Philosophy Courses  
Spring 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.

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<th>CRN</th>
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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tr>
<td>21079</td>
<td>PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>Boyle</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>11:00 – 11:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>21080</td>
<td>PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>Boyle</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>12:00 – 12:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>21081</td>
<td>PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>Neufeld</td>
<td>MW</td>
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<tr>
<td>21082</td>
<td>PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>Neufeld</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>3:20 – 4:35</td>
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<tr>
<td>23665</td>
<td>PHIL 101 / PSYC 103 LC: UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN MIND</td>
<td>Nadelhoffer</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>9:25 – 10:40</td>
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<td>23666</td>
<td>PHIL 101 / PSYC 103 LC: UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN MIND</td>
<td>Nadelhoffer</td>
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<td>9:25 – 10:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>23298</td>
<td>PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING</td>
<td>Lesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>21735</td>
<td>PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
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<td>23296</td>
<td>PHIL 150 – NATURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY</td>
<td>Hettinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>21084</td>
<td>PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<td>22057</td>
<td>PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<td>22064</td>
<td>PHIL 175 – BUSINESS AND CONSUMER ETHICS</td>
<td>O'Dowd</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>9:00 – 9:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>22065</td>
<td>PHIL 175 – BUSINESS AND CONSUMER ETHICS</td>
<td>O'Dowd</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>10:00 – 10:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>21086</td>
<td>PHIL 202 - HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>Boyle</td>
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<td>21087</td>
<td>PHIL 203 – PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE</td>
<td>Baker</td>
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<td>23297</td>
<td>PHIL 255 – PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION</td>
<td>Perlmutter</td>
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<td>23299</td>
<td>PHIL 265 – PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE</td>
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<td>23300</td>
<td>PHIL 280 – AESTHETICS</td>
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<td>22062</td>
<td>PHIL 305 – TOPICS: THE GOOD LIFE</td>
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<tr>
<td>23301</td>
<td>PHIL 330 – PHILOSOPHY OF MIND</td>
<td>Nadelhoffer</td>
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<td>21089</td>
<td>PHIL 450 – SENIOR SEMINAR: CONSCIOUSNESS &amp; PERCEPTION</td>
<td>Coseru</td>
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**PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**
Prof. Boyle
CRN 21079 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)
CRN 21080 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)
NO PREREQUISITE

We will examine several traditional, fundamental philosophical questions that still have contemporary significance. Is knowledge possible? What are the sources of knowledge -- does all knowledge come to us ultimately through the senses, or is there anything that we know innately? What is it to be a person? Do we have free will, or are all of our actions determined by causal laws? What about God -- is it possible to prove that God exists? If God does exist, how can we explain the existence of evil in the world? What kinds of actions are morally right, which are morally wrong, and how can we justify our claims to know this?

**PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**
Prof. Neufeld
CRN 21081 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)
CRN 21082 (MW 3:30 – 4:35)
NO PREREQUISITE

This course covers four broad areas of philosophy: (1) Philosophy and religion: Do we have good reasons to think that a god exists? What kinds of reasons might these be? Is the existence of God compatible with the existence of evil in the world? (2) Skepticism and knowledge: When can we say we know something? How do we justify our beliefs? Do you know that you are not in the Matrix right now? Does it matter? (3) Body and Mind: What is the relationship between mind and body? Is the mind just the brain? What might turn on an answer to this question? (4) We choose the fourth topic together as a class. Topics might include freedom of the will, the nature of morality, or the justification of the exercise of political power.

**Learning Community PHIL 101/PSYC 103: Understanding the Human Mind**
Prof. Nadelhoffer
CRN 23665 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)
CRN 23666 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)
NO PREREQUISITE

Historically, questions about the nature of the human mind were understood to be philosophical. During the 19th Century, psychologists began to develop a more scientific understanding of the human mind. This Learning Community will examine how philosophical and psychological perspectives on the human mind are related. In particular, we will look at how philosophical arguments and psychological data can be brought to bear on topics such as: the “mind-body” problem (dualism v. materialism), freedom of the will, and the reliability of memory and sensory perception as sources of knowledge. We will also discuss ethical issues that arise in scientific research.

*Note: This course is part of the First Year Experience; only freshmen may enroll.*

**PHIL 115: Critical Thinking**
Prof. Lesses
CRN 23298 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)
NO PREREQUISITE

What is good reasoning? This course offers tools for effective reasoning, including how to recognize, analyze, and assess arguments. PHIL 115 is a practical, skills-oriented course that will help students to formulate, clarify, and defend their own sound beliefs.
PHIL 120: Symbolic Logic
Prof. Grantham
CRN 21735 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)
NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to the formal methods of deductive logic, including sentential and predicate logic. We will learn how to translate English sentences into a symbolic language and study a set of rules for making valid inferences within this language. 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. It does count toward the general education requirement in mathematics or logic.*

PHIL 150: Nature, Technology, and Society
Prof. Hettinger
CRN 23296 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)
NO PREREQUISITE

This course is an introduction to philosophical thinking about the relationships between technology, nature and society. It is divided into four parts. We first consider general issues in the philosophy of technology, focusing on Luddist philosophy (i.e., a skepticism toward the assumption that new technology always constitutes progress). Secondly, we examine some specific technologies, including biotechnology, information technology and geoengineering. We then study the possibility of human restoration of degraded nature and ask whether this technology can provide for a healthy human relationship with nature. In examining restoration, we hope to clarify different ways to think about nature. Finally, the course examines the critique of consumption and progress and considers simple living and ecological design as responses to concerns about technology’s effect on nature and society.

PHIL 155: Environmental Ethics
Prof. Baker
CRN 21084 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)
CRN 22057 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)
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 175: Business and Consumer Ethics
Prof. O'Dowd
CRN 22064 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)
CRN 22065 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)
NO PREREQUISITE

Am I morally obliged to buy fair trade chocolate? What is the place of work in a good life? When is it a moral duty to expose wrongdoing in one's workplace? This course aims to help you develop the skills required to construct good, reasoned arguments on these and other moral issues in economic life.
**PHIL 202: History of Modern Philosophy**
Prof. Boyle
CRN 21086 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)
PREREQUISITE: 3 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 203: Philosophy of Human Nature**
Prof. Baker
CRN 21087 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)
NO PREREQUISITE

Who do we think we are? Philosophers have always disagreed about how we are best described, and today, we also have scientific approaches to contend with. What do we tend to do? Why? Are we of different types? Are some people more moral than others? What are our characters made of? Does virtue exist? What does a sociopath share in common with the rest of us? How does addiction change us? What is the impact of our upbringing? How do our religious views impact the way we think? Do we tell ourselves unrealistic stories about human nature? Can we know ourselves? In this class we will learn both classic and contemporary and developing answers to these questions. We will practice the analytical skills that typify a philosophical approach.

**PHIL 255: Philosophy of Religion**
Prof. Perlmutter
CRN 23297 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)
NO PREREQUISITE

The course will begin with some Biblical texts, both to see the philosophical commitments of the texts and to examine ways of studying the Bible. We will consider some statements of creed and discuss their centrality to religious traditions. David Hume’s Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion will be examined next. The course will then become more thematic, reflecting on various issues in philosophy of religion, such as Pascal’s Wager, contemporary critiques of religion, such as Freud and Camus, and the relation between faith and reason.

*Note: This course may not be taken for credit if credit has been received for RELS 255.*

**PHIL 265: Philosophy of Science**
Prof. Grantham
CRN 23299 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50)
NO PREREQUISITE

Science shapes contemporary life in many ways. But what is science? What (if anything) makes scientific knowledge special? Is scientific knowledge different from other forms of understanding? We will examine several different twentieth century perspectives on science, including authors who defend the traditional view (i.e., that science is a body of objective knowledge and the scientific method will lead us to a more accurate understanding of the world). We will also explore the recent criticisms of this view based on historical and sociological investigations of science. Familiarity with one science or another (e.g., physics or biology) is helpful, but not required. No philosophical background is presupposed.
PHIL 280: Aesthetics
Prof. Hettinger
CRN 23300 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)
NO PREREQUISITE

This course explores philosophical issues in the aesthetic appreciation of art and nature. Questions include: What is art? (For example: Can food be art? Can a person be art?) Must good art express emotion? Does it make sense to be moved by fictional events or to enjoy movies that terrify and disgust us? If an artist intends her work to mean something and critics disagree, who is right? Can we distinguish between good/bad or better/worse art? For example, are the Beatles as good as Beethoven? We will also examine political and moral questions about art. For example, should art be publicly funded? Should it ever be censored or controlled by the public? Do moral values ever (usually, always?) trump aesthetic values? In the aesthetics of nature we ask how it differs (if at all) from the aesthetic appreciation of art. For example, should the aesthetic appreciation of nature be scientifically-informed (unlike art)? Is all nature beautiful (again, unlike art, where some is presumably ugly). Is environmental art “an aesthetic affront to nature” or does it have a positive contribution to environmental sensibility? The main goal of this course is to have each of you develop your own thinking about philosophical aesthetics in light of your knowledge of the field.

PHIL 305: Special Topic: The Good Life: Human Flourishing and Ancient Greek Ethical Inquiry
Prof. Lesses
CRN 22062 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)
PREREQUISITE: Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215, 216, or 120) or permission of the instructor.

What constitutes a good human life? In ancient Greek ethical inquiry, this question is at the center of vigorous philosophical debates. As they respond to one another, ancient Greek ethical theorists develop sophisticated positions with philosophical rigor and clarity that merit close scrutiny by anyone concerned with the nature of the good human life. Their responses also prompt them to address important, related ethical questions. What roles do reason and emotion play in a flourishing human existence? What about good fortune? Friendship? Pleasure? We will examine several ancient accounts of the good life in order to understand the nature of their answers and to appreciate the attractions and challenges of their philosophical views.

PHIL 330: Philosophy of Mind
Prof. Nadelhoffer
CRN 23301 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)
PREREQUISITE: Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215, 216, or 120) or permission of the instructor.

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to some of the perennial questions in the philosophy of mind—including, what does it mean to have a mind? What is the “mark of mentality?” What is the relationship between the mind and the body? What is the relationship between my “inner” mental states and my “outward” behavior? Can machines think? What do our beliefs refer to? What is the nature of consciousness? Is common-sense folk psychology threatened by the scientific study of mental states and processes?
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, to be aware, and to be immersed in something? What kind of structure does conscious experience have? How is perceptual consciousness different from emotion, memory, or imagination? As we examine our experience we immediately realize 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 fact that our consciousness appears to be always directed at something? Third, to what extent does our body, with its sensory and motor activity, shape our conscious experience? In this class, we will examine some of the ideas and theories about consciousness and perception that are at the heart of the interdisciplinary field of Consciousness Studies. We will draw from work in analytic philosophy of mind, phenomenology, cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience, and Buddhist philosophy.