

The College of Charleston

Fall 2006 Courses

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, 235, 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	9:00-9:50	MWF	MYBK 222
PHIL 101.004	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Williams	2:00-3:15	MW	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.005	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Hough	9:25-10:40	TR	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.006	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Hough	10:50-12:05	TR	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.007	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Krasnoff	12:15-1:30	TR	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.008	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Krasnoff	1:40-2:55	TR	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.090	Intro to Phil: Beliefs & Values	Williams	4:00-5:15	MW	ECTR 111
PHIL 102.001	Intro to Phil: Knowledge & Reality	Schonbein	12:00-12:50	MWF	ECTR 101
PHIL 102.002	Intro to Phil: Knowledge & Reality	Schonbein	1:00-1:50	MWF	ECTR 101
PHIL 115.001	Critical Thinking	Wilder	9:00-9:50	MWF	ECTR 111
PHIL 115.002	Critical Thinking	Wilder	10:00-10:50	MWF	ECTR 111
PHIL 150.001	Nature, Technology, and Society	Grantham	10:00-10:50	MWF	MYBK 307
PHIL 150.002	Nature, Technology, and Society	Grantham	11:00-11:50	MWF	MYBK 307
PHIL 170.001	Biomedical Ethics	Perlmutter	9:25-10:40	TR	MYBK 206
PHIL 170.002	Biomedical Ethics	Perlmutter	10:50-12:05	TR	MYBK 206
PHIL 175.001	Business and Consumer Ethics	Baker	1:00-1:50	MWF	MYBK 206
PHIL 203.001	Philosophy of Human Nature	Nunan	10:50-12:05	TR	ECTR 217
PHIL 205.001	Existentialism	Hough	1:40-2:55	TR	MYBK 322
PHIL 215.001	Symbolic Logic	Nunan	11:00-11:50	MWF	MYBK 206
PHIL 215.002	Symbolic Logic	Nunan	12:00-12:50	MWF	MYBK 206
PHIL 216.001	Symbolic Logic II	Schonbein	9:00-9:50	MWF	MYBK 206
PHIL 220.001	History of Ancient Philosophy	Lesses	11:00-11:50	MWF	ECTR 111
PHIL 245.001	Environmental Philosophy	Baker	12:15-1:30	TR	LCTR 346
PHIL 265.001	Philosophy of Science	Williams	9:25-10:40	TR	BELL 405
PHIL 315.001	Political and Social Philosophy	Krasnoff	10:00-10:50	MWF	MYBK 206
PHIL 320.001	Metaphysics	Coseru	2:00-3:15	MW	ECTR 115

Philosophy Course Descriptions

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 001 (MWF 9:00-9:50)

Prof. Lesses

NO PREREQUISITES

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 004 (MW 2:00-3:15)

Prof. Williams

NO PREREQUISITES

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 well-being 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 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 005 (TR 9:25-10:40)

Section 006 (TR 10:50-12:05)

Prof. Hough

NO PREREQUISITES

The model of the self at work in an ethical theory is crucial: our beliefs about the human constitution necessarily shape our sense of what is good for us (indeed, the realization, actualization or fulfillment of our 'nature' is usually the aim of an ethical account). Do human creatures have immortal souls, or souls of a very different sort? Are we essentially rational? Political? Creative? Products of our culture, or radically discrete individuals? We will examine several very different versions of the self and thus consider what the best life might be like.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 007 (TR 12:15-1:30)

Section 008 (TR01:40-2:55)

Prof. Krasnoff

NO PREREQUISITES

All of us have beliefs about how we should live our lives, beliefs that concern both ourselves and our relation to others. For the most part, we absorb these beliefs from our culture and our social institutions, and we act on those beliefs because that is what is expected of us. In philosophy, however, we submit our beliefs and values to critical scrutiny. Since social or cultural expectations are not always good, we ask: how should we live our lives? This raises another, deeper question: if they are not simply social expectations, just what are ethical values? And what gives us a good reason to follow them? In this class we will study the answers given to these questions by some historically influential philosophers, and we will try to evaluate these answers for ourselves. Along the way we will also read some selected works of literature, along with some more contemporary writing, to bring the philosophical issues into clearer focus.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Section 090 (4:00-5:15)

Prof. Williams

NO PREREQUISITES

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 (12:00-12:50)

Section 002 (1:00-1:50)

Prof. Schonbein

NO PREREQUISITES

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 9:00-9:50)

Section 002 (MWF 10:00-10:50)

Prof. Hugh Wilder

NO PREREQUISITE

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 papers.

PHIL 150: Nature, Technology, and Society

Section 001 (MWF 10:00-10:50)

Section 002 (MWF 11:00-11:50)

Prof. Grantham

NO PREREQUISITES

This course examines the nature of technology and how technological developments affect society. We will explore several questions: What is technology? How are technology and science related? To what extent can we (as individuals and as a society) control the development and/or implementation of new technologies? Are technological changes inherently "progressive"? How have technological developments affected the environment and our view of nature? We will look in some detail at the ethics of genetic engineering and the impact of human technology on the global environment.

PHIL 170: Biomedical Ethics

Section 001 (TR 9:25-10:40)

Section 002 (TR 10:50-12:05)

Prof. Perlmutter

NO PREREQUISITES

This is an introductory philosophy course whose focus is ethical issues in medicine. We will begin with a discussion of ethical theory as it relates to bioethics, especially to the responsibilities of the physician and the patient. End-of-life issues and beginning-of-life issues will comprise a significant portion of the course, but time will be spent on the just allocation of scarce medical resources and involuntary psychiatric treatment. If time permits, we will explore

cloning and/or issues involving behavior on the part of pregnant women that endangers the lives of their yet-to-be-born.

PHIL 175: Business and Consumer Ethics

Section 001 (MWF 1:00-1:50)

Prof. Baker

NO PREREQUISITES

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. As this course is an honors course, students will be expected to participate in class discussion and to write papers of high quality on the topics of this course.

PHIL 203: Philosophy of Human Nature

Section 001 (TR 10:50-12:05)

Prof. Boyle

NO PREREQUISITES

What does it mean to be human? Are human beings naturally good, bad, or neither? To what extent are we shaped by society, and to what extent by biology? Do men and women have different natures? We will examine some of the thinkers and religious traditions that have tackled these questions. Our readings may be drawn from the Bible, Confucius, Plato, Marx, Freud, Mill, Sartre, Skinner, and contemporary sociobiologists.

PHIL 205: Existentialism

Section 001 (TR 1:40-2:55)

Prof. Hough

NO PREREQUISITES

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 11:00-11:50)

Section 002 (MWF 12:00-12:50)

Prof. Nunan

NO PREREQUISITES

This is an introduction to the formal methods of deductive logic. We will learn how to translate English sentences into a symbolic language and study a set of rules for making valid inferences within this language. Studying this formal system will build abstract reasoning skills, teach you how to recognize and construct valid arguments, and develop your ability to detect mistakes in reasoning.

Note: This course does not count toward the humanities minimum degree requirement. It does count toward the minimum degree requirement in mathematics and logic.

PHIL 216: Symbolic Logic II

Section 001 (MWF 9:00-9:50)

Prof. Schonbein

PREREQUISITE: *PHIL 215 or permission of the instructor.*

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 11:00-11:50)

Prof. Lesses

PREREQUISITE: *Three semester hours of philosophy or permission of instructor.*

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 12:15-1:30)

Prof. Baker

NO PREREQUISITES

In this course we will look to books and articles that allow us to explore environmental philosophy in depth: approaches to environmental value, environmental aesthetics, and the relationship between human virtue and appreciation of nature. There will be both tests and papers required. One long research paper will be due by the end of the term.

PHIL 265: Philosophy of Science

Section 001 (TR 9:25-10:40)

Prof. Williams

NO PREREQUISITES

A great philosopher once said that philosophy deals with questions that science cannot answer, and further, philosophy goes on to explain why the sciences cannot answer them. One of those questions asks whether there is a universal method of science, the practice of which distinguishes science from non-science. Just what is that method? What are the concepts, functions, and techniques employed in scientific practice that give it the special role it has as a source of knowledge in western society? These questions, and many others like it, motivate the philosophical examination of things like the scientific method, the difference between science and pseudoscience, the role of observation, and the nature of scientific laws.

PHIL 315: Political and Social Philosophy

Section 001 (MWF 10:00-10:50)

Prof. Krasnoff

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

In contemporary political discussion it is assumed, usually without argument, that the only legitimate government is a democratic government. But many important political philosophers, starting with Plato and Aristotle, explicitly rejected the idea that a democratic government was best; they saw no reason for everyone to participate in the ruling of the commonwealth. And even in contemporary democracies, especially the United States, rates of political participation are weak; many citizens see no reason or no opportunity to take part in ruling. Why, then, do we continue to insist that democracy enjoys a special legitimacy? In this course we will examine some important justifications and critiques of democracy. We will begin with a survey of some of the most influential historical views, and then move on to an examination of arguments for and against “deliberative democracy,” the most prominent conception of democracy in contemporary debates.

PHIL 320: Metaphysics

Section 001 (MW 2:00-3:15)

Prof. Coseru

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

What is the nature of the world? What are the different categories of existing things and what kinds of relations exist among those things? Who exactly am I? What makes me endure from one moment to another? Is there a unitary self at the core of my existence? Am I responsible for my actions? What is the nature of causation? These questions belong in the domain of metaphysics - a branch of philosophy that attempts to understand the ultimate nature of reality. Metaphysics considers such basic concepts as existence, identity, possibility, quantity, quality, relation, substance, form, cause, etc. In this course we will focus primarily on the metaphysics of persons. We will also consider how these kinds of metaphysical questions relate to questions in other areas of philosophy, such as epistemology (what are the means of valid cognition?) and ethics (how should one live?).

MAYMESTER

PHIL 165: Philosophy & Feminism

Section 001 (MTWRF 8:30-12:00)

Prof. Boyle

NO PREREQUISITES