

The College of Charleston

Philosophy Spring 2007 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 Phil: Beliefs & Values	Grantham	MWF	09:00-09:50 AM	MYBK 206
PHIL 101.002	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Grantham	MWF	10:00-10:50 AM	MYBK 206
PHIL 101.003	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Hough	MWF	11:00-11:50 AM	MYBK 206
PHIL 101.004	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Hough	MWF	12:00-12:50 PM	MYBK 206
PHIL 101.005	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Krasnoff	MWF	01:00-01:50 PM	TBA
PHIL 101.006	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Krasnoff	MWF	11:00-11:50 AM	TBA
PHIL 101.007	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Perlmutter	TR	08:00-09:15 AM	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.008	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Schonbein	TR	12:15-01:30 PM	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.009	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Schonbein	TR	01:40-02:55 PM	ECTR 111
PHIL 102.001	Intro Phil: Reality & Knowledge	Coseru	TR	09:25-10:40 PM	ECTR 111
PHIL 102.002	Intro Phil: Reality & Knowledge	Coseru	TR	10:50-12:05 PM	ECTR 111
PHIL 115.001	Critical Thinking	Williams	TR	09:25-10:40 AM	MYBK 206
PHIL 115.002	Critical Thinking	Williams	TR	10:50-12:05 PM	MYBK 206
PHIL 155.001	Environmental Ethics	Baker	TR	12:15-01:30 PM	MYBK 206
PHIL 155.002	Environmental Ethics	Baker	TR	01:40-02:55 PM	MYBK 206
PHIL 160.001	Ethics and Sports	Wilder	MWF	09:00-09:50 AM	LCTR B08
PHIL 160.002	Ethics and Sports	Wilder	MWF	10:00-10:50 AM	LCTR B08
PHIL 185.001	Philosophy and Film	Nunan	MW	03:00-05:00 PM	ECTR 111
PHIL 215.001	Symbolic Logic I	Lesses	MWF	10:00-10:50 AM	ECTR 111
PHIL 215.002	Symbolic Logic I	Lesses	MWF	11:00-11:50 AM	ECTR 111
PHIL 216.001	Symbolic Logic II	Grantham	MWF	01:00-01:50 PM	ECTR 111
PHIL 230.001	History of Modern Philosophy	Boyle	TR	12:15-01:30 PM	TBA
PHIL 255.001	Philosophy of Religion	Perlmutter	TR	10:50-12:05 PM	TBA
PHIL 270.001	Philosophy of Law	Nunan	TR	09:25-10:40 AM	BELL 403
PHIL 280.001	Aesthetics	Wilder	MWF	01:00-01:50 PM	MYBK 206
PHIL 298.090	ST: Philosophy and Cognitive Science	Schonbein	MW	04:00-05:15 PM	MYBK 206
PHIL 307.001	20 th Century Continental Phil	Coseru	MW	02:00-03:15 PM	MYBK 206
PHIL 310.001	American Philosophy	Baker	MWF	12:00-12:50 PM	ECTR 111
PHIL 450.001	Metaethics: Moral Epistemology	Williams	TR	01:40-02:55 PM	MYBK 320

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Grantham

Section 001 (MWF 09:00-09:50)

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

NO PREREQUISITES

This course will introduce you to philosophical reasoning by exploring topics in ethics. One primary aim of this course is to help you develop a set of skills: sympathetically understanding others' viewpoints, critically assessing arguments, and creatively resolving moral disputes. We will develop these skills as we discuss four contemporary moral issues: Should genetic engineering and/or cloning be prohibited? To what extent are we obligated to help the poor and starving in other countries? Should gay couples be permitted to marry? Is capital punishment morally justifiable? In addition, we will explore the strengths and weaknesses of several theories that provide criteria for determining whether an action is morally justifiable (utilitarianism, Kantian moral theory, virtue ethics). Finally, we will discuss several major philosophical 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?).

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Hough

Section 003 (MWF 11:00-11:50)

Section 004 (MWF 12:00-12:50)

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? Products of our culture, or beings already equipped with knowledge in our souls? In order to answer these questions, we will read two ancient and influential accounts of human nature, Plato and Aristotle. These models from 4th Century B.C.E. Greece have in many ways governed our Western thinking about being human, and about what the best kind of life for a human truly is.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Krasnoff

Section 005 (MWF 11:00-11:50)

Section 006 (MWF 01:00-01:50)

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

Prof. Perlmutter

Section 007 (TR 08:00-09:15)

NO PREREQUISITES

This is an introductory philosophy course whose focus is ethics and the philosophy of religion. The course will be divided into two altogether distinct parts. The first will deal with ethical issues, the second with philosophical issues concerning religion. The topics we will discuss include the nature and objectivity of morality; issues in practical ethics, like abortion, and affirmative action; the reasonability of religious belief; and the relationship between religion and a meaningful life. Students will be required to write two five-page papers and take two hourly examinations and six quizzes.

Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Schonbein

Section 008 (TR 12:15-01:30)

Section 009 (TR 01:40-02:55)

NO PREREQUISITES

In this course we will explore classical and contemporary perspectives on the general question: How ought we to live our lives? For example, the golden rule – treat others as you would like to be treated – provides guidance on how we ought to behave with respect to others. Are there exceptions to this rule? What other general systems of ethical thought are available, and what are their strengths and weaknesses? Do theories of morality have to be grounded in religion? After studying some systematic ethical theories and the relation between morality and religion, we will consider additional topics, such as the relation between free will and moral responsibility.

PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality

Prof. Coseru

Section 001 (TR 09:25-10:40)

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

NO PREREQUISITES

This course provides a general introduction to the main problems of philosophy and its methods of inquiry, analysis, and criticism. We begin by reflecting on the nature of knowledge and its sources: What is the difference between knowledge and opinion? Can we be certain of anything? Of the various sources of knowledge (perception, reasoning, verbal testimony, etc.), which is most reliable? We then focus on the individual knower and its cognitive faculties: Do we think with the aid of mental representations? Is there a language of thought? Do emotions enrich or hamper our thinking? Finally, we will discuss the different ways in which concepts and metaphors shape our view of the world: Are they divergent or complementary? What do these different modes of knowing reveal about our human nature?

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Williams

Section 001 (TR 09:25-10:40)

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

NO PREREQUISITES

Philosophy is more than mental gymnastics; it is a practice that teaches the art and skill of critical thinking. Imagine if you were charged for a crime that you didn't commit. Wouldn't you hope that each member of the jury that decides your fate possesses the requisite ability to recognize the relevant questions, to identify and analyze the quality of arguments, and to make correct inferences? These are skills all of us need in order to be good citizens but also to make informed decisions in other areas of life. This class will explore the rules and principles of critical reasoning and logic. We will learn to examine and evaluate ideas, develop arguments, and recognize fallacies in order to cultivate the skills necessary for developing sound beliefs.

PHIL 155: Environmental Ethics

Prof. Baker

Section 001 (TR 12:15-01:30)

Section 002 (TR 01:40-02:55)

NO PREREQUISITES

In this course you will become comfortable and familiar with the questions being addressed by environmental ethicists. The questions they try to answer, sound, at first, rather abstract. What sort of value should be accorded the natural environment? How should we understand ourselves in relation to our environment? What do we owe the environment? But the debates over these issues are lively, and whether we realize it or not, we already act in accordance to some of the answers to these questions (and not to others.) In this class, we will consider carefully, like philosophers, whether we are valuing the environment properly, whether we understand our place in nature rightly, and whether we are doing what we ought for the preservation of the environment. Along the way we will develop analytical skills that should be useful beyond the topic of environmental ethics. There are two general goals for students in this course. The first is for philosophy to be shown in its best light: as something useful; as our means of coming to understand issues that are too complex to be obvious. The second goal is for students to become not just good students of philosophy—but philosophers themselves. Students will become capable of critically engaging what has been written on these topics and will be able to defend their own account of what it is to be ethical in regard to the environment.

Text: Environmental Ethics: What Really Works, What Really Matters, edited by David Schmidtz and Elizabeth Willott, Oxford University Press, 2002; available in the bookstore.

PHIL 160: Ethics and Sports

Prof. Wilder

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

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

NO PREREQUISITES

Baseball stars, top cyclists and runners found guilty of using banned performance enhancing drugs. Sex and alcohol used to recruit college football players. Members of college lacrosse team accused of rape. Faculty member gives A's to athletes who do no work and don't even have to show up for class. Football coach assaults player on opposing team. Professional baseball player assaults fan. Little league baseball player, his parents and coach all lie about the player's age. These are just a few recent headlines about ethics and sports. In this course, we'll study these and similar ethical problems in sports. We'll examine issues in the areas of sports and drugs, sports and violence, sports and gender, sports and racial issues, and sports in higher education. This is an introductory level course; no background in either philosophy or sports is necessary, but healthy interest in both is assumed. Assignments will include case studies, mid-term and final exams, and a paper.

PHIL 185: *Philosophy and Film*

Prof. Nunan

Section 001 (MW 03:00-05:00)

NO PREREQUISITES

This course will focus primarily on philosophical problems that arise in films, and on philosophical perspectives which films either reflect or cultivate in popular culture (rather than issues in film aesthetics--philosophy of art as applied to the medium of film). Some examples: *Casablanca*, a WWII tale of star-crossed lovers played by Humprey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, which ties in well with French Existentialism; *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, a 1950s science fiction movie which may have also been a political allegory about McCarthyism; Laetitia Columbani's 2002 film, *A la folie...pas du tout* (in French with subtitles, starring Audrey Tatou) which raises issues of epistemological relativism and the film as a medium of artistic deception; the Cohn brothers strange 1996 film, *Fargo*, as a study of the American sublime; *Desert Hearts*, an early (1986) lesbian romance; Neil Jordan's Anglo-Irish psychological gender-bender, *The Crying Game* (1992); and John Ford's classic (1956) western, *The Searchers* (yep, this is a John Wayne movie), illustrating philosopher Peter French's thesis that the western movie genre portrays a non-Christian conception of ethics, and places it in competition with a more conventional Judeo-Christian alternative. In short, a very mixed bag. (This is not a complete list.) In addition to some WebCT reading selections, texts for the course will be Richard Gilmore's *Doing Philosophy at the Movies* (SUNY Press, 2005), and Tom Wartenberg's *Unlikely Couples: Movie Romances as Social Criticism* (Westview Press, 1999)

PHIL 215: Symbolic Logic I

Prof. Lesses

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

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

NO PREREQUISITES

This course serves as an introduction to the formal methods of deductive logic and aims to foster skills in abstract reasoning. Students will learn: (1) to recognize and apply important logical distinctions, (2) to translate the statements and arguments of ordinary language into symbolic notation, and (3) to derive a conclusion from a set of premises using the procedure of formal proofs. Studying this formal logical system will help teach you 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. Together with PHIL 215, it satisfies the minimum degree requirement in mathematics or logic.

PHIL 216: Symbolic Logic II

Prof. Grantham

Section 001 (MWF 01:00-01:50)

PREREQUISITE: *PHIL 215 or permission of instructor.*

Building on the logical system of PHIL 215 (i.e., sentential logic), we will learn to use a more sophisticated and more powerful system – predicate logic. Whereas sentential logic treats simple sentences as wholes, predicate logic divides statements into "predicates" and objects. By analyzing sentences more completely, predicate logic enables us to translate and evaluate a wider range of arguments. 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. Together with PHIL 215, it satisfies the minimum degree requirement in mathematics or logic.

PHIL 230: History of Modern Philosophy

Prof. Boyle

Section 001 (TR 12:15-01:30)

PREREQUISITE: *Three semester hours in Philosophy or permission of instructor.*

The early modern period (the 17th and 18th centuries) saw the rise of modern science, when medieval and Aristotelian conceptions of knowledge, nature, and our place in the world began to be rejected. In this course we will read, discuss, and critically evaluate the works of philosophers such as Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant, important thinkers from the early modern era who sought to find new understandings of the world, our place in it, and our knowledge of it. Some of the issues we will focus on are: whether there is any innate knowledge, or whether all knowledge derives from experience; proofs for the existence of God; what kinds of substances exist in the universe (are there such things as souls?); and whether or not humans have free will.

PHIL 255: Philosophy of Religion

Prof. Perlmutter

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

NO PREREQUISITES

The course will begin with some Biblical texts, both to see the philosophical commitments of the texts and to examine ways of studying the Bible. We will consider some statements of creed and discuss their centrality to religious traditions. David Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* will be examined next; that is when the course will become more thematic, reflecting on various issues in philosophy of religion, such as Pascal's Wager, contemporary critiques of religion, such as Freud and Camus, and the relation between faith and reason.

Note: This course may not be taken for credit if credit has been received for RELS 255.

PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law

Richard Nunan

Section 001 (TR 09:25-10:40)

NO PREREQUISITES

Instead of learning about the actual content of the laws of a given legal system and how that system works to express and enforce those laws, in philosophy of law one worries instead about questions like: What is a legal system? What makes a law a law? Are there such things as good laws and bad laws? How can we tell? Why and when do we have a moral obligation to obey a law? How much latitude should judges have to interpret law? On what grounds? What makes a crime count as a crime? When and why ought crimes be punished or excused? What is the relationship between causation and legal responsibility? In this course we will investigate a number of these questions through both academic writings in legal theory and some court decisions.

PHIL 280: Aesthetics

Prof. Wilder

Section 001 (MWF 01:00 - 01:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

In this course, we will study philosophical questions about the nature of art, its appreciation, evaluation, interpretation and value. For example, is beauty in the eye of the beholder? What kinds of things are properly considered to be art? Are the appreciation and evaluation of art totally subjective? Are there experts in art appreciation and evaluation, authorities who know what's good in art and what's not? This is an introductory aesthetics course. No background in either philosophy or art will be assumed, but interest in and willingness to learn about both is expected. Requirements will include several short reaction papers, a longer analytical paper, tests and the final exam.

Phil 298: ST: Philosophy and Cognitive Science

Prof. Schonbein

Section 090 (MW 04:00-05:15)

NO PREREQUISITES

Over the past two decades there has been increasing interdisciplinary contact between philosophy and the cognitive sciences (psychology, neuroscience, etc.). To name just one of many possible examples, debates over the freedom of the will are traditionally philosophical, but some thinkers argue that neuroscientific evidence provides empirical support for one theory over others. In this course we will explore a selection of topics drawn from the intersection of philosophy and cognitive science. In addition to the example just given, possible topics include: animal minds, neural theories of consciousness, theories of concepts, moral psychology, philosophical psychopathology, experimental philosophy, evolutionary psychology, neural aesthetics, and others.

PHIL 307: 20th Century Continental Philosophy

Prof. Coseru

Section 001 (MW 02:00-03:15)

PREREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215 or 216) or permission of the instructor.*

This course offers an examination of central texts of 20th-century philosophical thought in France and Germany. We will seek to gain an understanding of the principal works of Husserl, Heidegger, Gadamer, Sartre, Foucault, and Derrida. Although these philosophers pursue wide philosophical agendas, they share the view that human existence and understanding are fundamentally historicized, embodied, and determined by language. We will focus primarily on movements such as phenomenology, hermeneutics, and deconstruction. Some of the main problems that will be addressed include the nature of the self, the structure of language, and the technological challenge to the ideals of humanism.

PHIL 310: American Philosophy

Prof. Baker

Section 001 (MWF 12:00-12:50)

PREREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215 or 216) or permission of the instructor*

In this course we are going to engage with the philosophical writing of well-known figures in American thought. We begin with Jonathan Edwards and end with W.V.O. Quine. In between we will study the work of Jefferson, Madison, and Franklin; also Emerson and Thoreau. We will study the school of thought known as "pragmatism" (a philosophical movement credited with having a distinctly American provenance) and the work of Pierce, James, Dewey and Royce. Though we will work in historical order, we will not be attempting historical analysis. Rather, we will be analyzing the authors' ideas as they read. We will be identifying premises, evaluating arguments, and contrasting each thinker's ideas to every other's. We will learn how to apply philosophical standards as we learn the particular views being put forward by each of our authors. What students themselves think about the ideas put forward in the readings will always be a relevant topic in class.

PHIL 450: Senior Seminar: *Metaethics: Moral Epistemology*

Prof. Williams

Section 001 (TR 01:40-02:55)

PREREQUISITE: *Junior or Senior Philosophy Major with at least nine previous semester hours in Philosophy (other than 215, or 216), one of which must be a 300-level course, or permission of the instructor.*

Since the early 20th Century metaethics has been concerned with metaphysical and epistemological problems in ethics. Most people agree that torturing cats is wrong? But how do we justify such claims and on what does the truth of these judgments rely?

The philosophical literature in metaethics clusters around two questions: 1) "What is the nature of moral properties?" (metaphysics); and 2) "What is the status of moral judgments?" (epistemology). After a brief survey of alternative answers to the first question, the course will focus on Moral Epistemology. Five competing accounts of justification in ethics will be examined: *Skepticism, Foundationalism, Intuitionism, Coherentism, and Contextualism.*