
UBC Philosophy

Featured Courses: 2020W2

November 2020



PHIL 337-001

M/W, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
(Pacific)

[Register](#)

Ethics for the Sciences

Instructor: Alison Wylie

Scientific research has an impact on all of us, and on every aspect of our lives. This course will provide a general introduction to ethics issues that are raised by the (non-medical) social and natural sciences. It is organized around three central questions: what counts as “responsible conduct of research” (RCR)?; who is accountable for the social and environmental impacts of research?; and what role do social values play in scientific practice? This course is intended for students in the social and natural sciences, as well as in philosophy. It has no prerequisites, but, if you have taken ISCI 433, you cannot take this course for credit. Questions? Contact Alison Wylie, at: alison.wylie@ubc.ca.

Philosophy of History – Evidence and Narrative

Instructor: Alison Wylie

How do we know what (we think) we know about the past? What makes an historical narrative explanatory? And why does history matter? These questions about historical inquiry have long intrigued philosophers and practitioners alike. We will focus on evidential reasoning and narrative construction in history and archaeology, with some comparative examples drawn from the philosophy of geology, evolutionary biology and paleontology. Core texts will include Currie's *Rock, Bone and Ruin: An Optimist's Guide to the Historical Sciences* (2018); Chapman and Wylie's *Evidential Reasoning in Archaeology* (2016); Roth's *Philosophical Structure of Historical Explanation* (2020); and Trouillot's *Silencing the Past* (1995). There are no formal prerequisites for this course, but it is recommended that you have completed at least one prior course in an historical science and/or in philosophy of science. Questions? Contact Alison Wylie, at: alison.wylie@ubc.ca.

PHIL 419A-001

T/Th, 3:30 – 5:00 PM
(Pacific)

[Register](#)



APBI 490-201

MWF, 4:00 – 5:00 PM
(Pacific)

[Register](#)

Agricultural Ethics and Public Policy

Instructor: Adam Shriver (Faculty of Land and Food Systems)

Agriculture was essential in the development of human civilization and continues to be essential for modern life. But as farming practices have changed to keep pace with the increased demands of a growing population, many of the practices of modern farming have become the subjects of intense public debate, including discussions about the relationship between agriculture and the environment, worker's rights, land-use, animal welfare, and human health. This course will introduce students to debates about the direction of agriculture at the policy level and provide them with the tools needed to effectively engage in these ongoing debates. Questions? Contact Adam Shriver, at: adam.shriver@ubc.ca.

Student-Directed Seminars



What is a Student-Directed Seminar (SDS)?

From the [SDS website](#): “The Student Directed Seminars program provides upper year undergraduate students (in 3rd year or later) the opportunity to propose, coordinate, and lead their own 3-credit seminar class with a small group of peers on a topic not currently offered at UBC-Vancouver. Each seminar brings together a group of highly motivated students to explore and investigate a topic through learning activities including group discussions, research papers, presentations, guest lectures, applied problem-solving, and Community Service Learning.”

Philosophy in The Islamic World

Course Coordinator: Jackson Duckworth

Faculty Sponsor: Sylvia Berryman

Philosophical inquiry in the Islamic world produced some of the most rigorous proofs for God's existence, inspired some of the strongest arguments for and against the philosophical discipline, and generated numerous discourses on ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, language, and politics. Throughout the course of this discussion-based seminar, we will delve into some of the more prominent medieval and modern Islamic philosophers, including the likes of Ibn Sina (Latinized: Avicenna), al-Ghazali, and Ibn Rushd (Averroes). It is through the eyes of these and other scholars that we will explore the multifaceted relationship between Islam and philosophical reasoning, while establishing a basic understanding of the philosophical tradition within the Islamic world. Questions? Get in touch with Tim, at: phil.undergrad@ubc.ca.

PHIL 487-001

T/Th, 3:30 – 5:00 PM
(Pacific)

[Register](#)



PHIL 489-001

T/Th, 5:00 – 6:30 PM
(Pacific)

[Register](#)

Bridging the Divide: The History of the Continental-Analytic Split

Course Coordinators: Marcel Shelton, Vlada Asadulaeva

Faculty Sponsors: Alan Richardson, Robert Brain

The 20th century philosophical imagination has been radically shaped by the ostensible dichotomy between continental and analytic traditions, which continues to inform institutional arrangements of philosophy departments to our day. This seminar will seek to broach the historical forces which led to the establishment and subsequent development of the divide. Importantly, our historical analysis will not be limited to philosophical arguments only; instead, it will situate the origins of the continental-analytic divide in the social, political, and cultural concerns of the 20th century. From the struggle against the rise of the political right in early 20th century Germany to the anti-fascist rhetoric in mid-century Britain to the question of liberal democracy in the Cold War America, social and political factors motivated the dynamics of the continental-analytic divide most profoundly. The seminar is, in essence, an exercise in the contextual history of philosophy. Employing methodologies adopted from intellectual history and other historiographical traditions, we will attempt to make our own contributions to the historical study of the continental-analytic split. Questions? Get in touch with Vlada, at: vladaasadulaeva@gmail.com.

New Seats Added



Open seats have been added to the following 2020W2 PHIL courses:

- PHIL 101 003 (Eric Margolis)
- PHIL 125 003 (Leslie Burkholder)
- PHIL 220 007 (David Gilbert)
- PHIL 230 002 (Scott Anderson)
- PHIL 320 001 (David Gilbert)
- PHIL 326 001 (Roberta Ballarin)
- PHIL 330 002 (Kimberley Brownlee)
- PHIL 335 001 (Scott Anderson)
- PHIL 375 001 (Carrie Jenkins)
- PHIL 385 003 (Anders Kraal)
- PHIL 388 001 (Cat Prueitt)
- PHIL 451 002 (Evan Thompson)
- PHIL 470 001 (Evan Thompson)