

Philosophy Majors' Newsletter

California State University, Fresno

Vol. 10, No. 2

Spring 2008

Department News and Events

Voicing Ideas: Student Philosophy Conference

Voicing Ideas took place on April 5th on campus. Students from CSUF who presented papers were Laila Ashaq, Heather Balcom, Matias Bustamante, Wesley Hansen, Charles Kaijo, Benjamin Koole, Josh McDonald, and Lino Molina. John Clevenger from CSU Bakersfield also presented.

Ben's paper entitled "Genetically Modified Crops: An Ethical Pursuit" was named the winner of the first annual Ethics Center Essay Contest. Congrats, Ben! Charles Kaijo's paper entitled "Self-termination and Personhood" was selected as runner-up in the contest.

And congratulations to all students whose papers were selected for presentation!

Graduation Events:

Please consider attending both of these events on the once in a life-time event of graduating from college. Invite your grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, your kids, significant other, best buddies to share the great accomplishment with you.

**College of Arts and Humanities Convocation
Friday, May 16, 12:30 p.m. at the SaveMart Center.**

**Department of Philosophy Convocation
Friday, May 16, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Concert Hall,
Music Building.**

Ruth has complete information about these events, parking, regalia, etc. Please consult her if you have questions.

Farewell to Dr. Michael Wolf.

Dr. Wolf will be leaving the department to take a faculty position at Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania.

New Faculty Member -- Alicia Hall.

Ms. Alicia Hall will join the philosophy faculty this fall. She is presently finishing her Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation is entitled "Knowing the Good Life: A Narrative Approach to Subjective Well-Being." She will be teaching

Phil 115 Ethical Theory this fall as well as other courses in ethics. She will also be serving as a pre-law adviser in the department.

Advising for the Spring Semester 2007

Meeting every semester with your adviser is the best way to ensure that you really do graduate when you plan to.

Philosophy majors:

**Dr. Mariana Anagnostopoulos, in Music Bldg., Room 108 (278-6329)
Office hours: TTh 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment.**

**Dr. Terry Winant, in Music Bldg., Room 111 (278-3631)
Office Hours: WW 3:30 – 5:30, Th 1:00-3:00 pm, F 9:30 – 10:30 am,
or by appointment.**

Religious Studies majors:

**Dr. Mariana Anagnostopoulos, in Music Bldg., Room 108 (278-6329)
Office hours: TTh 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment.**

Pre-law majors:

**See Dr. LaBossiere, in Music 110 (278-8876)
Office hours: Friday 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. or by appointment.**

Philosophy minors:

**Dr. Mariana Anagnostopoulos, in Music Bldg., Room 108 (278-6329)
Office hours: TTh 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment.**

Major Courses	Fall semester 2008
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[Please check the latest version on-line for any changes of class times. The listing below reflects changes in instructors.]

Phil 45

Introduction to Logic

Dr. Lee

Phil 101

Ancient Greek Philosophy

Dr. Anagnostopoulos

Development of Western Philosophy from its beginning; the emergence of critical theory, doctrines, and schools of thought in Greek culture. Topics

typically include: Presocratics, Sophists, Socrates, and the works of Plato and Aristotle.

Phil 107

Existentialism

Dr. Winant

We will aim for familiarity with some of the texts, themes, and technical tools of existential philosophy. Our emphasis will be on works written against the background of totalitarianisms of the mid-20th century. We will also look at some current, early 21st-century concerns that reflect the influence of the existentialist movement. By the end of the course, students should be comfortable enough with this tradition to read and study more on their own. It is hoped that each student will discover a favorite philosopher as we go along, and perhaps also a favorite movie, poem, or song.

Phil 115

Ethical Theory

Dr. Hall

Introduction to the fundamental concepts and problems of moral theory. Examination of various ethical and meta-ethical theories, including relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, intuitionism, and non-cognitivism; the meaning of ethical terms.

Phil 121

Ethics of Criminal Justice

Dr. Fiala

We will consider the moral justification of punishment. It will look in particular at debates about corporal punishment with a primary focus on Bentham, Mill, Kant and Hegel. It will consider critical perspectives on punishment from Nietzsche and Foucault. It will look at contemporary debates about capital punishment with a focus on critiques from the Catholic perspective. Finally it will consider the recent moral debate about torture with a special focus on recent uses of torture by the U.S. government as well as moral arguments about related practices such as extraordinary rendition and denial of habeus corpus. Students will write a synthetic research paper in which they defend a thesis about corporal punishment, torture, and capital punishment.

Phil 125

Issues in Political Philosophy

Dr. LaBossiere

Should the concepts of law and justice apply to the family? Do we have a RIGHT to privacy? The answers are obvious. Or are they? In the United States, one of the more controversial political issues is government intrusion into the private domain of the family. The course will explore the classical liberal and libertarian philosophies used to justify the “private” status of the family and protect from public regulation. The course will also cover the classical and contemporary criticism of these justifications. The main text used in this class will be Susan Moller Okin’s *Justice, Gender, and the Family*. Be sure to bring your copy of this

book to the first day of class. Think about ordering it used on amazon.com.

- Phil 130** **Philosophy of Religion** **Dr. Bell**
This semester we will focus on three main issues: religious pluralism, religion and science, and the problem of evil. We will read philosophical writings and some novels. Students will be asked to writing short essays weekly, two longer analytical papers on our readings, and a final exam.
- Phil 131** **Comparative Religion** **Dr. Berliner**
A study of major religions of the world, their traditions, teachings, influential texts, methodological and comparative approaches. Emphasis on major Western and non-Western religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Phil 132** **Religion and the Margin** **Dr. Berliner**
- Phil 132** **Religion and the Margin** **Dr. Biondo**
Exploration of elements facing religious studies that have been historically moved from the center to the side (marginalized), such as women's experience, ethnicity, gender, and class. Focus will include how religion has both supported and resisted this move.
- Phil 133W** **Literature of the New Testament** **Dr. Maldonado**
Discussion and close written analyses of selected texts from the New Testament.
- Phil 134** **Literature of the Old Testament** **Dr. Maldonado**
Discussion and written analyses of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible. Special attention to the sources and types of biblical literary techniques.
- Phil 137** **Hinduism** **Dr. Berliner**
Introduction to the development and ideas of Hinduism, including an examination of classical scriptural texts, e.g., Upanishads, Bhavagad-gita, as well as modern Hindu writings.
- Phil 150** **Foundations of Knowledge** **Dr. Amaral**
Nature, sources, and limits of human knowledge; roles of perception, reason, testimony, and intuition in acquiring rational beliefs: e.g., science, mathematics, values, the arts, religion, social issues, and psychological states.

Students in all options of the major will be able to pursue research of interest to them in this cluster of philosophical concepts. For example, students in religious studies option might research the way tort harm is identified, adjudicated, and remedied within a certain religious tradition and compare with the U.S. system. Students in the general philosophy option might offer conceptual and theoretical accounts and critiques of action theory and responsibility in a variety of contexts, or might pursue accounts and critiques of one of the theories of justice.

Phil 198

Applied Ethics Internship

Dr. Fiala

Phil 199

Fieldwork in Philosophy and Law
Wednesday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Dr. LaBossiere