

Courses marked with * have Honors sections available.

PHIL 3000: INTRO TO SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY-CTW*

TR 9:30-10:45

SEBASTIAN RAND

Paths to Freedom. Doing philosophy, we are often told, is a way to get free: free from illusions, free from prejudice, free from the tyranny of desire. And some philosophers promise even more: freedom from anger, from cruelty, from deceit. In this course, we'll look at some powerful presentations of this idea of philosophy, from the ancients to the present. We will see what they think philosophy *is*, what it frees us from, what it frees us to do, and *how* it does these things. Readings will include, among others, Plato, Marcus Aurelius, Confucius, Mary Wollstonecraft, Karl Marx, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Simone de Beauvoir, Martin Luther King, and Michel Foucault.

PHIL 3000: INTRO SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY-CTW*

TR 1:00-2:15

ERIC WILSON

Decisions, Love, and Meaning. Many of our decisions reflect who we are and what we care about. But some of them fundamentally change us. In this course, we'll examine both types of decisions. We'll focus on how decisions relate to our sense of self, the things we love, and the question of what makes life meaningful. Readings will include recent work by Harry Frankfurt, L.A. Paul, and Susan Wolf.

PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC

TR 11:00-12:15

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. Skills developed in this course may improve performance on the LSAT and other standardized tests. This course is not required for 3000- and 4000-level philosophy courses, and need not be taken before PHIL 3000.

PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY*

TR 2:30-3:45

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*

MW 3:00-4:15

STEVE JACOBSON

This course covers major developments in the history of modern philosophy. The figures to be covered typically include: Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. The topics include: Materialism versus Idealism, The Mind/Body Problem, Empiricism versus Rationalism, The Problems of Induction and the External World, Proofs of God, The Problem of Evil, and Free Will and Determinism.

PHIL 3060: EXISTENTIALISM*

TR 11:00-12:15

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 African philosophy and Asian philosophy?

PHIL 3330: MIND AND BRAIN*

MW 3:00-4:15

ED COX

How does the mind relate to the brain? Is it possible for a machine to think? Can a robot have moral responsibility? To what extent are animals conscious? This cluster of questions is relevant to philosophy, computer science, psychology, and neuroscience. Topics include: theories of consciousness, the relation between mind and brain, artificial intelligence, mental content, neural correlates of consciousness, personal identity, and neuroethics.

PHIL 3710: SEX AND LOVE*

MW 12:00-1:15/ TR 2:30-3:45

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

This course is the philosophical examination of topics having to do with sex and love. In the first part of the course, we will consider the moral significance of marriage and evaluate different marital models. Then we will consider what form of marriage, if any, the state should or must recognize. In the next part of the course, we will discuss parental love and childrearing as we consider how best to understand children's rights and parental obligations. Last we will consider recent work in social and political philosophy concerning the buying and selling of sex, especially as it concerns gender justice.

PHIL 3730: BUSINESS ETHICS

Two sections: TR 9:30-10:45; MW 3:00-4:15

STAFF

Moral Issues in business, such as social responsibility, employee obligations and rights, ethics and the professions, marketing and advertising practices, and the environment.

All 4000-level philosophy classes have a pre-requisite of one 2000- or 3000-level philosophy class. However, we strongly encourage students to take Phil 3000 (Intro Seminar in Philosophy) before taking 4000-level classes.

PHIL 4055: HUME*

This course is about David Hume's moral philosophy. We'll focus on Hume's views about the relationship between morality and emotion. We'll also study the work of his friend Adam Smith, who criticized, refined, and altered Hume's views. Half the semester will be spent on Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature* (1739-40). The other half will be spent on Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759-90). We'll treat their work as a collaborative project devoted to understanding the nature of human morality.

TR 2:30-3:45

ERIC WILSON

PHIL 4075: TOPICS IN 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY*

Schopenhauer. Schopenhauer is surely one of the great undervalued philosophers of the nineteenth century. He is a pessimist, who takes the world as we know it to be guided by an insatiable and indifferent metaphysical 'will' rather than a caring or intelligent designer. He therefore regards human life as striving and suffering in a world that has no purpose. Through his theory of aesthetic experience-- especially of music-- we can see how human beings can be redeemed, even if only temporarily, by a glimpse into the self's oneness with the whole. He is influenced by Kant, Plato, and Buddhist thought, but Schopenhauer is a progressive and an atheist, who exercised a powerful influence on Nietzsche and existentialism, and literary and artistic figures well after his own time. This course will cover his magnum opus, *World as Will and Representation*, and various essays on free will, ethics, and the meaning of life.

TR 4:00-5:15

JESSICA BERRY

PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY*

The course covers classical and contemporary discussions regarding knowledge and justified belief. The topics may include, e.g.: the analysis of 'knowledge', the problems of the external world, induction, the Gettier problem, skepticism, foundationalism, coherentism, reliabilism, and theories of truth.

MW 1:30-2:45

STEVE JACOBSON

PHIL 4330: PHILOSOPHY OF MIND*

In this course we will investigate some central philosophical questions about the mind. These include: Is the mind something nonphysical? If it is physical, is it anything over and above the brain? How do conscious sensations and experiences arise from unconscious matter? Can we have a science of conscious experience? How is the mind integrated with the world outside the brain and body? In addition, we will investigate that nature of everyday mental states such as belief, emotion, desire, imagination, dreams, and memory. Finally, we will consider problems of selfhood and identity, self-knowledge and deception, mental disorders, and madness.

MW 3:00-4:15

DAN WEISKOPF

PHIL 4340: PHILOSOPHY & COGNITIVE SCIENCE*

How is information organized in the mind/brain? In this course, we'll explore the thesis known as modularity, which holds that the mind/brain is organized into separate specialized systems, each with different processing principles and domains of information. One might hold, for example, that the sense modalities--hearing, vision, olfaction, etc.--are processed by separate modules, as Jeffy Fodor argues in *The Modularity of Mind*, which we'll read at the beginning of the course. But there are other potential examples as well. Theorists have argued that there are separate intuitive "folk" systems in the mind/brain for processing different sorts of information: folk physics, folk biology, and folk psychology, most prominently. Some hold, for example, that intuitive folk physics operates independently of whatever our conscious theories are about the physical world. Thus, the goals of the course are (1) to understand the respective modularity theses precisely, (2) to explore the evidence for them, and (3) to evaluate their merits critically.

MW 7:15-8:30

NEIL VAN LEEUWEN

PHIL 4740: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

Examination and evaluation of major moral problems in science and medicine found in specific case studies and larger institutional aspects of medical practice and research. Examples may include, death and euthanasia, treatment of the mentally ill, experimentation with human and other animal subjects, genetic research, and/or other issues of interest to students.

MW 12:00-1:15

STAFF

PHIL 4760: ETHICS & CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY*

This course studies philosophical frameworks for understanding some leading controversies in public policy. Themes change each year; previous ones include: issues in religious freedom and free expression, animal rights, immigration, sexual privacy, gender norms, educational opportunity, and many others. Course is also a platform for preparing for the (optional) southeastern Regional Ethics Bowl, where teams compete in assessing a set of several cases distributed in advance. Course features plenty of discussion, presentations, "mock" bowls, a term paper, and some smaller assignments.

MW 1:30-2:45

ANDREW I. COHEN

PHIL 4800: SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY*

Liberalism, Marxism, and Fascism. This course will examine major thinkers from the liberal, Marxist, and fascist traditions of modern Western political thought. The topics to be covered include liberty, democracy, equality, socialism, capitalism, and war. Among the thinkers to be examined are J.S. Mill, John Rawls, Karl Marx, Rosa Luxemburg, and Carl Schmitt.

TR 1:00-2:15

ANDREW ALTMAN

PHIL 4855: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT

Do you have an opinion on abortion? On capital punishment? Immigration? Gun control? The use of torture? If so, where did you get it? Is it an informed and reasonable opinion- one that does not contradict the opinions you have on any other issues? Being a political philosopher involves understanding political reality, but it also involves being able to think clearly about controversial political issues. In this course we will go beyond the soundbites, talk shows and stump speeches in order to explore what is at stake in those issues. We will, in the process, examine how one might hold an informed and reasonable view about any of them- a view that makes sense in light of one's core moral commitments, be they Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, Marxist, Christian, Isalmist, or undecided.

TR 5:30-6:45

PETER LINDSAY

PHIL 4900: TOPIC: RACIAL THOUGHT IN RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

This course will evaluate the logic of racial thought, its presence in religion and philosophy, and the difficult process of countering the resulting forms of racism that structure minds and lives.

TR 9:30-10:45

BRETT ESAKI SLOMINSKI

PHIL 4960: INTERNSHIP

Contact instructor for details at chartley@gsu.edu

TBA

CHRISTIE HARTLEY