

## PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with \* have Honors sections available.

**PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC\***

**MW 9:30-10:45**

**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 11:00-12:15**

**ANDREW J. COHEN**

*Multiculturalism, Bigotry, and Free Speech (on Campus & Beyond)*. Our country is proudly multicultural, but we have also seen a backlash of xenophobic bigotry and a corresponding counter from those who would limit the speech of bigots. What should we say or do about this? We will read a variety of authors that have addressed these concerns to help us think it through clearly.

**PHIL 3000: PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS-CTW\***

**TR 11:00-12:15**

**SEBASTIAN RAND**

*Philosophical Liberation*. If you take the philosophers' word for it, doing philosophy is a way to liberate yourself: to get free from illusions, free from prejudice, free from the tyranny of desire, from anger, from cruelty, from deceit. In this course, we'll look at some powerful presentations of this idea of philosophy, asking 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, Aurelius, Montaigne, Descartes, Rousseau, Nietzsche, Thoreau, and Martin Luther King.

**PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY\***

**MW 12:30-1:45**

**ANNE FARRELL**

Western philosophy has its beginning in the ancient Mediterranean world. We will examine the works of philosophers from the 6th century BC through the 2nd century AD, including well known philosophers, such as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, as well as the lesser known pre-Socratics, Epicureans and Stoics. We'll consider ancient theories of metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. The questions we will address include, Is the soul material or immaterial? Can knowledge acquired through sensation be certain? What is the goal of life for a human being given our nature?

**PHIL 3020: RISE OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY\***

**MW 3:30-4:45**

**ERIC WILSON**

This course surveys the major ideas and philosophers of the early modern era (1600–1800). We will focus on several questions, such as: How is the mind related to the body? What are the limits of human knowledge? What are emotions, and how can we control them? How do human beings differ from other animals? Are human beings entirely selfish? What is the nature and origin of human society? We inherited many of our ideas from this era. Studying it promises greater self-understanding and deeper insight into the world around you.

**PHIL 3330: MIND AND BRAIN\***

**MW 12:30- 1:45**

**ED COX**

This course will cover puzzling questions about the mind and its relation to the brain. How do we know that other humans are conscious? How do we know that non-human animals are conscious? Are chimpanzees persons? Do plants think? Will it ever be possible for computers to think? Will it ever be possible to explain consciousness in terms of brain activity? Does neuroscience undermine the possibility of free will? What is it to be the same person over time?

**PHIL 3730: BUSINESS ETHICS**

**Two sections: MW 2:00-3:15; TR 12:45-2:00**

**STAFF**

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 theoretical moral 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 3730: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS**

**MW 11:00-12:15**

**HEATHER PHILLIPS**

For Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Neuroscience, Nursing, Pharmacy, Pre-med, Psychology, Public Health, Philosophy majors and minors, and other interested students, this is a survey of major ethical and 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 other clinical or policy issues, according to the interests of those enrolled in this section of the course. If there is a particular biomedical issue or case you would like to discuss in class, let the instructor know.

**PHIL 3750: RACE AND RACISM\***

**MW 3:30-4:45**

**CHRISTIE HARTLEY**

In this course, we will study philosophical issues related to race and racism. Topics will include philosophical analysis of concepts such as oppression, race, racism, and stereotyping as well as critical investigation of practices and institutions related to racism and ending it, such as the ethics of racial profiling, mass incarceration, and the politics of integration.

**PHIL 3855: TOPICS IN POLITICAL THEORY**

MW 11:00-12:15

PETER LINDSAY

*Modern Political Philosophy.* This course looks at the major political works of Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, J. S. Mill and Marx. In so doing, it examines the questions that inform much of modern thinking: Why should people obey political authority? What is the purpose of a state? What are its legitimate powers? What distinguishes a good state from a bad one? In looking at how each of these thinkers answers these questions, students will consider what distinguishes good answers from bad ones, and, ultimately, the answers that they themselves would defend.

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

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**PHIL 4075: TOPICS IN 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY\***

TR 2:15-3:30

JESSICA BERRY

*Beyond Good and Evil.* This course will focus on the nineteenth-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's critique of morality, as he develops it in the two companion books *Beyond Good and Evil* and *The Genealogy of Morality*, which are often considered the core of his mature philosophical corpus. We will examine the indispensable role that psychological observation plays in Nietzsche's thought and consider, among other things, in what sense Nietzsche is a "naturalist," how his critique anticipates various evolutionary accounts of morality, and what his work means for the very future of moral philosophy.

**PHIL 4090: TOPICS IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY\***

TR 9:30-10:45

SEBASTIAN RAND

*Heidegger's Being and Time.* Heidegger's first book has been influential since its publication in 1927. Against the background of his interpretation of philosophy's history, Heidegger uses existentialist and phenomenological insights to motivate a new program concerning "fundamental ontology," beginning with an analysis of the specifically human mode of being. At the core of this program lurks a radical understanding of time and history, which will be our focus. No special prerequisites, though 3010 (Ancient) and 3020 (Modern) are strongly recommended.

**PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY\***

MW 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

The course covers classical and contemporary discussions regarding knowledge and justified belief. The first portion is a survey of classical and contemporary topics. These may include, e.g.: the problems of the external world and induction, the Gettier problem, skepticism, foundationalism, coherentism, naturalized epistemology, reliabilism, contextualism, and theories of truth. The second portion of the course focuses on a recent work in epistemology, such as, Paul Boghossian's, *Fear of Knowledge: Against Relativism and Constructivism*.

**PHIL 4130: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE\***

TR 12:45-2:00

ANDREA SCARANTINO

Our philosophical reflections on science will touch upon three foundational issues: (1) What makes science different from non-science? (2) Does science progress towards the truth over time? (3) How are scientific theories confirmed by evidence? Once we have covered these three general topics, we will ask two further questions: (4) Which categories carve nature at its natural joints? (5) How can we measure unobservable entities?

**PHIL 4340: PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE**

TR 7:15-8:30

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 4700: ETHICS\***

MW 12:30-1:45

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

Normative ethics is the study of what we should *do* and how we should *be*. In this course we will explore some leading theories in contemporary normative ethics, including contractarianism, Kantianism, contractualism, utilitarianism, virtue theory and the ethics of care. We will consider how the theories we study can best be formulated and examine the arguments for and against them. Readings will include work by David Gauthier, Immanuel Kant, Barbara Herman, T.M. Scanlon, Bernard Williams, Peter Railton and Rosalind Hursthouse.

**PHIL 4760: ETHICS AND CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY\***

TR 12:45-2:00

ANDREW I. COHEN

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. The course is also a platform for preparing for Regional Ethics Bowl tournaments, 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.

**PHIL 4820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW\***

MW 2:00-3:15

S. M. LOVE

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 4960: INTERNSHIP**

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

The Philosophy Department offers an internship course for students looking to gain work experience and apply their philosophical training in the workplace. Students who choose an appropriate internship can receive 3 hours of philosophy credit if they meet the eligibility and course requirements listed on our website. The internship course requires planning in advance. Students must find their own internships, and they should begin looking several months prior to the desired start date. To start the process, please visit our website page on internships: <https://philosophy.gsu.edu/internships/>. Questions about the internship program should be directed to Dr. Christie Hartley ( [chartley@gsu.edu](mailto:chartley@gsu.edu) ).