

# PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with \* have Honors sections available.

## PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC

MW 9:30-10:45

SAM SIMS

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 2:00-3:15

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 3:45-5:00

ERIC WILSON

*Personal Transformation.* Sometimes you change what you truly care about and the things you love. This can change you as a person. Through your own decisions and actions, you transform who you are and what matters to you. Higher education, emigration, and religious conversion can be examples of this. How does personal transformation work? It can involve hard decisions. Can (or should) such decisions be rational? Can personal transformation give you purpose or meaning? In this course, we'll investigate these questions and others like it.

## PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY\*

TR 12:45-2:00

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 and consider theories of the Ancients in the areas of metaphysics, theory of knowledge, and ethics. We will begin with the pre-Socratics, whose questions about the nature of reality gave rise to the first scientific investigations and to philosophy. We'll then move on to study Plato and Aristotle. After that we'll enter into the Hellenistic period. Here we'll study the Epicureans and the Stoics, including the Stoics' attempt to find certain knowledge.

## PHIL 3020: RISE OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY\*

MW 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

This lecture/discussion course typically covers Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant on such issues as the mind/body problem, God, religion, and the rise of science, the problems of induction and the external World, the problem free will and determinism, and the problem of evil.

## PHIL 3060: EXISTENTIALISM\*

TR 9:30-10:45

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 3330: MIND AND BRAIN\*

MW 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

MW 12:30-1:45

SAM SIMS

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

Two sections: TR 11:00-12:15 and TR 2:15-3:30

SAM SIMS

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.

## PHIL 3750: RACE AND RACISM\*

MW 11:00-12:15

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

In this course, we will study philosophical issues related to race and racism. The topics we will cover include views of race, racial identity, and racism as well as ethical issues such as racial profiling, mass incarceration, and reparations for racial injustice.

## PHIL 3810: INTRODUCTION TO PPE

TR 12:45-2:00

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.

**PHIL 3855: CLASSICAL AND EARLY MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY****MW 2:00-3:15****PETER LINDSAY**

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 (Philosophical Discussions-CTW) before taking 4000-level courses.**

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**PHIL 4030: STOICISM\*****TR 2:15-3:30 ALLISON PIÑEROS GLASSCOCK**

*Topics in Ancient Philosophy.* What's the secret to true happiness? According to the ancient Stoics, it's self-mastery. Happiness lies in controlling your impulses and in doing the right thing. This answer has seemed shocking to some and enticing to others. Even today Stoicism is promoted as a powerful self-help tool. This course will take a critical look at Stoic ethics. We'll investigate arguments for and against the key features of the Stoic account of the good life. We'll explore how Stoic views about the nature of knowledge and the world influenced that account. Finally, we'll ask whether popular culture gets the Stoics right.

**PHIL 4050: EMOTION AND MORALITY\*****TR 12:45-2:00****ERIC WILSON**

*Topics in 17th-18th Century Philosophy.* During the Enlightenment, a group of philosophers argued that morality is based in emotion. In this course we'll examine their views of human nature, moral judgment, motivation, and self-control. Our main text will be Adam Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, but we will also examine some of the figures that most influenced Smith.

**PHIL 4330: PHILOSOPHY OF MIND\*****MW 12:30-1:45****ED COX**

This course will cover questions, such as the following, about the mind and its relation to the brain. What are we? What is it to think? How do our minds relate to our brains? Can we ever explain how consciousness arises from the brain? How do thoughts have the capacity to represent or be about the world? What, if anything, makes us continue to exist as the same person over time? Are our minds only our brains or do they include our bodies, our extended environment, or our social context?

**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, and 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? How does fictional language work? Can language alter the ways that we think and perceive? How does language exert social power through devices such as slurs and silencing?

**PHIL 4820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW\*****TR 11:00-12:15****ANDREW J. COHEN**

We will begin this course by briefly considering the nature of law (what it is and its relation to morality). We will then turn to the broad normative question: what are the proper roles and aims of a legal system and law? This will be followed by discussion of criminal and tort law and some challenges to law. We will then turn to a discussion of Critical Race Theory.

**PHIL 4860: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY\*****MW 2:00-3:15****CHRISTIE HARTLEY**

Feminists claim that women are oppressed and that they face unjust barriers to equality. This course is a philosophical examination of topics such as the metaphysics of gender, the nature of oppression, sexism, misogyny, conceptions of feminism, and the gendered division of labor.

**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) ).