will then be in a good position to contribute a teaching letter to the student’s teaching dossier.)

We also devote as much time as is needed to discuss classroom dynamics: how to prevent or resolve conflicts, how to create and maintain an inclusive classroom environment, how to handle difficult or disruptive students.

**PHL 880 – Seminar in Philosophy of Science (Douglas)**

**Commercialization of Science Tues. 7:00 – 9:50 pm**

As intellectual property regimes take an increasingly important place in science, this seminar will examine the influence of commerce and the private economic sector on science.  We will examine the benefits of and concerns over private sector funding of science (which can both direct scientific attention to practical outcomes and distort scientific findings) and the role of patents in science (which can both motivate scientific efforts and curtail research in some areas).  The influence of private sector funding will be considered within the political context for science, where there remains a mix of public and private funding for science (private funding of science has outstripped public funding of science and is now the predominant source of funding for most OECD states), and where science is pursued in such institutional contexts as universities, private labs, and government agencies.  We will consider policies that might curtail the more pernicious influences on science and public interest, and whether such policies (as some have argued) are doomed to failure.

**PHL 897 – Seminar in Feminist Theories, Epistemologies & Pedagogy (Chaudhuri)**

 **Fri. 9:10 am – 12:00 pm**

 **210A Berkey Hall**

This class has been designed as an introduction for graduate students to the interdisciplinary study of feminist theories in global perspective, feminist methodology and epistemology, and feminist pedagogy. Students will become familiar with the historical origins of feminist scholarship and equip themselves with the applications of women’s and gender studies epistemologies, theories, and questions to varied academic domains as well as to feminist praxis in non-academic settings. Several weeks of classroom work will be devoted to feminist praxis inside and outside the academy.  This course serves as the gateway course to the graduate specialization in Women’s and Gender Studies in the College of Arts and Letters. (Cross-listed as WS 897, and with ENG, SOC, and TE)