

PHIL 456: SENIOR COLLOQUIUM

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

PH 456 is a year-long, extended format seminar centering on the practice of philosophical discourse, as exhibited by the works of the Philosophy Department's colloquium speakers. In advance of colloquium lectures, students read relevant background papers and engage in seminar discussions. Students also attend colloquia and interact with speakers during their visits. The course emphasizes critical engagement with contemporary philosophical research. Blocks 1-8. 1 unit. Pass/fail. *Open to Philosophy majors with senior standing. Others admitted only by special permission of the instructors.*

COURSE GOALS

This course offers senior majors the opportunity to participate actively in an important component of philosophical practice: the focused study and discussion of philosophical works-in-progress. A philosophy colloquium is typically a project in an advanced stage of development but in pre-publication form. It provides an important opportunity for the speaker to respond to criticism of and questions about the work. Colloquium meetings are central to academic philosophical practice, as students will experience firsthand in PH 456. For students seeking to pursue further work in philosophy, the course will provide an invaluable foundation for graduate training; and for all students, the Senior Colloquium Seminar will provide an opportunity to draw together and develop their philosophical knowledge and skills. In addition, active engagement with colloquium speakers will allow students to broaden and enrich their understanding of philosophy by experiencing a diversity of philosophical questions, approaches, and areas of expertise.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course will meet across the academic year, with meetings timed to coincide with the Department's six colloquium talks. In a block featuring a colloquium talk, students will meet in an afternoon seminar discussion (2 hours) a few days before the lecture, attend the colloquium talk (1.5 hours), meet as a class with the speaker over lunch (~1 hour), and participate in an informal post-colloquium discussion (~1 hour). The typical block schedule when a colloquium speaker presents a talk is as follows:

- Pre-colloquium discussion: First Tuesday of the block, 3-5 pm
- Lunch with colloquium speaker: First Thursday of the block, 12:15-1:30 pm
- Colloquium lecture: First Thursday of the block, 3:30-5 pm
- Post-colloquium discussion (students only): Thursday evening, just after the lecture
- Colloquium papers due by 5 pm: Monday, four days after the colloquium

Note that in block 4 events are scheduled to take place in the second week of the block, and in block 6 they take place in the third week, pushing the above schedule back a week or two.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and active participation at all course meetings
- Six colloquium response papers (~3 pages each, double-spaced)

COURSE READINGS

The assigned works will consist of readings by the colloquium speaker, though on occasion the speaker may suggest a reading by another author. The readings will, in general, allow students both to understand the specific kind of research being presented in the colloquium talk and to place that research within the larger project of or trajectory followed by the speaker. Because texts will be worked out between the course instructors and the colloquium lecturer, they may not be settled until a week or two before the talks. In some cases, the actual title of a speaker's presentation also may not be available until near the time of her or his visit.

GRADING

This course is graded pass/fail (S/CR/NC). We expect students to attend all course meetings and turn in all colloquium response papers. Students who miss more than 2 class meetings or more than 1 colloquium, or who turn in fewer than 6 colloquium papers, will not earn better than a CR in the course. Students who miss more than 3 class meetings or more than 2 colloquia, or who turn in fewer than 5 colloquium papers, will fail the course (NC). Please mark your calendars and prioritize your activities accordingly.

Please also note that grading is subject to our discretion and will reflect a student's overall engagement in the course, so merely attending all events and turning in all papers does not guarantee an S grade. To earn an S, students should be well prepared for class, and their participation and written work should be thoughtful and of consistently high quality.

HONOR CODE

Students will be expected to abide by the Honor Code. Among other things, the Honor Code specifies that each student will be responsible for producing all of his or her own work and that he or she will always cite the works or ideas of others used in his or her work. Note that discussing ideas and drafts with others is not a violation of the Honor Code. In fact, as the very idea of a colloquium suggests, it is a good idea to compare one's own ideas and writings with those of others and to ask others for criticisms. Using other people's ideas can also be a good idea – if their ideas are good and a student credits the authors for developing the ideas.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student who believes that she or he is eligible for learning accommodations as the result of a qualified disability should contact the instructors privately. A student who believes that she or he may have a disability that impacts learning, and who has not self-identified to the College's Disabilities Services Office, should please do so immediately. We will make appropriate learning accommodations in accordance with the Disabilities Service Office's instructions. Their office is in the Colket Student Learning Center at 152 Tutt Library. Students may also contact the College's learning consultant, Jan Edwards, at the Learning Center, at 227-8285, or by visiting this site:

<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/disabilityservices/>

2012-2013 COLLOQUIA

All colloquium talks will take place at 3:30 pm in Gaylord Hall.

Fall 2012

BLOCK 2: JAMES REID, METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Title: "Things and Persons in Early Heidegger: A Kantian Exercise in Moral Ontology"

- Seminar Discussion: Tuesday, October 2, 3-5 pm
- Lunch: Thursday, October 4, 12:15-1:30 pm
- Colloquium: Thursday, October 4, 3:30-5 pm

BLOCK 3: MI-KYOUNG (MITZIE) LEE, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

Title: TBA, but probably something on ancient Greek epistemology or political philosophy

- Seminar Discussion: Tuesday, October 30, 3-5 pm
- Lunch: Thursday, November 1, 12:15-1:30 pm
- Colloquium: Thursday, November 1, 3:30-5 pm

BLOCK 4: ALISON JAGGAR, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER *(second week of the block)*

Title: TBA, but probably something on transnational gender justice

- Seminar Discussion: Tuesday, December 4, 3-5 pm
- Lunch: Thursday, December 6, 12:15-1:30 pm
- Colloquium: Thursday, December 6, 3:30-5 pm

Spring 2013

BLOCK 5: TERRY HORGAN, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Title: "Newcomb's Problem: An Antinomy of Practical Reason"

- Seminar Discussion: Tuesday, January 22, 3-5 pm
- Lunch: Thursday, January 24, 12:15-1:30 pm
- Colloquium: Thursday, January 24, 3:30-5 pm

BLOCK 6: IAIN THOMSON, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO *(third week of the block)*

Title: TBA, but probably something on Heidegger

- Seminar Discussion: Tuesday, March 5, 3-5 pm
- Lunch: Thursday, March 7, 12:15-1:30 pm
- Colloquium: Thursday, March 7, 3:30-5 pm

BLOCK 7: MARION HOURDEQUIN, COLORADO COLLEGE

Title: "Environmental Ethics and the Anthropocene"

- Seminar Discussion: Tuesday, March 26, 3-5 pm
 - Lunch: Thursday, March 28, 12:15-1:30 pm
 - Colloquium: Thursday, March 28, 3:30-5 pm
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