

**GRADUATE SEMINAR COURSES  
SPRING 2018**

Department of Philosophy  
Colorado State University

**PHIL547.001      Prof. Beth Tropman  
crn 21909**

**Seminar in Metaethics  
MW, 3:00p – 4:15p, Eddy 9**

This seminar examines a range of topics in metaethics. Metaethical theories seek to provide a second-order accounting of moral thought. Central metaethical questions include the following. Can moral claims be true or false, and if so, what makes them true? If moral claims are neither true nor false, what is the function of moral discourse? Is moral truth an objective matter, and if so, in what sense? If there are moral facts, are they natural? How do we know about such moral facts? How does alleged moral knowledge motivate us to act? In this seminar, we will consider a range of possible responses to such questions, focusing especially on those answers offered by the metaethical theories of intuitionism, emotivism, error theory, Cornell moral realism, constructivism, quasi-realism, hybrid theories, and sensibility theory.

**PHIL565.001      Prof. Kenneth Shockley  
crn 29052**

**Philosophy of Ecology  
Tue, 3:30p – 6:30p, Eddy 120**

Central to much work in environmental philosophy is an ecological understanding of the world. But the theoretical foundations of ecology are contentious. In this seminar we will study the philosophical foundations of ecology. Ecology is a comparatively young science, and struggles with the basic character of the fundamental entities it studies, with the relation between complexity, diversity, and stability, with the role of model, metaphor and analogy, and with the boundaries of the discipline. These complicate more traditional problems in the philosophy of science, including the balance between rationalism and empiricism, reductionism and holism, and the role of laws. In this course we will examine the particular concerns raised by the contentious theoretical foundations of ecology in light of these more general issues in the philosophy of science.

**PHIL581A2.001      Prof. Dustin Tucker  
crn 29053**

**The Logic of Reasons  
MW, 5:00p – 6:15p, Eddy 120**

Classical logic is good for lots of things, but it doesn't provide a very realistic picture of reasoning. In particular, we are frequently faced with conflicting reasons of varying strengths, and classical logic simply cannot represent this at all. This class will look at three different ways of adapting classical logic to account for this so-called nonmonotonic reasoning—reasoning where additional information can undermine conclusions. We will also look beyond specific applications to epistemic, deontic, and legal reasoning, where non-monotonic logics may be able to give us an analysis of two important but elusive concepts: what it is to be a reason and what it is for reasons to conflict.

**PHIL666.001      Prof. Bernie Rollin  
crn 23029**

**Science and Ethics  
R, 3:30p – 6:30p, Eddy 120**

There are many challenges to the well-being of science in the U.S. One such challenge, monumental but unaddressed, is the neglect by the scientific community of ethical issues raised by science. These include research on humans, animal research, disregard of pain control, genetic engineering, and many others. In this course, we will examine many of these issues, as well as look at ways to address them. We will also examine the ideology which has served to prevent science from addressing these issues in a straightforward way.