

HPS Undergraduate Courses
Spring 2026 (Term 2264)

HPS 0412 Newtonian Revolution (31121)

T TH 9:30 – 10:45

Marian Gilton

No course description available.

HPS 0427 Myth and Science (31122)

M W 8:00 – 9:15

Kabir Bakshi

No course description available.

HPS 0427 Myth and Science (31778)

T TH 4:00-5:15

Stamatina Mastorakou

No course description available.

HPS 0437 Darwinism and Its Critics (31123)

M 6:00 – 8:30

Eric Anderson

This course explores the development and reception of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in the 19th century. We will critically examine Darwin's scientific, philosophical, religious, socio-political, economic, and environmental contexts. We will trace Darwin's scientific development from his education, to his service as naturalist aboard the H.M.S Beagle, to the origins and subsequent transformations of his theory. We will analyze the structure, logic, and strength of Darwin's argument in *On the Origin of Species*.

Understanding the attitudes of Darwin's contemporaries, and their critical responses to his (and others') evolutionary ideas, will be a point of focus throughout this course. Finally, we will examine the scientific and social impacts of Darwinism, including subsequent developments in biology and the rise of social Darwinism and eugenics in the late 19th century. Through this exploration, students will become familiar with a rich cast of characters and the world they inhabited, gaining a nuanced understanding of the origins and impacts of biology's most important, and most provocative, theory.

HPS 0515 Magic, Medicine, and Science (31124)

Cross Listed with HIST 0089

T TH 8:00 – 9:15

Sameera Singh

No course description available.

HPS 0517 Thinking About the Environment (32193)**T 1:00 – 3:30****Dana Matthiessen**

In this course we will investigate the relationship between humans, non-human creatures, ecosystems, and the broader natural world from a philosophical and historical perspective. To begin, we critically examine common assumptions about notions like “nature,” “naturalness,” and “wilderness.” We then survey the history of the environment and environmental thinking in America. Throughout we will attend to the differences between conceptions of nature and relations to the natural world descending from colonial European and indigenous American ways of living. From there, we turn to more contemporary conceptual and ethical issues in ecology and environmentalism, including the role of human values in environmental science, the goals of ecological management and restoration, environmental justice, and the ethical implications of climate change. Students will develop skills needed to historically situate and critically evaluate environmental and ethical arguments, to engage with differing viewpoints about these pressing issues, and to better understand their own lived relationship to the environment as inhabitants of Pittsburgh.

HPS 0605 The Nature of the Emotions (32112)**T TH 9:30 – 10:45****Madeleine Potoskie**

No course description available.

HPS 0611 Principles of Scientific Reasoning (25342)**H 6:00 – 8:30****Hung Hui Choi**

No course description available.

HPS 0611 Principles of Scientific Reasoning (32396)**T TH 4:00 – 5:15****Kyra Salomon**

No course description available.

HPS 0612 Mind and Medicine (27418)**M W 3:00 – 4:15**

Amanda Evans

No course description available.

HPS 0612 Mind and Medicine (31126)

T TH 4:00 – 5:15

Amanda Evans

No course description available.

HPS 0612 Mind and Medicine (26497)

T TH 2:30 – 3:45

Amanda Evans

No course description available.

HPS 0612 Mind and Medicine (31128)

T TH 4:00 – 5:15

Dana Matthiessen

Mind and medicine deals with fundamental problems and questions that arise in considering the nature of mental health, mental illness, and branches of medicine that aim to promote mental health and treat mental illness. We will begin by considering the concepts of 'health', 'disease' and 'illness' in general, and several different models of medicine. From there we will move on to a consideration of the nature of explanation in medicine generally. We will examine some explanatory successes in the domain of physical health and disease, and consider how those successes were achieved. In the second half of the course we will look at controversies over the question of whether there is such a thing as mental illness, and if so, how one is to define, diagnose and treat it. In order to better understand what is at stake, we will explore these controversies by focusing on a specific mental illness, schizophrenia. Looking at recent research on schizophrenia will allow us to see the extent to which the kind of understanding we have achieved in physical medicine is or is not to be expected with serious mental illness. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to identify and analyze different philosophical approaches to selected issues in medicine and psychiatry; have gained insight into how to read and critically interpret philosophical arguments; and have developed skills that will enable them to think clearly about foundational questions as future or current health care providers, policy makers, and consumers. This course is also part of a core sequence leading to certification in the Conceptual Foundations of Medicine Certificate Program, and is a companion course to HPS 0613 (Morality and Medicine) but may be taken independently. The course is of particular interest to pre-medical and pre-health care students.

HPS 0612 Mind and Medicine (CGS) (24934)

TH 6:00 – 8:25

Dana Matthiessen

No course description available.

HPS 0613 Morality and Medicine (20616)

M W 12:00 – 12:50

Nina Atanasova

No course description available.

HPS 0613 Morality and Medicine (28966)

M W 1:00 – 1:50

Nina Atanasova

No course description available.

HPS 0613 Morality and Medicine (31130)

M W 2:00 – 2:50

Nina Atanasova

No course description available.

HPS 0613 Morality and Medicine (28968)

T TH 1:00 – 1:50

Laura Matthews

No course description available.

HPS 0620 Science and Religion (REL DEPT) (21199)

T TH 9:30-10:45

Brock Bahler

No course description available.

HPS 0626 Development of Modern Biology (32397)

M W 3:00 – 4:15

Michael Dietrich

No course description available.

HPS 1612 Philosophy of 20th Century Physics (30705)

T 6:00 – 8:30

Brett Park

No course description available.

HPS 1616 Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy of Science (31134)

M W 4:30 – 5:45

Dzintra Ullis

No course description available.

HPS 1616 Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy of Science (31135)

T TH 4:00 – 5:15

Tanner Leighton

No course description available.

HPS 1623 Death and Healthcare Professions (REL DEPT) (30083)

M 6:00 – 8:30

Jonathan Weinkle

No course description available.

HPS 1670 Philosophy of Neuroscience (31140)

T TH 2:30 – 3:45

Laura Matthews

No course description available.

HPS 1671 Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science (27434)

W 6:00 – 8:30

Mara McGuire

No course description available.

1702 Jr/Sr Seminar for HPS Majors (10755)

1703 Practicum (10756)

M 9:30-11:50

Paolo Palmieri

No course description available.

Updated 10/7/2025