

**Department of Philosophy
San Francisco State University
SPRING 2022 Graduate Seminars**

**This schedule is tentative and subject to change without notice*

**PHIL 702 [01]
PHILOSOPHY OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY
Tuesday 9:30 – 12:30 PM *synchronous*
Dr. Ásta**

Philosophical examination of culture, language, and society, drawing on both the continental and analytic traditions. The theme this semester is ideology and ideology critique with particular attention to racism.

**PHIL 715 [01]
SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHICAL WRITING
Wednesday 12:30 – 3:15 PM *in-person*
Dr. Kimbrough Moore**

The primary goal of this course is to improve our abilities to read, interpret, and write philosophical essays. To this end, we will study some of the advanced analytic, interpretive, and expressive skills essential to the writing of philosophy. Throughout the course, we will read assigned texts and practice different skills. Written assignments will include argument reconstructions and presentations of our own arguments.

**PHIL 770 [01]
SEMINAR IN A CLASSICAL AUTHOR
TOPIC: HEIDEGGER'S BEING & TIME
Tuesday 4:00 – 6:45 PM *in-person*
Dr. Mohammad Azadpur**

Heidegger's *Being and Time* is perhaps the most influential philosophical text of the twentieth century. Yet subsequent philosophers identify its main significance differently: For some, *Being and Time* is a continuation of the phenomenological project begun by Edmund Husserl; others claim it lays the theoretical groundwork for existentialism. These two approaches are not necessarily exclusive, and they are complemented with the works of scholars who take *Being and Time* to have reformed the ancient discipline of hermeneutics. On the other side of the pond, some analytic philosophers are smitten by this classic German text and find in it a novel approach to the problem of intentionality. Finally, we should not overlook the readings that take *Being and Time* to reflect Heidegger's involvement with Nazism. In this course, the principal task is to engage in a close reading of the text (mainly the first division), with special attention paid to its oft-overlooked ethical aspect. In this project, some of the prominent interpretations of *Being and Time*, mentioned above, are examined and assessed.

PHIL 772 [01] and 772 [02]
SEMINAR IN A CLASSICAL SCHOOL
TOPIC: VIRTUE & LAW IN CHINA & GREECE
Monday 4:00 – 6:45 PM *in-person*
Dr. Justin Tiwald and Dr. Jeremy Reid

What is the relationship between law and the development of virtue? How might political systems be arranged so as to be conducive to virtue? How do virtuous people think about their legal obligations in inevitably non-ideal states? These questions are central to Greek, Roman, and Chinese ethical and political philosophy. The goal of this course is to give students an introduction to these discussions in their historical contexts, and to encourage students to consider how philosophers in different traditions approached similar problems.

On the Mediterranean side, we will discuss the dichotomy between nature and convention and the subsequent rejection of law; Plato's attempt to justify law through its connection with reason and the possibility for laws to cultivate virtue; Aristotle's discussion of justice, lawfulness, and stability in non-ideal states; and how these ideas were developed to shape republican ideals in Rome and formed the basis of the natural law tradition.

On the Chinese side, some Confucians propose that governing by law and litigation undermines virtuous motives and the cultivation of virtue. Some also suggest that when a state is well-governed, that is due primarily to the good character of the political authorities who make and enforce laws rather than the laws themselves. By contrast, Legalists think that when a state is well-governed that has more to do with the laws and general lawfulness of the political authorities and citizens than with the virtue of the ruling class. Both Confucians and Legalists are also concerned about the role of laws in keeping the peace and maintaining institutional stability in non-ideal political regimes.

Note: this seminar is team-taught and team-graded by both Reid and Tiwald. Students are welcome to choose either section and will receive the same instruction and grading no matter which section they enroll in.

PHIL 810 [01]
SEMINAR IN THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE
Monday 9:30 – 12:30 PM *synchronous*
Dr. Carlos Montemayor

Can one replace a belief-based epistemology with some other basic mental capacity or state? What options are available for the theorist of knowledge? In this course we explore the possibility of building a theory of knowledge on the basis of attention skills. Various advantages of this approach will be discussed, including issues concerning encroachment, linguistic communication, and epistemic normativity.

PHIL 850 [01]

SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Wednesday 7:00 – 9:45 PM *synchronous*

Dr. Arezoo Islami

Our understanding of the development of 20th century philosophy of science is more nuanced today than it was only a few years ago. However, more work needs to be done to arrive at an adequate picture of how philosophical reflection on the sciences evolved during the last century. The aim of this course is to address one of the remaining blind spots, namely the role of phenomenology in 20th century philosophy of science.

Phenomenologists are not usually listed among the canonical authors of philosophy of science. Given the fact that analyses of the formal, physical, and human sciences are ubiquitous in the phenomenological literature, this neglect may seem unjustified. Edmund Husserl is a particularly telling example in this respect: Not only that Husserl addressed many of the core issues in philosophy of science. He also made several original contributions, some of which were well ahead of their time: Husserl's discussion of the relations between lifeworld and scientific world was a model for Wilfrid Sellars' well-known distinction between manifest and scientific image. Husserl's understanding of scientific theories can be seen as a forerunner of the semantic view, as it was later articulated by Patrick Suppes, Frederick Suppe, Bas van Fraassen and others. Husserl offers one of the first systematic treatments of the role of idealizations in physics, an issue taken up in the 1980s by Ernan McMullin. Husserl's notions of "archaeology" and "sedimentation" as well as his emphasis on the historical and social embeddedness of science foreshadowed the "post-positivist" turn, usually associated with philosophers such as Thomas Kuhn, Ian Hacking or Peter Galison.

The aim of this course is to give an overview of phenomenological philosophy with special emphasis on its relevance for the interpretation of the natural sciences. We will also shed light on one particular instance of the unfortunate alienation between Central-European and Anglo-American traditions in 20th and 21st century philosophy.

PHIL 890 [01]

SEMINAR: CURRENT ISSUE IN PHILOSOPHY

TOPIC: PHIL OF MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

Thursday 12:30 – 3:15 PM *synchronous*

Dr. Macy Salzberger

This seminar will focus on moral attitudes towards oneself and others in interpersonal relations of various kinds. How can we identify the morally admirable attitudes and distinguish them from related morally vicious or defective attitudes? Why should we cultivate and encourage these good attitudes and avoid various contrasting attitudes? We may discuss, for example, blame and anger, forgiveness and grace, faith and hope, shame and regret, and grief and despair. The contexts in which we may consider these attitudes are, for example, friendships, teacher-student relations, political debates, philosophical discussions, and responses to

wrongdoers. Authors whose work we may discuss include Joseph Butler, Susan Wolf, Myisha Cherry, P.F. Strawson, Cheshire Calhoun, Sandra Bartky, Katie Stockdale, Bernard Williams, Ryan Preston-Roedder, and Vida Yao. The aim of the seminar is not primarily to master a given set of readings but to prompt further exploratory thinking about the attitudes in question. Emphasis will be on well-focused discussion and seminar papers.

This seminar and its accompanying description are adapted from a course offered by Thomas E. Hill Jr., "Advanced Studies in Moral Theory."

PHIL 890 [02]

SEMINAR: CURRENT ISSUE IN PHILOSOPHY

TOPIC: ISSUES IN POLITICAL & SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

Wednesday 4:00 – 6:45 PM *in-person*

Dr. Jamie Lindsay

"Sex, Gender, Sexuality & the Claim of Nonviolence"

In this seminar, we will consider questions in the philosophy of sex, gender & sexuality concerning both violence and the value of nonviolence. Specific topics will include: the philosophy of pornography, specifically in relation to gendered violence (Mari Mikkola); prison abolitionist approaches, including queer and trans critical theory (Angela Y. Davis; Dean Spade); philosophical analyses of sexual violation and strategies for resistance (Linda Martín Alcoff); the constitutive violence of processes of subjectivation in relation to the claim of nonviolence, in the context of resistance (Judith Butler); and the sorts of virtue it might be appropriate to expect of oppressed persons in the context of liberatory struggles, including consideration of the value of anger (Lisa Tessman; Myisha Cherry). We will also consider debates between the advocates of reformism and those who insist on transformative justice approaches.

PHIL 896

DIRECTED READING IN FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHICAL TEXTS

This is the MA exam course. We recommend that students take it in the second or third semester of graduate work, after completing at least one graduate seminar. The course is administered by the graduate coordinators, but students will choose a study group supervised by other faculty (tentatively for the Spring: Prof. Montemayor and Prof. Salzberger). The sections will be effectively combined, so please register for whichever one has fewer students.

N.b., a mandatory course orientation will take place on **Friday, January 28th at 3:00 PM**. A Zoom link will be emailed to all registered students beforehand. Additionally, there are four required study group meetings that take place over the course of the semester. These group meetings are held on Fridays at 3:00 PM (exact dates TBD). Please email Professor David Landy with any questions at landy@sfsu.edu

Grid view of tentative Spring 2022 seminar schedule

PHIL	702	01	PHIL OF CULTURE LANG & SOCIETY	T	SYNCHRONOUS	09:30 AM	12:15 PM	Ásta
PHIL	715	01	SEM IN PHILOSOPHICAL WRITING	W	IN-PERSON	12:30 PM	03:15 PM	Moore
PHIL	770	01	SEMINAR IN A CLASSICAL AUTHOR: <i>HEIDEGGER'S BEING & TIME</i>	T	IN-PERSON	04:00 PM	06:45 PM	Azadpur
PHIL	772	01	SEMINAR IN A CLASSICAL SCHOOL: <i>VIRTUE & LAW IN CHINA & GREECE</i>	M	IN-PERSON	04:00 PM	06:45 PM	Tiwald
PHIL	772	02	SEMINAR IN A CLASSICAL SCHOOL: <i>VIRTUE & LAW IN CHINA & GREECE</i>	M	IN-PERSON	04:00 PM	06:45 PM	Reid
PHIL	810	01	SEM IN THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE	M	SYNCHRONOUS	09:30 AM	12:15 PM	Montemayor
PHIL	850	01	SEM IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE	W	SYNCHRONOUS	07:00 PM	09:45 PM	Islami
PHIL	890	01	SEMINAR: CURRENT ISSUE IN PHIL: <i>PHIL OF MORAL PSYCHOLOGY</i>	R	SYNCHRONOUS	12:30 PM	03:15 PM	Salzberger
PHIL	890	02	SEMINAR: CURRENT ISSUE IN PHIL: <i>ISSUES IN POL & SOC PHIL</i>	W	IN-PERSON	04:00 PM	06:45 PM	Lindsay
PHIL	896	01	DIR READING IN FUND PHIL TEXTS		See desc.			Reid
PHIL	896	02	DIR READING IN FUND PHIL TEXTS		See desc.			Landy