

### **PHI 611 Formal Logic**

B. Balcerak Jackson

The course will focus on systems of modal logic used to represent reasoning involving the notions of necessity and possibility, and related notions such as obligation and permissibility. We will develop a formal language for making modal statements, will examine different systems for proving the validity of modal arguments, and will learn how to give a (model-theoretic) semantics for modal logic in terms of the notion of a possible world. Throughout the course we will have an eye toward the value of modal logic as a tool for thinking about philosophical issues such as the problem of vagueness, metaphysical determination and dependence, the logic of knowledge and belief, and the relationship between the necessary and the a priori. (Please note that the course will presuppose a familiarity with first-order quantified predicate logic, although we will begin with a brief review.)

### **PHI 642 Epistemology**

Brogaard/Chudnoff

Sensory perception is our most basic way of learning about the world. The traditional view is that it reveals “low level” features of our immediate environment such as shapes, colors, textures, locations, and motions. Recent work in philosophy and psychology challenge this view and suggests that sensory perception can give us “high level” information about natural kinds, artifacts, affordances, causal relations, animacy and intentionality, emotions, meanings, values, and moral obligations. In this seminar we will begin by reviewing background literature on perception in psychology, theory of knowledge, and philosophy of mind, and then we will explore the prospects of different sorts of high level perception and what bearing they might have on the structure of knowledge.

### **PHI 647 Mind and Language**

Evnine

Philosophical problems about signs, linguistic and mental representations, intentionality, action, and consciousness.

### **PHI 660 History of Logic**

Hilpinen

A study of the main developments in logic from antiquity until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The topics to be discussed include: (1) The beginnings of formal logic in ancient Greece: Aristotle’s syllogistic logic and the propositional logic of the Stoics. The paradox of the liar and other paradoxes. Theories of meaning and truth. (2) The main developments in medieval logic: the theory of supposition, insolubilia, and medieval contributions to modal (intensional) logic. (3) The modern period: Leibniz’s idea of a logical calculus and Bolzano’s analysis of logical consequence. (4) The origin of modern formal logic. The logic of quantifiers and relational concepts: Frege and Peirce. Syntax and semantics. (5) Modalities and possible worlds. (6) Graphical representations in logic.

### **PHI 591 Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, and the Web**

Palermos

Can cutting edge research at the intersection of contemporary epistemology and philosophy of mind inform and be informed by the nascent field of Web science? Within philosophy, research is increasingly concerned with the ever-growing relationship between man and machine. A number of epistemologists and philosophers of mind have lately turned their focus on the hypotheses of extended and distributed cognition, according to which cognition may occasionally extend to the artifacts we employ (e.g. smartphones, laptops, etc.) or even be distributed between several collaborating individuals (e.g. scientific research teams, sports teams, etc.). Similarly, within Web science, research has always focused on the engineering of efficient human-machine interfaces, aspiring to the seamless integration of the two. Recently, there has also been a surge towards the development of Social Web and Web 2.0 technologies that aim to promote social interactions and increased user participation in the creation and maintenance of online content. Bearing in mind the parallels between the aims of these two fields of study, this course will introduce the idea of *philosophical engineering*. How can philosophical theories on the nature and boundaries of individual and social cognition impact on the structure and development of the Web? It will cover topics such as understanding the authority of information resources the reliability of Social Machines such as Wikipedia; the ethics of extended and distributed cognition; the future of digital education and more.

### **PHI 742 Seminar in Epistemology: Philosophical Methodology**

M. Balcerak Jackson/Siegel

How is philosophy best done? What counts as good philosophy? Why? This seminar will be devoted to discussing these and related questions. We will begin by considering both classic and recent discussions of naturalism and normativity. From there we will consider different types of evidence, data and analysis used in philosophy: experimental surveys, linguistic data, conceptual analysis, intuitions, psychological studies and phenomenological analysis. Next will be an investigation of different forms of indirect reasoning used to choose between competing philosophical theories and hypotheses, such as reflective equilibrium and model-based thinking. Finally, we will discuss in which direction good analytic philosophy should develop in the future by discussing the case for formal regimentation in philosophizing, and the complementary call for more pluralism in philosophical methodology. Most of the readings will be of recent journal articles or book chapters, posted on the course Blackboard site.

### **PHI 744 Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Thinking with Animals**

Rowlands

This is not a course about animals. In common with much of my writings (purportedly) on animals, I really won't mention animals very much at all. It's more concerned with central human mental capacities – for consciousness, cognition, self-awareness and mindreading. Animals, as Levi-Strauss points out, often provide a good way of thinking about these things. This is because – as the course will hopefully make clear – reflection on animals can provide a useful antidote to certain prejudices to which we philosophers are, congenitally or professionally, inclined.