

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with * have Honors sections available.

PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC*

TR 2:15-3:30

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. This course need not be taken before Phil 3000.

PHIL 3000: PHILOSOPHY AND SPORTS-CTW*

TR 9:30-10:45

SEBASTIAN RAND

In many parts of the world — and certainly in America — sports are a central part of life. People love to play and watch them; they make up part of our personal, community, and national identities; they're tied into our religious, educational, and civic institutions; and we spend a lot of money on them (and make money through them). But what really is a sport? What is a game? What is it to play? Why do we (often but not always) divide competition by sex (or gender)? What is the professional/amateur distinction all about? Should we prohibit violent sports? What about drugs? We'll use some philosophical strategies to think through these and some related problems. Prerequisites: Phil 2010 or Phil 2030 with a C or higher.

PHIL 3000: THE MEANING OF LIFE-CTW*

MW 2:00-3:15

ERIC WILSON

Most of us want to live meaningful lives. We want to do things that have meaning. The prospect of living a meaningless life can trigger depression or despair. But what does "meaning" mean in this context? And what makes a life meaningful (or not)? Could it be that life is just "absurd" or meaningless? Our goal is to explore these questions using the tools of philosophy. Prerequisites: Phil 2010 or Phil 2030 with a C or higher.

PHIL 3010: ORIGINS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

MW 12:30-1:45

ANNE FARRELL

According to A.N. Whitehead, Western philosophy "consists of a series of footnotes to Plato." We will consider how Plato saw reality and how he thought we could know it. Aristotle both further developed and criticized Plato's positions. We will also look at the Epicureans and the Stoics. The Epicurean's ethics is a hedonism that promotes living simply to attain tranquility. For the Stoics god and the soul are material. They are determinists who believe we can choose to live life virtuously. Aristotle said people began to philosophize because of their wonder. Bring your wonder to our study of the ancients.

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*

TR 11:00-12:15

TIM O'KEEFE

In this course, we'll explore questions such as the following: if God foreknows exactly what I will do, can I still have free will? Can morality depend on God's will, and if there is no God, does this have an impact on morality? Is there an afterlife, and 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*

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 3740: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

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

TBD

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?

PHIL 3750: RACE AND RACISM*

TR 12:45-2:00

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 PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS (PPE)

MW 12:30-1:45

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 3820: LEGAL REASONING*

MW 12:30-1:45

S.M. LOVE

The study of law requires the essential skill of reasoning: learning how to recognize and make good arguments. This course is designed to help students develop the logical reasoning skills required for the practice of law and success on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). Each week, students will first learn basic logical reasoning skills and then put these skills into practice, reconstructing and evaluating arguments related to philosophical issues in the law.

**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 before taking 4000-level courses.**

PHIL 4030: PRE-PLATONIC PHILOSOPHERS*

TR 12:45-2:00

JESSICA BERRY

Topics in Ancient Philosophy. In his famous essay, "Philosophy in the Tragic Age of the Greeks," Friedrich Nietzsche said of the philosophers who preceded Plato that, "what they invented were the archetypes of philosophic thought. All posterity has not made an essential contribution to them since." In this course, we will witness the emergence of a genuinely philosophical mode of engagement with the world from out of a mythical and superstitious past and see how the earliest Western thinkers set the agenda for the philosophy of mind and language, religion and science, and for epistemology and ethics, even into the 21st century.

PHIL 4050: MORALITY AND HUMAN NATURE*

MW 11:00-12:15

ERIC WILSON

Topics in 17th-18th Century Philosophy. This course is devoted to a careful study of the relationship between morality and human nature. Our focus will be on historical debates and authors (primarily from the eighteenth century). We'll investigate the following questions: Is all human behavior ultimately selfish? Do the rules and ideals of morality require us to transcend or restrain our "real" nature? Does morality have a divine origin? If not, where do the rules and ideals of morality come from? Is morality based on reason or on emotion and imagination? Many other questions will surely arise.

PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY*

TR 11:00-12:15

STEVE JACOBSON

This course covers issues in the theory of knowledge. The questions discussed may include: can we know that God exists? Can we know what is right and wrong? Can we really know anything at all? Is everything relative? Is reality a social construct? Is there anything absolutely certain? The course examines and evaluates answers to questions like these, and others, from classical and contemporary authors.

PHIL 4530: PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE*

TR 2:15-3:30

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 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, medical consent, censorship, 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*

MW 3:30-4:45

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).