



Beyond Good and Evil: Perspectives on Morality

figs.wisc.edu/2019fall06

FIG 6 • Fall 2019

main class instructor: **Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen**

11 credits

MAIN CLASS

History Department 200
**Seven Deadly Sins in
American History**

LINKED CLASS

Philosophy 101
Introduction to Philosophy

LINKED CLASS

Legal Studies 131
**Criminal Justice
in America**

In the main FIG seminar, **History 200: “Seven Deadly Sins in American History,”** we will explore Pride, Greed, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Wrath, and Sloth. As the historian Aviad Kleinberg notes, “[t]here is no sin without context,” and the aim of this seminar, then, is to examine the many contexts, the rich history, of sin in American culture and society. We will explore how, from the colonial period up until today, notions of pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth have gripped the moral imaginations of Americans.

Using the tools of the intellectual

and cultural historian, we will explore the medieval prehistory of the seven deadly sins, how they made their way into early American life, and how they have changed dramatically over the course of the centuries, moving between characterizations of wayward individuals to condemnations of entire social groups. We will explore how notions of sin and evil have been laden with gendered, racial, religious, and class assumptions, and how they have differed within and between cultural, ethnic, and religious communities. We will also examine the curious process whereby sins in one historical period have been transformed into virtues in another.

You will not only learn that (and how) ideas of good and evil have a history, but also how historians use different sources to access the longings, fears, and possible motivations of historical actors. We also will draw on insights from the other classes in this FIG to enrich our analysis of this topic.

Philosophy 101: “Introduction to Philosophy” — This class provides an overview of some central questions of philosophy, and explains how philosophers go about investigating them. We will cover

questions concerning the relation between mind and body, the nature of knowledge, the existence of the universe, moral obligation and value (what makes an action right vs. wrong?), and belief vs. non-belief in God. We will also learn logical reasoning skills, which we will apply when discussing these questions.

Legal Studies 131: “Criminal Justice in America” — You will be introduced to the fundamental features of the American criminal justice system. Together we will examine the theory and foundation, structure, function, and history of the criminal justice system through an interdisciplinary prism. We consider the system in the context of four core themes:

- theoretical differences between “factual guilt” and “legal guilt” and the meanings of “crime;”
- tension between maintaining public safety and preserving individual rights;
- relationship between public expectations of the criminal justice system and how the system operates in reality;
- how the discretionary decisions of various actors in the system affect the operation of the criminal justice system. ●

[more on the other side](#)

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FIG 6 • Fall 2019

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am					
9:00 am					
10:00 am	LEGAL ST 131 DIS 301 9:55–10:45 am		PHILOS 101 DIS 371 9:55–10:45 am		
11:00 am					
12:00 pm					
1:00 pm					
2:00 pm					
3:00 pm	LEGAL ST 131 LEC 1 2:30–3:45 pm	PHILOS 101 LEC 9 2:30–3:45 pm	LEGAL ST 131 LEC 1 2:30–3:45 pm	PHILOS 101 LEC 9 2:30–3:45 pm	
4:00 pm					
5:00 pm	HISTORY 200 LEC 4 4:00–5:15 am		HISTORY 200 LEC 4 4:00–5:15 am		
6:00 pm					

Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here's what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- Wednesday, September 11, 2019 is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- Friday, September 13, 2019 is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.

MAIN CLASS

History Department 200 Seven Deadly Sins in American History

LEC 4: MW 4:00–5:15

- Humanities or Social Science
- Intermediate
- Honors Optional

credits: 3

class number: **63716**

LINKED CLASS

Philosophy 101 Introduction to Philosophy

LEC 9: TR 2:30–3:45 +
DIS 371: W 9:55–10:45

- Humanities or Social Science
- Elementary

credits: 4

class number: **66393**

LINKED CLASS

Legal Studies 131 Criminal Justice in America

LEC 1: MW 2:30–3:45 +
DIS 301: M 9:55–10:45

- Social Science
- Elementary

credits: 4

class number: **46546**



University of Wisconsin–Madison • figs.wisc.edu

Nathan Phelps, director • 608-263-6504 • nathan.phelps@wisc.edu

get help from **Kari Fernholz**, assistant director
608-262-7375 • kari.fernholz@wisc.edu

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