

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: INTRO TO SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY-CTW*

MW 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

Comparative Philosophy: Eastern and Western Philosophy. The course is intended to be a survey of doctrines and arguments in epistemology, metaphysics, and value theory in both Western and Eastern Philosophy. The Eastern traditions include Buddhism and Indian philosophy. The Western traditions include doctrines of the empiricists and the rationalists.

PHIL 3000: INTRO SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY-CTW*

TR 12:45-2:00

ERIC WILSON

Philosophy and the Good Life. When you look at the lives of others, some probably strike you as worthy of admiration or even emulation. They seem like good lives. What are the marks of such a life? Success, money, and fame seem to be common answers – especially in the United States. But philosophers, both ancient and contemporary, have proposed alternatives. Our task is to examine what philosophy has to say about the key ingredients of a good life – such as freedom, righteousness, love, happiness, authenticity, meaning, and community.

PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY*

MW 12:30-1:45

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: 17TH-18TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY*

TR 3:45-5:00

ERIC WILSON

This course introduces you to the revolutionary philosophy of the "early modern" period (1600–1800) in Europe. Our goal will be to examine some of the major philosophical debates surrounding the Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, the Protestant Reformation, and the rise of Capitalism. We will study figures such as Montaigne, René Descartes, Benedict Spinoza, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Bernard Mandeville, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Adam Smith.

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? 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*

TR 9:30-10:45

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 12:30-1:45; TR 2:15-3:30

STAFF

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 applied ethics course will increase students' power to discern when businesses face ethical questions and how to approach decisions to them.

PHIL 3750: RACE AND RACISM*

MW 2:00-3:15

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

This course is a study of philosophical issues related to race and racism. Topics will include philosophical analysis of concepts such as oppression, race, racism, discrimination, and stereotyping as well as critical investigation of practices and institutions related to racism and ending it, such as the ethics of racial profiling; racism and mass incarceration; and racism, social integration, and the demands of justice.

PHIL 3810: INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS (PPE)*

TR 12:45-2:00

ANDREW J. COHEN

This is an interdisciplinary course that provides an overview of some core conceptual tools used to analyze issues at the intersection of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). Importantly, this is not a philosophy course, a political science course, or an economics course. Instead, it is a course that introduces you to some of the tools of each, especially where they usefully intersect. Serving as the Gateway course for the PPE major (in the BIS program), the topics covered include the moral status of markets, distributive justice, the use of economic models to understand the behavior of voters and policymakers, and justifications for limiting economic activity.

PHIL 3855: TOPICS IN POLITICAL THEORY

MW 9:30-10:45

PETER LINDSAY

Classical and Early Modern Political Philosophy. 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.

**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.**

PHIL 4090: TOPICS IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY*

TR 9:30-10:45

SEBASTIAN RAND

Derrida/Deconstruction. What was deconstruction? Was it philosophy, trickery, nihilism, or something else entirely? Does it matter anymore? We'll look for answers to these questions by reading some important essays by Jacques Derrida (the "inventor" of deconstruction) and others. Since Derrida's work usually takes the form of commentary on canonical philosophical texts, we'll read his target text before each essay (e.g., we'll read Plato's *Phaedrus* and then Derrida's "Plato's Pharmacy"). This course presupposes that you have some background in philosophy (though not necessarily in "continental" philosophy) or in literary theory.

PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY*

MW 12:30-1:45

STEVE JACOBSON

The course covers various classical and contemporary topics in epistemology. These may include—the analysis of the concept of knowledge, the problems of the external world, other minds, induction, the Gettier problem, skepticism, foundationalism, coherentism, naturalism, reliabilism, the internalist/externalist debate, contextualism, relativism, and social constructivism.

PHIL 4530: PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE*

MW 11:00-12:15

DAN WEISKOPF

Language is enormously powerful. With it, we can describe our shared environment, communicate our innermost thoughts to one another, and even reshape the social world itself. In this class we will examine some philosophical questions about how language works. These include: What is the nature of meaning and truth? How can we use language to perform various kinds of speech acts? How do we interpret nonliteral speech such as metaphor and fiction? How does language exert social power through devices such as slurs and silencing? Finally, can different languages alter the very ways that we think and perceive?

PHIL 4760: ETHICS AND CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY*

MW 2:00-3:15

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 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.

PHIL 4770: MORAL PSYCHOLOGY*

TR 11:00-12:15

EDDY NAHMIA

Psychologists and neuroscientists are increasingly studying moral judgment and behavior, often with too little attention to philosophical theorizing about morality. Meanwhile, philosophers often neglect the relevance of this empirical research to debates about morality. We will consider how this gap should be bridged as we study the rich interdisciplinary field of moral psychology. Topics may include: moral intuitions and their psychological sources, the evolution of altruism and moral behavior, judgments about moral responsibility and punishment, and moral disagreement. Readings will be drawn primarily from philosophy (including 'experimental philosophy'), as well as psychology and neuroscience.

PHIL 4820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW*

TR 2:15-3:30

ANDREW ALTMAN

Race, Racism, and American Law. This course examines philosophical and legal issues connected to the Civil Rights Movement, its historical roots in slavery and Jim Crow, and such contemporary manifestations of the American black liberation struggle as Black Lives Matter. Course readings include philosophical, legal, political, and historical writings. Among the key concepts to be studied are: the rule of law, racism, white supremacy, racial discrimination and oppression, racial equality, black liberation, and civil disobedience.

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).