

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with * have Honors sections available.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL COURSES ARE ONLINE UNLESS SPECIFIED "IN-PERSON"

- PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC*** **MW 3:30-4:45, Synchronous** **ED COX**
This course will introduce the basic concepts and methods of contemporary formal logic. These include symbolization into statement and predicate logic, the truth table method for statement logic, and the method of proof for statement logic and monadic 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 3000: PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS-CTW*** **MW 2:00-3:15; TR 2:15-3:30, Synchronous** **JESSICA BERRY**
Human Nature. Are human beings naturally aggressive? Or compassionate? Are we naturally devious? Lazy? Greedy? Is it our nature to be rational? Or are we incurably irrational? Is there such a thing as "human nature" at all? If so, is it determined by natural (biological) facts about us? What role do society and history play in shaping it? Far from being silenced by scientific progress since Darwin, the debate over these questions has only intensified. Have we learned more about human animals only to understand less about human beings? In this course, we'll focus on thinking and writing clearly about these questions and more.
- PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY*** **TR 3:45-5:00, Synchronous** **TIM O'KEEFE**
This course will be an introduction to some of the major figures in ancient Greek philosophy: Plato, Aristotle, and Epicurus. We will also spend a little time on the Stoics and Pyrrhonian skeptics. We will explore what these philosophers have to say in metaphysics, ethics, and political philosophy. Some specific questions include whether it would be rational to cheat or steal if you knew you could get away with it, whether your death is bad for you, and whether you can be responsible for what you do if God fates every thing you do as part of his divine plan.
- PHIL 3020: RISE OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY*** **N/A, Asynchronous** **ERIC WILSON**
This course offers an introduction to early modern philosophy (1600–1800), an era of massive social, political, and intellectual change. We will focus on the work of two philosophers: René Descartes, the most important philosopher of the scientific revolution, and David Hume, one of the most important figures of the Enlightenment. Our main themes include: the foundations of knowledge; the metaphysics of mind; emotion, self-control, and happiness; and the origins of morality. We'll conclude with Immanuel Kant's reflections on the meaning of Enlightenment and the trajectory of human history. Does human history show progress? Have we improved over time?
- PHIL 3060: EXISTENTIALISM*** **TR 11:00-12:15, Synchronous** **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 can the existentialists tell us about who we are and what we do — and how does their thinking live on, more than half a century after the high-point of the movement? We will answer these and other questions by reading Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, Beauvoir, Nishitani, Fanon, and others. No specific philosophical background is required.
- PHIL 3730: BUSINESS ETHICS** **Two sections, N/A, Asynchronous** **DAVID SWIGART**
This course is intended to strengthen students' ability to isolate ethical aspects of business theories and practices; to provide conceptual tools for evaluating those practices with respect to contemporary issues and enduring problems in domestic and international business; to acquaint students with major ethical perspectives and current management theories in order to provide a foundation for negotiating those problems or similar problems when they arise in students' own working lives. This is, therefore, an applied ethics course aimed at increasing students' power to discern as well as to decide.
- PHIL 3740: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS** **N/A, Asynchronous** **HEATHER PHILLIPS**
For Biology, Neuroscience, Nursing, Pharmacy, Pre-med, Psychology, Public Health, Philosophy majors and minors, and other interested students, this is a survey of major moral and/or legal problems in science and medicine, such as research ethics, professional duties, legal obligations, moral responsibilities, end of life care issues, quality of care issues, beginning of life issues, and/or other clinical or policy issues, according to the interests of those enrolled in this section of the course. (Crosslisted with BIO 3740)
- PHIL 3750: RACE AND RACISM** **N/A, Asynchronous** **CHRISTIE HARTLEY**
In this course, we will study issues related to race and racism. Topics will include the philosophical investigation of concepts such as oppression, race, and racism. We will also study the ethics of racial profiling as well as racism and mass incarceration.
- PHIL 3810: INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY, POLI SCI, AND ECON (PPE)** **TR 12:45-2:00, Synchronous** **ANDREW J. COHEN**
This is not a philosophy course, a political science course, or an economics course. It is an interdisciplinary course that provides an overview of some core tools of each discipline often used to analyze issues at their intersection. Serving as the gateway course for the BIS-PPE major, the topics covered include the moral status of markets, distributive justice, the use of economic models to understand the behavior of voters and policymakers, justifications for limiting economic activity, and the use of economic models to understand the behavior of voters and policymakers.

All 4000-level philosophy classes have a pre-requisite of one 2000- or 3000-level philosophy class with a grade of C or better. However, we strongly encourage students to take Phil 3000 (Philosophical Discussions) before taking 4000-level classes.

PHIL 4030: TOPICS IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY*

TR 12:45-2:00, Synchronous

TIM O'KEEFE

Hedonists, Skeptics, and Sophists. This course will examine what ancient hedonists (such as Epicurus and the Cyrenaics), skeptics, and sophists say about what happiness (or well-being) is and how to attain it. In contrast to Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics, these philosophers either believe that the world has no purpose or plan, or that we cannot discover such a purpose or plan, if one exists. And so, they try to ground ethics in human preferences and desires, and they encounter a similar set of issues when trying to account for the places of friendship, knowledge, justice, and religion in ethics.

PHIL 4075: TOPICS IN 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY*

TR 9:30-10:45, Synchronous

SEBASTIAN RAND

Fragmentation and Beauty: Romantic and Idealist Aesthetics. What is the relation between beauty and truth? Does either on its own, or do both together, make up a unity? Or is modern life lived only among their shattered, jagged ruins? We will think about these and other questions while reading a selection of works in classical (e.g., Lessing, Kant, Schiller) and Romantic (e.g., Schlegel, Novalis) aesthetics, a chunk of Hegel's *Lectures on Fine Art*, and a few important later texts (e.g., Benjamin, Adorno) drawing on these traditions. Students should have previous coursework in the history of philosophy, aesthetic theory, literary theory, or related fields.

PHIL 4300: METAPHYSICS*

N/A, Asynchronous

STEPHEN JACOBSON

The aim of this course is to read, write, and think intensively about a variety of issues in metaphysics, such as the existence of God, personal identity, naturalism versus non-naturalism, existence and being, *de re* and *de dicto* necessity, possible worlds, natural kinds, realism and anti-realism, among others. Special attention will be given to the bearing of issues about language on issues in metaphysics.

PHIL 4340: PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE*

MW 7:15-8:30PM, Synchronous

NEIL VAN LEEUWEN

How is information organized in the mind/brain? This course explores the idea of modularity, which holds that the mind/brain is organized into specialized systems, each with different content domains and processing. Some hold, for example, that the senses--hearing, vision, etc.--involve separate modules, as Jerry Fodor argues in *The Modularity of Mind*. But other potential examples would be the various intuitive systems in the mind/brain that process other sorts of information: intuitive physics, intuitive biology, and intuitive psychology. Thus, the goals of the course are to understand modularity, to explore its theoretical applications, and to evaluate those applications.

PHIL 4500: SYMBOLIC LOGIC*

MW 11:00-12:15, Synchronous

ED COX

This course will cover concepts and methods of contemporary formal logic. It will emphasize predicate logic, both semantic methods and derivations, along with some basic metatheory and an introduction to modal logic. Prereq: Phil 2500 with B or better.

PHIL 4820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW*

TR 11:00-12:15, Synchronous

ANDREW J COHEN

In this course, we will consider a number of questions at the intersection of philosophy and law. Beyond the question of what law itself is, we will consider philosophical issues in specific areas of law. Among others, we will look philosophically at issues like affirmative action, abortion, contracts, and environmental justice, considering each issue from multiple perspectives. There will be a special focus on issues of racial justice.

PHIL 4855: ADVANCED TOPICS IN POLITICAL THEORY*

MW 11:00-12:15, In-person

PETER LINDSAY

Being a political philosopher involves understanding political reality, but it also involves being able to think clearly about controversial political issues – war, guns, capital punishment, immigration, etc. 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, Islamist or undecided.

PHIL 4860: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY*

N/A, Asynchronous

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

Feminists claim that women are oppressed and that they face unjust barriers to equality. This course is a philosophical examination of topics related to sex, gender, and feminism, such as the nature of oppression, gender, sexism, misogyny, conceptions of feminism, marriage, and the gendered division of labor. (Crosslisted with WGSS 4360)

PHIL 4960: INTERNSHIP

TBA

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

Internships allow students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and to enhance their education. The Department of Philosophy encourages majors and minors to complete an internship prior to graduation. Students who choose an internship that allows them to apply and develop their philosophical skills can receive 3 hours of philosophy credit if they meet the eligibility and course requirements. For details, contact Dr. Christie Hartley (chartley@gsu.edu).