

PHILOSOPHY COURSE BROCHURE

Phil 101 Introduction to Philosophy
Phil 115 Critical Thinking
Phil 120 Symbolic Logic
Phil 155 Environmental Ethics
Phil 170 Biomedical Ethics
Phil 185 Philosophy & Film
Phil 202 History of Modern Philosophy
Phil 206 FYE: Topics in Law & Morality
Phil 207 Ethics
Phil 234 Eastern Philosophy
Phil 255 Philosophy of Religion
Phil 270 Philosophy of Law
Phil 275 Feminist Theory
Phil 301 Topics in Ethical Theory
Phil 325 Theory of Knowledge
Phil 450/Pplw 400 Senior Seminar

SPRING

20
24



PHILOSOPHY COURSE BROCHURE

Phil 101 Introduction to Philosophy
Phil 115 Critical Thinking
Phil 120 Symbolic Logic
Phil 155 Environmental Ethics
Phil 170 Biomedical Ethics
Phil 185 Philosophy & Film
Phil 202 History of Modern Philosophy
Phil 206 FYE: Topics in Law & Morality
Phil 207 Ethics
Phil 234 Eastern Philosophy
Phil 255 Philosophy of Religion
Phil 270 Philosophy of Law
Phil 275 Feminist Theory
Phil 301 Topics in Ethical Theory
Phil 325 Theory of Knowledge
Phil 450/Pplw 400 Senior Seminar

SPRING

20
24



SPRING 2024

PHIL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

CRN 20359 | MWF 1:00-1:50 | PROF. GRANTHAM

NO PREREQUISITE

This course offers a general introduction to philosophy. The course begins with a careful reading of Plato's dialogue, Meno. We then turn to four enduring philosophical issues: (1) Religion: Are there good grounds to think that God does (or does not) exist? If the evidence doesn't decide the case, is it reasonable to believe "based on faith"? (2) Knowledge: What is "knowledge"? Can we know anything with certainty? If we lack certainty, can we still have objective knowledge? (3) Metaphysics of Free Will: If minds are nothing but collections of mindless particles governed by deterministic laws, is free will possible? (4) Equality & Justice: Does wealth inequality violate our principles/ideals of equality and justice? We will explore classic philosophical texts and discuss how philosophical arguments remain relevant today.

PHIL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

CRN 20361 | MWF 11:00-11:50 | PROF. SCOTT HEMMENWAY

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will introduce you to philosophy by means of a careful study of selections from some of the great philosophers on the theme of the good life. Some of the philosophers we'll read are Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Descartes, Spinoza, Nietzsche, and Sartre; thus, all of the major periods of Western philosophy will be represented. Some of the many questions we will raise about the good life are What is the good life? Is it completely individual, or can we argue that some lives are better than others? Is morality a necessary part of the good life? Is happiness? Is a relationship with God? Where does reflection figure into the good life?

PHIL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

CRN 21153 | MWF 10:00-10:50 | PROF. GARNAR

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will introduce you to philosophy through exploring several important debates in philosophy. Some of these topics will include whether values are relative; can knowledge be objective; is it reasonable to believe in God based on faith; does wealth inequality violate our ideals of equality and justice; If minds are nothing but collections of mindless particles governed by deterministic laws, is moral responsibility possible? We investigate these questions through reading a wide selection of classic and contemporary philosophers. Through in class discussion and several papers, students are expected to develop and defend their own views.



SPRING 2024

PHIL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

CRN 23235 | MWF 11:00-11:50 | PROF. GARNAR

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will introduce you to philosophy through exploring several important debates in philosophy. Some of these topics will include whether values are relative; can knowledge be objective; is it reasonable to believe in God based on faith; does wealth inequality violate our ideals of equality and justice; If minds are nothing but collections of mindless particles governed by deterministic laws, is moral responsibility possible? We investigate these questions through reading a wide selection of classic and contemporary philosophers. Through in class discussion and several papers, students are expected to develop and defend their own views.

PHIL 115: CRITICAL THINKING

CRN 21656 | TR 9:25-10:40 | PROF. BAKER

NO PREREQUISITE

Critical thinking is one of the skills for which we attend college. Employers value it and new research indicates that it makes our lives go better in general. In this class we learn how arguments ought to be supported with logically adequate, relevant, and generally acceptable claims. We practice improve other's arguments in various domains, such as science, investigation, politics, morality, and everyday conversation. Students will leave this class with the ability to recognize different uses of language and definition, logical errors and rhetorical tricks and with a commitment to being charitable (in a philosophical sense).

PHIL 120: SYMBOLIC LOGIC

CRN 23236 | MWF 9:00-9:50 | PROF. KRASNOFF

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 that 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 the arguments are valid, and thus should be accepted if their premises are true.



SPRING 2024

PHIL 120: SYMBOLIC LOGIC

CRN 23237 | MWF 10:00-10:50 | PROF. KRASNOFF

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 that 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 the arguments are valid, and thus should be accepted if their premises are true.

PHIL 155: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

CRN 23238 | TR 9:25-10:40 | PROF. DELON

NO PREREQUISITE

A study of the philosophical and ethical dimensions of environmental issues, including such topics as the moral status of other species and the nature of human obligations toward the environment.

PHIL 170: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

CRN 21428 | TR 12:15-1:30 | PROF. BAKER

NO PREREQUISITE

Biomedical ethics (or medical ethics) is one of the most significant ways in which we test shared ethical principles. In this course we take a clinical approach to medical ethics, by using as our examples actual medical practice. We look to the stated goals of medicine, relevant law, and to the professional guidelines for clinicians. We consider new research on concepts like triage, informed consent, autonomy, and well-being. Our topics include the justice of organ donation, vaccine ethics, the treatment of SUD and mental illness, and end-of-life controversies. In class discussion and a final paper, students are expected to develop and defend their own views.



SPRING 2024

PHIL 170: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

CRN 21429 | MWF 3:00-3:50 | PROF. GARNAR

NO PREREQUISITE

Biomedical ethics is one of the most significant ways in which we test our shared ethical principles. In this course we study the goals of medicine and the professional expectations of clinicians. We will explore concepts including autonomy, well-being, and informed consent. Our topics include the ethics of vaccines, abortion, end-of-life decisions, confidentiality, and conscientious objection. We will examine the relationship between medicine and the wider society. Through in class discussion and several papers, students are expected to develop and defend their own views.

PHIL 185: PHILOSOPHY AND FILM

CRN 23240 | MWF 12:00-12:50 | PROF. NEUFELD

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course we will do two different kinds of thing. First, we will explore philosophical topics through film: self identity, artificial intelligence, the possibility of time travel, and more. We will also explore philosophical topics about film. Why do we like horror movies? Why do we like bad movies? Can good movies be made by bad people? What is the nature of adaptations and remakes? The course will involve film viewings and philosophical readings.

PHIL 202: HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

CRN 20362 | TR 12:15-1:30 | PROF. BOYLE

NO PREREQUISITE

The early modern period (the 17th & 18th centuries) saw the rise of modern science, when medieval and Aristotelian conceptions of knowledge, nature, and our plans in the world began to reject. Readings will be from works by philosophers such as René Descartes, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Margaret Cavendish, Baruch Spinoza, John Locke, George Berkeley, David Hume, Mary Shepherd, 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.



SPRING 2024

PHIL 206: FYE - TOPICS IN LAW & MORALITY

CRN 23241 | TR 9:25-10:40 | PROF. NADELHOFFER

NO PREREQUISITE

The goal of this learning community is to explore the foundations of human behavior, and explore questions of agency, responsibility, and criminality. Why do people behave badly and do “bad” things? How do we decide what counts as simply different (or divergent, non-conforming) behavior, and what counts as “deviant” or wrong behavior that is punishable. We will examine traditional conceptions of moral and legal responsibility and recent advances in neuroscience, genetics, and psychiatry when it comes to our understanding of psychopathology and other “causes” of deviant behavior. By exploring the relationship between psychology, neuroscience, and our social/moral/legal treatment of deviant behavior from multiple vantage points, students will be in a better position to develop informed opinions of their own when it comes to the intersection of philosophy, psychology, and public policy.

PHIL 207: ETHICS

CRN 23242 | MW 2:00-3:15 | PROF. HEMMENWAY

NO PREREQUISITE

In this study of ethics, we will survey some the important philosophers in the history of inquiry on this subject: Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Mill, and Nietzsche. Questions that will be addressed include: Do we discover ethics by thinking about human virtue (excellence), are moral obligations grounded in our feelings or our reason, how might we determine what is right and wrong, and what might the history of morality reveal about our moral values?

PHIL 234: EASTERN PHILOSOPHY

CRN 23243 | TR 1:40-2:55 | PROF. COSERU

NO PREREQUISITE

Philosophers in the East have grappled with many of the same problems as their Western counterparts: What really exists? What is real? What is it to know, and what counts as a reliable source of knowledge? Who or what am I, and can I truly know myself? This course examines answers to these questions from the Buddhist tradition, and their relevance to contemporary debates. Our focus will be on four major topics: personal identity, causation, the external world, and self-knowledge. The course has two aims: first, to show how a productive conversation between these two traditions can address perennial problems in philosophy; second, to help you develop an appreciation for the value of cross-cultural or intercultural reflection in an increasingly global world.



SPRING 2024

PHIL 255: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

CRN 23244 | MWF 10:00-10:50 | PROF. GRANTHAM

NO PREREQUISITE

This course offers a survey of central issues in the philosophy of religion. We will examine the traditional arguments for and against the existence of a theistic God (cosmological, ontological, teleological, the problem of evil). We will also discuss important questions of epistemic justification: are we ever justified in believing in miracles? Is “faith” rationally defensible? Should the existence of other religious traditions undermine or temper our commitment to a particular faith? Is religious belief compatible with belief in science? We will approach these questions in philosophical spirit. That is, I will not assume any particular religious position is correct; nor will we assume an atheistic position. Rather, we will carefully and critically assess arguments on various sides of these topics.

PHIL 270: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

CRN 21657 | TR 1:40-2:55 | PROF. NADELHOFFER

NO PREREQUISITE

A philosophical examination of some fundamental features of a legal system, focusing on issues such as the nature and function of law, judicial decision making, legal reasoning, legal responsibility, and the relationship of morality, justice and liberty to a legal system.

PHIL 275: FEMINIST THEORY

CRN 23245 | MWF 1:00-1:50 | PROF. GARNAR

NO PREREQUISITE

This course studies the connections between gender and knowledge, culture, and social practice. We will explore this through looking at a wide range of topics. We will examine topics including: how has feminism been defined? What is the nature of gender and how is it related to race, class, sexuality, and gender identity? How does women’s oppression operate? What is the significance of the body in feminist theory? What interventions should feminism make in ethics and epistemology? What are feminist visions for the future? Our readings will address these questions from a variety of different feminist theorists. Through in class discussion and several papers, students are expected to develop and defend their own views.



SPRING 2024

PHIL 301: ST: EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM

CRN 23246 | TR 10:50-12:05 | PROF. DELON

**PREREQUISITE: 6 CREDIT HOURS IN PHILOSOPHY EXCLUDING PHIL 120,
OR PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR**

How much good can you do? How much should you? Effective Altruism (EA) is a movement dedicated to using reason and evidence to help people figure out how to do the most good they can—whether through charitable giving, their career, or their advocacy. This course will examine the philosophical foundations of EA, especially what it says about living an ethical life, the importance of beneficence, how to approach some of the world's most important problems, and the relations between moral theory and altruistic behavior. EA can be applied in many domains from global health to animal welfare to existential risks raised by artificial intelligence, pandemics, and nuclear war. In this course, you will learn about cost-effectiveness, cause prioritization, moral uncertainty, and what we owe (or not) to strangers, other animals, and future generations. We will also read many critiques of EA, especially in relation to institutional change, career choice, resource allocation, AI, and the far future.

PHIL 325: THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

CRN 23247 | MW 3:25-4:40 | PROF. BOYLE

**PREQUISITE: EITHER SIX SEMESTER HOURS IN PHILOSOPHY (OTHER THAN 120) OR PERMISSION
OF THE INSTRUCTOR.**

Descartes' Meditations suggest the possibility that we are being systematically deceived by an "evil demon," so that nothing we thought we knew is certain. Modern-day versions of Descartes' suggestion are that we could be brains in vats or trapped in a Matrix-like state. We will consider the skeptical challenge posed by these scenarios. Is it even possible to know anything? And if knowledge is possible, what it is? Many philosophers have answered this question with the claim that knowledge requires justified true belief, and so we will study the nature of justification. Does all our knowledge depend on some basic foundational beliefs? Alternatively, is justification more a matter of how our beliefs hang together or "cohere" with each other? We will examine various sources of evidence, such as perception, induction, and testimony, and we will consider whether certain approaches to knowing can aptly be described as virtuous.

PHIL 450/PPLW 400: RECHTSLEHRE: LAW & FREEDOM

CRN 20363 & 21928 | MW 2:00-3:15 | PROF. KRASNOFF

PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR

In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Justice Samuel Alito held that a right to an abortion was not an essential part of the nation's "scheme of ordered liberty." Especially after *Dobbs*, many critics have charged that Alito's reference to "ordered liberty" is theoretically and practically meaningless; he and the other conservative justices are simply affirming or rejecting the kinds of freedom and the kinds of order they do or do not like. But there is an older tradition that holds that law and freedom do have an essential theoretical connection, one that places substantial moral constraints on juridical claims. In this course we will study some classical formulations of this view in Kant and Hegel, and then relate these views to contemporary applications of the doctrine of substantive due process to cases like *Dobbs* and others. The goal is to understand what sorts of freedom must be protected by law.



COLLEGE *of*
CHARLESTON

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

DEPARTMENT CHAIR
JONATHAN NEUFELD
NEUFELDJA@COFC.EDU
843.953.4987

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
PRISCILLA THOMAS
THOMASPR@COFC.EDU
843.953.5687



SCAN FOR
PHILOSOPHY
COURSE BROCHURE

