

Philosophy Courses - Spring 2020

All 100 and 200-level philosophy courses satisfy the Gen Ed Humanities requirement -- except PHIL 120. We offer both a *major* and a *minor* in philosophy plus a concentration in Politics, Philosophy, and Law. Requirements can be found at 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 (or PPLW 400). Of the remaining 21 hours, at least 12 must be taken at or above the 200 level, with at least nine 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 (or PPLW 400). Of the remaining 21 hours, at least 3 hours must be taken in value theory courses; 12 hours must be taken at or above the 200 level; and least nine hours must be taken at or above the 300 level.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 18 semester hours in philosophy which must include a course in the history of philosophy (201, 202, 304, 305, 306, 307, or 310), and one course at or above the 300 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. A maximum of six hours these courses may be taken to satisfy the requirement of nine elective hours at or above the 300-level.

CRN 20970	HONS 170.01	Honors Introduction to Philosophy	Baker	MW 2:00-3:15
CRN 23382	HONS 380.04	Philosophy without Borders: Self and Other in a Cosmopolitan World	Coseru/Hough	MW 9:00-9:50 F 9:00-9:50
CRN 23422	HONS 380.08	Philosophy without Borders: Self and Other in a Cosmopolitan World	Coseru/Hough	MW 9:00-9:50 F 10:00-10:50
CRN 20595	PHIL 101.01	Introduction to Philosophy	Boyle	MWF 10:00-10:50
CRN 20596	PHIL 101.02	Introduction to Philosophy	Boyle	MWF 11:00-11:50
CRN 20597	PHIL 101.03	Introduction to Philosophy	Krasnoff	MW 2:00-3:15
CRN 22604	PHIL 101.04	Introduction to Philosophy	Leder	TR 1:40-2:55
CRN 23511	PHIL 101.05	Introduction to Philosophy	Leder	TR 3:05-4:20
CRN 21978	PHIL 105.01	Contemporary Moral Issues	Nadelhoffer	TR 10:50-12:05
CRN 21448	PHIL 115.01	Critical Thinking	Hemmenway	TR 4:30-5:45
CRN 23512	PHIL 115.02	Critical Thinking	Neufeld	MW 5:30-6:45 Online/Hybrid
CRN 20922	PHIL 120.01	Symbolic Logic	Grantham	MWF 10:00 - 10:50
CRN 21228	PHIL 120.01	Symbolic Logic	Grantham	MWF 11:00 - 11:50
CRN 21830	PHIL 155.01	Environmental Ethics	Baker	MWF 10:00-10:50
CRN 23513	PHIL 165.01	Philosophy of Sex & Gender	Hough	MW 2:00-3:15
CRN 21979	PHIL 170.01	Biomedical Ethics	Leder	MWF 12:00-12:50
CRN 21980	PHIL 170.02	Biomedical Ethics	Leder	MWF 1:00-1:50
CRN 23514	PHIL 170.03	Biomedical Ethics	Specker Sullivan	TR 8:00-9:15
CRN 23515	PHIL 175.01	Business and Consumer Ethics	McKinnon	TR 9:25-10:40
CRN 20598	PHIL 202.01	History of Modern Philosophy	Boyle	TR 12:15-1:30
CRN 23516	PHIL 207.01	Ethics	Krasnoff	MWF 10:00-10:50
CRN 21828	PHIL 209.01	Political Philosophy	Hemmenway	TR 3:05-4:25
CRN 21829	PHIL 270.01	Philosophy of Law	Nadelhoffer	TR 1:40-2:55
CRN 23518	PHIL 282.01	Philosophy of Music	Neufeld	T 7:00-9:45 Online/Hybrid
CRN 23519	PHIL 320.01	Metaphysics	Coseru	MW 3:25-4:40
CRN 20599	PHIL 450.01	Senior Seminar: Scientific Realism and the Past	Grantham	TR 10:50-12:05

HONS 180: Honors Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Baker

CRN 20970 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

PREREQUISITE: Honors College Student

HONS 380: Philosophy without Borders: Self and Other in a Cosmopolitan World

Prof. Coseru/Hough

CRN 23382 (MW 9:00-9:50 & F 10:00-10:50)

CRN 23422 (MW 9:00-9:50 & F 10:00-10:50)

PREREQUISITE: Honors College Student

Cosmopolitanism, when interpreted literally, simply means 'citizen of the world.' This course will focus on the metaphysical, moral, and social questions of what it means to be a person in a globalized world. We will draw on sources from both Western and Eastern philosophy. Some of the questions we will pursue include: what is the nature of reality? Is there a persistent soul or self at the heart of human nature? How do we come to know ourselves, others, and the world around us? What is right or good, and what is the best way to live? What role does sex and gender play in the way we see ourselves? We will explore these questions using a host of classical and contemporary readings, including, from the West, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Christine de Pizan, Descartes, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, de Beauvoir, Foucault, and Bernard Williams; from the East, the Upanisade, the Buddha, Vasubandhu, Dharmakirti, Santideva, Lao-tzu, Zhuangzi, Confucius, Mencius, Lady Murasaki, Dogen, Sun Yat-sen, Ghandi, Keiji Nishitani, and the Dalai Lama. We will be particularly sensitive to the rewards and challenges of thinking across cultural boundaries. By examining how these philosophers have addressed these questions (as well as their methods of inquiry and proposed solutions), the course will provide students with a variety of perspectives on the human situation.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Boyle

CRN 20595 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

CRN 20596 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

NO PREREQUISITES

In this course, we will examine several traditional, fundamental philosophical questions that still have contemporary significance. We will read classical historical philosophical texts, as well as some more recent works (mainly from the Western tradition). Topics will include knowledge, truths, personal identity, consciousness, moral obligations, and meaning in life. Some of the questions we will be discussing are these: Is knowledge possible? How has the internet affected knowledge? What is truth? What's the difference between lying about the truth and bullshitting? What, if anything, accounts for personal identity—that is what makes a person the same over time? How do concepts of race and gender shape our own sense of identity? What is to be conscious? Could machines think? Are there any objective truths about morality? And are there such truths, then what kinds of actions are morally right, and which are morally wrong? Do we have obligations to animals or to the environment? If so, what are they?

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Krasnoff

CRN 20597 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

NO PREREQUISITES

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

Prof. Leder

CRN 22604 (THR 1:40 – 2:55)

CRN 23511 (TR 3:05 – 4:20)

NO PREREQUISITE

This class is an introduction to philosophy that focuses on questions of personhood. Topics covered include: What is a “person”? What, if anything, makes us the same person over time? What value should we place on the well-being of our future ‘selves’? What, if anything, makes persons morally responsible for their actions? Can nonhuman animals be persons? And, what if anything, are our obligations to beings that are not persons?

PHIL 105: Contemporary Moral Issues

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 21978 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to ethics examining contemporary issues, such as euthanasia, abortion, animal welfare, cloning, cognitive enhancement, paternalism, the legalization of drugs, punishment, justice, wealth inequality, and world hunger.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Hemmenway

CRN 21448 (TR 4:30 – 5:45)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will be an introduction to some basic tools to use in reasoning about claims and arguments. Some of the topics include recognizing the structure of various kinds of arguments, checking for fallacies, and evaluating the strength of claims. These are skills that will be developed by practical exercises and should be helpful in your academic work as well as negotiating everyday life.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 23512 (MW 5:30–6:45) Online/Hybrid

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 20922 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

CRN 21228 (MWF 11:00 – 11:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

Well-educated college graduates should be able to critically assess a range of arguments. This course aims to strengthen your ability to assess arguments. Specifically, this course introduces the methods of formal deductive logic. We will learn how to translate English sentences into two formal languages (propositional and predicate logic) and learn techniques to assess the validity of inference in these languages. Studying these formal systems will build abstract reasoning skills, teach you how to recognize and construct valid arguments, and improve your ability to detect mistakes in reasoning.

PHIL 155: Environmental Ethics

Prof. Baker

CRN 21830 (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, sounds, as 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 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 165: Philosophy of Sex and Gender

Prof. Hough

CRN 23513 (MW 2:00-3:15)

NO PREREQUISITE

A survey of selected philosophical questions about gender and sexuality. Questions may include: What do we mean by sex, gender, sexual orientation, or sexual oppression? How should we value love and intimacy? How should we understand the moral status of monogamy, polyamory, promiscuity, adultery, sex work, or pornography?

PHIL 170: Biomedical Ethics

Prof. Leder

CRN 21979 (MWF 12:00-12:50)

CRN 21980 (1:00-1:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course is focused on some fundamental enhancement questions about health, healing, and health care policy. The course is concerned with five main themes: (1) When if ever, is genetic enhancement morally permissible? Is it ever morally required? (2) What are 'disabilities'? Are they always a bad thing for the person who has them? (3) Are there limits to patient autonomy? When, if ever, is deception permissible in medical care? Is it ever required? (4) What restrictions, if any, should there be on what individuals do with/to their own bodies? (5) What responsibility do individuals have for their own health? Should health care be a right?

PHIL 170: Biomedical Ethics

Prof. Specker Sullivan

CRN 23514 (TR 8:00 – 9:15)

NO PREREQUISITE

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

PHIL 175: Business and Consumer Ethics

Prof. McKinnon

CRN 23515 (TR 9:25-10:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course touches on a number of core issues in business ethics. We'll begin with a firm foundation of theories of ethics. Then we'll delve into contemporary issues, with a particular focus on diversity issues in the workplace. Specifically, we'll

cover the following topics: ethical theories, affirmative action; diversity and inclusivity; sexual and gender harassment; and transgender issues. This course will show you how these topics impact your daily lives. You will also develop skills in how to think through difficult ethical situations on your own.

PHIL 202: History of Modern Philosophy

Prof. Boyle

CRN 20598 (TR 12:15-1:30)

PREREQUISITE: 3 semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

The early modern period (the 17th & 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 Rene' Descartes, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Margaret Cavendish, Baruch Spinoza, David Hume, Mary Shepard, and Immanuel 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; whether we can justify inferences that we make on the basis of past experience; what kinds of substances exist in the universe (Are there such things as souls? Does God exist?); the nature of causation; animal minds; and whether or not humans have free will.

PHIL 207: Ethics

Prof. Krasnoff

CRN 23516 (MWF 10:00-10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

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

PHIL 209: Political Philosophy

Prof. Hemmenway

CRN 21828 (TR 3:05-4:20)

NO PREREQUISITE

We will study works of three important philosophers in the tradition of Social Contract Theory, namely, Hobbes' Leviathan, Locke's Second Treatise of Government, and Rousseau' Second Discourse and Social Contract. Among the questions that this approach to political philosophy asks are the following: If all humans are naturally free and equal, what legitimates a government that restricts freedom and that establishes some as more powerful than others? What are our natural rights? What's the difference between natural law and positive law?

PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 21829 (TR 1:40-2:55)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course is a comprehensive introduction to some perennial issues in the philosophy of law. 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 the following questions: What are the actus reus and mens rea requirements for criminal responsibility? What does it mean to have a legal excuse? When is the insanity defense justified? What are the goals and limits of criminal sanctions? Is the death penalty unconstitutional and is it morally permissible? What is the relationship between free will and the law? Finally, what role, if any, should recent advances in neuroscience and genetics have in determinations of criminal responsibility? This 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 282: Philosophy of Music

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 23518 (T 7:00-9:45) Online/Hybrid

NO PREREQUISITE

What is the musical meaning? What does it mean to say that music expresses emotions or that it moves us? Why do people get so worked up about music that has morally or politically controversial themes? Does it even make sense for music (as opposed to lyrics) to be political? We praise some artists for authentically performing music. What does this mean? What is music, after all? Is there a unified definition we might use to identify all new instances? What kind of a thing is a musical work (or a song)? We can buy and sell them, listen to them, copy them, but what are they? It turns out that this esoteric-sounding question matters a lot in copyright law (just ask Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams). In this class, we will explore this cluster of philosophical questions, along with others, about music that students listen to. While Professor Neufeld will offer examples, the class will be driven mainly by students' music. No specialized knowledge of music is required, but you will need to be willing to listen carefully to, and to find a way to talk about, music.

PHIL 320: Metaphysics

Prof. Coseru

CRN 23519 (MW 3:25-4:40)

PREREQUISITE: 6 semester hours in philosophy, or permission of instructor

A study of various attempts that philosophers have to formulate consistent and comprehensive conceptual systems regarding the nature of reality.

PHIL 450: Senior Seminar: Scientific Realism and the Past

Prof. Grantham

CRN 20599 (TH 10:50-12:05)

PREREQUISITE: Senior standing, permission of instructor

This course will explore the philosophical debate over scientific realism, focusing specifically on whether we should be realists about historical sciences.

Scientific realists maintain that we are justified in believing that our best scientific theories accurately describe the mind-independent world. Historically, debates over realism have focused largely on experimental physical sciences (roughly: sciences that aim to discover laws and to experimentally test laws and theories). But what happens when we bring this philosophical debate into contact with the historical sciences- science that aim to explain particular events in the past (rather than offering general theories) and where those past events cannot be subjected to experimental tests? To what extent should we adopt a realist attitude toward historical sciences such as like evolutionary biology, paleobiology, and archaeology? Does the fact that we cannot directly observe or experiment on the past mean we should be less confident about knowledge claims about the past?