

Philosophy Courses

Spring 2018

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 20712	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (section 1)	Coseru	TR	12:15 – 1:30
CRN 20713	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (section 2)	Coseru	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 20714	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (section 3)	Nadelhoffer	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 20715	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (section 4)	Hick	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 21965	PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING	Baker	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 23464	PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING	Baker	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 21102	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC (section 1)	Grantham	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 21516	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC (section 2)	Grantham	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 23469	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS (section 1)	Hick	TR	9:25 - 10:40
CRN 23470	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS (section 1)	Hick	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 21967	PHIL 175 –BUSINESS & CONSUMER ETHICS	McKinnon	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 20716	PHIL 202 – HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY	Boyle	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 23466	PHIL 205 – EXISTENTIALISM	Hough	TR	12:15 – 1:30
CRN 23465	PHIL 209 – POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	Baker	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 23468	PHIL 270 – PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	Nadelhoffer	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 23471	PHIL 280 – AESTHETICS	Hick	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 23414	PHIL 298 – ST: INTRO TO TRANS* STUDIES	McKinnon	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 23467	PHIL 335 –PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE	McKinnon	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 20717	PHIL 450 – SR SEMNR: KIERKEGAARD, NIETZSCHE, AND THE NATURE OF THE SELF	Hough	TR	9:25 – 10:40

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Coseru

CRN 20712 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

CRN 20713 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

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. Nadelhoffer

CRN 20714 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

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 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Hick

CRN 20715 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

NO PREREQUISITES

This is a general introduction to philosophy, designed to acquaint students with certain significant problems as they are considered by major philosophical figures. These are not esoteric questions but instead ones central to ordinary human experience. Students will be encouraged to formulate and defend their own answers to these questions, using the concepts and methods of inquiry introduced in the course. This process will help improve students' abilities to think more critically and to communicate with greater clarity and precision.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Baker

CRN 21965 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

CRN 23464 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

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. Grantham

CRN 21102 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

CRN 21516 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

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 155: Environmental Ethics

Prof. Hick

CRN 23469 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

CRN 23470 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

Environmental ethics examines the moral issues of our relationship with the rest of the world around us: What do we owe the environment? What do we owe the other creatures that live on this planet? What do we owe future generations? Why should I care if the planet is warming up? Why should I care if species are dying off? What is it I'm supposed to be sustaining? Is that even possible? Should we be working to *restore* nature to some pristine wilderness state? Why? What's so great about wilderness anyway? This course will introduce you to a variety of environmental issues from a philosophical perspective, to get you to think seriously about the moral dimensions in our relationship with our environment.

PHIL 175: Business & Consumer Ethics

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 21967 (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 202: History of Modern Philosophy

Prof. Boyle

CRN 20716 (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 23466 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

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.

PHIL 209 Political Philosophy

Prof. Baker

CRN 23465 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

NO PREREQUISITE

A study of historical and/or contemporary positions in political philosophy. Topics may include the nature of and justification for government, justice, liberty, equality, and human rights.

PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law

Prof. Nadehoffer

CRN 23648 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)

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, and the limits and justification of criminal sanctions. Students will be familiarized with works from both classical and contemporary legal and political theorists as well as some of the legal cases that have shaped contemporary American law. 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 are the goals and limits of criminal sanctions? Finally, we will discuss what role, if any, recent advances in neuroscience and genetics should have in determinations of criminal responsibility? This final topic will help highlight both the practical side of the philosophy of law and the importance of interdisciplinarity when it comes to legal theorizing.

PHIL 280: Aesthetics

Prof. Hick

CRN 23471 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

We spend a lot of our time with the arts—we read novels and poetry, we watch movies and television, we go to art galleries and the theater. Some works of art are simply distractions from our own lives. But others (and not always the ones we expect) raise important philosophical questions:

- If I weave a basket, is it art? If so, is it art in the same way that the *Mona Lisa* is art? What is the difference between art and craft?
- Why is a perfect copy of a novel like *Lord of the Flies* a genuine instance of the novel, but a perfect copy of a statue like Michelangelo's *David* is only a reproduction?
- Why do we get sad, excited, and frightened by what happens to characters in shows like *Game of Thrones*? After all, don't we know the characters are *fictional*?
- What does it matter if Scarlett Johansson plays the part of a character originally written as Asian?

These questions and many others besides will serve to frame discussion in the class as we investigate theories of art and beauty from the Ancient Greeks to the present.

PHIL 298: Special Topic: Intro to Trans* Studies

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 23649 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50, M 3:25 – 6:00)

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 335: Philosophy of Language

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 23467 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

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

This course is a survey of some of the classic and contemporary issues and debates in the philosophy of language. We'll focus on what we say to each other, and what we do with words. Some classic topics include theories of semantics, speech act theory, and communication pragmatics. We'll also consider some contemporary topics such as lying, bullshitting, misleading, propaganda, silencing speech, slurs, hate speech, and how gender influences language and communication. When possible, we will tie our discussions into current events.

PHIL 450: Senior Seminar: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and the Nature of the Self

Prof. Hough

CRN 20717 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

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.*

Kierkegaard, the Christian philosopher, Nietzsche the avowed ‘Anti-Christian’? Not so fast. In this seminar we will investigate the central texts of these legendary 19th-Century thinkers, and work to dispel many of the myths and prejudices that surround their work, especially their views on the nature of the self. The many and strange affinities between their epistemological and anti-metaphysical views will be explored, as well as their shared philosophical use of many literary styles, including aphorism, parable, dramatic narrative, epistle, and polemic.