PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with * have Honors sections available.

**PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC***
MW 3:00-4:15  ED COX
Introduction to the examination of correct reasoning using symbols to represent statements and relationships between them. This course covers sentential logic and some predicate logic.

**PHIL 3000: INTRO SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY-CTW***
MW 12:00-1:15  ED COX
*Death and the Meaning of Life.* This course will cover the issues involving death and the meaning of life. Is there a purpose to the universe as a whole and human life in particular? Can individual human lives have any meaning at all? If so, what is that meaning? Is life worth living? Is it rational to fear death? Assuming death is nonexistence and the permanent cessation of individual consciousness, is death harmful to the person who dies? Is suicide ever morally justified? If you could choose to live forever, would you?

**PHIL 3000: INTRO TO SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY-CTW***
TR 11:00-12:15  GEORGE GRAHAM
*The Human Mind.* Sometimes the human mind works as it should. Sometimes it does not. Sometimes we become depressed and delusional, paranoid and dissociated, or addicted to behaviors that are irrational and harmful. This seminar will explore strengths and weaknesses of the human mind. We shall look at such phenomena as consciousness, the self, rationality and free will, both when we are mentally healthy and when we are mentally unwell.

**PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY***
MW 3:00-4:15  ANNE FARRELL
Western philosophy has its roots in the ancient Mediterranean world. We will examine the works of philosophers from the 6th century BC through the 2nd century AD. We will begin with the pre-Socratic philosophers, whose questions about the nature of reality gave rise to the first scientific investigations and eventually to philosophy. We'll then move on to study Plato and Aristotle. After that we'll enter into the Hellenistic period. Here we will consider the metaphysics, theory of knowledge and the ethics of the Epicureans and the Stoics, including the Stoics' attempt to find a criterion of certain knowledge.

**PHIL 3020: EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY***
Two sections: MW 12:00-1:15, TR 2:30-3:45  ERIC WILSON
This course provides an introductory survey of early modern European philosophy (roughly, 1600-1800). We'll focus on four themes: (1) the mind and its relation to the body; (2) self-control and emotion; (3) experience and the limits of knowledge; (4) human nature, government, and freedom. Main authors will include: Rene’ Descartes, David Hume, Adam Smith, Thomas Hobbes, and Jean Jacques Rousseau.

**PHIL 3060: EXISTENTIALISM***
MW 3:00-4:15  SEBASTIAN RAND
Existentialism is a modern rarity: a philosophical movement that unfolded in popular culture. Its proponents were playwrights, essayists, filmmakers, journalists, novelists and guerrilla fighters – along with a professor or two. But what kind of philosophy did they produce, beyond a fashionable nihilism? What are the existentialists telling us about who we are and what we do? How did their reflections contribute to the development of social critique (e.g., to feminism)? And how, or why, did existentialism, with its very European-looking origins, become a point of contact between the European tradition and 20th-century movements in Africana philosophy and Asian philosophy?

**PHIL 3230: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION***
TR 1:00-2:15  TIM O'KEEFE
In this course we will explore questions such as the following: if God has foreknowledge of actions, can I still be free and responsible? Can morality depend on God’s will, and if there is no God, does this have an impact on morality? Is there an afterlife, and if not, is death something I should fear? Is it possible to be reincarnated as another person or another animal? Does the vast suffering in the world give us good reason to believe God does not exist? What is faith, and can believing in God on the basis of faith be justified?

**PHIL 3710: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY***
MW 1:30-2:45  CHRISTIE HARTLEY
In June of 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court held that states could not prohibit same-sex marriage. Philosophers, political theorists and legal scholars are currently debating even more radical reforms for marriage law. Some claim that if states can’t prohibit same-sex marriage, then states can’t prohibit polygamy either. Others think the state should no longer license any marriages and that marriage should be privatized. In this course we will discuss arguments for radical marriage reform. In addition, we will consider the parent-child relationship and views about the rights of children and the rights of parents.

**PHIL 3720: CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS***
TR 11:00-12:15  STAFF
Selected moral issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, environmentalism, genetic engineering, feminism, animal rights, gay and lesbian rights, and political violence. Briefed coverage of ethical theories as they related to the issues at hand.

**PHIL 3730: BUSINESS ETHICS***
Two sections: TR 2:30-3:45; MW 1:30-2:45  STAFF
Moral Issues in business, such as social responsibility, employee obligations and rights, ethics and the professions, marketing and advertising practices, and the environment.

**PHIL 3855: TOPICS IN POLITICAL THEORY***
MW 12:00-1:15  PETER LINDSAY
Classical political philosophers were concerned with large questions: Why should people obey political authority? What is the purpose of a state? What distinguishes a good state from a bad one? What is a good person? What role should the state play in making a person good? While their answers were sometimes shocking to our ears, their perspectives continue to inform and enlighten us. The first sections of the course will focus on two thinkers no college student should miss: Plato and Aristotle. The final section will examine the early modern reply: Hobbes’ vision of a world with no peace, no purpose, and, ultimately, little chance for survival.
PHIL 4020: ARISTOTLE*  
TR 4:00-5:15  
TIM O'KEEFE  
The centerpiece of this course will be Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*. We will read (almost) all of it over the course of the semester, including Aristotle’s thoughts about what makes a human life happy, what the virtues are and how to develop them, why we are responsible for our actions and our character, and the role friendship plays in achieving happiness. We will also use the Ethics as a springboard for looking at some other areas of his philosophy, such as what exists “by nature,” scientific explanation, the truth-value of statements concerning future contingents, and the nature of the city-state.

PHIL 4075: TOPICS 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY*  
MW 1:30-2:45  
SEBASTIAN RAND  
*Hegel’s* *Ethical and Political Thought*. Ethics and politics are central to Hegel’s thinking. He aims to transform Kantian autonomy from a force exacerbating the conflicts in “modern” social life into a tool for reconciling them. We will focus on his mature views as presented in the *Philosophy of Right*, considering his main positions and arguments both historically and in relation to current issues, including issues arising in natural law and positive law theories, the social contract tradition, liberal and communitarian political theory, and prominent moral/ethical theories (e.g., but not only, Kant’s).

PHIL 4085: TOPICS HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY*  
TR 5:30-6:45  
SANDRA DWYER  
This course will focus on the distinction between public and private realms, as drawn in particular by political philosopher Hannah Arendt. The public/private distinction has been called untenable, and/or undesirable by a number of feminists and other political theorists. We will consider Arendt’s claims in light of these critiques, and/or whether there may remain a viable way to draw the distinction today (where the loss of privacy and a vibrant public realm are at least prima facie real losses). We will begin with *The Human Condition* and then move to work by contemporary theorists. Course readings are open to suggestions based on student interest. Send me your ideas.

PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY*  
MW 12:00-1:15  
STEVE JACOBSON  
Problems in the concept of knowledge, such as the definition of propositional knowledge, the problem of induction, the a priori, and theories of truth.

PHIL 4300: METAPHYSICS*  
TR 9:30-10:45  
STEVE JACOBSON  
The aim of this course is to read, write, and think intensively about doctrines in the philosophy of language and their bearing on issues in metaphysics and philosophy more generally. The topics include: necessity, existence, skepticism, non-naturalism, non-cognitivism along with topics about language such as meaning, reference, descriptions, logical form, verificationism, rigid designators, among others.

PHIL 4330: PHILOSOPHY OF MIND*  
TR 2:30-3:45  
GEORGE GRAHAM  
Philosophy of mind is the attempt to achieve a systematic understanding of the nature of mind and what it means to have a mind. This course aims to orientate students to the most important things there are to know about philosophy of mind—about consciousness, selfhood, rationality, mind/body, and mental illness, among other and related topics.

PHIL 4500: SYMBOLIC LOGIC*  
TR 11:00-12:15  
ED COX  
This course will cover the fundamentals of propositional and predicate logic, and selected topics in such areas as the logic of identity and relations, modal logic, or meta-logic. Emphasis placed on construction of proofs in formal systems.

PHIL 4700: ETHICS*  
TR 1:00-2:15  
GEORGE RAINBOLT  
This course will focus on contemporary feminist legal theory.

PHIL 4750: TOPICS OF ETHICS*  
MW 12:00-1:15  
SEBASTIAN RAND  
See description of Phil 4085 above.

PHIL 4820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW*  
MW 3:00-4:15  
ANDREW ALTMAN  
This course will examine legal and philosophical issues that concern race and racism in the US. The topics will include: slavery and the Constitution, the Jim Crow system, the Civil Rights Movement, and Black Lives Matter. Readings will be taken from legal cases and the works of such prominent black thinkers and activists as David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Derrick Bell.

PHIL 4830: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW  
TR 1:00-2:15  
GEORGE RAINBOLT  
This course will focus on contemporary feminist legal theory.

PHIL 4860: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY*  
MW 12:00-1:15  
CHRISTIE HARTLEY  
Gender roles and gender norms vary among cultures and over time and affect all aspects of our lives, including work and family life. Feminists claim that women are unjustly disadvantaged due to gender and, even in liberal democracies, continue to face barriers to equality. This course is a philosophical examination of sex, gender and feminism. Topics for this term include the nature of oppression and gender, conceptions of feminism and sex equality, and social construction of gender and liberal theory. In considering these issues we will pay special attention to how gender intersects with race, class, and sexuality.

PHIL 4860: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY*  
TR 1:00-2:15  
GEORGE RAINBOLT  
This course will focus on contemporary feminist legal theory.

PHIL 4960: INTERNSHIP  
TBA  
CHRISTIE HARTLEY  
Contact instructor for details at chartley@gsu.edu