**Fall 2024 Graduate Courses and Descriptions[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Department of Philosophy**

**Loyola University Chicago**

**Note:** Distribution requirements for the PhD, MA, BA/MA, and MA in Social Philosophy (both new and old programs) are included below. Students in the MA in Social Philosophy program should consult the GPD about which courses in AY 24–25 can contribute to course clusters (for non-Jesuits) and tagged electives.

**Fall 2024**

*At A Glance*

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| PHIL 401: Plato, Topic: Plato, Socrates, and the Task of Philosophy | *Möbus* |
| PHIL 421: Marxism, Topic: Marx and His 20th Century Critics | *Oksala* |
| PHIL 432: Heidegger, Topic: Being, World, People | *Ewara* |
| PHIL 441: Wittgenstein, Topic: Foundational Analytic Thinkers | *Dunch* |
| PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy, Topic: Race, Police, and War | *Luzardo* |
| PHIL 483: Philosophical Questions in Human Rights, Topic: Equality, Poverty, and Freedom | *Gordon* |

**PHIL 401: Plato, *Topic: Plato, Socrates, and the Task of Philosophy***

**Dr. Freya Möbus**

**T 10:00PM–12:30PM**

***Description***

This course is an introduction to Plato’s early dialogues. We will investigate what exactly philosophy is, according to Socrates, and how it differs from other disciplines like rhetoric. While examining how Socrates does philosophy, we will analyze some of Socrates' philosophical core beliefs about the good life, human psychology, and the generation of human actions, such as “doing wrong is worse than suffering wrong,” “when one has done wrong, it is better for oneself to be punished than to get away without punishment,” and “when we do wrong we do not do what we want to do.” Meetings will be discussion-based and student-led.

***Distribution Requirements***

PhD, MA, BA/MA: Ancient, M&E

New MA in Social Philosophy: Ancient (for Jesuit Foundational Track), European History of Philosophy (for Jesuit Enhanced Track)

**PHIL 421: Marxism, *Topic: Marx and His 20th Century Critics***

**Dr. Johanna Oksala**

**W 2:45PM–5:15PM**

***Description***

This course provides an introduction to the thought of Karl Marx and contemporary Marxist philosophy. In the first half of the course, we will focus on Marx's own writings, primarily on Capital, Vol. I. In the second half, we will investigate how Marx's thought is taken up and developed by his most influential 20th-century and contemporary followers. These include Louis Althusser, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, as well as seminal theorists from the traditions of Marxist-feminism, Black Marxism, and Eco-Marxism.

***Distribution Requirements***

PhD, MA, BA/MA: Ethics/Social and Political, Continental

Old MA in Social Philosophy: Moral Philosophy, Social Philosophy

New MA in Social Philosophy: Contemporary/Critical Perspectives (for Jesuit Foundational and Enhanced Tracks), Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics (may count as Level I for Jesuit Foundational Track)

**PHIL 432: Heidegger, *Topic: Being, World, People***

**Dr. Eyo Ewara**

**TH 4:15PM–6:45PM**

***Description***

This course is a general introduction to Martin Heidegger's thought with a focus on the question of what a “world” is and how it relates to his discussions of being and of a “people.” It will offer a broad survey of some of Heidegger’s key writings on these topics, with an eye to considering Heidegger's work in conversation with work in critical philosophy of race and social and political philosophy. Readings will include sections of *Being and Time*, "The Origin of the Work of Art", "The Self-Assertion of the German University", selections from *On the Way to Language,* and selections from the so-called “Black Notebooks.”

***Distribution Requirements***

PhD, MA, BA/MA: Continental, M&E

Old MA in Social Philosophy: Social Philosophy

New MA in Social Philosophy: Contemporary/Critical Perspectives (for Jesuit Foundational and Enhanced Tracks), Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics

**PHIL 441: Wittgenstein, *Topic*: *Foundational Analytic Thinkers***

**Dr. Matthew Dunch**

**M 2:45–5:15PM**

***Description***

This course provides a general introduction to the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein and the major schools of Wittgenstein interpretation. The course begins by setting Wittgenstein within the context of his most immediate influences, notably Bertrand Russell and Gottlob Frege. We will read Wittgenstein’s major works, the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and *Philosophical Investigations*, in their entireties. We will also read excerpts from the *Blue and Brown Books*, *Lectures on the Foundations of Mathematics*, and *On Certainty.*

***Distribution Requirements***

PhD, MA, BA/MA: Analytic, M&E

New MA in Social Philosophy: Contemporary/Critical Perspectives (for Jesuit Foundational and Enhanced Tracks)

**PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy, *Topic: Race, Police, and War***

**Dr. Jesús Luzardo**

**TH 10:00AM–12:30PM**

***Description***

This graduate seminar will look at the relationship between race, police, and war primarily through the lens of Marxism and Black Studies. In contrast to accounts of capitalism that focus primarily on exploitation and on the so-called “mute compulsion of economic relations,” we will focus on accounts of more direct forms of coercion, repression, enslavement, and war as historically and structurally necessary for the functions of capitalist accumulation. We will furthermore focus on accounts — especially within the history of Black radical thought — of war as a revolutionary strategy. Finally, we will think philosophically about war and policing at the level of subjectivity, about the production and formation of both revolutionary and counterrevolutionary subjectivities through and as an effect of violence. Authors will include Marx, Lenin, Luxembourg, Du Bois, Fanon, Althusser, George Jackson, Joy James, Joanne Barker, Glenn Coulthard, Harsha Walia, and Gerald Horne.

***Distribution Requirements***

PhD, MA, BA/MA: Ethics/Social and Political, Continental

Old MA in Social Philosophy: Moral Philosophy, Social Philosophy

New MA in Social Philosophy: Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics (may count as Level I for Jesuit Foundational Track), Contemporary/Critical Perspectives (for Jesuit Foundational and Enhanced Tracks)

**PHIL 483: Philosophical Questions in Human Rights, *Topic: Equality, Poverty, and Freedom***

**Dr. Joy Gordon**

**M 4:15PM–6:45PM**

***Description***

This course addresses a variety of philosophical issues within human rights. We’ll start with some texts that point to different approaches in conceptualizing human rights, as well as an overview of the major human rights instruments in international law and global governance. We’ll look at such questions as the concept of rights, and its empirical and Marxist critics; the shift over the last decade in the ethical framework for understanding torture; hermeneutical issues that emerge in human rights treaties; the different ways that gender comes into play within human rights; the thorny problem of how to determine intent in cases of genocide; and issues of sovereignty when countries seek to assert extraterritorial jurisdiction over human rights violations that take place in other parts of the world.

***Distribution Requirements***

PhD, MA, BA/MA: Ethics/Social and Political, Analytic

Old MA in Social Philosophy: Moral Philosophy, Social Philosophy

New MA in Social Philosophy: Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics (may count as Level I for Jesuit Foundational Track), Contemporary/Critical Perspectives (for Jesuit Foundational and Enhanced Tracks),

1. Distribution requirements for the MA in Social Philosophy program include “MA SP” in parentheses after the requirement. All other distribution requirements refer to the PhD, MA, and BA/MA programs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)