**Seminar Descriptions for 2019-2020**

**Fall 2019**

**PHL 800/840—Proseminar/Seminar in Value Theory (Whyte) Weds. 7:00 – 9:50 pm**

**Professional Ethics and Practices in Philosophy and the Humanities**

This year's proseminar will feature units for every class focused on the key aspects of career development for doctoral students. The beginning of the class will focus on goal setting and career planning. The class will then move on to key topics such as proposal-writing and dissertation mapping, and how to balance the pressures to publish and teach prior to graduating. There will be extensive coverage of how to work on job market materials for the future, and the arc of academic and non-academic careers for PhD holders in philosophy. There will also be conversations each week on ethical topics that affect the field today, including citation practices, peer review, professional conduct, social discrimination, and the politics of financial compensation. Interspersed with these discussions and exercises on these topics will be readings from different cultural and social traditions that relate to ethics in relation to the organization of academic fields in philosophy and the humanities. It is hoped these readings will connect with the discussions involved in the other topics.

**PHL 810/860 – Seminar in History of Philosophy/ Metaphysics and Epistemology**

 **(Godden and Nelson)**

 **Wittgenstein Mon. 7:00–9:50 pm**

This seminar will offer a survey of Wittgenstein's early work (Tractatus), his transitional writings (“Lecture on ethics,” Philosophical remarks ), and his later thought (Philosophical Investigations, On Certainty). The seminar will explore the metaphilosophical continuity of this oeuvre, and examine points of internal tension and development (e g,. from logic to grammar). Further, in the spirit of Wittgenstein’s remark “What is the use of philosophy if...it does not improve our thinking about the really important questions of everyday life,” significant time will be devoted to considering implications of Wittgenstein’s thought for some contemporary moral, social and political issues. The seminar plans to draw (virtual) visitors from among a group of philosophers who have used Wittgenstein’s work for such purposes, including Naomi Scheman, Cressida Hayes, Sabina Lovibond, and José Medina.

**PHL 870 – Seminar in Philosophy of Health Care (Valles)**

**Philosophy of Population Health Tues. 7:00–9:50 pm**

This course will combine value theory, philosophy of science, and epistemology (in varying amounts, partly based on student research project choices), and hence there is flexibility in using the course to potentially fulfill any of those PHL graduate area requirements. It will explore the contemporary interdisciplinary debates at the contested interface between healthcare practices, various other cultural practices, and social policies. In other words, it will be a philosophy of healthcare course, but based around exploring about the limits of what healthcare can do, and what else can be done where it leaves off. The course will not expect any particular prior coursework in philosophy (or health science). The semester will explore a range of philosophical questions arising from the contemporary “population health” efforts that seek to equitably promote health: How are inequitable health patterns theorized, and what roles are played by the “social determinants of health”? What kinds of epistemic practices are ethically appropriate in doctor-patient and researcher-stakeholder interactions? Which measures of “effectiveness” are used in medicine, and why have some measures been critiqued as ableist, sexist, or stigmatizing? How can and do intersectional methodologies and indigenous methodologies contribute to population health theory and practice? How do and should health considerations fit into discourse surrounding climate change, mass incarceration, and other social problems not typically seen as health-related? Students will have opportunities to add and subtract from the set of course topics/readings, and the primary research project for the semester will center on drawing connections between philosophy of population health and students’ own areas of research focus (whatever they may be).

**Spring 2020**

**PHL 820/850 – Seminar in Continental Philosophy/ Social and Political Philosophy (Lotz)**

**Contemporary European Political Philosophy Mon. 7:00–9:50 pm**

In this seminar we will discuss 20th Century and contemporary European political philosophy. In contrast to mainstream Anglo-American political philosophy, these thinkers are less concerned with normative questions, legalistic conceptions of the political sphere, and questions about justice. In addition, these thinkers tend to think about "the political" in relation to "the social," given that doing so includes the consideration of anthropological and ontological aspects of what it means to be a political being. Philosophers discussed in class *might* be Schmitt, Arendt, Mouffe, Negri/Michael Hardt, Habermas, Ranciere, Butler, Castoriadis, Badiou, or Dussell. I am not yet clear about the final list. Some of the aforementioned philosophers belong to the so called "post-Marxist" tradition, which, among other things, proposes a return to political philosophy, leaving Marxist social theory behind. Though I feel discontent about this move, I do agree with most philosophers on our class list that many Marxists, including the pre-Habermasian Frankfurt School figures, failed to develop a proper understanding of the political realm, and that this might be one reason for the defeats of the left during the 20th Century. In this regard, Hannah Arendt's philosophy deserves our highest attention, especially insofar as we are faced with the contemporary re-emergence of right wing anti-liberal thought and authoritarian threats. Most thinkers we will be addressing in class are positioned either on the left or are liberals. We will see whether we can include more conservative or right wing material. Topics will include the difference between the political and the social, the concept of democracy, the enemy/foe distinction, assembly, socialism, revolution, populism, and power/violence.

Note:A final list of selected readings and the syllabus will be available this fall online on my web page at <http://christianlotz.com>

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

**Science, Citizens, and Democracy**  **Weds. 7:00–9:50 pm**

Acknowledging the pervasive importance for values in science creates an accountability conundrum for science in democratic societies.  If values are crucial for the directing of scientific effort, for the ethical limitations placed on scientific practices, and for the assessment of evidential sufficiency, and at the same time our democratic processes are central to articulating, refining, critiquing, and ultimately weighing our values, how are the values in science to be held to democratic standards?  This seminar will explore this conundrum and plausible solutions, particularly from the public engagement with science literature.  The seminar will move from theory about science in democracy to details about practices that encourage and enable value accountability in science for democratic contexts, as well as limits of those practices.