

## PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with \* have Honors sections available.

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

MW 12:30-1:45

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: ARGUING ABOUT ART-CTW\*

TR 9:30-10:45

JESSICA BERRY

What is art? Is there any good art? Is art good for anything? Who should get to answer to these questions? Whatever happened to beauty? Can something be art if a machine made it? Is a work less valuable if there are innumerable many copies of it? Can "art" be something that is immoral or offensive? We will investigate these issues and others by engaging prominent contemporary writers in philosophical aesthetics and confronting challenging examples in our visual environment. Our doing so will also raise questions about value, power, money, beauty, culture, status, exploitation, politics, mass production, form, function, and taste—both good and bad.

### PHIL 3000: HUMAN NATURE-CTW\*

MW 11:00-12:15

JUAN PIÑEROS GLASSCOCK

We are constantly bombarded by scientific discoveries that purport to provide new insights into human nature. For example, we are told that some experiments show that we're not free, that humans are fundamentally evil, or that we're not the only moral or intelligent beings on the planet. But are these ideas really new? And do the experiments really show this? The course seeks to address these questions by focusing on some of the most surprising and disturbing experimental results from the past century, locating them as part of a broader philosophical discussion about human nature.

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

R 11:00-12:15 (HYBRID)

ERIC WILSON

This course offers an introduction to early modern Western philosophy (1600-1800). Our study will emphasize Descartes and Hume, two towering figures of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment. Other figures to be studied may include Hobbes, Spinoza, Princess Elizabeth, Bernard Mandeville, Pascal, and Kant. Topics will include scientific knowledge, skepticism, the mind-body relation, emotion, self-control, justice, autonomy, and the question of moral progress in human history.

### 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 (e.g., to feminism)? 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\*

MW 9:30-10:45

STEVE JACOBSON

TR 2:15-3:30

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 2:00-3:15 (ONLINE)

JAKE SWEET

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: MW 3:30-4:45 and TR 2:15-3:30

BRIDGET BERDIT

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 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.

### PHIL 3900 PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY\*

TR 12:45-2:00

DAN WEISKOPF

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.

**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 4020: ARISTOTLE\***

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

**TIM O'KEEFE**

This course will focus on the *Nicomachean Ethics*, where Aristotle clues us in on what happiness is and how to attain it, as well as how the virtues, knowledge, and friendship contribute to the good life. Aristotle's ethics cannot be understood in isolation, however. We will use the ethics as a jumping-off place to look at other areas of his philosophy, including, but probably not limited to: (i) his notion of substance (ii) the four causes (including 'final' causes) (iii) his understanding of scientific explanation (iv) his views on the truth-value of statements concerning future contingents, and (v) his politics.

**PHIL 4085: HEGEL'S POLITICS\***

**TR 9:30-10:45**

**SEBASTIAN RAND**

Political life is central to Hegel's thinking. In his mature work, he aims to transform Kant's conception of autonomy from a description of the conflicts of modern life into a tool for reconciling them. We will focus on his *Philosophy of Right*, considering its main arguments both historically and in relation to current debates, including on topics arising in natural law and positive law theories, the social contract tradition, and liberal and communitarian political theory.

**PHIL 4150: KNOWLEDGE AND ITS LIMITS**

**MW 2:00-3:15**

**JUAN PIÑEROS GLASSCOCK**

Should psychologists appeal to *knowledge* in their explanations (or should they instead appeal to beliefs)? Should you *know* what you say (or is it enough if it is true)? And is skill a standard form of knowledge (or something else more basic)? The course shall explore these questions from the lens of the 'knowledge-first' program in epistemology, the idea that knowledge plays a fundamental explanatory role in human psychology. As such, the course aims to provide an introduction to epistemology, while simultaneously delivering a deeper exploration into one of its most important contemporary developments.

**PHIL 4500: SYMBOLIC LOGIC\***

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

**ED COX**

This course will cover concepts and methods of contemporary formal logic. It will emphasize predicate logic, both semantic methods and derivations, along with some basic metatheory and an introduction to modal logic. Prereq: Phil 2500 with B or better

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

**TR 12:45-2:00**

**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. Next, we will look at some classic texts regarding the appropriate limits of legal interference with individuals. Finally, we will conclude the semester with discussion of issues regarding free speech law, especially as it pertains to college campuses.

**PHIL 4860: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY\***

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

**CHRISTIE HARTLEY**

Feminists claim that women are oppressed and that justice requires that this be addressed. Feminists agree about little else. This course is an advanced introduction to some views about some central concepts and problems in feminist philosophy. Some of the topics to be covered in the course include the nature of oppression and structural injustice, the idea of intersectionality, the metaphysics of gender, the source(s) of women's oppression, and misogyny.

**PHIL 4900: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY**

**ONLINE**

**EYAL AHARONI**

This course will be conducted 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 that scientists use to study mental processes. This course will be held exclusively online. Full participation will likely require about 12 hours each week.

**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) ).