Philosophy Faculty

David Chan has teaching and research interests in ethical theory, the ethics of war, medical ethics, philosophy of action, and ancient Greek philosophy.

Chris Diehm teaches courses and does research in environmental philosophy, the philosophy of nature, and phenomenology.

Karin Fry teaches courses in Continental philosophy, aesthetics, and feminism.

Charles Joshua Horn teaches courses in modern philosophy, metaphysics, and political philosophy.

Dóna Warren teaches courses in critical thinking, logic, and the philosophy of religion.

Jason Zinser teaches courses in the philosophy of science, the philosophy of biology, and environmental ethics.

Did you know that UW-SP offers:

a MAJOR in Philosophy
(requirements: 27 credits in Philosophy plus B.S. or B.A requirements)

a MAJOR in Philosophy with a Concentration in Environmental Ethics (requirements: 33 credits in Philosophy plus B.S. or B.A. requirements)

a MINOR in Philosophy
(requirements: 18 credits in Philosophy)

See catalogue or a Philosophy faculty member for further details about our Major and Minor requirements.

NOTE: Many of our 300 level offerings are required courses for graduation and therefore fill quickly. Students who major or minor in Philosophy may PRE-REGISTER for all 300 level courses.

The Study of Philosophy at UWSP

Fall 2015
Phil 100 Introduction to Philosophy
3 cr. (GEP:HU GDR:HU3)
Sec 1 9:35-10:50 M W Zinser, J.
Sec 2 11:00-12:15 M W Zinser, J.
Sec 3 14:00-15:15 T R Fry, K.
Sec 4 15:35-16:50 T R Fry, K.
This course considers a broad spectrum of classic philosophical questions, such as: Does God exist? What makes us “persons”? What is love? What is death? What is the meaning of life? Topics may vary.

Phil 101 Contemporary Moral Problems
3 cr. (GEP:HU; GDR: HU3)
Sec 1 9:35-10:50 T R Zinser, J.
Sec 2 12:35-13:50 T R Zinser, J.
An attempt to clarify selected contemporary moral issues by applying insights of moral philosophy and tools of critical reflection.

Phil 121 Critical Thinking
3 cr. (GEP:HU GDR:HU3)
Sec 1 14:00-15:15 M W Warren, D.
This course helps students to deepen their ability to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and construct arguments.

Phil 302 Ethics and Medicine
3 cr. (GDR:HU3)
Sec 1 12:35-13:50 M W Chan, D.
Sec 1 15:35-16:50 M W Chan, D.
This course is an introduction to central issues in biomedical ethics, covering topics that span the range of healthcare, clinical and research ethics.

Phil 303 Philosophy of Art
3 cr. (GEP: Art)
Sec 1 11:00-12:15 T R Fry, K.
This course examines different theories relating to the arts, such as the purpose of art in society, how to define and evaluate art, whether art should be censored, the effect of commercialism on art, problems with cross-cultural evaluation of art, and theories concerning the creative process.

Phil 322 Symbolic Logic
3 cr.
Sec 1 15:35-16:50 M W Warren, D.
Introduction to symbolic logic including truth functions, propositional logic, and introductory predicate logic.

Phil 326 17th & 18th Century Philosophy
5 cr (GDR:HU3)
Sec 1W 9:35-10:50 M W Horn, J.
Sec 2W 11:00-12:15 M W Horn, J.
This course will examine some of the most important metaphysical and epistemological questions prevalent during the 17th and 18th century. We will focus on differing conceptions of substance, the limits of knowledge, the existence of God, the nature of the self, the relationship between the mind and body, and the notions of causality, space, and time. We will devote the vast majority of our attention to several major figures in this period including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Less time will be spent examining some “minor” figures such as Montaigne, Bacon, Malebranche, Newton, and Reid.

Phil 380 Environmental Ethics
3 cr. (GEP:HU;ER GDR:HU3; EL)
Sec 1 14:00-14:50 MT R Diehm, C.
Sec 2 15:00-15:50 MT R Diehm, C.
This course examines a wide variety of positions that people take on the subjects of the value of nature and how humans ought to treat it. It also examines the most important philosophical and practical disagreements between the various proponents of these viewpoints, and some of the social, political, and economic dimensions of environmental issues. Included in the readings, lectures and exams are numerous real-life examples that illustrate the ways in which ethical theories apply to concrete cases, and demonstrate some of the past and present challenges faced by resource managers, environmentalists, and everyday people.

Phil 480 Adv. Environmental Ethics
3 cr. (Prereq: 380 or cons. Instr.)
Sec 1W 17:00-18:15 M W Diehm, C.
The theoretical focus of this course will be primarily the philosophy of “deep ecology,” its critics, and its connections to the natural and social sciences. The course will pay close attention to the question of how humans experience and relate to the natural world, and highlight issues and case studies that illustrate the concepts being examined.