

Philosophy Courses

Fall 2017

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:

Students starting at CoFC before Fall 2016: 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.

Students starting at CoFC during or after Fall 2016: 33 semester hours in philosophy which must include 120; 201; 202; and 450. Of the remaining 21 hours of electives in philosophy, at least 3 hours must be taken in value theory courses; 12 hours must be taken in courses at or above the 200 level; and least nine hours must be taken 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 10727	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Hough	MWF	9:50 – 9:50
CRN 10728	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBD	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 10729	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBD	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 12807	PHIL 101 – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBD	MWF	1:00 – 1:50
CRN 11126	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBD	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 13894	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Krasnoff	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 30344	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (Summer I)	Grantham	M-F	10:00 – 11:45
CRN 13242	PHIL 105 – CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES	Nadelhoffer	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 13237	PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING	Boyle	MWF	1:00 – 1:50
CRN 30790	PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING (Maymester)	Neufeld		Online
CRN 11127	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Nunan	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 11128	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Nunan	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 30324	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC (Extended Summer)	Nunan		Online
CRN 11573	PHIL 170 – BIOMEDICAL ETHICS	TBD	TR	3:20 – 4:35
CRN 30791	PHIL 170 – BIOMEDICAL ETHICS (Summer II)	Nadelhoffer	M-F	2:00 – 3:45
CRN 10730	PHIL 201 – HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY	Baker	TR	12:15 – 1:30
CRN 13243	PHIL 206 – Topics: Rights, Punishment, & the Race to Incarcerate	Nadelhoffer	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 13240	PHIL 207 - ETHICS	Krasnoff	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 13239	PHIL 234 – EASTERN PHILOSOPHY	Coseru	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 13241	PHIL 298 – SPECIAL TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO TRANS STUDIES	McKinnon	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 12322	PHIL 305 – Tpcs Hist PHIL – Personal Identity in the History of Phil	Boyle	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 13238	PHIL 307 – 20 TH CENTURY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY	Hough	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 11498	PPLW 400 – PPLW Seminar: Democratic Theory	Nunan	MW	2:00 – 3:15

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Hough

CRN 10727 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

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?

In order to answer these questions, we will read from a number of influential accounts of human nature, both ancient and modern. These philosophical models of the self will guide our exploration of what it means to be human, and what the best kind of life for a human truly is.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

CRN 10728 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

CRN 10729 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

CRN 12807 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50)

CRN 11126 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

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. Krasnoff

CRN 13894 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

Philosophy is a kind of questioning of our ordinary beliefs. Philosophy makes, or at least investigates, a demand for a kind of deeper justification of those beliefs. What reasons do we have for thinking or acting as we now do, and how can we show that our reasons are good ones? In this class we will investigate the nature of this philosophical demand for reasons. What kind of justification are philosophers looking for, and why are they looking for it? Can we reasonably expect that they will be able to find it, and would finding it count as a good thing? We will address these questions by examining the work of four historically influential philosophers (Plato, Descartes, Hume, Nietzsche), and by evaluating their answers for ourselves.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy (Summer I)

Prof. Grantham

CRN 30344 (MTWFF 10:00 – 11:45)

NO PREREQUISITES

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 105: Contemporary Moral Issues

Prof. Nadelhoffer
CRN 13242 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)
NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to ethics examining contemporary issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, terrorism, race, gender, and sexual orientation

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Boyle
CRN 13237 (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 115: Critical Thinking (Maymester – online)

Prof. Neufeld
CRN 30790
NO PREREQUISITE

An examination of methods for the critical analysis of arguments in such contexts as science, law and morality, including a consideration of the use of language and definition and the detection of errors in reasoning in everyday communication. Skills in critical reading, writing and thinking will be introduced.

PHIL 120: Symbolic Logic

Prof. Nunan
CRN 11229 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)
CRN 11228 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)
CRN 30324 (Online – Extended Summer)
NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to the formal methods of deductive logic, both when complete sentences are the smallest unit of logical analysis used in an argument (propositional logic), and when arguments depend on what's going on inside the sentences (predicate logic). You will study techniques for translating English sentences into a symbolic language, be introduced to sets of rules for making valid inferences within this language, and formal techniques for establishing when arguments are invalid, too. Learning how to use this formal system will build abstract reasoning skills, teach you how to recognize and construct valid arguments, and develop your ability to detect logical errors in reasoning.

This material is somewhat like a math course, and counts toward the math/logic General Education distribution requirement (not towards the humanities/arts distribution requirement). No prior background in logic is assumed. The course will involve weekly graded homework exercises, plus three exams.

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 170: Biomedical Ethics

CRN 11573 (TR 3:20 – 4:35)
CRN 30791 (MTWRF 2:00 – 3:45 Summer II)
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 170: Biomedical Ethics

CRN 11573 (TR 3:20 – 4:35)

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. Baker

CRN 10730 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

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. In this course we will look to the metaphysical, epistemic, and ethical views of Plato, Aristotle, the Epicureans, and the Stoics. We will these philosophers will be read in the original sources in translation.

PHIL 206: Topics in Law & Morality: Rights, Punishment, and the Race to Incarcerate

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 13410 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITES

The course is designed to be an interdisciplinary exploration of a timely issue that cuts across moral and legal philosophy, sociology, political theory, critical race theory, and public policy—namely, the philosophy of rights and race as they apply to the issue of mass incarceration. We will begin the course with a brief excavation of the philosophy of rights and the philosophy of punishment with an eye towards making sense of the recent and current use of mass incarceration as instrument of state power (for the stated purposes of crime control). Given the trend toward the privatization of prisons, these worries are all the more pressing today. After reading material ranging from Aristotle and Aquinas to Fanon and Foucault, we will turn our attention to a more recent book by Michael Alexander entitled, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration the Era of Colorblindness* (The New Press 2012).

PHIL 207: Ethics

Prof. Krasnoff

CRN 13240 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

A survey of some the most important ethical theories in Western practical philosophy, focusing on Aristotle, Hume, and Kant. We will consider both the theoretical problems these philosophers were trying to solve as well as the relevance of their arguments for particular ethical issues.

PHIL 234: Eastern Philosophy

Prof. Coseru

CRN 13239 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

NO PREREQUISITE

What is the nature of reality? What is the nature of mind? What is knowledge? What is virtue? What is the best way to live? In this course we examine how Indian, Chinese, and Buddhist philosophers have addressed these questions, and evaluate their specific methods of inquiry. Where appropriate, we also draw parallels to comparable developments in Western philosophy. We begin by exploring some of the earliest conceptions of self as articulated by Sāṃkhya, Yoga, and Cārvāka philosophers in India. We then proceed to examine the philosophical tenets of Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika philosophers, and their long-standing debate with the Buddhists on such issues as personal identity and the limits of thought. We also examine central issues in Buddhist philosophy of mind and moral psychology. Our exploration of classical Chinese thought covers Kongzi's and Mozi's analyses of human nature and society, their systematic development by Mengzi and Zhuangzi, and alternative ethical models such as Yang Zhu's egoism and Xunzi's naturalism. Throughout the course we also consider whether non-Western philosophy can be translated using the vocabulary and conceptual resources of Western philosophy, and—when such translation projects prove to be problematic—how best to overcome these linguistic and conceptual barriers.

PHIL 298: Introduction to Trans Studies

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 13241 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will introduce students to historical and contemporary issues in trans studies. Trans studies is an emerging discipline, though it is interdisciplinary in nature. We will approach issues by drawing from various fields such as philosophy, sociology, psychology, health studies, anthropology, queer studies, critical race theory, public policy, political science, activism, and others. Topics will include: what is gender, and what does it mean to be transgender? What, if any, is the relationship between sex and gender? What does “trans*” mean and what language do we use to talk about trans* lives? What issues and struggles have trans* people faced and continue to face? How does intersectionality contribute to trans* oppression? How should we think about trans* athletes and their right to compete? Do trans* people have a duty to come out to romantic or sexual partners? What are the politics of inclusion/exclusion from, for example, women-only spaces? What sorts of media representations are available, and what is the “cis gaze”?

PHIL 305: Topics in History of Philosophy: Personal Identity in the History of Philosophy

Prof. Boyle

CRN 13407 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

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

We tend to think of ourselves as persisting through time: for example, when we hold people responsible for their earlier actions, we assume that we are holding accountable *the same person* as the person who committed the earlier act; when you look at an old photo and say “That’s me,” you assume that you are, in some sense, the same person as the person in the photograph. But what is a person, or self, and what reasons do we have for thinking that personal identity persists over time? If my mind somehow were to be divided, then what would happen to *me* – would I persist? Is it possible for the self to continue to exist after death? Should I care about what happens to my future self, and, if so, why?

Many of the arguments and issues about personal identity that philosophers debate today actually took shape in the early modern period, the 17th and 18th centuries. This course will focus on how philosophers from this time grappled with questions of what makes a person the same over time and how the self is constituted. We will read works by some familiar major figures, such as Descartes, Hume, and Kant, as well as works by lesser-known philosophers such as Thomas Reid and Joseph Butler; we will also read works by philosophers whose work is only now being rediscovered, such as Catherine Trotter Cockburn, William Hazlitt, and Lady Mary Shepherd. Along the way, will also read some 20th- and 21st-century articles to examine how these earlier philosophers’ arguments shaped contemporary discussions of personal identity.

PHIL 307: 20th Century Continental Philosophy

Prof. Hough

CRN 13238 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)

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

We will begin with a survey of some of the central philosophical concerns of the nineteenth-century 'Continental' tradition; we will then trace the development of these views on the nature of the self and the sources of meaning through the work of Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre and Merleau-Ponty. A central question will be the structure of the modern subject: is a person essentially a stream of mental experiences, positing meaning in the world, or is a person first and foremost a 'lived body,' one that is shaped by the culture that produced it?

PPLW 400: Seminar in Politics, Philosophy, and Law: Democratic Theory

Prof. Nunan

CRN 11498 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

PREQUISITE: *Declared Philosophy or Political Science major and permission of the instructor.*

In our most recent presidential election, the candidate who received the most votes was the loser, and the winning candidate had a negative approval rating. What does this mean for the idea that the United States is a democratic country? We will examine a variety of theoretical frameworks that can be brought to bear on this question, including justificatory and critical views about the true purpose(s) of democratic elections generally, about what qualifies them to be called 'democratic', about the function of the Electoral College, about apportionment practices, and about different types of voting schemes.