Finally, we'll apply what we've learned to a contemporary debate in the cognitive sciences: the debate over the existence of high-level psychological theory, touching on behaviorism, the computational theory of mind, modularism, and evolutionary psychology. This is an introduction to metaphysics, the branch of philosophy that is concerned with analyzing and explaining the most general features of reality. We will address questions such as: what is it for something to exist? What is it for one thing to cause another to happen? What is required for an object to persist through time? What is the nature of possibility and necessity? What makes the claims of common sense and science true, and how are these various bodies of truths related to one another? And, finally, is metaphysics itself even possible?
**PHIL 6700: Ethics**  
Christie Hartley  
MW 12:00-1:15

Normative ethics is the study of what we should do and how we should be. In this course we will explore the main theories in contemporary normative ethics, including contractarianism, Kantianism, contractualism, utilitarianism, virtue theory and the ethics of care. We will consider how the theories we study can best be formulated and examine the arguments for and against the theories we study. Readings will include work by David Gauthier, Immanuel Kant, Barbara Herman, T.M. Scanlon, Bernard Williams, Peter Railton and Rosalind Hursthouse.

**PHIL 6855: Advanced Topics in Political Theory**  
Peter Lindsay  
M 7:15-9:45

**Feminist Political Theory:** This course provides students with an overview of feminist political thought. There will be three main components to the course. In the first section, students will review the classical texts of Western political thought to see how various male thinkers have conceived of the status and rights of women. In the second section, attention will be paid to the differences and common ground that exist within feminist thinking. Finally, students will examine a few of the classical, not-to-be-missed works of feminist thought, including the works of, among others, Simon de Beauvoir, bell hooks, Carol Gilligan and Catharine MacKinnon.

**PHIL 8090: Seminar in Continental Philosophy**  
Sebastian Rand  
M 4:30-7:00

**Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit.** The Phenomenology of Spirit is Hegel's most influential work, central to his own thinking and the development of Western philosophy after him. In this extraordinary book, Hegel attempts to demonstrate the self-correcting structure of norm-governed activity, and thereby to prepare the way for the exhibition of the self-grounding nature of human reason, its institutions (“spirit”), and its objects (“nature”). This attempt requires him to discuss (what he takes to be) the entirety of the Western human experience and its history. Our object in this class will be to confront and comprehend as much of this treatment as possible.

**PHIL 8300: Seminar in Metaphysics**  
Andrea Scarantino  
TR 2:30-3:45

Are emotions rational, irrational or both? We will explore this question by focusing on three main issues: (a) the role emotions play in practical reasoning (topics covered will include Damasio's somatic markers, weakness of the will, emotional intelligence, and emotional regulation), (b) the role emotions play in morality (topics covered will include Prinz's neosentimentalism, animal proto-morality, Skyrms' game-theoretic explanations of the origins of norms, affective disorders), (c) the role emotions play in representing the world (topics covered will include teleosemantic theories of content, referential and affective components of animal communication, and the phenomenal intentionality program).

**PHIL 8810: Seminar in Social & Political Philosophy**  
Andrew J. Cohen  
W 4:30-7:00

**Liberalism:** The basic plan is to do a fairly close reading of one historical and one contemporary statement of philosophical liberalism. The two most likely works are John Stuart Mill's Considerations on Representative Government and John Tomasi's Free Market Fairness. Throughout, we will consider how these thinkers might be different from others called "liberals."

**PHIL 8820: Seminar in Philosophy of Law**  
Andrew Altman  
MW 1:30-2:45

This seminar examines issues of international law and global justice. It involves an intensive reading of two books: John Rawls’s Law of Peoples and Gillian Brock's Global Justice: A Cosmopolitan Account. Additionally, we will read some recent articles by Thomas Nagel, Thomas Pogge and others that critically examine the issues addressed in the Rawls and Brock books. Among the questions that the course will address are: What would a just global order be like? Does the concept of justice apply to relations between states? What moral obligations do wealthy states have toward poor ones? and What are human rights?