

**UGA DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
FALL 2017 UPPER-LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Aristotle**

**PHIL 4010/6010**

**Dr. Athanasios Samaras**

**4 TR 12:30-1:45**

The course begins with placing Aristotle's thought in its historical context and concentrates on two major areas of his work, his metaphysics and his political philosophy. The texts used are Halper's *Aristotle's Metaphysics* and the *Politics* Books I–II in Saunders's translation.

**Philosophical Psychology**

**PHIL 3400**

**Dr. Edward Halper**

**4 MWF 11:15-12:05**

What is conscious thought? Philosophers and psychologists have approached this question in many different ways. Philosophers have described various mental functions, tried to determine how they can and should be used, and considered how they have arisen. Approaching the subject differently, psychologists have studied the phenomenon of “inner speech” as a result of our interactions with the world and, especially, with other people. Tentative course readings are Charles Fernyhough's *The Voices Within*, Daniel Dennett's, *From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds*, and some works of Jean Piaget.

**Contemporary Continental Philosophy**

**PHIL 4090/6090**

**Dr. Edward Halper**

**5 MWF 12:20-1:10**

The principal reading for the course is Heidegger's *Being and Time*. As a way to appreciate it and to wrestle with it, we will read selections from Levinas's *Totality and Infinity*. Heidegger claims that the question of Being, the central question of philosophy, has been forgotten. *Being and Time* aims to reintroduce this question and to explain how Being discloses itself through human being.

**Philosophy of Religion**

**PHIL/RELI 4500/6500**

**Dr. Edward Halper**

**6 MWF 1:25-2:15**

Does religious faith or practice make a person more ethical? What is the connection between religion and morality? These questions are the subject of the three books we will read in the course: Spinoza, *Theological Political Treatise*; Kant, *Religion within the Bounds of Mere Reason*; Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*.

**Environmental Ethics**

**PHIL/EETH 4220/6220**

**Dr. Piers Stephens**

#### **4 TR 12:30-1:45**

In this course, we begin by looking at the history and key debates in environmental thought in the USA, guiding this through to an overview of contemporary issues in the philosophical field commonly known as environmental ethics. The key questions of this field include those of the value of nature, the clash of anthropocentric vs ecocentric ethics, the definition of “nature” itself as against humans and/or their artefacts, and the role of technology and technical fixes in relation to environmental problems. These concerns then lead us into a broader evaluation of environmental thought at the international scale, examining it in relation to preceding traditions of moral and political thought as well as contemporary concerns with sustainable development and climate change, steadily moving from the core issues of North American environmental ethics, many with a background in the wilderness tradition, through to the related but distinct West European traditions of green politics, predominantly derived from a mixture of romanticism and the leftist political heritage.

#### **Aesthetics**

**PHIL 4230/6230**

**Dr. Bradley Bassler**

**9 MWF 4:40-5:50**

My tentative plan for Phil 4230/6230 Aesthetics in Fall 2017 is to focus on music and poetry, taking as theme the ambivalent aesthetic status of the categories of noise and garbage. I will use this focus to evaluate the way these seemingly negative categories open up aesthetic reflections on the challenges we face confronting the accelerating condition of modern experience. Readings may include Theodor Adorno, *Philosophy of Modern Music*; Jacques Attali, *Noise: The Political Economy of Music*; Angus Fletcher, *A New Theory for American Poetry: Democracy, The Environment and the Future of Imagination*; and A. R. Ammons' book length poem, *Garbage*

#### **Deductive Systems**

**PHIL/LING 4510/6510**

**Dr. Yuri Balashov**

**7 TR 5:00-6:15**

A second course in symbolic logic, building on PHIL 2500 or its equivalent. Topics include formal semantics for predicate logic with identity and functors, mathematical induction, and expressive completeness of sets of truth-functional connectives in sentential logic. Required materials: Bergmann, Moor and Nelson, *The Logic Book*, 6th ed. (2014) (978-0078038419), and class notes/handouts.