

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Courses marked with * have Honors sections available.

PHIL 2500: INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC*

TR 12:45-2:00

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 need not be taken before Phil 3000.

PHIL 3000: ETHICS OF ABORTION-CTW*

MW 11:00-12:15

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. This course is a philosophical investigation of ethical issues having to do with abortion and pregnancy.

PHIL 3000: SPORTS, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY-CTW*

TR 11:00-12:15

SEBASTIAN RAND

We applaud when someone gets choked out in the MMA octagon, but we disapprove of choking someone out in the street — why? Why are some fouls just part of the game, while others violate the spirit of the thing? Why can I eat special diets to get faster, but not take special drugs? Are e-sports really sports? What about fishing? Is it cheating if the ref doesn't call it? Why do adults dress up in elaborate costumes and scream while watching other, younger adults, none of whom they know personally, play games against each other for money? We will explore these and associated mysteries.

PHIL 3020: RISE OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY*

TR 12:45-2:00

SEBASTIAN RAND

Thinkers of the "modern" era — roughly 1600-1800 — developed the concepts through which European and Europe-linked cultures dealt with the many disruptive changes that emerged back then and still characterize our lives to this day: rapid technological development, mass politics, the erosion of traditional social values, the centrality of personal freedom, and the depersonalization of working life (to name just a few). Yet when we read these thinkers, they can seem like something from a distant and alien past. In this course we will try to understand how they are both distant and near to us.

PHIL 3230: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION*

TR 2:15-3:30

TIM O'KEEFE

In this course we will explore questions such as the following: if God foreknows exactly what I will do, can I still be free and responsible for my actions? 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 another 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 3330: MIND AND BRAIN*

MW 2:00-3:15

STEVE JACOBSON

This course covers issues about the relation between the physical and mental natures of humans, other animals, and the universe at large. We examine contemporary, historical, and cross-cultural views. The questions to be considered may include: are all mental states, including consciousness, just physical properties?; If mental states are physical states, what sort of physical states are they? Is the mind just a convenient fiction? Is the Buddhist doctrine of 'no-self' correct? Can robots have free will?

PHIL 3410: PHILOSOPHY OF GAMING*

MW 9:30-10:45

DAN WEISKOPF

Games are sources of challenge and pleasure, chances to explore simulated worlds, ways to connect with others, and forums to explore our identities. In this course we will discuss the nature of games and play, how the experience of gaming is shaped by designers, players, and communities, and key concepts in gaming such as interactivity, narrative, role-playing, and immersion. We will also play and critique a range of games to better understand their aesthetic, social, and ideological aspects.

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. Among the questions we will consider include the following: how should we understand sexual orientation and sexual identity? What is required for sexual consent? Is it wrong to sell sex? Is monogamy superior to polyamory, or is it the other way around?

PHIL 3740: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

Three sections: MW 12:30-1:45; TR 2:15-3:30 AND 3:45-5:00

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 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)***TR 11:00-12:15****ANDREW J. COHEN**

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

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) 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.

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: HEDONISTS, SKEPTICS, AND SOPHISTS***TR 11:00-12:15****TIM O'KEEFE**

Topics in Ancient Philosophy. This course will examine what ancient hedonists (such as Epicurus and the Cyrenaics), skeptics, and sophists say about what happiness (or well-being) is and how to attain it. In contrast to Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics, these philosophers either believe that the world has no purpose or plan, or that we cannot discover such a purpose or plan, if one exists. And so, they try to ground ethics in human preferences and desires, and they encounter a similar set of issues when trying to account for the places of friendship, knowledge, justice, and piety in ethics.

PHIL 4100: EPISTEMOLOGY***MW 11:00-12:15****STEVE JACOBSON**

This course covers issues in the theory of knowledge. The questions to be discussed may include: what is the difference between knowing and having an opinion? Which experts should we trust? Can we know that God exists? Can we know what is right and wrong? Can we know anything at all? Is everything relative? Is reality a social construct? Is there anything absolutely certain? The course examines and evaluates answers to such questions from classical and contemporary authors.

PHIL 4130: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE***TR 2:15-3:30****ANDREA SCARANTINO**

Our philosophical reflections on science will touch upon five foundational issues: (1) Demarcation: What makes science different from non-science?, (2) Theory Change: How do scientific theories change over time? (3) Confirmation: How are scientific theories confirmed by evidence? (4) Realism: What do scientific theories say about the world? (5) Social structure of science: How does science work as a human practice, which biases does it have and which values does it promote? As we explore these topics, we will also reflect on how the emergence of artificial intelligence can change the nature of some of these debates.

PHIL 4760: ETHICS AND CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY- ETHICS BOWL***MW 2:00-3:15****EDDY NAHMIA**

Students will study ethical theories and discuss important controversies in ethics and public policy. The course also prepares students for the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl tournament, where teams compete in assessing ethical cases distributed in advance. Cases change each year, but have included ethical and policy debates about A.I. and chatbots, economic inequality, race, religious freedom, animal rights, immigration, gender norms, medical consent, censorship, and many others. This "signature experience" seminar-style course will include lots of discussion, collaboration on team projects, presentations, practice Ethics Bowls, and argumentative writing.

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 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).