

# Philosophy Courses

## Spring 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](http://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 20794	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Hettinger	TR	12:15 – 1:30
CRN 20795	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Hettinger	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 20796	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Hough	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 20797	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Lesses	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 21623	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Nadelhoffer	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 23442	PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING	Boyle	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 23443	PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING	Boyle	MWF	1:00 – 1:50
CRN 21247	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Krasnoff	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 21827	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Krasnoff	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 22025	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Grantham	MWF	1:00 – 1:50
CRN 23444	PHIL 160 – ETHICS & SPORTS	Baker	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 23445	PHIL 160 – ETHICS & SPORTS	Baker	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 23449	PHIL 175 – BUSINESS & CONSUMER ETHICS	McKinnon	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 23452	PHIL 185 – PHILOSOPHY & FILM	Nunan	TR R	10:50 – 12:05 3:05 – 5:35
CRN 20798	PHIL 202 – HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY	Boyle	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 23447	PHIL 205 – EXISTENTIALISM	Hough	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 23448	PHIL 205 – EXISTENTIALISM	Hough	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 23446	PHIL 265 – PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE	Grantham	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 22022	PHIL 270 – PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	Nadelhoffer	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 23451	PHIL 280 – AESTHETICS	Neufeld	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 22018	PHIL 305 – TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHIL: THE GOOD LIFE	Lesses	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 23450	PHIL 325 – THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE	McKinnon	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 20799	PHIL 450 – SEMINAR IN PHIL: CONSCIOUSNESS: PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATES	Coseru	TR	12:15 – 1:30

### **PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Hettinger

CRN 20794 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

CRN 20795 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

NO PREREQUISITE

What makes actions right or wrong? Are morality and beauty in the eye of the beholder? Is religious belief rational? Can society legitimately tell individuals what to do? What do we owe animals, if anything? Are women different than (or inferior to?) men? Is everything (including our minds) purely physical? Are we determined to behave as we do? This course explores these questions while introducing you to some major branches of philosophy: ethics (our main focus), aesthetics, philosophy of religion, epistemology, social and political philosophy, and metaphysics.

### **PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Hough

CRN 200796 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)

NO PREREQUISITES

What is a human being? Our beliefs about the human constitution necessarily shape our sense of what is good for us (indeed, the realization, actualization or fulfillment of our nature is usually the aim of an ethical account). Do human creatures have immortal souls, or souls of a very different sort? Are we essentially rational? Political? Products of our culture, or beings already equipped with knowledge? Do our lives mean anything? Is human life part of a grand cosmic scheme, or is it a meaningless series of actions and accidents? Is the cosmos moral and just? Can a life that ends in calamity be redeemed? What is redemption?

### **PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Lesses

CRN 20797 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

We often have perplexing questions about how we should lead our lives, the possibility and scope of knowledge, and the nature of our place in the world. In this course, we will consider several of these fundamental and enduring issues, including:

- Is knowledge possible and, if so, what is its basis?
- What reasons, if any, do we have for accepting the existence of God?
- Are we simply arrangements of mindless, physical stuffs and, if so, can we ever act freely?
- Is it possible to justify any of our basic moral beliefs?

This course aims to help you gain an understanding of several influential classical and contemporary philosophical discussions of these questions and, just as importantly, to develop your own facility to engage in critical reflection as you examine them.

### **PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 21623 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

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 three specific issues: Does God exist? 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 115: Critical Thinking**

Prof. Boyle

CRN 23442 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

CRN 23443 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course on critical thinking offers basic lessons in how we reason and how we can reason well. We will examine how to explain, clarify, support, illustrate, defend, and refute claims. It is a practical, skills-oriented course which will provide students with tools for understanding and evaluating the kinds of arguments we constantly encounter in everyday life.

**PHIL 120: Symbolic Logic**

Prof. Krasnoff

CRN 21247 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

CRN 21827 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

Analysis of arguments using the tools of mathematical logic. Since Socrates, Western philosophy has asked that we argue for our beliefs on the basis of reasons. Logic is the branch of philosophy which asks: what makes an argument rationally convincing? We will develop a formal, mathematical language that will allow us to translate an important set of arguments from ordinary English, and proof techniques for the mathematical language that will allow us to determine with precision whether those arguments are valid, and thus should be accepted if their premises are true.

*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 120: Symbolic Logic**

Prof. Grantham

CRN 22025 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50)

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 160: Ethics & Sports**

Prof. Baker

CRN 23444 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

CRN 23445 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this class we will focus on the philosophical nature of sports. We will study their ancient origins and then the more modern precedents of sports as we know them today, with an eye to what was intended to result from professional and non-professional sport. We will then turn to contemporary philosophy on the meaning of life and look to several sources, including Kerry Howley's novella *Thrown*, in order to assess the particular contribution sports makes to a life. Finally, we will turn to current debates in the field of "philosophy of sport." Students will relate the controversies to a sport of their choosing in their final papers.

### **PHIL 175: Business and Consumer Ethics**

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 23449 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will introduce students to classic and contemporary issues in business ethics. Students will gain a background in a variety of ethical theories, which they will learn to apply to contemporary problems. We will consider topics including: do corporations have responsibilities to society? Do we have duties to the environment and future generations? Should whistleblowers be protected? How do we treat diversity and discrimination in the workplace? Should we promote affirmative action policies? Students will finish this course having gained skills in reasoning through difficult ethical situations, and having learned how to produce professional written reports analyzing such situations.

### **PHIL 185: Philosophy and Film**

Prof. Nunan

CRN 23452 (TR 10:50 – 12:05, R 3:05 – 5:35)

NO PREREQUISITE

A focus on philosophical problems that arise in films, and on ways in which films reflect or even cultivate popular cultural treatment of some philosophical themes. Some of the films we examine will be quite self-consciously philosophical (e.g., *A Clockwork Orange*, *Minority Report*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Memento*), but sometimes films will have no philosophical aspirations (e.g., *Casablanca*) or only modest philosophical content, on the surface (e.g., *A Man For All Seasons*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*). Our main text will be Dan Shaw's new book, *Morality and the Movies*.

In addition to a regular class time on Monday & Wednesday afternoons, participating students are expected to attend the once-a-week film screening slot Thursday afternoons, 3:05-5:35. No previous background in philosophy is assumed.

### **PHIL 202: History of Modern Philosophy**

Prof. Boyle

CRN 20798 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

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 205: Existentialism**

Prof. Hough

CRN 23447 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

CRN 23448 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

*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. questions.

### **PHIL 207: Philosophy of Law**

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 22022 (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 265: Philosophy of Science**

Prof. Grantham

CRN 23446 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will survey philosophical theories about the nature of science, focusing particularly on the nature of scientific reasoning (“the scientific method”), theories, laws, and explanations. Particular attention will be given to Thomas Kuhn’s structuralist/historical view. Throughout the course, we will focus on the question of scientific realism – that is, whether we have good grounds for thinking that science is progressively approaching the truth about the world.

### **PHIL 280: Aesthetics**

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 23451 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

What is art? What are judgments of beauty? Do moral & political judgments affect aesthetic judgments? These are some of the questions addressed by this selective survey of the history and problems of aesthetics and philosophy of art.

### **PHIL 305: Topics in the History of Philosophy: The Good Life**

Prof. Lesses

CRN 22018 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

PREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 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, philosophically rigorous positions 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 325: Theory of Knowledge**

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 23450 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

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

This course will introduce students to classic and contemporary issues in epistemology. We'll cover a number of topics such as: what knowledge is, and why it's more valuable than true belief; what makes a belief a good belief, and what difference there may be between a true belief and knowledge; how we pass knowledge on to others through testimony; how we put knowledge to work in assertions and social knowledge networks; feminist critiques of epistemology; epistemic injustice and oppression; and skepticism.

**PHIL 450: Seminar in Philosophy: Consciousness: Philosophical Debates**

Prof. Coseru

CRN 20799 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

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 it is like to have these experiences? What are the many varieties of conscious experience? How does perceptual consciousness differ from emotion, memory, or imagination? Is a sense of self or of one's own identity implicit in consciousness? How does consciousness relate or correlate with brain activity, and what are some of the theories and problems associated with attempts to explain consciousness in physical and biological terms? This seminar will focus on the "big questions" in the interdisciplinary field of consciousness studies. We will primarily draw from work in philosophy of mind, phenomenology, cognitive neuroscience, and Buddhist philosophy.

PREREQUISITE: *Junior or senior philosophy major with at least nine previous semester hours in philosophy (other than 120), one of which must be a 300-level course, and permission of the instructor.*

