

The College of Charleston

Philosophy Spring 2008 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	Coseru	MWF	10:00-10:50	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.002	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Boyle	MWF	11:00-11:50	MYBK 206
PHIL 101.003	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Boyle	MWF	12:00-12:50	MYBK 206
PHIL 101.004	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Nunan	MWF	01:00-01:50	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.006	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Baker	TR	12:15-01:30	ECTR 111
PHIL 101.007	Intro Phil: Beliefs & Values	Hough	TR	01:40-02:55	ECTR 111
PHIL 102.001	Intro Phil: Reality & Knowledge	Schonbein	MW	02:00-03:15	ECTR 111
PHIL 115.001	Critical Thinking	Williams	MW	03:20-04:35	ECTR 111
PHIL 160.001	Ethics and Sports	Wilder	MWF	09:00-09:50	ECTR 111
PHIL 170.001	Biomedical Ethics	Perlmutter	TR	09:25-10:40	ECTR 111
PHIL 175.001	Business & Consumer Ethics	Hettinger	TR	10:50-12:05	ECTR 111
PHIL 205.001	Existentialism	Wilder	MWF	01:00-01:50	MYBK 206
PHIL 206.001	Topics in Law and Morality	Nunan	MWF	10:00-10:50	TBA
PHIL 215.001	Symbolic Logic I	Grantham	MWF	09:00-09:50	MYBK 206
PHIL 215.002	Symbolic Logic I	Grantham	MWF	10:00-10:50	MYBK 206
PHIL 216.001	Symbolic Logic II	Lesses	MWF	11:00-11:50	ECTR 111
PHIL 230.001	History of Modern Philosophy	Boyle	TR	12:15-01:30	MYBK 206
PHIL 255.001	Philosophy of Religion	Coseru	MWF	12:00-12:50	ECTR 111
PHIL 260.001	Philosophy of Biology	Grantham	MW	02:00-03:15	MYBK 206
PHIL 275.001	Feminist Theory	Hough	TR	10:50-12:05	MYBK 206
PHIL 301.001	Ethics	Baker	TR	09:25-10:40	MYBK 206
PHIL 330.001	Philosophy of Mind	Schonbein	TR	01:40-02:55	MYBK 206
PHIL 450.001	Senior Seminar: Natural Beauty	Hettinger	MW	03:20-04:35	MYBK 206

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Coseru

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

NO PREREQUISITES

Are there universal criteria for distinguishing between right and wrong? How does virtue relate to happiness and in what way 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 or wrong, what aspects of actions make them so? Is it the consequence of an action, 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 modern readings from Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Montaigne, Kant, Mill, and Nietzsche. The primary focus will be on understanding the views of these major thinkers and their distinctive approaches to ethics.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Boyle

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

Section 003 (MWF 12:00-12:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

What is the best way for us to live our lives? What kinds of actions are morally right, which are morally wrong, and how can we justify our claims to know this? In this course we will look at various answers that Western philosophers have given to these questions, and at the arguments in support of their views. We will also delve into debates on various ethical issues, such as animal rights, euthanasia, and cloning.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Nunan

Section 004 (MWF 1:00-1:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

The first half of this version of 101 will be devoted to a historical approach to views about the nature and foundation of morality. What are moral convictions, and how do we come to have them in the first place? Are they objectively reliable, or "merely" individually subjective or culturally relative opinions? Questions like these will be examined through Plato's early dialogues related to the trial of Socrates, Augustine's religiously-motivated early Medieval views about human nature and their implications for the concept of moral agency, Joseph Butler's post-Reformation divine-command theory of morality, and Immanuel Kant's Enlightenment-era attempt to provide a secular (i.e., non-religious) foundation for objective morality.

After this historical survey, we will turn to a couple of contemporary applications. Pope John Paul II's defense of the Roman Catholic position on birth control and, more generally, of the Catholic Church's views concerning sexual morality, will provide an opportunity to explore the extent to which theological or cultural views influence moral convictions, and the reverse. (I.e., to what extent do moral theories get imported into religious traditions?) This will be followed by an exploration of the ongoing debate about the religious and moral implications of evolutionary biology, examining the extent to which modern science may (or may not) pose a threat to religious or moral convictions.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Baker

Section 006 (TR 12:15-01:30)

NO PREREQUISITES

This course will introduce the methods and topics of philosophical ethics. These topics include moral sentiment, autonomy, will, virtue, intuition, and moral epistemology. The methods we study will include deontological, teleological, rights-based, and principle-based approaches to determining right and wrong. We will become acquainted with the ethical work of Aristotle, Cicero, Kant, Mill, and some contemporary theorists. In this course students will philosophically analyze cases of duty, lying, forgiveness, and they will attempt to determine what it is that they consider ethical, the beliefs required for ethics, and the course of moral development necessary to it.

Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy: Beliefs and Values

Prof. Hough

Section 007 (TR 01:40-02:55)

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 two models of human nature will then guide us in a modern exploration of what it means to be human, and about what the best kind of life for a human truly is.

PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality

Prof. Schonbein

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

NO PREREQUISITES

In the motion picture *The Matrix*, the protagonist Neo discovers that what he thought was the real world was in fact a grand illusion. This raises two questions: What really exists? And how can we know? Philosophers have investigated these questions for thousands of years, and in this class we will survey some of the most influential answers. Topics may include: Whether free will exists, whether we can know that there is a mind-independent world, whether robots can have minds, whether we can have knowledge at all, and the nature of the self.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Williams

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

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 160: Ethics and Sports

Prof. Wilder

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

NO PREREQUISITES

The headlines: NFL player behaves badly off-field, will do jail time; NHL player assaults opponent on ice, will not do jail time; pro cycling, baseball and wrestling are rife with steroidusing cheaters; university cancels day's classes for televised home football game that night; NBA ref gambles on games; college eliminates men's swimming, gymnastics and wrestling, citing federal law requiring proportional opportunities in men's and women's sports; and on and on. This course will go beyond the headlines and examine these and other ethical issues in sports from a philosophical perspective. Requirements will include several case studies, an analytical paper, mid-term and final exams.

PHIL 170: Biomedical Ethics

Prof. Perlmutter

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

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 & Consumer Ethics

Prof. Hettinger

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

NO PREREQUISITES

This course is an introduction to ethical, social, political and environmental philosophy in the context of business. Topics include business social responsibility (Is the sole legitimate purpose of a business to maximize profit?), a moral evaluation of the market (What, if any, government involvement in the market is needed to maximize welfare and protect rights?), advertising ethics (What counts as deceptive or manipulative advertising?), the ethics of consumption (Do we consume too much?), the ethics of international business and development (What kind of “development” is good for the non-industrialized world?), business environmental ethics (What should be done about pollution?), and diversity in the workplace (Is affirmative action morally legitimate?) .

PHIL 205: Existentialism

Prof. Wilder

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

NO PREREQUISITES

Existentialism is a philosophical movement which challenges modern faith in reason, science and bourgeois morality. With roots in the 19th Century, existentialism flourished in Europe in the mid-20th Century and continues to influence philosophy, literature, drama, film and the arts today. We will study classic existentialist philosophical and literary works, by Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus and others. Course requirements will include several short response papers, a term paper, and mid-term and final exams.

PHIL 206: Topics in Law and Morality: Religion and the Law

Prof. Nunan

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

NO PREREQUISITES

What do we mean, in our legal system, by ‘freedom of conscience’, as enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, especially through the (anti-)establishment and free exercise of religion clauses in that amendment? This course will examine the evolution of that doctrine over the history of our nation, through some of the major Supreme Court & lower court cases interpreting each of these three concepts, and the philosophical debates surrounding those judicial decisions.

Some sample topics: late 19th century Mormon polygamy cases; mid-20th century flag salute cases; limits on government support for religiously-affiliated schools; Christian Science and Jehovah’s Witness religious refusal cases (concerning medical treatment, especially for children); conscientious objector status (with respect to military draft policies); conflicts between state public education requirements and “exotic” religious cultures (e.g., Amish and Christian fundamentalist requests to ‘opt out’ of such education requirements; conflicts between religion and science education [evolutionary biology]); religiously motivated morals legislation (Supreme Court birth control and sodomy cases; state & federal “defense of marriage” acts); secular morals legislation and illegal activity in religious rituals (e.g., religious drug use, animal sacrifice).

PHIL 215: Symbolic Logic I

Prof. Grantham

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

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

NO PREREQUISITES

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. Together with PHIL 215, it satisfies the minimum degree requirement in mathematics or logic.

PHIL 216: Symbolic Logic II

Prof. Lesses

Section 001 (MWF 11:00-11:50)

PREREQUISITE: *PHIL 215 or permission of instructor.*

This course is a sequel to PHIL 215 and covers what is called "predicate logic." The subject of PHIL 215 is propositional logic in which a simple statement is the smallest unit of analysis for the translation of English into symbolic language and for the construction of symbolic arguments. In PHIL 216, we will also examine the internal structure of simple statements in order to develop the symbolic language necessary to symbolize statements in terms of their subjects and predicates. We will then introduce procedures that will enable us to construct proofs using this new formal language. If time permits, we will consider some topics in metatheory, which is the branch of logic concerned with the features of logical systems themselves, and philosophical logic, which utilizes the formal tools and methods of symbolic logic in order to shed light upon questions of philosophical inquiry.

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 Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, and Kant, important philosophers 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?); the nature of animal minds; and whether or not humans have free will.

PHIL 255: Philosophy of Religion

Prof. Coseru

Section 001 (MWF12:50-12:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

This course introduces some of the most important philosophical debates about religion from both an Western and Eastern perspective. Among the main topics discussed will be: the problem of defining "religion" as a philosophical and a cultural phenomenon; conceptions of ultimate reality and arguments for and against the existence of a divine realm; the problem of reconciling scientific and religious worldviews; the rationality of religious belief; and the question of what forms religious doctrines might, and should, take in our postmodern world with its concerns for globalization, ecology, and religious pluralism. This is a philosophy course, which

means that emphasis will be placed not on individual religions and their doctrines so much as on critical reflection about questions such as the sacred, faith, the afterlife, karma, religious ethics, etc. Our philosophical readings are taken from an array of pre-modern and modern philosophers of religion.

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

PHIL 260: Philosophy of Biology

Prof. Grantham

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

NO PREREQUISITES

This course will examine philosophical issues associated with genetics. We will explore the history of genetics from the rediscovery of Mendel's work in 1900 to the human genome project. What philosophical lessons can we learn from this history? What philosophical questions it raise? (1) Biology seems to be different from other sciences – in particular, biology seems less focused on 'laws' than, say, physics. Are there laws in biology? Does the fact that (human) genetics is important to social policy make it harder to get objectivity in genetics than in other sciences? (2) How are Mendelian and molecular genetics related? Can Mendelian genetics be reduced to molecular genetics? (3) To what extent is human behavior shaped by genes? Does this tell us anything important about human freedom? (4) Is it ethically permissible to engage in human genetic engineering? (5) Does the history of genetics support 'scientific realism' – the claim that 'mature' scientific theories are approximately true and progressively approaching the truth? Don't worry if you don't know much science – you'll learn it as we study the history!

PHIL 275: Feminist Theory

Prof. Hough

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

NO PREREQUISITES

Do women have a female 'nature', and if so, what is it? We will begin by reviewing various accounts of women in the history of philosophy (including Plato, Aristotle, Kant, and Nietzsche). We will then explore some central topics in feminist theory: feminist ethics and value theory; feminist metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of science. Our goal is to trace and explore the connection between various accounts of human—and female—nature, with an eye to understanding the theoretical issues at work in contemporary thinking about women and men.

PHIL 301: Ethics

Prof. Baker

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

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

In this course we are going to read three books of contemporary ethical theory and a number of articles that comment on these. Each book offers a representative view of virtue ethics, Kantian theory, or consequentialist ethical theory. In order to make the complicated ideas in these readings clear, class will involve a lot of exercises that allow us to "practice" the ideas we are being presented. If you do not enjoy class discussion, this is not the class for you. As is the case in many philosophy courses, the emphasis will be our being able to develop ideas of our own, in reference to those we will be carefully studying. To develop ideas we have to try them out on each other, in class and in papers and smaller writing assignments.

PHIL 330: Philosophy of Mind

Prof. Schonbein

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

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

What is the mind? Is it just something the brain does, or is it something above and beyond? Is it possible to explain what the mind is through science? Philosophers have investigated these and related questions in great detail, and in this course we will survey the major results of this philosophical tradition. Topics may include: The relationship between mind and brain, how mental events can causally interact with physical events, whether non-human creatures (such as robots) can have minds, and the peculiar philosophical problems that consciousness poses.

PHIL 450: Senior Seminar: Natural Beauty

Prof. Hettinger

Section 001 (MW 03:20-04:35)

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*

This seminar examines issues at the intersection of aesthetics and environmental philosophy. Topics include: Differences between the aesthetic appreciation of nature and art; the role of knowledge, imagination, emotion, and engagement in the aesthetic appreciation of nature; the claim that nature is always beautiful and never ugly; whether there can be better and worse environmental appreciation; whether harmful environments can be beautiful; everyday aesthetics and the aesthetic appreciation of human-altered environments; and aesthetic value as a rationale for environmental protection.