

Philosophy Courses Fall 2016

All 100 and 200-level philosophy courses satisfy the Humanities requirement -- except 120, 198, and 298. We offer both a *major* and a *minor* in philosophy plus 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.

Philosophy majors who are interested in independent study options (including Internships, Bachelor's Essays, and Teaching Apprenticeships) should consult with the department chair or their advisor

CRN 10779	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Coseru	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 10780	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Coseru	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 10781	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Neufeld	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 11226	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	McKinnon	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 11277	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Grantham	MWF	1:00 – 1:50
CRN 11229	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Lesses	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 11228	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Lesses	MWF	11:00 – 15:50
CRN 11657	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	Baker	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 11658	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	Baker	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 11745	PHIL 170 – BIOMEDICAL ETHICS	Nadelhoffer	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 10782	PHIL 201 – HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY	Lesses	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 13410	PHIL 203 – PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE	Boyle	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 13405	PHIL 208 – KNOWLEDGE & REALITY	Coseru	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 13412	PHIL 260 – PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY	Grantham	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 13408	PHIL 270 – PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	Nadelhoffer	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 13409	PHIL 282 – PHILOSOPHY AND MUSIC	Neufeld	TR	12:15 – 1:30
CRN 13407	PHIL 305 – TOPIC HIST OF PHIL: KANT	Krasnoff	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 13667	PHIL 315 – ST: Economic Justice, Social Theory, & Public Policy	Goya-Tocchetto	MWR	10:00 – 10:50

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Coseru

CRN 10779 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

CRN 10780 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

What is the difference between knowledge and mere opinion? Can we be certain of anything? Are there universal criteria for distinguishing between right and wrong? Is there a universal good that can be known by all? Is there a relationship between virtue and happiness? Can we be truly free? Are ideas innate or acquired? What is the relation between reason and faith, or reason and experience? No matter what our answers to these questions, how are we to proceed? What role does culture, gender, politics, science play in shaping our views and our identities? Assuming that judgments and actions can be morally right or wrong, what aspects of actions make them so? Is it the consequence of an action, for example? Or the action itself? And, in general, what is the best way to live? What is the good life? We will examine a variety of answers to these questions through a combination of classical and modern readings.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 10871 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

NO PREREQUISITES

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?

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 11226 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will introduce students to a number of topics in contemporary philosophy, often drawing on the resources of other fields such as psychology, linguistics, and sociology. We'll cover a large range of topics including: whether it's rational to have a child; what we can know, and how we can learn from others; why we sometimes don't believe people who are telling the truth; why we sometimes make a plan but fail to follow through; racism, sexism, and privilege; how we can unintentionally discriminate against people; and other topics. This is a discussion based course, and topics are meant to challenge students' values and beliefs in a respectful learning space.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Grantham

CRN 11277 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course offers a general introduction to philosophy, focusing primarily on 4 major themes: (1) Religion: Are there good reasons to think God exists? Is God's existence compatible with evil in the world? (2) Knowledge: Can reason or experience provide objective knowledge of the world? (3) Ethics: Are some ethical beliefs objective or is all ethical reasoning fundamentally subjective? 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? (4) Freedom of the Will: If minds are nothing but collections of mindless particles governed by deterministic laws, is free will possible? Throughout, the emphasis will be on developing the skill of critically (but charitably) assessing arguments.

PHIL 120: Symbolic Logic

Prof. Lesses

CRN 11229 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

CRN 11228 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

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 11657 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

CRN 11658 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

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 170: Biomedical Ethics

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 11745 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

NO PREREQUISITE

The application of ethical theories to issues and problems in biomedical ethics such as abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering and genetic counseling, behavior control, death and dying, and medical experimentation.

PHIL 201: History of Ancient Philosophy

Prof. Lesses

CRN 10782 (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 203: Philosophy of Human Nature

Prof. Boyle

CRN 13410 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITES

What does it mean to be human? Are human beings naturally good, bad, or neither? To what extent are we shaped by society, and to what extent by biology? Do men and women have different natures? Do races exist? Drawing on ancient, early modern, Enlightenment, and contemporary sources, we will examine some of the thinkers and religious traditions that have tackled these questions.

PHIL 208: Knowledge and Reality

Prof. Coseru

CRN 13405 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

What does it mean to be human? Are human beings naturally good, bad, or neither? To what extent are we shaped by society, and to what extent by biology? Do men and women have different natures? Do races exist? Drawing on ancient, early modern, Enlightenment, and contemporary sources, we will examine some of the thinkers and religious traditions that have tackled these questions.

PHIL 260: Philosophy of Biology

Prof. Grantham

CRN 13412 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

This course will introduce some central issues in the rapidly growing field of philosophy of biology. We'll discuss questions at the intersection of biology and philosophy. Possible topics include: How is the scientific theory of evolution related to religious worldviews? Does biology contain universal "laws"? How should we understand key concepts in evolutionary theory (fitness, adaptation, chance)? Do species and other taxonomic groups exist as "real" categories (out there in the world), or are they merely human constructions? Can natural selection explain altruism (e.g., when an animal puts itself at risk in order to help others)? To what extent can human behavior be explained genetically or evolutionarily? Can the study of biology be value-free? If not, does that undermine the objectivity of biology?

PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 13408 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course is a comprehensive introduction to some of the perennial issues in the philosophy of law. We will focus on theories of law—i.e., accounts of the origin, nature, and justification of law—and on other jurisprudential issues such as law and morality, legal interpretation, law and liberty, and the limits and justification of criminal sanctions. Students will be familiarized with the works of both classical and contemporary legal and political theorists as well as some of the legal cases that have shaped contemporary American law. By the end of the course, students will have gained a solid understanding of different schools of legal thought as well as the tools to decipher legal opinions. The course will be focused primarily on answers to the following questions: What is law? What is the proper relationship between morality and law? How is the U.S. Constitution to be interpreted? What ought to be the limits of our political and legal freedoms? What are the goals and limits of criminal sanctions? The readings for the final section on punishment are drawn from not only philosophy and law but also neuroscience. The goal during this final stretch of the course will be to get you to venture into the applied philosophy of law and test the interdisciplinary waters.

PHIL 282: Philosophy and Music

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 13409 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course, we will focus on three broad interlocking problems in the philosophy of music: (1) Musical Meaning and expression: How does music mean? It seems like a kind of language, but I couldn't translate a piece of music into another language without fundamentally changing what it means. Some have said that music is "the language of the emotions." Does music express emotions? How? Whose? The composer's? The listeners? (2) Ontology and Performance: What kind of the thing is a piece of music (song, quartet, symphony)? How is that thing related to its performances? How does the answer to this question affect the way we evaluate music? (3) Music and Politics: Music plays a central role in a number of social activities and often finds itself at the center of political movements and controversies (Wagner in Nazi Germany; folk music in the 30s; rock music in the 60s; hip-hop and rap in the 80s; just to name a few). What, if anything, does the music itself have to do with political movements? No specialized knowledge of music is required, but we will do some listening.

PHIL 305: Topics in History of Philosophy: Kant

Prof. Krasnoff

CRN 13407 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

PREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 120) or permission of the instructor.*

Intensive study in Kant's critical philosophy. Our focus will be on Kant's claim that standards of rationality cannot be found in any natural or supernatural source; instead they are constructed by the activity of human beings. About half of the course will be devoted to the Critique of Pure Reason; the rest will be devoted to Kant's moral philosophy.

PHIL 315: Topics in Political/Social Phil: Economic Theory, Social Justice, & Public Policy

Prof. Goya-Tocchetto

CRN 13667 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

PREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 120) or permission of the instructor.*

One of the main goals of economic theory is to explain how societies both create and distribute income and wealth. In this course we will explore a variety of ethical and economic issues involved in these processes. Our readings will be drawn from classical economists such as Adam Smith, Frederic Bastiat, and Karl Marx, and from contemporary philosophers such as David Schmidtz, Peter Singer, and Debra Satz. These readings will explore issues involving the origin and justification of private property, the role of prices and opportunity cost in market exchange, the economic and ethical implications of the Welfare State, and the problem of global poverty.