

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with * have Honors sections available.

PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC*

MW 2:00-3:15

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 11:00-12:15

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

The Ethics of Abortion. Abortion is a hotly debated topic in the United States, and in recent years, states have passed a number of new regulations restricting abortion. In this course, we will discuss the ethics of abortion as well as whether or not the state should restrict it. We will engage with a number of philosophical views on these issues as well as work regarding women's reasons for choosing abortion.

PHIL 3000: PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS-CTW*

TR 2:15-3:30

ERIC WILSON

The Meaning of Life. This course explores a variety of questions about the meaning of life. One question is whether we should be gloomy or sunny about the possibility of a meaningful life. Which is more justified – optimism or pessimism? The second question concerns what people mean when they talk about “the meaning of life.” What does “meaning” really mean? Do people mean different things when they talk about the meaning of life? With some luck, our attempt to answer these questions will also bring some practical wisdom and peace of mind.

PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY*

MW 12:30-1:45 ALLISON PIÑEROS GLASSCOCK

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato once claimed that philosophy begins in wonder. This course delves into the weird, wonderful, and sometimes disturbing roots of Western philosophy. We'll begin with some early, pre-Socratic accounts of the world and the purpose of rational thought. We will then explore the views of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle about knowledge, reality, and the good life. Finally, we'll turn to Hellenistic philosophy and investigate Stoic and Skeptical takes on happiness and what we can know. Along the way, we'll also consider what these ancient investigations might be able to tell us about our own, imperiled times.

PHIL 3020: RISE OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY*

TR 12:45-2:00

STEVE JACOBSON

This course covers some of the great metaphysical systems in western philosophy and the empiricist reaction to them. The philosophers to be covered typically include: Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. The topics include: Materialism versus Idealism, The Mind/Body Problem, Empiricism versus Rationalism, The Problems of Induction and the External World, Proofs for the Existence of God, The Problem of Evil, and Free Will and Determinism. The format of the course is lecture and discussion.

PHIL 3230: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION*

MW 11:00-12:15

TIM O'KEEFE

In this course, we will explore the following sorts of questions: if God foreknows exactly what I will do, am I still responsible for my actions? Can morality depend on God's will, and if there is no God, what impact does this have on morality? Is there an afterlife? If not, is death something I should fear? Is it possible to be reincarnated as another person or animal? Does the vast suffering in the world give us good reason to believe God does not exist? What is faith, and can believing in God on the basis of faith be justified?

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 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. Questions to be discussed in the course include the following. How should we understand sexual orientation? What is required for sexual consent? Is it wrong to sell sex? Is monogamy superior to polyamory? Is romantic love central to a marriage?

PHIL 3730: BUSINESS ETHICS

MW 12:30-1:45

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

W 2:00-3:15 (Hybrid)

HEATHER PHILLIPS

Increased understanding of the human body combined with growing technological mastery has opened brave new worlds of possibilities for both making and re-making humans. However, with these possibilities come difficult ethical questions such as: How should we determine moral status and worth? Should doctors aid patients in dying? Should limits be placed on reproductive technologies and/or genetic therapies? Where is the line between therapy and enhancement? In what ways does the healthcare establishment further institutional racism? As a hybrid class, you'll be expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in discussion and group work. This is not a lecture class.

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.

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 4075: TOPICS IN 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY*

TR 2:15-3:30

JESSICA BERRY

Nietzsche's Middle Period. This course will examine the three works of Friedrich Nietzsche's unjustly neglected "middle period" (1878-82): *Human, All Too Human* (1878), which Nietzsche later described as "the monument of a crisis" both personal and intellectual; *Daybreak* (1881), which laid the groundwork for his devastating critique of all morality; and *The Gay Science* (1882), which his publisher (of all people!) cheekily advertised as completing a trilogy on "a new image and ideal of the free spirit." There's little truth in advertising, of course, but that will be no obstacle to our discovering in these works a profoundly important thinker who knows what it is to philosophize cheerfully.

PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY*

TR 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

This course covers great questions about knowledge such as the following: Can the methods of science be justified? When experts disagree, which should we trust? Do the senses accurately represent reality? Can humans know whether or not there is a God? Is faith a source of knowledge? What distinguishes knowledge and opinion? Do animals have knowledge? The format of the course is lecture and discussion.

PHIL 4130: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE*

MW 12:30-1:45

ANDREA SCARANTINO

Our philosophical reflections on science will touch upon four foundational issues: Demarcation: What makes science different from non-science? And do the criteria of demarcation change along with scientific progress? Theory Change: Does science progress towards the truth over time? If not, what is the metric along which scientific progress can be established? Confirmation: How exactly are scientific theories confirmed by evidence? Natural and human kinds: What are the distinctive properties of the categories scientists generalize about (e.g. spin for physics, depression for psychologists)? And do these properties differ depending on the scientific discipline under consideration?

PHIL 4130: PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE*

TR 7:15-8:30

NEIL VAN LEEUWEN

How is information organized in the mind/brain? In this course, we'll explore the thesis known as modularity, which holds that the mind/brain is organized into separate specialized systems, each with different processing principles and domains of information. One might hold, for example, that the sense modalities--hearing, vision, olfaction, etc.--are processed by separate modules, as Jerry Fodor argues in *The Modularity of Mind*, which we'll read at the beginning of the course. But there are other potential examples as well. Theorists have argued that there are separate intuitive "folk" systems in the mind/brain for processing different sorts of information: folk physics, folk biology, and folk psychology, most prominently. Some hold, for example, that intuitive folk physics operates independently of whatever our conscious theories are about the physical world. Thus, the goals of the course are (1) to understand the respective modularity theses precisely, (2) to explore the evidence for them, and (3) to evaluate their merits critically.

PHIL 4760: ETHICS AND CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY*

MW 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 Intercollegiate Regional Ethics Bowl tournaments, where teams compete in assessing a set of several cases distributed in advance. Course features plenty of discussion. Assignments include collaboration on team projects, presentations, "mock" bowls, a term paper, some smaller assignments, and a final exam.

PHIL 4820: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW*

TR 12:45-2:00

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. We will consider each issue from multiple philosophical 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).