

Philosophy Courses

Fall 2013

All philosophy courses satisfy the Humanities requirement -- except 120, which counts as one of the two required courses in Math/Logic. 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. We also offer a concentration in Politics, Philosophy, and Law – the requirements can be found at www.philosophy.cofc.edu.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 33 semester hours in philosophy which must include 120; 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. *Note: A maximum of six hours of PHIL 398, 399, or 499 may be taken to satisfy the requirement of nine elective hours at or above the 300-level*

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 18 semester hours in philosophy which must include: Philosophy 101; Philosophy 120; 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.

CRN 10953	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Nadelhoffer	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 10954	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBA	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 10955	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBA	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 11599	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Grantham	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 11600	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Grantham	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 11601	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Lesses	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 11602	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Lesses	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 13272	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	Baker	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 13273	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	Baker	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 13274	PHIL 165 – PHILOSOPHY AND FEMINISM	Hough	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 13661	PHIL 170 – BIOMEDICAL ETHICS	Perlmutter	TR	12:15 – 1:30
CRN 10957	PHIL 201 – HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY	Lesses	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 13275	PHIL 205 - EXISTENTIALISM	Hough	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 11988	PHIL 208 – KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY	TBA	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 13277	PHIL 270 – PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	Nunan	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 13278	PHIL 280 - AESTHETICS	Neufeld	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 13279	PHIL 305 – TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: KANT	Krasnoff	TR	12:15 – 1:30
CRN 13280	PHIL 320 - METAPHYSICS	Coseru	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 13281	PPLW 400 – SEMINAR IN POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, AND THE LAW	Neufeld	TR	1:40 – 2:55

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 10953 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to some of the perennial questions of philosophy. During the semester we will examine four specific issues: Can the existence of God be proved (or disproved)? What does it mean to have a mind? Do humans have free will? What is the nature of morality? The goal of this course is to present students with a fair treatment of both sides of these philosophical issues so that they will be in a better position to develop well-founded opinions of their own about some of the fundamental problems of philosophy.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

TBA

CRN 10954 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

CRN 10955 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to issues in central areas of philosophy, including the nature of reality, knowledge, and morality.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Grantham

CRN 11599 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

CRN 11600 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course introduces three 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? Throughout, the emphasis will be on developing the skill of critically (but charitably) assessing arguments.

PHIL 120: Symbolic Logic

Prof. Lesses

CRN 11601 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

CRN 11602 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course serves as an introduction to the formal methods of deductive logic and aims to foster skills in abstract reasoning. You will learn: (1) to recognize and apply important logical distinctions, (2) to translate the statements and arguments of ordinary language into symbolic notation, (3) to derive a conclusion from a set of premises using the procedure of formal proofs, and (4) to interpret formal statements and arguments. 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. It does count toward the general education requirement in mathematics or logic.

PHIL 155: Environmental Ethics

Prof. Baker

CRN 13272 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

CRN 13273 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course we consider the questions being addressed by environmental ethicists. The questions they try to answer, sound, at first, rather abstract. What sort of value should be accorded the natural environment? How should we understand ourselves in relation to our environment? What do we owe the environment? What do we owe other animals? But the debates over these issues are lively, and whether we realize it or not, we already act in accordance with some answers to these questions (and not with others). In this class, we will push you to defend your own conclusions about what rights are, about our place in nature, and about what ethics really means. Along the way we will develop analytical skills that should be useful even outside of the topic of environmental ethics.

PHIL 165: Philosophy and Feminism

Prof. Hough

CRN 13274 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

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, Hume, Kant, Schopenhauer 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. Perlmutter

CRN 13661 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

NO PREREQUISITE

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 recent discussions surrounding health care reform in the United States. If time permits, we will explore issues involving behavior on the part of pregnant women that endangers the lives of their yet-to-be-born.

PHIL 201: History of Ancient Philosophy

Prof. Lesses

CRN 10957 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

PREREQUISITE: 3 semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

All of Western thought owes an incalculable debt to ancient Greek philosophy. What fascinated Greek philosophical thinkers accordingly constitutes a major part of the Western intellectual inheritance. This course examines the development of the philosophical views of (i) several early Greek thinkers, (ii) Socrates, (iii) Plato, and (iv) Aristotle. As much as possible, these philosophers will be read in the original sources in translation.

PHIL 205: Existentialism

Prof. Hough

CRN 13275 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

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 208: Knowledge and Reality

TBA

CRN 11988 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

A survey of major issues in metaphysics and epistemology. Topics may include the relation of mind and matter, causation, theories of justification, free will, and skepticism.

PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law

Prof. Nunan

CRN 13277 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE *but some prior exposure to Philosophy or other cognate disciplines (e.g., Political Science, Sociology, History, or Literary Criticism) would be helpful*

Rather than focusing on the actual content of the laws of a given legal system and how that system works to express and enforce those laws, Philosophy of Law is concerned with questions like: What *is* a legal system? What makes a law a law? Are there such things as good laws and bad laws? How can we tell? Why and when do we have a moral obligation to obey a law? Should laws be used to enforce a society's widely shared moral convictions? How much latitude should judges have to interpret law? On what grounds? During the first two-thirds of the course we will investigate many of these questions through a predominantly historical approach, starting in the 18th century with William Blackstone, but moving quickly to the 20th century. The last third of the course will be devoted to modern debates about proper methods of judicial adjudication in appellate courts (chiefly the Supreme Court). We will examine various illustrative court cases along the way.

PHIL 280: Aesthetics

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 13278 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

The course is a selective survey of the history and problems of aesthetics and philosophy of art. This will involve a multifaceted exploration of the relationship between art and knowledge, art and morality, and art and politics.

PHIL 305: Topics in the History of Philosophy: Kant

Prof. Krasnoff

CRN 22062 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

PREREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215, 216, or 120) or permission of the instructor.*

Intensive study in Kant's critical philosophy. About half of the course will be devoted to the *Critique of Pure Reason*; the remainder will be devoted to Kant's moral philosophy. Our focus will be on Kant's novel attempt to set out and defend standards of human reason.

PHIL 320: Metaphysics

Prof. Coseru

CRN 13280 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)

PREREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215, 216, or 120) or permission of the instructor.*

What are the different categories of existing (and possible) things? What kinds of relations exist among these things? What is a person, and what are the constitutive elements of personal identity? What is the nature of causality, agency, and the self? These questions belong in the domain of metaphysics – a branch of philosophy that is concerned with the nature of reality. Metaphysics considers such basic concepts as *existence, identity, possibility, quantity, quality, relation, substance, form, cause*, etc. In this course we will focus primarily on metaphysical questions about personal identity. We will also explore the impact of cognitive science, cognitive neuroscience, and phenomenology on our understanding of consciousness and cognition. We will also consider how the kinds of questions that are asked in metaphysics relate to questions in other areas of philosophy (such as epistemology and ethics).

PPLW 400: Seminar in PPLW: Authority & Obligation in Law

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 13281 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

PREREQUISITE: *Junior or senior philosophy or political science major and permission of the instructor.*

What are legal norms? What is it to obey the law? Why obey the law? What is it to break the law? Under what circumstances may I break the law? Under what circumstances *should* I break the law? This seminar will be a philosophical exploration of the concepts of legal authority and obligation, and their relationship to political legitimacy and morality. We will begin by looking at the conceptual foundations of legal authority and obligation and end with discussions of varieties of political disobedience. Readings may include selections from Joseph Raz, Kimberley Brownlee, David Estlund, Kent Greenawalt, Ruth Higgins, Jurgen Habermas, Margaret Gilbert, Leslie Green, John Rawls, Michel Foucault, Nancy Fraser, and others.