## PHIL 3020: History – Western Phil II: Modern

Stephen Jacobson  
MW 10:55-1:25

Development of European philosophy from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. Typically included are Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

## PHIL 3720: Contemporary Moral Problems

Staff  
TR 1:50-4:20

Do we have any duties toward animals? Is euthanasia ethical in any circumstances? Can capital punishment be justified? Is abortion ever the right choice? After an introduction to major ethical theories, students will debate with contemporary philosophers' opposing views on these and other ethical issues.

## PHIL 3730: Business Ethics

Sandra Dwyer (Maymester)  
MTWRF 1:45-4:05; TR 4:45-7:15

Is it possible to do business without ethics? Is it more profitable to do business ethically? Do CEOs have a responsibility to anyone other than themselves to their stockholders? their customers? the local community? the environment? Are international corporations different from mom-and-pop stores? If so, how and why? After an introduction to contemporary management and ethical theories, students will discuss cases and issues that address the economic questions.

## PHIL 4100: Epistemology

Stephen Jacobson  
TR 10:55-1:25

The course covers classical and contemporary discussions regarding knowledge and justified belief. The first portion is a survey of classical and contemporary topics. These may include, e.g.: the analysis of “knowledge”, the problems of the external world, induction, the Gettier problem, skepticism, foundationalism, coherence, relativism, contextualism, and theories of truth. The second portion of the course focuses on a recent work in epistemology, such as Paul Boghossian’s, Fear of Knowledge: Against Relativism and Constructivism.

## PHIL 4130: Philosophy of Science

Edward Cox  
MW 1:50-4:20

It is tempting to think of science as being the best way to acquire knowledge, but even in the simplest cases, it is not clear how observational evidence supports a scientific theory or how theory confirmation should be understood. This course will address questions about the nature of science and scientific method, rationality and theory change in science, puzzles about confirmation of scientific theories, problems of objectivity and scientific knowledge, methodological and metaphysical naturalism in science, scientific explanation, and scientific realism and instrumentalism.

## Fall 2012 (Registration begins March 28)

### PHIL 3000: Introductory Seminar in Philosophy (CTW)

**Knowledge and Reality:** This course focuses on topics in epistemology and metaphysics. For example, many people assume that there are moral facts (e.g., it is wrong to torture people just for fun), and modal facts (e.g., it is not just true that everything is self-identical, but necessarily true). Our central questions will be: what kind of facts are these?, and how, if at all, they can be known? These issues, among others, will be explored primarily in Western philosophy. We may also consider an example from Indian philosophy.

### PHIL 3000: Introductory Seminar in Philosophy (CTW)

**Truth, Falsity, and Lying:** How have important thinkers throughout history grappled with the concept of truth? Under what conditions have they found it to be justifiable to lie? Have ideas about the importance of truth-telling changed over time? This course will consider ideas about truth from analytic, continental and pragmatist philosophical traditions, including readings from Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Kant, Arendt, Foucault as well as several contemporary thinkers – based on student interest – let me know if there is a contemporary philosopher you would like to add to the list!

### PHIL 3000: Introductory Seminar in Philosophy

**Death and the Meaning of Life:** This course will address questions about the meaning of life and how we should feel about death. Is it possible for our lives to have a meaning? How is meaning possible in the world revealed by modern science? Is the meaning we choose for ourselves the only meaningful meaning our lives can have or is there an objective meaning of life for us to discover? Does the meaning of life depend on God, religion or immortality, or is it independent of them? If death is the end of existence, should we fear it? Is it better to live than never to exist at all? Can death be bad if we no longer exist after we die?

### PHIL 3010: History Western Philosophy I-Ancient & Medieval

**Death:** Western philosophy has its roots in the Mediterranean world. We will begin with the pre-Socratics, whose questions about the nature of reality gave rise to the first scientific investigations and eventually to philosophy. We’ll then move on to study two foundational figures in the Classical period, Plato and Aristotle. After that we’ll consider two schools in the Hellenistic period: the Epicureans and the Skeptics. We will focus on the metaphysics, ethics and theories of knowledge of the philosophers.

### PHIL 3010: History Western Philosophy I-Ancient & Medieval

**This course will be an introduction to some of the major figures in ancient Greek philosophy:** Plato, Aristotle, and Epicurus. We will also look at how the Medieval philosophers Augustine and Aquinas try to appropriate the doctrines of pagan philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle and use them within the context of Christian belief.

### PHIL 3020: History Western Philosophy II-Modern

This course offers a survey of the history of early modern philosophy (roughly, 1650-1800). Our main task will be to explore the period’s attempt to come to terms with the philosophical implications of the Scientific Revolution. We shall concentrate on the work of Rene Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, and David Hume, three of the modern era’s most exciting thinkers. These philosophers covered a wide range of topics—including, the nature of the physical world and the mind’s place in it, freedom and the knowledge of God. We shall supplement our study of the primary text with a recent book on the history of modern philosophy — which will enrich our understanding of the relevant intellectual and cultural background.

### PHIL 3060: Existentialism

Existentialism was a rarity: a philosophical movement that developed as much in public cultural space as in the confines of the academy. Its proponents were philosophy professors and playwrights, essayists and filmmakers, novelists and guerrilla fighters. But whatever we might think of the stereotypes (cigarettes, Left Bank cafés, gloomy poets, stylish nihilism), what is the genuine philosophical content of Existentialism? What is its relation to other positions in metaphysics, ethics, politics, aesthetics, etc.? Why did this philosophical gain so many nontraditional modes of expression? We will address these questions through philosophical texts, novels, films, and other means in this course.
PHIL 3710: Marriage and Family
This course is a philosophical investigation of issues relating to marriage and the family. Some of the issues we will discuss this term include: Should the state recognize same-sex marriage? What about polygamous marriage? Perhaps the state should not recognize and license marriages at all. Are there good reasons for the state to simply privatize marriage? Should marriage still be thought of as central to the modern family? How should we understand the purpose of the family from the point of view of the state? What does the state owe members of families as a matter of justice?

PHIL 3720: Contemporary Moral Problems
See description in summer courses.

PHIL 3730: Business Ethics
See description in summer courses.

PHIL 3855: Topics In Political Theory
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, Simone de Beauvoir, bell hooks, Carol Gilligan and Catharine MacKinnon.

PHIL 4020: Aristotle
In this course, we will examine various parts of the philosophy of Aristotle. We will spend the most time with the Nicomachean Ethics, which we will look at over the course of the whole semester. Aristotle’s ethics cannot be understood in isolation, however. We will use the ethics as a jumping off-place to look at other areas of his philosophy, including, but probably not limited to: (i) his notion of substance, (ii) the four causes (including the ‘final’ cause), (iii) his understanding of scientific explanation, (iv) his view on the truth-value of statements concerning future contingents, and (v) his views on the state.

PHIL 4055: Hume
This course will be devoted to a careful study of David Hume’s A Treatise of Human Nature — a towering monument to the intellectual ambitions of the Enlightenment, and arguably the greatest philosophical work ever written in English.

PHIL 4095: Topics in Analytic Philosophy: Metaethics
The course will cover such questions as: How should we understand the semantic function of moral discourse? Is it fact-stating, or does it have a different function? If there are moral facts, what kind of facts are they? Are they reducible to some other kind of facts? Again, if there are moral facts, how are they knowable? What kind of cognitive access do we have to them? What connection is there between morality and motivation? Is there an essential connection between making a moral judgment and being motivated to act as the judgment prescribes?

PHIL 4100: Epistemology
The course will cover classical and contemporary discussions regarding knowledge and justified belief. Roughly the first third of the course will be a survey of classical topics in epistemology—the problems of the external world, other minds, induction, for example. The remainder of the course will concentrate on contemporary discussions of topics such as counterfactualism, skepticism, foundationalism, coherentism, reliabilism, contextualism, the internalism/externalism debate, theories of truth, verificationism, feminist and naturalized epistemology.

PHIL 4300: Metaphysics
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 4400: Philosophy and Cognitive Science
Why do we call it “cognitive science”? It’s a puzzling term, given that psychology, which is at the core of cognitive science, seems unlike the paradigm examples of science, like physics and chemistry. To help solve this puzzle, this course will start with some general philosophy of science to give us a basis for deciding what “science” could mean in the cognitive realm. Then we’ll move to high-level psychological theory, touching on behaviorism, the computational theory of mind, modularism, and evolutionary psychology. Finally, we’ll apply what we’ve learned to a contemporary debate in the cognitive sciences: the debate over the existence of mental imagery.

PHIL 4700: Ethics
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 Raillon and Rosalind Hursthouse.

PHIL 4760: Ethics and Contemporary Public Policy
A study of philosophy can offer a constructive framework for understanding some leading controversies in public policy. Themes change each year, previous ones include: issues in religious freedom and free expression, issues in animal rights, immigration, sexual privacy, gender norms in child rearing, and many others. The course is also a platform for preparing for the southeastern Regional Ethics Bowl, where teams from various schools compete in offering the best responses to a set of several cases distributed in advance. Course will feature plenty of discussion, presentations, "mock" bowls, a term paper, and a final examination.

PHIL 4750/4990: Topics in Ethics / Senior Seminar in Philosophy (CTW)
Values and Preferences in Social Choice: People often need to decide together what to do. But it’s often unclear how they should measure and evaluate the considerations that might matter in determining this “social choice.” This course particularly explores the notions of “value” and “preference,” how they relate to various notions of well-being, and how they figure in explaining, predicting, and evaluating human choice and behavior. The team-taught seminar will feature distinguished philosophers or social scientists as occasional guest discussion leaders. Assignments may include: regular presentations/critiques, brief response papers, a substantive term paper, and a final examination.

PHIL 4900/4990: Issues in Philosophy / Enior Seminar in Philosophy (CTW)
Heidegger’s Being and Time: This course will be an extended meditation on one question: What is the meaning of ‘Being’? We will grapple with this question by exploring the work of Martin Heidegger, a thinker whose grandiose system continues to exert a powerful influence on philosophers in continental Europe (and on some surprising figures outside the Continent). The centerpiece of our course will be Heidegger’s magnum opus, Being and Time, but we will also look at some of the later essays, including “The Question Concerning Technology” and “What Is Metaphysics?” Prepare to be baffled, impressed, and inspired.

Christie Hartley MW 3:00-4:15
Peter Lindsay MW 1:30-2:45
Tim O’Keefe TR 9:30-10:45
Sandra Dwyer TR 9:30-10:45; MW 12:00-1:15
Eric Wilson TR 11:00-12:15
Stephen Jacobson MW 3:00-4:15
Tim O’Keefe TR 9:30-10:45
Andrew I. Cohen MW 3:00-4:15
Neil Van Leeuwen MW 7:15-8:30
Daniel Weiskopf TR 4:00-5:15
Christie Hartley MW 12:00-1:15
Neil Van Leeuwen MW 7:15-8:30
Christie Hartley MW 12:00-1:15
Andrew I. Cohen MW 3:00-4:15
Philippe Capdevielle MW 12:00-1:15
Jessica Berry TR 2:30-3:45
Yongsheng Xu and Andrew I. Cohen. MW 12:00-1:15
Yongsheng Xu and Andrew I. Cohen. MW 12:00-1:15