

SOPHIA

Spring 2010

Volume I Issue 1

a newsletter for philosophy & religion students, professors, and friends

Spring, 2010 Classes

PHIL 2264-01 Enduring Questions in the Humanities: Mortality and Meaning, God and Suffering (cross listed with Rel 2264/Eng 2264) MTTHF 1:00-1:50 p.m. CH 122 This special four-credit course, which is sponsored by an "Enduring Questions" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is open to freshmen and sophomores only and fulfills Block I distribution requirements. The course explores two sets of core issues: (1) *Mortality and Meaning*. Does death negate the meaning of a human life? Or can death give life meaning, and if so, how? What can confronting death teach us about life? (2) *God and Suffering*. Why do we suffer? Does the Bible help to make sense of suffering? If not, is faith still possible for a thoughtful human being? Readings trace the lines of tension between pre-modern and modern perspectives, and between philosophy and religious faith. The course will include several films, museum visits, and a panel discussion. Readings include *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Ecclesiastes, Job, 1 Peter, and writings by Euripides, Thucydides, Plato, Nietzsche, Donne, Shelley, Lincoln, Tennyson, Dostoyevsky, Richard Wright, Jean Amery, Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel, and Margaret Edson. Films include "Witness," "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero," "The Lives of Others," and selections from "Shoah." Dr. Howland x2799 jacob-howland@utulsa.edu.

PHIL 2453-01 Great Conversation II (cross listed with Rel 2453) TTH 11:00-12:15 p.m. CH LH An examination of major figures in the break-off of philosophy from theology in the modern era. Consideration of the Reformation background of modern thought, the challenge of scientific rationalism to religion, and the effort to conceive the moral and political foundations of society in wholly secular terms. Dr. Gardner x2820 stephen-gardner@utulsa.edu.

PHIL 3973-01 Seminar: Sociology and Philosophy of Belief (cross listed with Soc 3973) TTH 3:30-4:45 p.m. CH 251 People think they truly know many things: about society, politics, people, the cosmos, the physical world, a spiritual word, themselves, and more. And people over time have confidently believed...well, almost everything and anything. This course will introduce students to the sociology and philosophy of belief. We will consider sociological questions such as: What do people think they know? Why do they think they know? What sorts of folk theories about believing serve to guide and justify people's claims? What appear to be main sources of beliefs? When do beliefs change and not change? Why do some people seem to believe weird things? But then what defines weird? Are there any apparent limits to what people will claim to know? These last questions lead to some philosophical questions like: How do philosophers try to distinguish between more and less reasonable beliefs? Should we strive for responsible believing? Could we? If so, what would it be? (Note: Students who took First Seminar 1973-02 Spring 2007 may not take this course.) Dr. Jepperson x3900 ronald-jepperson@utulsa.edu.

PHIL 4003-01 Seminar in the History of Political Thought: Liberty and Authority (cross listed with Rel 4863/Hist 4033/Pol 4003) W 6:00-8:45 p.m. CH 251 Dr. Hittinger x3081 francis-hittinger@utulsa.edu and Dr. Howland x2799 jacob-howland@utulsa.edu.

PHIL 4053-01 Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics (Aesthetics) TTH 6:00-7:15 p.m. CH 256 We study some of the major philosophers of art and aesthetics, with special stress on German aesthetics from Kant, Hegel, and the Romantics on. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of the instructor. Dr. Gardner x2820 stephen-gardner@utulsa.edu.

PHIL 4063-01 Philosophy of Law (cross listed with Rel 4033/Pol 4033/Law 5683) MW 3:30-4:45 p.m. CH 252 Major alternative theories of the nature of law and legal systems and possible synthesis, with emphasis on selected principal writings of such philosophers as Hart, Kelsen, R.M. Dworkin, Ross, Fuller, and Raz. Topics include the nature of norms, the relation between law and morality studies, and issues in theory of adjudication. Prerequisites: Upper division standing, one previous course in philosophy, or Interdisciplinary 2043. Dr. Hittinger x3081 francis-hittinger@utulsa.edu.

PHIL 4603-01 Kierkegaard (cross listed with Rel 4603) TTH 3:30-4:45 p.m. CH 123 This course will undertake a close study of *Either/Or*, *Fear and Trembling* and *Philosophical Fragments*, as well as selections from other works. Among other topics, we will explore Kierkegaard's understanding of the limits of philosophy, the nature of faith and its relationship to love, the natures of paradox, anxiety, and despair, the significance of the unity of eternity and history in "the moment," and the necessity of grace. Special attention will be paid to the pedagogical implications of the style of this "Master of Irony." Dr. Howland x2799 jacob-howland@utulsa.edu.

PHIL 4973-01 Senior Project Dr. Gardner x2820 stephen-gardner@utulsa.edu.

SENIOR PROJECT

Students who need to take REL 4973 Senior Project or PHIL 4973 Senior Project need to see Dr. Gardner.



REL 2023-01 New Testament as Literature MW 3:30-4:45 p.m. CH 122 The story of Jesus' life as it appears in three New Testament narratives: the action-centered Gospel of Mark; Luke/Acts, which see Jesus' life as beginning a new era and fulfilling an old one; and the gospel writer John's story of the divine Son of God. Dr. Ackerman x2290 jane-ackerman@utulsa.edu.

REL 2264-01 Enduring Questions in the Humanities: Mortality and Meaning, God and Suffering (cross listed with Phil 2264/Eng 2264, see Phil 2264 for description) MTTHF 1:00-1:50 p.m. CH 122 Dr. Howland x2799 jacob-howland@utulsa.edu.

REL 2453-01 Great Conversation II (cross listed with Phil 2453, see for description) TTH 11:00-12:15 p.m. CHLH Dr. Gardner x2820 stephen-gardner@utulsa.edu.

REL 3503-01 Paul and Early Christianity TTH 9:30-10:45 a.m. CH 252 Life and times of the Apostle Paul and the first Christian recipients of his letters. Major ecclesial and theological issues in Romans, Galatians, I-II Thessalonians, I-II Corinthians, and Ephesians. Dr. Ackerman x2290 jane-ackerman@utulsa.edu.

REL 3973-01 Seminar: "Calvin and His Legacy" TTH 11:00-12:15 p.m. CH 253 This course will begin with an examination of the place of John Calvin within the wider movement of the Protestant Reformation. We will then study the religious and political aspects of Calvin's thought, and follow these trajectories as they are developed in the 18th-19th centuries within the wider areas of theology, politics, and philosophy. Finally, we will conclude with a sampling of contemporary thinkers that draw on the resources of the Calvinist tradition. Dr. Drever x2647 matthew-drever@utulsa.edu.

REL 4033-01 Legal Political Theory Thomas Aquinas (cross listed with Phil 4063/Law 5683/Pol 4033, see Phil 4063 for description) MW 3:30-4:45 p.m. CH 252 Dr. Hittinger x3081 francis-hittinger@utulsa.edu.

REL 4603-01 Kierkegaard (cross listed with Phil 4603, see for description) TTH 3:30-4:45 p.m. CH 123 Dr. Howland x2799 jacob-howland@utulsa.edu.

REL 4863-01 Seminar in the History of Political Thought: Liberty and Authority (cross listed with Phil 4003/Pol 4033/Hist 4033, see description in Phil 4003) W 6:00-8:45 p.m. Ch 251 Dr. Hittinger x3081 francis-hittinger@utulsa.edu and Dr. Howland x2799 jacob-howland@utulsa.edu.

REL 4973 Senior Project Dr. Gardner x2820 stephen-gardner@utulsa.edu.

SENIOR PROJECT

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DOUBLE MAJOR—PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

If you'd like to learn about the possibilities of majoring in philosophy or religion, completing a double major in these two disciplines, or completing a minor in one or the other, we encourage you to contact:

Dr. Jane Ackerman, who advises religion majors (x2290, jane-ackerman@utulsa.edu), or Dr. Steve Gardner, who advises philosophy majors (x2820, stephen-gardner@utulsa.edu).

Both welcome individual appointments, or, if it's more convenient to you, email.

Reminder

Attention All Seniors:

All Seniors who still need to take logic, work on their senior project, or take a bridge course need to see their advisor right away. Philosophy students who do not yet have an advisor, see Professor Futch at x2962.

REGISTRATION WEEK:

Philosophy Majors—See your advisor (Drs. Howland, Futch, or Gardner)
Religion Majors—See Jane Ackerman

Religion majors interested in Phillips Seminary courses consult with Jane Ackerman

Of Interest to Current Students

Features of the Philosophy and Religion Majors

American universities have responsibilities to the larger society. Because they are especially equipped for the task, universities preserve knowledge of the past, and help citizens learn about the past. These tasks are important. If a people forgets its origin, and forgets how it arrived in the present, it loses moorings. As news stories occasionally inform us, those suffering from amnesia lose much of their identity, as well as practical knowledge concerning how to conduct life. Studying the past certainly matters to the present.

American universities also need to conform to certain features of whatever the larger society is at the time. The paralleling of what one studies in a university with society at large can be seen, for example, in the nationwide university requirement that students study a variety of subjects before moving into a specialization. The multiple subjects encountered in Block courses (called core courses elsewhere) during the freshman and sophomore years conform in an important way to American society's self-view that it has a battery of strengths. Americans believe that to be contributing citizens of their country, they must know about more than one thing.

Society changes and so should university curricula. As a nation, we have especially had to learn to address *juxtaposition* in the last decades. For example, we cannot think of ourselves as a country independent of others any more - certainly the stock market has proved that. We are now obliged to consider ourselves next to other countries and interacting with them. It's not a question of choosing to see oneself as juxtaposed to other countries or choosing to draw up the drawbridge to the castle. Fax machines, the internet, choices in expending natural resources and transportation have permanently erased the possibility of thinking that this country is an island. We had better learn about those with whom we are in contact. We had better learn about juxtapositions.

Our technology makes it easier and easier for us to compare so many things that were not juxtaposable so many years ago, and this is profoundly affecting higher education in the U.S. Any student now can simultaneously study, in a single computer session, an ancient Mediterranean document describing a good society, a Marxist critique of capitalism, and European documents expressing feudal law. New juxtapositions now available to us create new thoughts about what we're comparing and about ourselves. Our grasp of traditional knowledge sometime changes as a result.

Attentive to these concerns, faculty members in the Philosophy and Religion Department at the University of Tulsa have revised both its majors and have created two new required courses that juxtapose the disciplines of philosophy and religious studies. Changes were approved by the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee in Spring, 2001.

- We have created many new, traditionally-designed courses in philosophy and religion. Some of the new permanent offerings are: Jewish-Christian Relations, The Sacred Feminine, Kierkegaard, Philosophical Anthropology and Natural Law and Natural Rights. These new courses strengthen our offerings in the history of philosophy and the history of religions.
- Responding to the second obligation of universities, to reflect the present state of American society, we have created two new courses that juxtapose philosophical thinking with religiously-based thinking. These two courses are now requirements for both the philosophy major and the religion major. There is quite a background to the conception of these courses. Philosophers in the West tended to assert their divorce from traditional religion beginning around the time of the Enlightenment, but the two intellectual orientations have always been related, explicitly before 1700, and in subterranean ways thereafter. Nowadays in some quarters, theologians and philosophers are drawing on each other's traditions to address problems of life in the present age. The two courses reflect this trend. They bring students specializing in philosophy and in religion into the same classroom. They use resources from both disciplines to examine profound human questions.
- Some distribution requirements in the old majors have been reduced in the new ones. The total credits needed to complete each major have been raised from 27 to 30, to bring the philosophy and religion majors in line with majors in History (33 credits required), Art (30), English (30), Political Science (33), and Sociology (30).

If you're a reader who is presently completing a major (or a minor) in philosophy or in religion, you will want to know, what does this big change in the majors and the addition of the two new required courses do to my graduation requirements? Do I *have* to take the two new courses now, in order to graduate?

- Students completing *minors* are not required to take the 2 new courses, although they're welcome to enroll in them. The requirements of the minor have not changed.
- Any student who *began a philosophy or religion major before Summer, 2001* is "grand fathered." In most families, grandparents have some rights of seniority. So do you, if you filled out the pink sheet and declared your major before August, 2001. You may proceed to complete the requirements of the old program *OR* you may shift to the new major in your discipline, and complete you major in the new format. We and the A&S advising office will help you complete what you choose.
- But anyone declaring *a religion or a philosophy major after August 2001* is automatically a member of the new program, and does have to take the two courses and all other required features of the new program. If you're in this group, you've been tracked on the new balance sheet from the beginning, and should have heard about the major in its new format from a faculty advisor in the department, if you discussed your major with one of us before you declared it.
- All of the new courses are open to all students majoring or minoring in either discipline.

Do you have further questions, or would you like to talk over the new program? Feel free to bring up the subject with any faculty member in the department. We worked together on the new curriculum, and so we're all informed about its layout and intentions. Our telephones and office numbers are listed in the back of this newsletter. Or if you like, contact Drs. Ackerman or Howland, who handle most of the advising of religion and philosophy majors. If you ask a question that we hadn't foreseen, we'll find a concrete answer for it quickly.



The Required Comparative Courses

1453 (3 hours)

The Great Conversation I: Ancient and Medieval

Introduction to ancient and medieval thought about the origins of the cosmos and human life, the nature of God (or the gods), the relationship between human and divine spheres, and the foundations and limits of knowledge. Required for philosophy and religion majors. Offered once every 3 semesters.

2453 (3 hours)

The Great Conversation II: Modern and Contemporary

An examination of major figures in the break-off of philosophy from theology in the modern era. Consideration of the Reformation background of modern thought, the challenge of scientific rationalism to religion, and effort to conceive the moral and political foundations of society in wholly secular terms. Required for philosophy and religion majors. Offered once every 3 semesters.

NOTE: Topics in Philosophy and Religion, Phil/Rel 3283, will no longer be required for philosophy and religion majors. Instead, majors will be required to take at least one course cross-listed in philosophy and religion.

Contact Numbers

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
Ackerman, Jane, Assoc. Prof. of Religious Studies	631-2290	CH 211
Drever, Matthew, Asst. Professor of Religion	631-2647	CH 206
Futch, Michael J. , Asst. Professor of Philosophy	631-2962	CH 233
Gardner, Stephen, Chair and Assoc. Professor of Philosophy	631-2820	CH 222
Hittinger, Russell, Warren Prof. of Catholic Studies	631-3081	CH 205
Howland, Jacob, McFarlin Prof. of Philosophy	631-2799	CH 239
Henley, Tina, Department Secretary	631-2279	CH 215

Student Information

Alexander Student Health Center • student medical concerns • physician referrals	Stephanie Fell	631-2241
Career Services • deciding upon a major • job/career choices • graduate school information • internship opportunities • full-time/part-time/summer employment • resume assistance	Art Tyndell	631-2552
Center for Student Academic Support • monitoring of students at risk • individual academic counseling • tutoring • liaison between students and faculty/university personnel • campus contact for students with disabilities	Dr. Jane Corso	631-2315
Counseling and Psychological Services • psychological counseling • assessment • consultation for concerns such as stress-related anxiety, depression and interpersonal concerns • common concerns for students include: anxiety, anger, alcohol/drug abuse, depression, eating concerns, sleep difficulties, stress management, etc.	Dr. Tom Brian	631-2200
Housing and Dining • issues with roommate • campus housing questions • gold card usage	Melissa France	631-2516
Office of Student Affairs • student conduct matters • complaints of sexual assault and/or harassment • social, cultural and educational programs	Yolanda Taylor	631-2965
Recreational Sports • stress relief • group activities • intramural participation	Mary Wafer-Johnston	631-2675
Student Financial Services • potential grade problem (loss of scholarship or federal eligibility) • course load drops below full-time status • student is withdrawing during the middle of the semester • financial difficulties	Vicki Hendrickson	631-2624
Support Labs • Computer Lab , McFarlin Library, 631-2341 • Foreign Language Lab , OH 200, 631-2808 • Math Lab , KEP M6, 631-2193, McFarlin library, 631-3800 • Writing Center , ZH 366, 631-3131		
Collegiate Advising Offices • Arts & Sciences , Advisor: Jane Thomas, CH 119, 631-2815 • Business Administration , Advisors: Sara Rogers, Rick Arrington, BAH 218, 631-2214/2216 • Engineering & Natural Sciences , Advisors: Sharon Oster, Joyce Smith, KEP M205, 631-2223/2224		