COURSE OFFERINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY - SPRING 2018

WINTER SESSION: Dec 9 – Jan 19:
We will offer one WEB section of PHI 121 and two WEB sections of PHI 361 in Winter session

SPRING: January 8 – April 25:

**PHI 111  Introduction to Philosophy  2 sections, One LEC and One WEB**
Professor Bottenberg  T Th  11-12:15

This course aims to introduce you to the discipline of philosophy and to the activity of philosophical reflection, particularly through the exploration of 14 classic “thought experiments” – hypothetical scenarios created to isolate and assess difficult conceptual problems. You will be invited to think philosophically about many far-reaching questions, from how we think about what is real and whether there are any absolute truths to existence, to how we should found our societies and whether we can isolate any universal “rules to live by.” In the process, you will gain skill in analyzing the merits of other people's arguments and improve your own abilities to think carefully, consistently and creatively about your own reasoning. A wide variety of philosophical authors, ranging from ancient Greek ethicists to contemporary posthumanists, will serve as our guides, alongside contemporary media such as podcasts, video clips and blog posts, which show the ongoing relevance of these matters to our 21st century world.

**PHI 111  Introduction to Philosophy  1 LEC section**
Professor Rosenkrantz  T Th  3:30-4:45

This course introduces students to the central problems, topics, and figures in western philosophy through a careful consideration of classical and contemporary readings. Non-western and continental philosophies are not covered in this course. Typical topics discussed include the existence of God, knowledge and skepticism, the mind-body problem, and freedom and determinism.

**PHI 111  Introduction to Philosophy  2 WEB Sections  WI - Writing Intensive**
Professor Jones  Web – computer and internet access required

This writing intensive course is designed for students interested in basic issues in philosophy. We begin by examining the value of philosophy itself. The branches of philosophy we focus on are epistemology, ontology, and meaning and representation. The concepts studied in these areas are applied to various philosophical problems, including those that arise for interpretation, binary and hierarchical thinking, sex and gender determination, and stereotyping.

**PHI 115  Practical Reasoning  2 LEC sections**
Professor Bottenberg  T Th  12:30-1:45  Professor Rosenfeld  MWF  1:00-1:50

This course covers an introductory survey of the various tools and methods that enable one to be a rational, critical thinker. It addresses the nature of rational arguments in general, an introduction to the basic elements of deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning, and inference to best explanation, the pitfalls of bogus reasoning and psychological biases, the nature of scientific reasoning, and adjudicating moral disputes. Successful students will hone the critical skills they already possess to become clearer, more careful, and more deliberate thinkers.
PHI 121  Contemporary Moral Problems   3 WEB sections
Professor Gallimore  Web – computer and internet access required

This course is a survey of moral issues that face contemporary society. Topics include human enhancement, war, terrorism, advertising ethics, and technological alienation. It will focus on student discussion of these moral questions and analysis of contemporary arguments.

PHI 121  Contemporary Moral Problems   2 sections – One LEC and One WEB
Professor Zimmerman  T Th 11:00-12:15  Web section – computer & internet access required

Readings on and discussion of contemporary moral problems, such as those posed by abortion, homosexuality, prostitution, cloning, war, capital punishment, euthanasia, and the treatment of animals.

There may be one or two more LEC sections with Falcon Milazzo.

PHI 220  Medical Ethics   2 LEC sections
Professor Gert  T Th 9:30-10:45 OR 11:00-12:15

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some of the core ethical concepts relevant to discussions of medical ethics and to apply these concepts to central issues in contemporary medical ethics. Some of these concepts are competence, consent, and confidentiality, and some of the topics we will use these concepts to talk about are euthanasia, abortion, and experimentation with human subjects. During the course of the semester, we will see that even though there is substantial disagreement about some of these “hot button” issues, there is wide agreement among people (including health care professionals) about most of the factors that should be taken into account when dealing with specific cases. We will also see that having a clear view of the core concepts can make it easier to deal with the especially complex ethical issues which are so common in medical settings.

PHI 222  Ethics in the Computer Age   2 LEC sections
Dr. Joe Cole  T Th 9:30 – 10:45 OR 11:00 – 12:15

This course is a survey of specific moral problems that arise from the use and integration of computer technology in contemporary life. It will focus on specific problems, identifying stakeholders, and analyzing professional, ethical, legal, security, and social alternatives and consequences, as well as the historical impact of computer technology on individuals, organizations, and society. This course will also include exercises in the organization and oral communication of information to an intended audience. Metivier’s section is online and the other two are in the classroom.

PHI 252  History of Modern Philosophy   2 sections – One LEC and one WEB
Professor Rosenfeld  LEC: T Th 3:30-4:45  For WEB - computer and internet access required

This course surveys the 17th and 18th century thinkers that exemplify the movement from the "Renaissance" to the "Enlightenment." It tracks two major themes: one that is metaphysical and epistemological and traces the emergence of modern science, and another that is moral and political and traces the emergence of the principles of liberal democracy. Figures studied will include Descartes, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Madison. Attention will also be paid to women, such as Elisabeth of Bohemia, Margaret Cavendish, and Mary Astell, who played a significant role in advancing thought in the modern era but have, until recently, been left out of the canon of modern thinkers.

THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED FOR MAJORS; PHI 251 IS ALSO REQUIRED AND OFFERED IN THE FALL.
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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 301-01</td>
<td>Topics in PHI: Art and Aesthetics WEB</td>
<td>Writing Intensive</td>
<td>Janine Jones</td>
<td>Fully online class – Computer access required</td>
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<td>In this course, we look at philosophical responses to the question &quot;What is Art&quot;?, explore the transformation of the discourse of aesthetics from the 18th c. sense of a &quot;science of the senses&quot; to matters of &quot;taste&quot;, and investigate whether the two--a &quot;science&quot; of senses and matters of &quot;taste&quot; have wedded, thereby enabling aesthetics to act as media providing public perceptions that intervene in how we navigate our world within and outside of realms normally thought of as constituting domains of art and aesthetics: for example, in realms such as those of race, class, and gender.</td>
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<td>PHI 319</td>
<td>Knowledge, Truth &amp; Belief 1 LEC section (with Swivl option for ONLINE degree majors)</td>
<td>T Th 2:00-3:15</td>
<td>Rick Gallimore</td>
<td>This is an introduction to epistemology or the theory of knowledge. While we often take it for granted that we know many things and that many of our everyday beliefs are rationally justified, epistemologists seek a philosophical account of knowledge and rationality. What is knowledge? Is knowledge possible? What is the difference between rational and irrational belief? These are some of the questions we will explore. Specific topics include: the traditional analysis of knowledge, the Gettier problem, foundationalism and coherentism, the internalism-externalism debate, skepticism, the problems of induction, a priori knowledge, and naturalized approaches to epistemology.</td>
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<td>PHI 321</td>
<td>Ethical Theory 1 section LEC</td>
<td>T Th 9:30 – 10:45</td>
<td>Zimmerman</td>
<td>An investigation of what it is that makes acts morally right or wrong by way of a detailed examination of the theory of consequentialism and its rivals. Topics to be discussed include subjectivism, emotivism, prescriptivism, prima facie obligation, conflicts of obligation, rights, and the nature of intrinsic value.</td>
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<td>PHI 331-01</td>
<td>Social and Political Philosophy LEC (with Swivl option for ONLINE degree majors)</td>
<td>T 3:30-6:00</td>
<td>Michael Matteson</td>
<td>This course considers some of the fundamental philosophical questions about the role of politics and government in our society. The course will focus on three issues in particular: (1) Should there be government at all, and if so what kind? (2) What is justice and what is the role of government in establishing this? And (3) what is the place of property and ownership within justice? We will investigate these questions through the works of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, as well as a number of more recent writings.</td>
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<td>PHI 359</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion 1 section WEB</td>
<td>Web – computer and internet access required</td>
<td>Rosenkrantz</td>
<td>The three great religions of the Western world, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, are forms of ethical monotheism. These three share the core belief that there is only and one divine being and this divine being is a perfect or maximally great being. This course will focus on the key idea of God as a perfect or maximally great being, though attention will also be paid to other ideas of the divine. Our studies will include a consideration of (1) the extent to which our concepts of divine attributes can be analyzed or defined, (2) the coherence or intelligibility of those concepts, taken individually, and in combination, and (3) arguments or reasons put forward to prove or disprove, confirm or disconfirm, the existence of God, including the Cosmological Argument, the Ontological Argument, the Design Argument, religious and mystical experiences, and the Problem of Evil.</td>
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PHI 361  Ethical Issues in Bus  1 LEC section and 6 WEB sections
Mr. Mike Matteson  LEC:  T Th  2-3:15        3  WEB sections
Mr. Joe Cole  WEB:  two sections
Mr. Chris Metivier  WEB:  one section

This course begins with a survey of major ethical theories and their application to the international business environment. We will then examine answers to questions such as: What is the purpose of the corporation? What obligations do corporations and business people have? How do we determine responsibility? What information should salespeople provide customers? When is an ad deceptive? When in Rome, shall we always conduct business the Roman way? Additional topics include discrimination in hiring, whistle blowing, workplace privacy, intellectual property, affirmative action, the environment, bribery, ethical challenges of globalization, and social justice. Special focus is given to analyzing real world cases in business ethics and on a global, non-western component.

PHI 363  Environmental Ethics  1 LEC section
Professor Rosenfeld  LEC:  M W 3:30-4:45

This course is an investigation into what responsibilities we might have to the environment, and what the ethical foundations of those putative responsibilities might be. The broad arc of the course will trace questions about how wide our "moral community" extends. Do our environmental responsibilities ultimately stem from responsibilities to ourselves? To other, sometimes vulnerable and disadvantaged people who share the planet with us? To future generations who don't exist yet? Do we have any moral obligations to sentient non-human animals? What about other, non-sentient organisms like trees? What about obligations to species and/or preserving biodiversity (as opposed to obligations to individual living things)? Is it possible to talk about moral obligations to ecosystems or the environment itself, even non-living aspects of that environment like a river or a mountain? Additionally, we will address the extent to which major philosophical ethical frameworks (e.g. consequentialism, deontology, virtue ethics, and care ethics) may be helpful for clarifying the nature and extent of our environmental responsibilities versus the extent to which the problems of environmental ethics demand that we rethink the nature of moral action and responsibility in general.

PHI 494  CAPSTONE: Philosophy of Mind   LEC   (with Swivl option for ONLINE degree majors)
Dr. Frances Bottenberg  M W  3:30-4:45
PreReq:  Philosophy major, senior standing; PHI-251, 252, 310
Required for the major in order to graduate

This course focuses on philosophical theories of consciousness and the mind-brain-body relationship. Readings in the history of philosophy will enable us to contextualize contemporary debates in philosophy of mind. We will critically consider 21st century research in the cognitive sciences and its potential to move us beyond historic dead-ends. Specific themes to be taken up over the course of the semester include the relationship between brain and mind, personal identity and selfhood, artificial and animal intelligence, and psychosomatic illnesses that resist obvious reductive explanation. Writing and speaking intensive.

For those who are interested, Prof. Eric Dreff, a Visiting Professor in the Religious Studies Dept, will be offering a course on Spinoza.

Refer to the UNCG Registrar's Website or Undergraduate Catalog for complete registration information, major/minor requirements, section numbers, prerequisites, etc. If you have specific questions about Philosophy courses, call the Department at 336-334-5059 or stop by 239 Curry. Courses and scheduled times may have to be revised prior to registration.