

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.

PHIL 3000: PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS-CTW*

MW 12:30-1:45

DAN WEISKOPF

Philosophy of Technology. Humans are a technological species. Our world, from the air we breathe to the food we eat, has been reshaped by technologies as varied as industrial farming, automatic rifles, vaccines, and networked computing. In this course we will investigate the nature and uses of such technology. We will consider how to define technology, whether technology is morally or politically neutral, what are the ethics of technological innovation, and how technology might change not just the natural and social environment, but human nature itself.

PHIL 3000: PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS-CTW*

TR 12:45-2:00

SEBASTIAN RAND

Philosophy of Sport. In many parts of the world — and certainly in America — sports are a central part of life. They are significant for national, community, and personal identity; they shape educational institutions and practice; they are economically important; and people like (or hate!) playing and watching them. Given their importance it is hardly surprising that sports present a rich field for philosophical reflection, raising questions in ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, aesthetics, and other domains. We'll develop a few of those questions in this course.

PHIL 3020: RISE OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY*

R 3:45-5:00 (Blended)

ERIC WILSON

This course provides an introduction to early modern philosophy — the era of philosophers such as Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Hume, and Kant (1600–1800). We will focus on the following themes: the foundations of knowledge; the metaphysics of mind; emotion, self-control, and happiness; and the origins of morality. We'll conclude with 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 3330: MIND AND BRAIN*

TR 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 3710: SEX AND LOVE*

MW 2:00-3:15

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

This course is a philosophical examination of issues having to do with sex and love. Among the questions we will consider include the following: How should we understand sexual orientation? What is required for sexual consent? Is it wrong to sell sex? What is love? Is monogamy superior to polyamory or is it the other way around? Is marriage a promise to love?

PHIL 3720: CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS

TR 11:00-12:15

ANDREW J. COHEN

Depolarizing Ethics. Debates about public policy and the reach of the law are increasingly polarized, with many preferring an unclean roommate to one with whom they have substantial political disagreements. In response, we will begin by discussing a new framework for discussing ethical issues. The goal is to encourage more civil civic discourse about social issues (e.g., political correctness, privilege, feminism, affirmative action, racial profiling, nationalism), other domestic issues (voting rights, taxation, gun rights, health care rights, minimum wage laws, and the role of the military), and international issues (foreign aid, immigration, war, and environmental regulations).

PHIL 3730: BUSINESS ETHICS

Two sections: MW 9:30-10:45; TR 2:00-3:15

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 3740: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

R 11:00-12:15 (Blended)

HEATHER PHILLIPS

Increased understanding of the human body combined with growing technological mastery has opened brave new worlds of possibilities for both making and remaking humans. However, with these possibilities come difficult ethical questions such as: What is it to be human? How should we determine moral status and worth? Should limits be placed on reproductive technologies and/or genetic therapies? Where is the line between therapy and enhancement? How should scarce medical resources be allocated? How does race impact healthcare and health outcomes? This course will explore these and other questions within the frameworks of various philosophical ethical theories. Classes will be a combination of lecture and large- and small-group discussion, though discussion will be the norm.

PHIL 3750: RACE AND RACISM*

TR 2:15-3:30

HEATHER PHILLIPS

Understanding the concept of race is complicated, particularly because of the power provided to those who get to define it. In this class we will seek to look behind the curtain of how race has been and currently is defined and explore the ways such definitions have been used to shape the reality in which we now live. Along the way we will encounter other concepts such as inequality, oppression, discrimination, prejudice, but also hope, perseverance, justice, unity, diversity. Of course, as will become clear through this journey, these concepts are not cold intangible ideas to be examined from a distance, but lived realities shaping and too often breaking flesh and bone and spirit. In this class we will seek to understand not primarily to attain knowledge (or to pass a class), but to be better equipped to see, listen to, understand, and support one another.

PHIL 3810: INTRODUCTION TO PPE*

MW 11:00-12:15

PETER LINDSAY

This course will use tools from philosophy, political science, and economics to analyze moral and political issues. We will delve into ongoing debates about the nature of good political and economic institutions, as well as the policies and practices best suited for creating and sustaining them. In particular, we will discuss the moral status of property and markets (and whether some sales ought to be prohibited), the nature of distributive justice, liberty and paternalism. 3810 is the Gateway course for the PPE concentration in the BIS major.

PHIL 3900: EASTERN PHILOSOPHY

MW 12:30-1:45

STEPHEN JACOBSON

In this course, we examine philosophical doctrines in Indian Philosophy and Buddhism. The doctrines include the meaning of suffering, the doctrine of 'no-self', reincarnation and the problem of evil, the law of Karma, conceptions of enlightenment, epistemology and the significance of mystical experiences, the Buddhist doctrine of impermanence, among others. Throughout the course, we draw comparisons between ideas in Eastern and Western philosophies.

**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 4070: MARXISM*

MW 2:00-3:15

JESSICA BERRY

In 1848, Marx and Engels announced that "a specter is haunting Europe—the specter of Communism." Since then, that specter has been transformed from a looming, terrifying threat into a lingering, embarrassing ghost. What exactly is left of this "defeated" and "surpassed" moment in the history of Western thought? How can this specter still haunt us when we've so thoroughly disposed of the body? In this course we will examine central and enduring strains of Marxism across its history, from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, to V. I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Georg Lukács, Herbert Marcuse, Rosa Luxemburg, and the contemporary writer G.A. Cohen.

PHIL 4075: TOPICS IN 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY*

TR 9:30-10:45

SEBASTIAN RAND

Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit. *The Phenomenology of Spirit* is Hegel's most influential work. In it Hegel attempts to demonstrate the self-correcting movement of our thinking and thereby to set up his attempt (in later works) to show the self-grounding nature of human reason, institutions, and culture. This demonstration requires a philosophical treatment of the entirety of (what Hegel regards as) the modern Western human experience and its history. We will start at the beginning of the book and see how far we get.

PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY*

MW 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

This course covers great issues in classical and contemporary epistemology. These may include an examination of the possibility of knowing that there is a God and a study of the foundations of knowledge in everyday life and the sciences. These may also include the concepts of knowledge and justification, skepticism, relativism, social constructivism, the problems of the external world and other minds, among others.

PHIL 4760: ETHICS AND CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY*

TR 11:00-12:15

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 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 4800: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY*

TR 12:45-2:00

ANDREW J. COHEN

There are many disputes about both the nature of justice and its requirements. We will discuss both, beginning by considering the nature of justice and the various factors that are relevant to achieving justice in ordinary life. From there, we will discuss, in more depth, equality—and its many forms—and why it (in some form) matters when it does (and, perhaps, why some forms do not matter). We will end by considering several issues regarding race and what justice requires given the history of race in the US (likely: reparations, affirmative action, hate speech, and racial profiling).

PHIL 4820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW*

TR 2:15-3:30

ANDREW I. COHEN

This course explores the nature, justification, and proper scope of law. Using some case law and the works of legal philosophers, we will think philosophically about the foundations, structure, and legitimate applications of law. Topics may include: natural law and positivist theories of law, the foundation and limits of contract, political authority and the U.S. Constitution, civil disobedience and the duty to obey the law, theories of punishment, causation and theories of liability, ethical foundations of various criminal defenses, liberty and privacy, restitution/compensation for injustice.

PHIL 4900: INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY*

MW 9:30-10:45

EYAL AHARONI

This course will be conducted exclusively online with both synchronous and asynchronous components. This course explores human cognition and the science of the mind. We will study the mental and neurobiological processes involved in everyday experiences such as perception, attention, memory, knowledge, language, problem solving, and decision-making. We will examine how the mind relates to the brain, why human cognition evolved in the ways that it did, and how the mind can be understood as a computer processor. We will also learn about common methods to study mental processes. Full participation will likely require about 12 hours each week. Crosslisted with PSYCH 4900.

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).