

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.

PHIL 3000: ETHICS OF TECHNOLOGY-CTW*

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 networked computing, automatic rifles, genetically altered crops, and vaccines. Sometimes these are beneficial, other times harmful. How should ethical concerns guide technological progress? In this course we will consider how to define technology, whether technology is morally or politically neutral, what are the ethics of technological innovation, and how technology changes not just the natural and social environment, but human nature itself.

PHIL 3000: ETHICS OF ABORTION-CTW*

MW 2:00-3:15

CHRISTIE HARTLEY

Debates about the ethics and politics of abortion have intensified since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022). In that case, the Court overruled Roe v. Wade and held that the U.S. Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. At this time, 14 U.S. states have almost completely banned the practice, and Georgia and South Carolina have banned abortion at about 6 weeks. Other states have taken measures to protect access to abortion. This course is a philosophical investigation of the ethics of the practice of abortion, with attention to whether governments can legitimately restrict it.

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 3060: EXISTENTIALISM*

MW 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 12:30-1:45

STEVE JACOBSON

TR 12:45- 2:00

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*

Two sections: TR 9:30-10:45 and TR 3:45-5:00

ERIC WILSON

Business ethics is the study of ethical issues that arise in the context of making, marketing, and selling goods or services for profit. We'll explore issues such corporate responsibility, deception and manipulation in advertising, equity of pay and decision-making power, surveillance and privacy, meaningful work, and others. The course has two main goals. The first is to promote and guide philosophical reflection on our own moral values. The second goal is to examine ways in which the pursuit of profit can either undermine those values or promote them. No pre-requisites.

PHIL 3740: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

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

LAUREN O'DELL

This course will look at theories and controversies in healthcare research ethics. What are the ethical obligations of healthcare providers? Should providers participate in the death of their patient? Do providers have the right to withhold access to certain types of care? Is affordable healthcare a right? We will explore the key philosophical arguments and positions for the main theories and concepts in health care ethics and consider how they play out in the clinical setting as we discuss real and hypothetical cases.

PHIL 3810: INTRO TO PHIL, POLITICS, & ECON**TR 11:00-12:15****ANDREW J. COHEN**

This is not a philosophy course, a political science course, or an economics course. It is an interdisciplinary course that makes use of insights and tools from all three to analyze issues at their intersection. Serving as the gateway course for the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics major (PPE), we will discuss the reasons we have—and want to have—governments and markets. We will also discuss problems with both. This entails discussing the moral status of both as well as the way they impact one another and thereby affect distributive justice and any number of social problems.

PHIL 3820: LEGAL REASONING***TR 2:15-3:30****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) and other tests that evaluate logical reasoning skills (including the GMAT and MCAT). Each week, students will learn basic logical reasoning skills and put these skills into practice, reconstructing and evaluating arguments.

PHIL 3855: MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**MW 3:30-4:45****PETER LINDSAY**

This course looks at the major political works of Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, J. S. Mill and Marx. In so doing, it examines the questions that inform much of modern thinking: Why should people obey political authority? What is the purpose of a state? What are its legitimate powers? What distinguishes a good state from a bad one? In looking at how each of these thinkers answers these questions, students will consider what distinguishes good answers from bad ones, and, ultimately, the answers that they themselves would defend.

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.

PHIL 4030: STOICISM***MW 2:00-3:15****ALLISON PIÑEROS GLASSCOCK**

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 4300: METAPHYSICS***MW 9:30-10:45****ED COX**

This course will survey questions in the nature of reality such as the existence of God, freedom of the will, causation, possible worlds, the nature of material objects and persons and the possibility of persistence of these things over time. Why is there something rather than nothing? Are we ever responsible for the things we do? What, if anything, makes you the same person over time?

PHIL 4340: PHILOSOPHY & COGNITIVE SCIENCE***TR 2:15-3:30****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 4740: ADVANCED BIOMEDICAL ETHICS***TR 11:00-12:15****LAUREN O'DELL**

Dive deeper into the complex terrain of biomedical ethics as we explore intricate moral dilemmas at the intersection of medicine, life, and death. With a focused lens on clinical conceptions of death, this course will critique the evolving definition of death and address the ethical implications of organ transplantation, end-of-life decision-making, and emerging medical technologies. We will analyze case studies, ethical theories, and medical practices, both historic and contemporary, so as to develop practical frameworks for ethical decision-making in the clinical setting and further our understanding of what it means to have a good death.

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. They agree about little else. This course is an advanced introduction to some central concepts and problems in feminist philosophy. Topics to be covered include the nature of oppression and structural injustice, the idea of intersectionality, the metaphysics of gender, views about the source(s) of women's oppression, and misogyny.

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).