

Philosophy Courses Spring 2009

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: 33 semester hours in philosophy which must include 215 or 216; 201; 202; and 450. Of the remaining 21 hours of electives in philosophy, at least 12 hours must be taken in courses at or above the 200 level, with at least nine of these at or above the 300 level.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 18 semester hours in philosophy which must include: Philosophy 101; Philosophy 215 or 216; a course in the history of philosophy (201, 202, 304, 305, 306, 307, or 310); and three additional courses in Philosophy, two of which must be at or above the 200-level.

Philosophy Course Offerings

PHIL101.001	Introduction To Philosophy	Grantham	MWF	9:00 - 9:50	ECTR 111
PHIL101.002	Introduction To Philosophy	Grantham	MWF	10:00 - 10:50	ECTR 111
PHIL101.003	Introduction To Philosophy	Schonbein	MWF	12:00 - 12:50	ECTR 111
PHIL101.004	Introduction To Philosophy	Coseru	TR	9:25 - 10:40	ECTR 111
PHIL101.005	Introduction To Philosophy	Williams	TR	10:50 - 12:05	MYBK 206
PHIL101.006	Introduction To Philosophy	Williams	TR	12:15 - 1:30	MYBK 206
PHIL115.001	Critical Thinking	Boyle	MWF	12:00 - 12:50	MYBK 206
PHIL115.002	Critical Thinking	Williams	MW	2:00 - 3:15	ECTR 111
PHIL160.001	Ethics And Sports	Wilder	MWF	9:00 - 9:50	MYBK 206
PHIL165.001	Philosophy & Feminism	Hough	MWF	11:00 - 11:50	BELL 406
PHIL170.001	Biomedical Ethics	Baker	TR	12:15 - 1:30	ECTR 111
PHIL170.002	Biomedical Ethics	Baker	TR	1:40 - 2:55	ECTR 111
PHIL175.001	Business & Consumer Ethics	Hettinger	TR	10:50 - 12:05	ECTR 111
PHIL185.001	Philosophy And Film	Nunan	MW	3:00 - 5:15	MYBK 317
PHIL202.001	History Of Modern Philosophy	Boyle	TR	12:15 - 1:30	TBA
PHIL205.001	Existentialism	Hough	MWF	1:00 - 1:50	ECTR 111
PHIL215.001	Symbolic Logic I	Lesses	MWF	10:00 - 10:50	MYBK 206
PHIL215.002	Symbolic Logic I	Lesses	MWF	11:00 - 11:50	MYBK 206
PHIL216.001	Symbolic Logic II	Grantham	MWF	1:00 - 1:50	MYBK 206
PHIL245.001	Environmental Philosophy	Hettinger	MW	2:00 - 3:15	MYBK 206
PHIL280.001	Aesthetics	Wilder	MWF	11:00 - 11:50	ECTR 111
PHIL298.001	Special Topic: Philosophy & Economics	Baker	TR	9:25 - 10:40	MYBK 206
PHIL305.001	Topics In The History Of Phil: Kant	Krasnoff	TR	10:50 - 12:05	TBA
PHIL335.001	Philosophy Of Language	Schonbein	MWF	10:00 - 10:50	MYBK 223
PHIL450.001	Senior Seminar In Philosophy	Coseru	TR	1:40 - 2:55	MYBK 206

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Grantham

Section 001 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

Section 002 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course introduces four areas of philosophy that pose perplexing and enduring questions. (1) Philosophy of Religion: Are there good reasons to think God exists? Is God's existence compatible with evil in the world? Is religious faith compatible with science? (2) Ethics: Can ethical beliefs be objective? What criteria can we use to determine when an action is morally right? To what extent are we obligated to help those in absolute poverty? (3) Metaphysics of Mind: Are mental states simply complex physical states? If minds are nothing but collections of mindless particles governed by deterministic laws, is free will possible? Can we provide a materialist account of consciousness? (4) Political philosophy: What (if anything) justifies state power and coercion? What criteria can we use to determine if a political system is just? Are social welfare programs that redistribute wealth morally and politically justifiable?

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Schonbein

Section 003 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

For thousands of years philosophers have contemplated issues involving the ultimate nature of the universe, the possibility of certain knowledge, and the source of morality. In this course we will consider some of these issues and how they interact. For example, are human beings genuinely free, or are our actions determined only by the laws of physics? If we are not free, can a person truly be morally responsible for his or her actions? Similarly, we will look at arguments surrounding the existence of a Judeo-Christian God, and consider what implications they have for the nature of morality: What alternative ethical systems, not grounded in religion, are available? What are their strengths and weaknesses? In addition to these questions, additional topics may include: skepticism about the existence of the world, the identity of persons through time, and/or the pros and cons of various political systems.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Coseru

Section 004 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

What is the difference between knowledge and mere opinion? Can we be certain of anything? Are there universal criteria for distinguishing between right and wrong? Is there a universal good that can be known by all? How does virtue relate to happiness and in what way do they differ? Can we be truly free? No matter what our answers to these questions, how are we to proceed? Are we essentially rational human beings? What role does culture, politics, science play in shaping our identities? 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 a variety of answers to these questions through a combination of classical and modern readings from Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Descartes, Kant, Hume, Nietzsche, Sartre, etc.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Williams

Section 005 (TR 10:00 – 12:05)

Section 006 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course is primarily concerned to explore the limits and possibilities of human knowledge in the areas of religion, science, and ethics. In the first section of this course, we will examine classical arguments regarding the existence of God and the problem of evil. We will learn how to recognize and evaluate different types of arguments. In the second section, we will look at science, which most of us assume has provided the paradigmatic model for human knowledge. In the third section of my class, we will focus on moral philosophy, investigating both classical and contemporary sources. Once we have considered two systematic ethical theories, we will consider whether we have reason to think that there is a fundamental difference between the methods of coming to know in science and ethics.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Boyle

Section 001 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course on critical thinking offers basic lessons in how we reason and how we can reason well. We will examine how to explain, clarify, support, illustrate, defend, and refute claims. It is a practical, skills-oriented course which will provide students with tools for understanding and evaluating the kinds of arguments we constantly encounter in everyday life.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Williams

Section 002 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

NO PREREQUISITE

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 160.001: Ethics and Sports

Prof. Wilder

MWF 9:00-9:50

NO PREREQUISITE

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 other sports are rife with steroid-using cheaters; college football coaches paid (millions) more than college presidents and professors; NBA ref gambles on games; colleges eliminate 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 165: Philosophy and Feminism

Prof. Hough

MWF 11:00 – 11:50

NO PREREQUISITE

Do women have a female 'nature', and if so, what is it? In the first half of the course we will review various accounts of women in the history of philosophy (including Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Schopenhauer, Hume and Nietzsche). We will then read some essays in recent feminist philosophy, with a focus on ethical concerns: what is the moral significance of the (so-called) 'otherness' of women? Should feminist ethics emphasize or deny difference, and on what grounds? In what way should feminist concerns shape our understanding of issues like abortion and pornography?

PHIL 170: Biomedical Ethics

Prof. Baker

Section 001 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

Section 002 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course we use philosophical resources, in particular the resource of ethical theory, to consider the issues involved in bioethics. These issues include reproductive technology, disaster triage, end-of-life procedures, organ donation, patients' refusal of medical care for religious reasons, and the allocation of resources in medicine. Our aims are two-fold: we want to come to understand, in a practical manner, the real-world issues that face the medical field and we also want to become adept at using philosophy as a tool in assessing real-world issues. Though the application of ethics should be of interest to those studying philosophy generally, this course would be particularly useful to any student interested in entering the medical field.

PHIL 175: Business and Consumer Ethics

Prof. Hettinger

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?), ethics and women in business (Are women disadvantaged in business?), the ethics of consumption (Do we consume too much?), business environmental ethics (What does an environmentally-friendly business look like?), the ethics of international business and development (What kind of "development" is good for the non-industrialized world?).

Requirements: Mid-term exam, final exam, paper proposal, term paper, reading quizzes, oral presentation to the class, and attendance.

PHIL 185: Philosophy and Film

Prof. Nunan

MW 3:00 – 5:15

NO PREREQUISITE

Focus is 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 Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, which ties in well with French Existentialism; 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; some transgressive romance films—e.g., *Pygmalion* (1938) based on G.B. Shaw's play about class bigotry; some science fiction films—e.g., *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956), and *12 Monkeys* (1995), and some psychologically challenging films—e.g., *Memento* (2000), all of which raise interesting questions about personal identity, in addition to problems about auteur theory (*Body Snatchers*) and time travel (*12 Monkeys*). In short, a very mixed bag. (This is not a complete list.)

PHIL 202: History of Modern Philosophy

Prof. Boyle

TR 12:15 – 1:30

PREREQUISITE: three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the 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 205: Existentialism

Prof. Hough

MWF 1:00 – 1:50

NO PREREQUISITE

'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

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 improve your ability to detect mistakes in reasoning.

Note: *This course does not count toward the humanities minimum degree requirement. Together with PHIL 216, it satisfies the minimum degree requirement in mathematics or logic.*

PHIL 216: Symbolic Logic II

Prof. Grantham

MWF 1:00 – 1:50

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 245: Environmental Philosophy

Prof. Hettinger

MW 2:00 – 3:15

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will focus on the following topics: Environmental virtue ethics, the work of J. Baird Callicott, and environmental aesthetics. Tentative readings include, Dale Jamieson's *Ethics and the Environment: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2008), Ronald Sandler and Phil Cafaro, *Environmental Virtue Ethics* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005), J. Baird Callicott, *Beyond the Land Ethic* (SUNY Press, 1999), Wayne Ouderkirk and Jim Hill, *Land, Value, Community: Callicott and Environmental Philosophy* (SUNY Press, 2002), and Allen Carlson, *Nature and Landscape: An Introduction to Environmental Aesthetics* (Columbia, 2008).

This course is not an introductory survey of the field of environmental ethics (such an introduction is provided by Philosophy 155: Environmental Ethics). Although having a previous course in environmental ethics would be beneficial, it is not a prerequisite.

Requirements: Midterm and final exams, term paper, presentation about the paper to the class.

PHIL 280.001: Aesthetics

Prof. Wilder

MWF 11:00-11:50

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course, we will study philosophical questions about the nature of art, its appreciation, evaluation, interpretation and value. For example, 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? Is beauty in the eye of the beholder? 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: Special Topics: Philosophy and Economics

Prof. Baker

TR 9:25 – 10:40

NO PREREQUISITE

The practice of economics raises myriad philosophical issues. Is economics a science? What is a science? Is economics value-neutral? What is it to be value-neutral? Is economics proceeding with a misleadingly narrow take on human nature? Does economics assume a straitened account of human good? What is rationality? Does rational choice theory capture what it is to be rational? In this course we will read articles that explore these issues. Our authors include philosophers Martha Nussbaum, Geoffrey Brennan, and Elizabeth Anderson and economists Irene van Stravert and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen.

PHIL 305.001: Topics in the History of Philosophy: Kant

Prof. Krasnoff

TR 10:50 – 12:05

PREREQUISITE: Course prerequisite is 6 hours in philosophy (excluding PHIL 215 and PHIL 216), but others may enroll with the permission of the instructor.

Intensive study in Kant's critical philosophy. About half the course will be devoted to the Critique of Pure Reason; the remainder will examine Kant's views in moral and political philosophy.

PHIL 335: Philosophy of Language

Prof. Schonbein

MWF 10:00 – 10:50

PREREQUISITE: Course prerequisite is 6 hours in philosophy (excluding PHIL 215 and PHIL 216), but others may enroll with the permission of the instructor.

In this course we survey some prominent philosophical problems surrounding human language. For example: How are words able to refer to things in the world? Why do sentences that refer to nonexistent things appear meaningful? What are word meanings, anyway? How is linguistic meaning influenced by the social context in which language is used? Additional topics may include how language influences (or fails to influence) thought, whether we possess innate linguistic knowledge, and whether non-human animals can possess a language.

PHIL 450: Senior Seminar: Consciousness, Intentionality, Embodiment

Prof. Coseru

TR 1:40 – 2:55

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.

ANY STUDENT WHO IS INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN 450, PLEASE SEE KATE KENNEY-NEWHARD IN THE PHILOSOPHY OFFICE – 14 GLEBE STREET, ROOM 101.

Listen to the sound of a Mozart concerto, taste the flavor of a strong espresso, or feel the cool breeze of a spring morning. What is it like to have these experiences: to perceive, desire, or know something? What are the structures of conscious experience? How is perceptual consciousness different from emotion, memory, or imagination? As we examine our experience we immediately realize that that *there is something it is like* to be conscious. Three questions emerge in this process of reflective examination: First, *why* is there something it is like to be conscious? Second, *how* are we to understand the intentional structure of consciousness, the fact that our consciousness appears to be always directed at something? Third, *to what extent* is our conscious experience shaped and conditioned by the body? In this class, we will examine some of the ideas and theories about consciousness, intentionality, and embodiment that are at the heart of the new interdisciplinary field of Consciousness Studies. We will primarily draw from work in the philosophy of perception, phenomenology, cognitive psychology, and Buddhist philosophy.