



# Undergraduate Philosophy Courses

**Registration begins Oct. 20, 2008**

**PHIL 3000: Introductory Seminar in Philosophy/ Moral Questions** *Edward Cox MW 12-1:15, 3-4:15, TR 2:30-3:45*

This course offers an in-depth treatment of a philosophical issue (for example, free will, justice, Kantian ethics) in a seminar setting, where students have an opportunity to engage in systematic discussions of primary texts and the philosophical issues they raise. This investigation of a topic from a variety of vantage points allows students to develop an informed position and the argumentative skills necessary to defend it successfully, both orally and in writing. This course is designed to introduce students to the major in philosophy, but it is not a requirement that one be a philosophy major to take this course. Students considering a philosophy major or minor are encouraged to take this course. Serves as one of the two Critical Thinking Through Writing (CTW) courses required of all philosophy majors.

**PHIL 3010: History of Western Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval** *Sandra L. Dwyer TR 1:00 –2:15*

Development of European philosophy from the early Greeks to the Renaissance. This course will be an introduction to some of the major figures in ancient Greek philosophy: Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, the Stoics, and the Pyrrhonian skeptics.

**PHIL 3020: History of Western Philosophy II: Modern** *Edward Cox TR 11-12:15/Melissa Merritt MW 12-1:15*

Development of European philosophy from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. If there was ever a turning point in the history of philosophy — a time after which nothing was ever quite the same — we might point to Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy. "First philosophy" is the Aristotelian term for metaphysics (the general philosophical investigation into the nature of reality), and Descartes was responding to centuries of philosophical inquiry that took its cue from Aristotle. This course is a historical survey of metaphysics and epistemology — with continual glances to the impact of religion and theology on these subjects — in the early modern period.

**PHIL 3060 Existentialism** *Sebastian Rand TR 11:00 –12:15*

Do you ever have the feeling that everyone is just fooling themselves with all their talk of morality, justice, and goodness? Do you think it's unlikely that a puny, mortal, finite little human could have any relationship with a God worthy of the name? Do you sometimes think that all of human culture is a futile attempt to stave off thoughts of our inevitable death? If so, you've probably heard of Existentialism, and you may even think that Existentialism is the philosophy for you. In this course, you will have a chance to find out if that's true. We will start with the father of Existentialism, the devout Danish Protestant philosopher Kierkegaard, and follow its development through Germany into France, reading Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Heidegger, Sartre, De Beauvoir, and others along the way.

**PHIL 3720: Contemporary Moral Problems** *Samuel J. Julian TR 9:30-10:45*

Selected moral issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, environmentalism, genetic engineering, feminism, animal rights, gay and lesbian rights, and political violence. Brief coverage of ethical theories as they relate to the issues at hand.

**PHIL 3730: Business Ethics** *Jason Craig F 9-11:30, TR 9:30-10:45/ James A. Brown MW 5:30-6:45*

Moral issues in business, such as social responsibility, employee obligations and rights, ethics and the professions, marketing and advertising practices, and the environment. Issues in both domestic and international areas may be discussed. This course explores how ethical considerations such as justice, loyalty, obedience, honesty, and other moral principles may bear on the choices of persons who lead (or are part of) businesses, and how such principles may conflict. The course will consider the ethical consideration capitalist markets raise for business organizations (including the ethics in advertising and marketing). We will also study competing accounts of human rights and how such rights might shape organizational structures in light of personal privacy and institutional needs.

**PHIL 4010 Plato** *Timothy S. Okeefe TR 9:30-10:45*

This course will be an in-depth examination of the philosophy of Plato. We will look at Plato's metaphysics, philosophy of mind, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy. We will also be looking into the unity of Plato's thought (or lack thereof)--that is, can the positions put forward in various dialogues be reconciled with one another and made consistent, or not? In addition, we'll explore methodological challenges posed by Plato's use of the dialogue form--for instance, can we confidently assume that the character 'Socrates' in the dialogues is Plato's spokesman, or does Plato sometimes deliberately have Socrates advance fallacious arguments? And what are we to make of Plato's use of literary genres like eschatological myths within his dialogues? We will most likely be looking at the following dialogues, although this is subject to change: Euthyphro, Apology, Phaedo, Gorgias, Clitophon, Republic, Protagoras, Theaetetus, and Philebus.

**PHIL 4300 Metaphysics****Andrea Scarantino TR 2:30-3:45**

What kinds of things exist in the world? What makes two things identical? What are material objects, persons and events? Under what conditions does one thing cause another? Are there abstract entities? What is for something to be possible or necessary? Are there other possible worlds besides ours? These are some of the questions we will struggle with in this class. Why should we care about them? Because they determine the ground rules for answering foundational questions in ethics, philosophy of religion, aesthetics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and philosophy of language. Say you want to argue that God exists. Well, what is your theory of existence? Say you want to argue that water is H<sub>2</sub>O. Well, what is your theory of identity? Say you want to argue that our thoughts cause our actions. Well, what is your theory of causation? If you successfully complete this class, you will be able to tackle philosophical problems with much greater sophistication.

**PHIL 4330 Philosophy of Mind****George Graham F 9:00-11:30**

What sorts of minds do human beings have? Animals? Robots? Martians? God? Is the mental distinct from the physical? What is the nature of consciousness? Self-consciousness? And of other powers of mind? What can be learned about the mind from its failures and disorders? From irrationality? From addiction? Those are just some of the questions we will explore in this course. Some guest speakers from other philosophy departments will occasionally be deployed to discuss their work.

**PHIL 4530 Philosophy of Language****Stephen Jacobson TR 11:00-12:15**

The aim of this course is to read, write, and think intensively about a variety of topics in the philosophy of language—such as meaning, reference, theories of descriptions, verificationism, "use" theories of meaning, speech act theory, Grice's program, rigid designators, natural kind terms, and so on. Special attention will be given to the bearing of issues about language on philosophical theories regarding ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and logic.

**PHIL 4690 Topics in Philosophy of Religion: Phenomenology****Vincent Lloyd MW 3:00-4:15**

We will explore the starting point of philosophical inquiry and its relation to Jewish and Christian thought. Must philosophy start with experience, with ethics, with affect, with ritual, with religion? Authors we may read include Husserl, Heidegger, Buber, Levinas, Henry, and Marion.

**PHIL 4700: Ethics****Andrew I. Cohen TR 1:00-2:15**

A study of some leading historical and contemporary theories of what the good is, how we can know it, and what evaluative statements mean. The figures we study may include Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Hobbes, Hume, Kant, Mill, and some contemporary theorists such as Moore, Hare, Mackie, Gauthier, and Rawls. Class will be discussion/lecture. Student participation will be most welcome and often solicited. Course grade will be based on two critical essays, participation in class (including in-class presentations), summaries and critical reviews of readings, preparation of discussion questions, and a cumulative final examination. Graduate students will be asked to do more of each and prepare sample final examination questions.

**PHIL 4820 Philosophy of Law****Andrew I. Cohen MW 12:00-1:15**

This course explores the nature, justification, and proper scope of law. Using some case law and the works of legal philosophers, we will think philosophically about the foundations, structure, and legitimate applications of law. Topics may include: natural law and positivist theories of law; the foundation and limits of contract; political authority and the U.S. Constitution; civil disobedience and the duty to obey the law; theories of punishment; causation and theories of liability; ethical foundations to various criminal defenses; human liberty, personal privacy, and the scope of law.

**PHIL 4900 Classical Chinese Philosophy****Jonathan R. Herman TR 9:30-10:45**

Careful exploration of the surviving works from the golden age of Chinese thought (roughly 550-200 BCE), addressing such issues as transcendence, human nature, ethics, ritual, law, power, and death. Readings include the Analects of Confucius, Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching, and several works by lesser known thinkers from various philosophical schools.

**PHIL 4900 Islamic Law****Fareeha Khan TR 11:00-12:15**

Introduction to the study of Islamic Law (Shari'ah). The course will cover the development of Islamic legal methodology, the legal schools, and the process of pronouncing legal opinions (both in court and as "fatwa"). We will also discuss the relevance of Islamic Law and legal reform in contemporary times.