

# Philosophy Courses

## Spring 2019

All 100 and 200-level philosophy courses satisfy the Humanities requirement -- except 120. 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:

*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 20651	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (section 1)	Leder	MWF	12:00 – 12:50
CRN 20652	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (section 2)	Hemmenway	TR	3:05 – 4:20
CRN 20653	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (section 3)	Hough	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 23228	PHIL 105 – CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES	Leder	MW	2:00 – 3:15
CRN 21659	PHIL 115 – CRITICAL THINKING (online)	Neufeld		
CRN 21013	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC (section 1)	Grantham	MWF	10:00 – 10:50
CRN 21380	PHIL 120 – SYMBOLIC LOGIC (section 2)	Grantham	MWF	11:00 – 11:50
CRN 22209	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS (section 1)	Sullivan	TR	8:00 – 9:15
CRN 22210	PHIL 155 – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS (section2)	Sullivan	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 23229	PHIL 170 – BIOMEDICAL ETHICS	Specker Sullivan	MWF	8:00 – 8:50
CRN 23230	PHIL 170 – BIOMEDICAL ETHICS	Specker Sullivan	MWF	9:00 – 9:50
CRN 21660	PHIL 175 –BUSINESS & CONSUMER ETHICS	McKinnon	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 23231	PHIL 185 – PHILOSOPHY & FILM	Nunan	TR W	1:40 – 2:55 3:25 – 6:00
CRN 20655	PHIL 202 – HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY	Boyle	TR	10:50 – 12:05
CRN 22205	PHIL 209 – POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	Hemmenway	TR	1:40 – 2:55
CRN 22208	PHIL 270 – PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	Nunan	TR	9:25 – 10:40
CRN 23232	PHIL 315 – ST In Social & Political Philosophy: CONSERVATISM	Krasnoff	MW	3:25 – 4:40
CRN 23741	PPLW 400 – PPLW Capstone: REPRODUCTION & THE LAW	Curtis	MW	4:00 – 5:15
CRN 20656	PHIL 450 – Senior Seminar: WHO KNOWS BEST? PATERNALISM & AUTONOMY	Specker Sullivan	MW	2:00 – 3:15

**PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Leder

CRN 20651 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to philosophy through an examination of ethical, political, and social problems. This course is not a review of the history of philosophy. Rather, the course is focused on current attempts to answer some of the fundamental problems of modern life.

**PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Hemmenway

CRN 20652 (TR 3:05 – 4:20)

NO PREREQUISITES

This course will introduce you to philosophy by means of a careful study of works by four major philosophers of our tradition: Plato, Descartes, Rousseau, and Sartre. Some of the many questions we will raise are the following: What is human virtue, and is it possible to teach it? Is it worthwhile to examine thoroughly one's beliefs and opinions? What can we know for certain and how do we attain that knowledge? On what do we base our standards of social justice? What is the meaning of human existence?

**PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Hough

CRN 20653 (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?—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 105: Contemporary Moral Issues**

Prof. Leder

CRN 23228 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

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 115: Critical Thinking**

Prof. Neufeld  
CRN 21659 (Online Course)  
NO PREREQUISITE

Everywhere we look, we find **arguments** trying to persuade us of the truth of one claim or another. We are told that a scientific study proves one thing, and then later that a different scientific study proves the exact opposite. Conflicting claims are made on television, the internet, in advertisements, in newspapers, and in everyday interaction with other people. How do we evaluate these claims? It's tempting to throw up your hands and claim we simply live in a "post-truth" era where there is no way to distinguish truth from falsehood, **good arguments** from bad ones, actual facts from "alternative facts." Tempting though it might be, this would be a hasty conclusion.

In this course we will investigate **everyday reasoning** and what makes arguments good or bad. If we would like only to be persuaded by good arguments, then we ought to have some criteria and some **tools of analysis** we can use to distinguish good arguments from lousy ones. Happily, there are many. The goal of this course is to learn about some of these tools and how to use them to analyze actual arguments. Along with our text, we will use actual arguments drawn from actual controversies that we find in our daily lives.

## **PHIL 120: Symbolic Logic**

Prof. Grantham  
CRN 21013 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)  
CRN 21380 (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. Sullivan  
CRN 22209 (TR 8:00 – 9:15)  
CRN 22210 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)  
NO PREREQUISITE

This course will introduce you to central ethical, social, and political issues concerning the environment and will develop your ability to interpret these issues from a variety of perspectives, including deontology, consequentialism, virtue ethics, and feminist ethics. Issues will range from the more strictly personal (Why do you value nature?) to the social and systemic (How is gender justice inextricably tied to our discussions of environmental justice?). Engagement with these issues will be primarily through our course textbook, additional philosophical essays, and concrete cases provided in both. When appropriate, contemporary cases arising in the media will be brought into class for discussion.

## **PHIL 170: Biomedical Ethics**

Prof. Specker Sullivan  
CRN 23229 (MW 8:00 – 8:50)  
CRN 23230 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)  
NO PREREQUISITES

This course is an introduction to ethical issues as they arise in the context of biomedical science and clinical medicine. Through cases involving abortion, euthanasia, organ transplantation, and human subjects research we will come to understand norms of medical decision making, scarce resource allocation, and risk benefit analysis and to utilize resources from ethical theory in addressing these cases.

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

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 21660 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

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**

Prof. Nunan

CRN 23231 (TR 1:40 – 2:55 for regular class and W 3:30 – 6:00 for film screenings)

NO PREREQUISITE

Although this course will address some issues in film aesthetics (philosophy of art as applied to the medium of film), our primary focus will be on philosophical problems that arise in films, and which films either reflect or cultivate in popular culture—e.g., the extent to which films either mirror and reinforce, or actively shape other aspects of our culture. Thus, we'll begin the course with an examination of the morally unsettled perspectives depicted during the Great Depression in Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*, and in the mid-WWII film *Casablanca*. Despite exhibiting unreflective reliance on some culturally entrenched attitudes, both films also constitute attempts to steer popular culture in new directions. We will examine other films that are more explicitly philosophical in their themes, such as reflections on the treatment of Artificial Intelligence, personhood, and gender in *Blade Runner* and *Ex Machina*. A running theme of the course will be the following question: in what sense(s) do films actually *do* philosophy, on their own?

In addition to a regular class time on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons, participating students are expected to attend the once-a-week film screening slot on Wednesday afternoons, 3:30–6:00, or watch each film on their own prior to the next class date. No previous background in philosophy is assumed.

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

Prof. Boyle

CRN 20655 (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 209 Political Philosophy**

Prof. Hemmenway  
CRN 22205 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)  
NO PREREQUISITE

We will read three of the seminal works in Social Contract theory: Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*, and Rousseau's *Social Contract*. These books approach basic questions of politics by arguing what agreements human beings would make in coming out of a state of nature to form a political association. Some of the questions addressed are: what is the origin of government, what conditions does it have to meet to be legitimate, and what natural rights ought to be protected in civil society.

### **PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law**

Prof. Nunan  
CRN 22208 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)  
NO PREREQUISITE *but some prior exposure to Philosophy or other cognate disciplines (e.g., Political Science, Sociology, History, or Literary Criticism) would be helpful.*

Rather than focusing on the actual content of the laws of a given legal system and how that system works to express and enforce those laws, Philosophy of Law is concerned with questions like: What *is* a legal system? What makes a law a law? Are there such things as good laws and bad laws? How can we tell? Why and when do we have a moral obligation to obey a law? Should laws be used to enforce a society's widely shared moral convictions? How much latitude should judges have to interpret law? On what grounds? During the first half of the course we will investigate many of these questions through a predominantly historical approach, starting in the 18th century with William Blackstone, but moving quickly to the 20th century. The second half of the course will be devoted to modern debates about proper methods of judicial adjudication in appellate courts (chiefly the Supreme Court). We will examine various illustrative court cases along the way.

### **PHIL 315: Special Topics in Social & Political Philosophy: Conservatism**

Prof. Krasnoff  
CRN 23232 (MW 3:25 – 4:40)  
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.

### **PPLW 400: PPLW Senior Seminar: Reproduction and the Law**

Prof. Curtis  
CRN 23741 (MW 4:00 – 5:15)  
PREREQUISITE: *Declared Philosophy or Political Science major and instructor permission.*

*First preference for this capstone will be given to PPLW students.* When thinking about the law and reproduction, we tend to think only of abortion and the many Supreme Court decisions surrounding the question of abortion rights. But reproductive rights go beyond abortion to thinking about the ethical and legal understanding of having children, *not* having children and parenting.

**PHIL 450: Who Knows Best? Paternalism and Autonomy**

Prof. Specker Sullivan

CRN 20656 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

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.*

Has anyone ever made a decision for you without asking, but because they thought they knew what was best for you? This course addresses the questions of who can make decisions for whom, why, and when. Actions that are paternalistic are often condemned due to their violation of individuals' right to autonomy, but important exceptions exist, especially in the context of medicine and parenting. To set the stage for our discussion we will explore foundational theories of paternalism and autonomy before moving on to contemporary arguments about decisions made in the context of personal and professional relationships.