

The College of Charleston

Philosophy Department Fall 2005 Course Brochure

All philosophy courses except 215 and 216 satisfy the Humanities requirement. Two logic courses, 215 and 216, can be used to satisfy the Math/Logic requirement. Many philosophy courses (e.g., business ethics, philosophy of law) complement other major programs. For those with a sustained interest in philosophy there are both a *major* and a *minor* in philosophy.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 30 semester hours in philosophy which must include 215 or 216; 220; 230; and 450. Of the remaining 18 hours of electives in philosophy, at least 12 hours must be taken in courses at or above the 200 level, with at least six of these at or above the 300 level.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 18 semester hours in philosophy which must include 101 or 102; 215 or 216; and 220, 230, 304, 305, 306, 307, or 310. Two of the remaining courses must be at or above the 200 level.

Philosophy Course Offerings

PHIL 101.001	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Lesses	0800-0850	MWF	ECTR 223
PHIL 101.002	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Grantham	0900-0950	MWF	BELL 405
PHIL 101.003	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Perlmutter	0900-0950	MWF	Maybank 224
PHIL 101.004	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Grantham	1000-1050	MWF	BELL 405
PHIL 101.005	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Coseru	1100-0150	MWF	BELL 405
PHIL 101.006	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Coseru	1200-1250	MWF	BELL 405
PHIL 101.007	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Hepburn	0140-0255	TR	BELL 405
PHIL 101.008	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Williams	0200-0315	MW	LIB 002
PHIL 101.090	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Williams	0400-0515	MW	ECTR 112
PHIL 101.N85	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Hepburn	0235-0520	MW	North Area 131
PHIL 102.001	Intro to Phil: Knowledge & Reality	Schonbein	0100-0150	MWF	BELL 400
PHIL 102.002	Intro to Phil: Knowledge & Reality	Schonbein	0200-0250	MWF	BELL 400
PHIL 115.001	Critical Thinking	Wilder	0900-0950	MWF	ECTR 223
PHIL 115.002	Critical Thinking	Wilder	1000-1050	MWF	ECTR 223
PHIL 150.001	Nature, Technology, and Society	Hettinger	0925-1040	TR	ECTR 111
PHIL 150.002	Nature, Technology, and Society	Hettinger	1050-1205	TR	ECTR 111
PHIL 165.001	Philosophy & Feminism	Hough	0140-0255	TR	ECTR 118
PHIL 165.002	Philosophy & Feminism	Hough	1215-0130	TR	ECTR 115
PHIL 175.001	Business and Consumer Ethics	Baker	0100-0150	MWF	ECTR 111
PHIL 175.002	Business and Consumer Ethics	Baker	0200-0250	MWF	ECTR 111
PHIL 185.001	Philosophy and Film	Hepburn	0305-0420	TR	Maybank 210
PHIL 185.N80	Philosophy and Film	Hepburn	0235-0520	MW	North Area 131
PHIL 203.001	Philosophy of Human Nature	Williams	1050-1205	TR	ECTR 223
PHIL 205.001	Existentialism	Hough	0925-1040	TR	ECTR 212
PHIL 215.001	Symbolic Logic	Krasnoff	1100-1150	MWF	ECTR 223
PHIL 215.002	Symbolic Logic	Krasnoff	1200-1250	MWF	ECTR 223
PHIL 216.001	Symbolic Logic II	Perlmutter	1200-1250	MWF	ECTR 111
PHIL 220.001	History of Ancient Philosophy	Lesses	1100-1150	MWF	BELL 400
PHIL 245.001	Environmental Philosophy	Hettinger	0140-0255	TR	ECTR 111
PHIL 260.001	Philosophy of Biology	Grantham	0100-0150	MWF	ECTR 223
PHIL 298.001	Special Topics in Phil: Hermeneutics	Coseru	0400-0515	MW	ECTR 111
PHIL 306.001	20 th Century Analytic Philosophy	Nunan	0900-0950	MWF	BELL 400
PHIL 315.001	Political and Social Philosophy	Baker	1215-0130	TR	BELL 405
PHIL 330.001	Philosophy of Mind	Schonbein	1000-1050	MWF	ECTR 120

Philosophy Course Descriptions

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 001 (MWF 0800-0850)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Lesses

We often have perplexing questions about ourselves and how we should lead our lives. In this course, we will consider several of these fundamental and enduring issues about human existence. In particular, we shall ask (i) whether we can ever act freely and (ii) whether it is possible to justify some of our basic moral beliefs. This course aims to help you gain an understanding of some influential discussions of these questions in the Western philosophical tradition and, just as importantly, to develop your own facility in critical thinking and reflection as you examine them.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 002 (MWF 0900-0950)

Section 004 (MWF 1000-1050)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Grantham

This course will introduce you to philosophical reasoning by exploring topics in ethics and the philosophy of religion. We begin by discussing questions about the nature of morality (e.g., Are moral beliefs just expressions of personal opinion or are some moral beliefs objectively valid? How are religion and morality related?). Next, we examine several theories which provide criteria for determining whether an action is morally justifiable (utilitarianism, Kantian moral theory, social contract theory). To round out our discussion of ethics, we'll explore several issues in applied ethics: To what extent are we obligated to help the poor? What would it mean to live sustainably? Is capital punishment morally justifiable? We conclude the course with a discussion of some central questions in the philosophy of religion: Is there good evidence to support the belief that God exists? How are religious faith and reason related? Is it ever reasonable to believe in miracles?

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 003 (MWF 0900-0950)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Perlmutter

An introduction to philosophy through an examination of ethical, political, and religious problems.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 005 (MWF 1100-1150)

Section 006 (MWF 1200-1250)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Coseru

Are there universal criteria for distinguishing between right/good and wrong/evil? How does virtue relate to happiness and in what ways do they differ? No matter what our answers to these questions, how are we to proceed?

In this course, we will begin by asking these questions and investigate what could possibly serve as an "objective" base for morals. Assuming that judgments and actions can be morally right and wrong, what aspects of actions make them so? Is it the consequences, for example? Or the action itself? And, in general, what is the best way to live? What is the good life? We will examine these questions through a combination of classical and contemporary readings. Philosophers to be studied include Plato, Descartes, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, and Nietzsche.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 007 (TR 0140-0255)

Section N85 (MW 0235-0520)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Hepburn

We are going to be looking at some of the ways that human beings, as moral agents, have tried to find a way in the world. What is the nature of our ethics: is it relative or absolute? What is the role of character formation in the development of a virtuous individual? Do we choose actions for their consequences or for their intrinsic goodness?

Indeed, do we really possess a will that is free to choose its actions in the first place? What is the objective and subjective nature of spirituality? Is altruism truly selfless or is it an august form of pride? Is evil real, and do we have certain duties as moral beings to confront it? These are the kinds of questions we will be asking, in conjunction with classical texts and contemporary writings in ethical theory.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 008 (MW 0200-0315)

Section 090 (MW 0400-0515)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Williams

This course will explore topics related to our deepest held beliefs and values. We will focus on major influences of western philosophical thought including both classical and contemporary sources. Since interpersonal relationships are central to our wellbeing as social beings, it is important to address certain questions. How should we relate to one another? What is the relationship between religion, the law, and morality? How should I behave? What kind of person should I be? Once we have considered religion and systematic ethical theory, we will explore contemporary discussions in social and political philosophy such as justice and human rights.

PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality

Section 001 (MWF 0100-0150)

Section 002 (MWF 0200-0250)

Prof. Schonbein

An introduction to philosophy through an examination of some of the major problems that arise in the inquiry into the nature of reality and knowledge.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Section 001 (MWF 0900-0950)

Section 002 (MWF 1000-1050)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Wilder

If our thinking guides our action (as it surely should), then to do well we must think well. This means we must think **critically** about our own beliefs, about the sources and quality of information available to us, and about the countless attempts that confront us every day to persuade us to change our beliefs, to buy new things, and to follow new leaders. This course provides tools for effective critical thinking, insights into where and why critical thinking is important, and help in overcoming obstacles to critical thinking. This is a practical, skills-oriented course. Requirements include homework, quizzes, exams and a paper.

PHIL 150: Nature, Technology, and Society

Section 001 (TR 0925-1040)

Section 002 (TR 1050-1205)

Prof. Hettinger

This course is an introduction to philosophical thinking about the relationships between technology, nature, and society. It is divided into four parts. We first consider general issues in the philosophy of technology, focusing on Luddist philosophy (i.e., a skepticism toward the assumption that new technology means progress.) Secondly, we examine the debate over biotechnology, focusing mainly on its use in the production of food. We then study the possibility of human restoration of degraded nature and ask whether this technology can provide for a healthy human relationship with nature. Finally, the course examines the critique of consumption and considers deep ecology and ecological design as responses to concerns about technology's affect on nature and society. The course aims to have students develop their own understanding and evaluation of the appropriate relationships between nature, technology, and society.

PHIL 165: Philosophy and Feminism

Section 001 (TR 0140-0255)

Prof. Hough

An examination of philosophical issues in feminism such as the nature of freedom and equality, what it is to be a person and to respect others as persons, and whether or not our language encourages or presupposes a demeaning view of women. Specific topics may include equal opportunity, abortion, rape, and marriage.

PHIL 175: Business and Consumer Ethics

Section 001 (MWF 0100-0150)

Section 002 (MWF 0200-0250)

Prof. Baker

Is "business ethics" a contradiction in terms? People often joke that it is. But in this course we will develop thoughtful rejoinders to any such claim. We will begin by looking to a range of historical views (Aristotle, Mandeville, Smith, and Marx) on the nature of business and profit. We will contrast these views to contemporary accounts of how markets work. Once we have garnered a general understanding of what business involves and what the market requires, we will be prepared to ask how "ethics" is pertinent to business. Of course, what we mean by "ethics" will have to be decided. Two-thirds of the way through the semester students will have developed a framework of thought with which to approach an array of issues concerning business and ethics. In the final portion

of the course we will contrast the approach developed in this course to the approaches taken by contemporary business ethicists.

There are two general goals of this course: One is for philosophy to be shown in its best light, as a useful tool for sorting out what it is to act right in complex situations (like those in business.). The second goal is to for students to become philosophers themselves: capable of critically engaging what has been written on these topics and defending their account of what it is to be ethical in business.

PHIL 185: Philosophy and Film

Section 001 (T 0305-0420, R 0305-0520)

Section N80 (MW 0235-0520)

Prof. Hepburn

In the first place, this course is a look at how currents and concepts in philosophy have been represented in the moving image. Secondly, it is a study in the ways that philosophical ideas have shaped the technical and contextual nature of film. Readings in related philosophy and film theory. Film viewings and discussion.

PHIL 203: Philosophy of Human Nature

Section 001 (TR 1050-1205)

Prof. Williams

This course offers a comparative study of the problems of human nature and moral agency. We will explore the ways in which metaphysical presuppositions about human nature come to bear on the normative structure of ethical thought in Euro-American moral frameworks. We will explore contemporary research directly relating to questions such as: *What is the nature of human existence? To what extent are persons autonomous?* These and similar questions will be broached as you will be invited to exercise your thoughts about human nature and moral responsibility, especially as these issues relate to ideas about community and the common good.

PHIL 205: Existentialism

Section 001 (0925-1040)

NO PREREQUISITES

Prof. Hough

'L'existentialisme', a term coined by Jean-Paul Sartre shortly after the end of World War II, is a philosophical and literary movement that explores and amplifies many concerns of several 19th-Century philosophers, particularly Nietzsche and Kierkegaard. We will explore this controversial philosophical approach by reviewing its 19th-Century roots, and by reading novels that have inspired or been written in the spirit of existentialism. Topics will include Heidegger's notion of authenticity and Sartre's claims about freedom and bad faith.

PHIL 215: Symbolic Logic I

Section 001 (MWF 1100-1150)
Section 002 (MWF 1200-1250F)

Prof. Krasnoff

An introduction to the formal methods of deductive logic including sentential logic.

PHIL 216: Symbolic Logic II

Section 001 (MWF 1200-1250)
PREREQUISITE: *PHIL 215 or permission of the instructor.*

Prof. Perlmutter

A second course in the formal methods of logic including predicate logic. Additional topics such as mathematical induction, an introduction to axiomatic systems, or metatheoretical logic will be covered.

PHIL 220: History of Ancient Philosophy

Section 001 (MWF 1100-1150)
PREREQUISITE: *Three semester hours of philosophy or permission of instructor.*

Prof. Lesses

All of Western thought owes an incalculable debt to ancient Greek philosophy. What fascinated Greek philosophical thinkers accordingly constitutes a major part of the Western intellectual inheritance. This course examines the development of the philosophical views of several early Greek thinkers, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. As much as possible, these philosophers will be read in the original sources in translation.

PHIL 245: Environmental Philosophy

Section 001 (TR 0140-0255)

Prof. Hettinger

This course will examine the recent writings of several contemporary environmental philosophers, including Holmes Rolston's *Conserving Natural Value*. The course is not an introduction to environmental ethics, and although not required, a previous course in environmental ethics would be beneficial. Students should be prepared to present their paper projects to their classmates.

Course requirements: Class participation and attendance, term paper, midterm exam, and final exam.

PHIL 260: Philosophy of Biology

Section 001 (MWF 0100-0150)

Prof. Grantham

This course will introduce you to some of the central issues in the philosophy of biology. We'll look at a variety of questions at the intersection of biology (particularly evolutionary biology) and philosophy. What are species? Are they "real"? Why value species diversity? How is the theory of natural selection related to religious claims about "intelligent design"? Can natural selection ("survival of the fittest") explain altruistic behaviors during which an animal puts itself at risk in order to help others? Is evolution progressive? Should evolutionary biology inform our explanations of human behavior? Should it influence our understanding of ethics? This course does not presuppose previous course work in philosophy or biology but some background in one of these fields would be helpful.

PHIL 298: Special Topics in Philosophy: Hermeneutics: Interpreting Across Boundaries

Section 090 (MW 0400-0515)

Prof. Coseru

The practice of reading, translating, interpreting, and understanding philosophical texts and the traditions in which they are embedded is central to hermeneutics. In this course, we will explore some influential Western approaches to hermeneutic theory, and then turn to considering approaches to hermeneutics deriving from Indian and Chinese traditions. We will be especially concerned to investigate the problem of cross-cultural interpretation and understanding, especially when we read philosophical texts whose historical and cultural origins are distant from our own.

NOTE: Prerequisite for all 300-level courses: either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215 or 216) or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 306: 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

Section 001 (MWF 0900-0950)

Prof. Nunan

In this course we will examine major movements in Anglo-American Philosophy, primarily from the first half of the 20th-Century, and major representatives of those movements (such as Bertrand Russell, G.E. Moore, Ludwig Wittgenstein, A.J. Ayer, J.L. Austin, and W.V. Quine).

PHIL 315: Political and Social Philosophy

Section 001 (TR 1215-0130)

Prof. Baker

PREREQUISITE: *At least two previous courses in Philosophy other than 215 & 216, or permission of instructor.*

We will be look to contemporary work on political and social philosophy in this course, and we will begin by letting Rawls set our agenda. We will read Rawls' 2001 publication: *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. In this work Rawls, by responding to critics and putting his ideas in historical context, manages to introduce not just his own thought but the past and present concerns of political philosophers in general. We will interrupt our reading of Rawls in order to look to representative excerpts from views to which he refers. On completing the Rawls, we will look to articles that represent more and less egalitarian alternatives to his account of justice. We will consider, at length, an alternative to Rawls and to any "theory of justice": that is, the "capability approach" developed by the economist Amartya Sen. Martha Nussbaum's *Women and Human Development* attempts to demonstrate the benefits of the approach. It will also helpfully introduce some empirical data. The final book we will read is Samuel Scheffler's *Boundaries and Allegiances*. This is a collection of thoughtful essays on the topics we will have covered. Reading it will give us a chance to reflect on which proposals make the most sense to us.

The requirements for this course include commentaries on every reading, two mid-term tests and one final exam, and a paper first due as a draft by the middle of the semester.

PHIL 330: Philosophy of the Mind

Section 001 (MWF 1000-1050)

Prof. Schonbein

A study of basic issues in the philosophy of mind such as the relationship of mind to body, knowledge of other minds, and the nature of mental states. The course may focus on selected topics such as the emotions or artificial intelligence.

PHIL 450: Senior Seminar in Philosophy: Wittgenstein

Section 1 (MW 0200-0315)

Prof. Wilder

PREREQUISITE: *Junior or senior Philosophy major with at least six previous semester hours in philosophy (other than 215 or 216) or permission of the instructor.*

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) is one of the most important and original philosophers of the twentieth century. His thought has influenced every area of philosophy, from logic, epistemology and metaphysics, to aesthetics, ethics, and philosophy of mathematics, mind and language. His thought has also influenced the study of art, religion and culture. Wittgenstein has been the subject of major biographies, memoirs, novels and at least one feature film. He is a fascinating, challenging and enigmatic thinker. We will study his thought in depth, focusing on his two major works (each a masterpiece of modern writing), the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and the *Philosophical Investigations*. We will also study secondary works responding to these classics. Students will have the opportunity in their presentations and papers to explore the many ways in which Wittgenstein's ideas have been used in philosophy and beyond. Seminar requirements will include short exegetical papers, tests, an oral presentation, and a term paper.

Wittgenstein wrote of his own *Tractatus*:

My propositions serve as elucidations in the following way: anyone who understands me eventually recognizes them as nonsensical, when he has used them – as steps – to climb up beyond them. (He must, so to speak, throw away the ladder after he has climbed up it.)

He must transcend these propositions, and then he will see the world aright.

While I can't guarantee you'll "see the world aright" at the end of the course, our climb up the ladder will be challenging and rewarding.