

# Philosophy Courses - Spring 2021

All 100 and 200-level philosophy courses satisfy the Gen Ed humanities requirement -- except PHIL 120, which satisfies the Gen Ed math requirement. We offer both a *major* and a *minor* in philosophy plus an optional concentration in Politics, Philosophy, and Law. Requirements can be found at [philosophy.cofc.edu](http://philosophy.cofc.edu).

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY:** 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 #	SUBJECT/SEC.	COURSE TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	DAYS/TIME
CRN 23403	FYSE 129.01	First Year Seminar: Courage and How to See It	Baker	TR 1:40-2:55
CRN 20880	HONS 170.01	Honors Introduction to Philosophy	Hough	MWF 12:00-12:50
CRN 22982	HONS 255.01	Honors Colloquium: Self and Other in a Cosmopolitan World	Hough/Coseru	MWF 10:00-10:50
CRN 22983	HONS 255.02	Honors Colloquium: Self and Other in a Cosmopolitan World	Hough/Coseru	MW 10:00-10:50 F 9:00-9:50
CRN 20535	PHIL 101.01	Introduction to Philosophy	Grantham	MWF 11:00-11:50
CRN 20536	PHIL 101.02	Introduction to Philosophy	Coseru	MWF 3:00-3:50
CRN 20537	PHIL 101.03	Introduction to Philosophy	Neufeld	TR 10:50-12:05
CRN 21882	PHIL 101.04	Introduction to Philosophy	Hemmenway	TR 3:05-4:20
CRN 23263	PHIL 105.01	Contemporary Moral Issues	Nadelhoffer	TR 9:25-10:40
CRN 20840	PHIL 120.01	Symbolic Logic	Hemmenway	MWF 10:00 - 10:50
CRN 21114	PHIL 120.02	Symbolic Logic	Hemmenway	MWF 11:00 - 11:50
CRN 21591	PHIL 170.01	Environmental Ethics	Baker	TR 9:25-10:40
CRN 23182	PHIL 170.02	Environmental Ethics	Baker	TR 10:50-12:05
CRN 20538	PHIL 201.01	History of Modern Philosophy	Krasnoff	TR 10:50-12:05
CRN 23183	PHIL 208.01	Knowledge and Reality	Grantham	MW 2:00-3:15
CRN 21590	PHIL 270.01	Philosophy of Law	Nadelhoffer	TR 12:15-1:30
CRN 23190	PHIL 280.01	Aesthetics	Neufeld	TR 1:40-2:55
CRN 23184	PHIL 315.01	Topics in Political/Social Philosophy: Plato's Republic	Hemmenway	TR 12:15-1:30
CRN 20539	PHIL 450.01	Senior Seminar in Philosophy: 'Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and the Nature of the Self	Hough	MW 2:00-3:15

### **FYSE 129.01: First Year Seminar: Courage and How to See It**

Prof. Baker

CRN 23403 (TR 1:40-2:55)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course we will begin with recent complaints from psychologists about our culture of “safetyism” and consider what bravery requires in response. We will examine ethical accounts of bravery, warrior ethos, and ways in which we can be brave in our daily lives. Questions addressed include: Who do you consider a hero? What other character traits do you admire? Do you have role-models with these traits? Do everyday activities require bravery? Can we ourselves develop virtue, and come to be brave? What steps would be involved? Are the particular roles in society that require bravery appreciated and well-designed? Do heroes change their culture or reflect it? How does life go, for a hero? This is an ideal course for an introduction to philosophy and academic study in general.

### **HON\$ 170.01: Honors Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Hough

CRN 20880 (MWF 12:00-12:50)

PREREQUISITE: Honors College student

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? (What is it for a life to have ‘meaning’?) Is human life part of a grand cosmic scheme, or is it merely a series of actions and accidents? 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.

### **HON\$ 225.01 & 255.02 Honors Colloquium: Self and Other in a Cosmopolitan World**

Profs. Hough/Coseru

CRN 22982 (MWF 10:00-10:50)

CRN 22983 (MW 10:00-10:50 and F 9:00-9:50)

PREREQUISITE: Honors College student

Who and what are we? How do we come to know ourselves? And what roles do culture, religion, society, politics, and gender play in shaping our identities and our view of the world? No matter how we answer these questions, how are we to proceed? What is the best way to live? What is the good life? We will explore these questions using a host of classical and contemporary readings, including, from the West, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Christine de Pizan, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, de Beauvoir, and Nussbaum; from the East, the Buddha, the Yoga Sūtras, Mencius, Zhuangzi, Vasubandhu, Lady Murasaki, Dōgen, Gandhi, Nishitani, and the Dalai Lama. Thinking across cultural boundaries has its rewards and challenges. This course aims to help you acquire a pluralist conception of human nature and society, and a deep appreciation for the virtues of global citizenship.

### **PHIL 101.01 Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Grantham

CRN 20535 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course offers a general introduction to philosophy, focusing on four enduring philosophical topics: (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”? Does experience provide an adequate foundation for objective knowledge? (3) Metaphysics: How are the mind and the brain related? If minds are nothing but collections of mindless particles governed by deterministic laws, is free will possible? (4) Equality: The wage and wealth gaps between the rich and poor (and between races) are growing. Are these inequalities acceptable in a society founded on an ideal of equality? How should we understand the political ideal of “equality”? How might we achieve a more just and equal society? We will read classic philosophical texts and discuss how philosophical arguments remain relevant today.

### **PHIL 101.02: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Coseru

CRN 20536 (MWF 3:00-3:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

Am I a complex biological organism with an evolved brain? Or am I an eternal soul trapped in a body? What is it to know, and what is the difference between knowledge and mere opinion? What is truth, and how do I tell the difference between fact and fiction? Are there such things as “alternative facts”? Are our ideas innate or acquired? Is there anything we can be certain of in the face of constant change? Are virtue and happiness related in some way? Can we be truly free? Does power have a corrupting influence on truth? What role does culture, religion, gender, politics, and science play in shaping our view of the world and our identity? No matter what our answers to these questions, how are we to proceed? 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 contemporary readings.

### **PHIL 101.03: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 20537 (TR 10:50-12:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to a few of the major concepts in western philosophy. You will learn what some of the best thinkers from the past and from today think about god, knowledge, the mind, freedom. Far more important, though, you will learn how to think better, to listen and read with more attention to argumentative detail, to articulate your thoughts better, to argue better, and to write more clearly.

### **PHIL 101.04: Introduction to Philosophy**

Prof. Hemmenway

CRN 21882 (TR 3:05-4:20)

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?

### **PHIL 105.01: Contemporary Moral Issues**

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 23263 (TR 9:25-10:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course provides an introduction to ethics by examining contemporary issues such as euthanasia, the right to die, abortion, the morality of eating meat, paternalism, the death penalty, wealth inequality, justice, and world hunger. At the end of the course, we will also explore moral issues surrounding the coronavirus pandemic such as rationing health care, the morality and legality of quarantine, and the tradeoff between people's lives and the economy. This will hopefully give students a chance to see some important moral, political, and legal issues unfold in real time!

### **PHIL 120.01 & 120.02 Symbolic Logic**

Prof. Hemmenway

CRN 20840 (MWF 10:00-10:50)

CRN 21114 (MWF 11:00-11:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

Logic is the study of how we reason. One kind of reasoning is deductive, where, for example, the truth of the premises of an argument guarantee the truth of the conclusion. Symbolic logic is one good tool for evaluating deductive reasoning because it allows us to see the form without the content. We will learn the basics of two symbolic logical systems,

sentential logic and predicate logic. For each system we will learn how to (1) put ordinary English sentences and arguments into symbolic form, (2) show certain logical relations, like consistency and validity, and (3) construct derivations or proofs.

### **PHIL 170.01 & 170.02 Environmental Ethics**

Prof. Baker

CRN 21591 (TR 9:25-10:40)

CRN 23182 (TR 10:50-12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course you will become comfortable and familiar with the questions being addressed by environmental ethicists. The questions they try to answer, sound, at 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? But the debates over these issues are lively, and whether we realize it or not, we already act in accordance to some answers to these questions (and not others.) In this class, we will consider carefully, like philosophers, whether we are valuing the environment properly, whether we understand our place in nature rightly, and whether we are doing what we ought for the preservation of the environment. Along the way we will develop analytical skills that should be useful beyond the topic of environmental ethics.

### **PHIL 201.01: History of Modern Philosophy**

Prof. Krasnoff

CRN 20538 (TR 10:50-12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

In the 17th and 18th centuries, European philosophers raised a series of new questions in response to significant developments in science and politics. Is a scientific understanding of the world a purely mechanistic one? If so, how is this understanding to be justified? What implications does it have for our understanding of ourselves as thinking and ethically responsive beings? We will consider how these questions were addressed in the work of some important early and classical modern European philosophers, most prominently Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Hume, and Kant.

### **PHIL 208.01 Knowledge and Reality**

Prof. Grantham

CRN 23183 (MW 2:00-3:15)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course provides a general introduction to metaphysics and epistemology. We will discuss the nature and limits of human knowledge (how much do we have, how is it acquired, whether it can be objective). We will also discuss a selection of metaphysical issues, likely including: the nature of the human mind & consciousness, the existence of God, and freedom of the will. As we explore those topics, we will also discuss some of the classic philosophical questions about causation, necessity & possibility, materialism, and infinity.

### **PHIL 270.01 Philosophy of Law**

Prof. Nadelhoffer

CRN 21590 (TR 12:15-1:30)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course is an 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 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 280.01 Aesthetics**

Prof. Neufeld

CRN 23190 (TR 1:40-2:55)

NO PREREQUISITE

The course is a selective survey of the history and problems of aesthetics and philosophy of art. This will involve a multifaceted exploration of the relationship between art and knowledge, art and morality, art and politics along with the question, "What IS art, anyway?"

**PHIL 315.01**

Prof. Hemmenway

CRN 23184 (TR 10:50-12:05)

PREREQUISITE: Two courses in PHIL

This study of political philosophy will be close reading of Plato's Republic, arguably the first great work in political philosophy. Although reference will be made to the tradition interpretation of this work, primary emphasis will be on a direct and presumptionless encounter with Plato's masterpiece as possible. Thus we will work our way slowly through the book together, paying attention to its form as a dialogue and the twists and turn in the argument that justice is better than injustice, particularly the founding of the city's in speech and the nature and education of the philosopher-kings.

**PHIL 450.01 Senior Seminar in Philosophy: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and the Nature of the Self**

Prof. Hough

CRN 20539 (MW 2:00-3:15)

PREREQUISIT: Senior major standing and permission of the department

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 a number of literary styles, including aphorism, parable, dramatic narrative, epistle, and polemic.