



UNC
GREENSBORO

Department of
Philosophy

FALL 2024
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 115: Critical Thinking

01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: T/TH 9:30 - 10:45 AM

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

Dr. Insa Lawler (Pryor)

This course introduces you to fundamental concepts, techniques, and skills conducive to analytic, careful, evidence-based, and fair-minded reasoning. Over the course of the semester, you will gain skills in analyzing the merits and deficits of other people's and your own arguments. You will also improve your ability to reason well and you will learn how to avoid reasoning badly.

PHI 121: Contemporary Moral Problems

01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: ONLINE - 2nd Half of Term

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01: Dr. Richard Gallimore | 02: Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz

Philosophical readings and discussion of such current topics as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, censorship, sexual morality, affirmative action and preferential hiring, environmental ethics, population control, and the morality of war.

PHI 131: Science, Technology, & Society

01: T/TH 9:30 - 10:45 AM | 02: T/TH 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

[MAC Foundations]

Dr. Derek Skillings

This course explores the relationship between science, technology, and society. Looking at historical and contemporary examples from the sciences, technology, arts, literature, and philosophy, we will discuss contemporary issues such as human enhancement, climate change, and artificial intelligence.

Prerequisites: *Must have fewer than 60 credits to enroll or can enroll by Written Permission.*

FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 133: Sex & Death
01: T/TH 2:00 - 3:15 PM
[MAC Foundations]
Instructor TBA

This course deals with the moral status of behavior relating to sex and death, such as homosexuality, prostitution, surrogate pregnancy, abortion, war, capital punishment, and euthanasia. It explores questions concerning what sex and death are, what ethical issues seem to be unique to these areas, and why these questions are so important to us. This course also provides foundational skills necessary for academic success at UNCG.

Prerequisites: *Must have fewer than 60 credits to enroll or can enroll by Written Permission.*

PHI 135: God
01: ONLINE - ASYN
[MAC Foundations]
Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz

This course focuses on questions in the philosophy of religion relating to the existence of God, the possibility of evil, objective moral truth, divine attributes, and more. This course also provides foundational skills necessary for academic success at UNCG.

Prerequisites: *Must have fewer than 60 credits to enroll or can enroll by Written Permission.*



FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 137: Minds & Brains

01: T/TH 9:30 - 10:45 AM | 02: T/TH 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

[MAC Foundations]

Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan

What exactly are thoughts, desires, emotions, memories, or sensations? How are these mental phenomena related to events in the physical world? Do people have an immortal soul that lives on after their body dies? Or is all conscious mental experience reducible to neurons firing in the brain? We will attempt to answer each of these questions - we will be answering these questions for ourselves - but we will be guided by reading the work of long-dead, as well as currently living, philosophers. This course also aims to facilitate personal and academic development. You will learn how to write an email to your professors, how to read the material for your other college courses, how to study effectively for exams, and how to take advantage of the services and support provided by UNCG.

Prerequisites: *Must have fewer than 60 credits to enroll or can enroll by Written Permission.*

PHI 138: Good & Evil

01: T/TH 2:00 - 3:15 PM | 02, 03: ONLINE - ASYN

[MAC Foundations]

01: Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan | 02, 03: Dr. Richard Gallimore

What is the morally right thing to do? Is there some moral law that applies to everyone, or is morality relative in some way? And what's so good about morality anyway? We will attempt to answer each of these questions—we will be answering these questions for ourselves—but we will be guided by reading the work of long-dead as well as currently living philosophers. This course also aims to facilitate personal and academic development. You will learn how to write an email to your professors, how to read the material for your other college courses, how to study efficiently for exams, and how to take advantage of the services and support provided by UNCG.

Prerequisites: *Must have fewer than 60 credits to enroll or can enroll by Written Permission.*

FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 141: What Makes a Life Good?

01: T/TH 3:30 - 4:45 PM | 02: M/W 2:00 - 3:15 PM

[MAC Health and Wellness]

01: Dr. Heather Gert | 02: Instructor TBA

What makes a person's life good? Is it the enjoyment they've experienced (Can someone who takes the red pill have a genuinely good life, as in *The Matrix*)? Or is it the contributions they've made (What if they don't know how much these contributions matter)? Is the quality of our lives the sort of thing we can tell as we're living our lives, or does a person really only know how good their life was as they near the end and can reflect over it as a whole? Maybe, as Aristotle thought, we can't say for sure whether a person had a good life until a few years after they've passed, when we can see what became of the things that mattered to them. What do you think?

PHI 202: Arguing About... Ethics

01: T/TH 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM | 02: T/TH 12:30 - 1:45 PM

03: M/W 2:00 - 3:15 PM | 04: M/W 3:30 - 4:45 PM

[MAC Oral Communication]

01, 02: Dr. Adam Rosenfeld | 03, 04: Prof. Michael Matteson

This is a speaking-intensive course that examines how we think, talk, and make reasoned arguments about "values." We will explore a wide variety of senses of this concept, including economic, moral, and aesthetic values with an eye to the ways our strategies for reasoning might change depending on the kinds of values we are thinking about. Students will be expected to analyze and critique arguments made by others, as well as construct their own arguments and communicate them orally to their peers.

**PHI 202 may be repeated twice for credit when topics vary*

FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 220: Medical Ethics

01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: T/TH 12:30 - 1:45 PM

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01: Dr. Elliot Goodine | 02: Instructor TBA

Moral problems in medicine including the patient's right to know, the confidentiality of doctor-patient communications, informed consent and experimentation with human subjects, abortion, euthanasia, socialized medicine, conflicts between medicine and religion, and genetic engineering.

PHI 221: Philosophical Concepts in Everyday Contexts

01: ONLINE - ASYN

[MAC Written Communication, College Writing]

Dr. Janine Jones

This course introduces students to philosophical problems that touch our lives, engaging two basic branches of philosophy: theory of knowledge and study of the nature of reality. This course will also focus heavily on the development of clear writing skills.

PHI 222: Ethics in the Computer Age

01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: T/TH 3:30 - 4:45 PM | 03: ONLINE - ASYN

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01: Prof. Christopher Metivier | 02: Dr. Elliot Goodine | 03: Instructor TBA

The course will survey select moral problems arising from computer technology in contemporary life, focusing on analysis of specific problems, stakeholders, and consequences, and the historical impact of computer technology.

FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 224: Philosophy of Race and Gender

01: ONLINE - ASYN

[MAC Diversity and Equity]

Dr. Janine Jones

This course provides historical background for understanding racial inequalities, focuses on the concepts of race and gender and how they are connected to racism and sexism, and explores the concept of intersectionality.

**Same as WGS 224*

PHI 261: Ethical Issues in Business

01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: ONLINE - 1st Half of Term

03: ONLINE - 2nd Half of Term | 04: ONLINE - 1st Half of Term

05: ONLINE - ASYN | 06: M/W 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

07: T/TH 9:30 - 10:45 AM | 08, 09: ONLINE -ASYN

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01, 02, 03: Prof. Michael Matteson | 04: Prof. Wade Maki

05: Prof. Christopher Metivier | 06, 07, 08, 09: Instructor TBA

This course discusses ethical theory and its application to business: economic justice, corporate responsibility, self-regulation and government regulation, conflict of interest, investment policy, advertising, and environmental responsibility. Additional topics may include discrimination in hiring, whistle-blowing, workplace privacy, intellectual property, affirmative action, bribery, ethical challenges of globalization, and social justice.

**Students may not receive credit for both PHI 261 and PHI 262*

FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 301: Topics: Philosophy of Games

01: T/TH 2:00 - 3:15 PM

Dr. Derek Skillings

This course explores games and play through both theory and practice, guided by readings in philosophy, aesthetics, and game studies. We will discuss questions like: What are we doing when we play games? Are games art? Do good games have to be fun? Can games teach us or help us become better people? Students will play conventional and non-conventional card-, board-, and role-playing games in class. Students will have a choice for their final project: write a traditional philosophical paper or design their own game.

**PHI 301 may be repeated twice for credit when topics vary*

PHI 310: Introduction to Formal Logic

01: M/W 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Dr. Insa Lawler (Pryor)

Validity, consistency, implication, and the formal analysis of language. Propositional logic and quantification theory. This course is an introduction to two (families of) formal languages: propositional logic and first-order predicate logic. These languages are used to detect, understand, and evaluate recurring patterns in deductive reasoning. Recognizing and evaluating such patterns is crucial to rational thought and to constructing cogent arguments.



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Department of Philosophy

FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 319: Knowledge, Truth, and Belief

01: M/W 2:00 - 3:15 PM

Dr. Richard Gallimore

Discussion of concepts central to an understanding of the nature of human knowledge, such as truth, evidence, certainty, intuition, perception, the reasonableness of belief, and the reliability theory of justification.

***Prerequisites:** PHI 310, Introduction to Formal Logic*

PHI 321: Ethical Theory

01: ONLINE - ASYN

Dr. Heather Gert

Analysis of the meaning of moral concepts such as good, right, ought, duty, and of the nature of ethical argument. Attention to current theories in normative ethics.

***Prerequisites:** One course in Philosophy*

PHI 322: Philosophy of the Arts

01: ONLINE - ASYN

[CIC: College Writing]

Dr. Janine Jones

Philosophical problems concerning description, interpretation, and evaluation of the visual, performing, and literary arts, discussed generally and in relation to specific works of art. Readings in philosophy and art theory.

FALL 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 341: History of Ancient Philosophy
01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: T/TH 3:30 - 4:45 PM
[CIC: College Writing]
Dr. Adam Rosenfeld

This course surveys the emergence and development of philosophy in ancient Greece, beginning with the so-called "Pre-Socratic" philosophers, such as Anaximander, Heraclitus, Parmenides and Democritus. This early development culminates in the comprehensive philosophical systems of Plato and Aristotle, whose influential ideas will be explored, analyzed, and evaluated. The course concludes with the study of three major trajectories in later Greek and Roman thought, Epicureanism, Stoicism, and Skepticism.

PHI 342: History of Modern Philosophy
01: ONLINE - ASYN
[CIC: College Writing]
Dr. Elliot Goodine

This course introduces some central debates in metaphysics and epistemology enlivened during the 17th and 18th centuries. We will aim to understand and critique these philosophical writings within the scientific and political contexts of early modern Europe. Additionally, we will consider how these argumentative strategies that we study continue to enliven contemporary philosophical debates. Figures we will read and write about include René Descartes, Elisabeth of Bohemia, Gottfried Leibniz, John Locke, David Hume, Thomas Reid, and Immanuel Kant.

PHI 359: Philosophy of Religion
01: ONLINE | 02: T/TH 5:00 - 6:15 PM
Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz

Arguments concerning God's existence, the problem of evil, God's foreknowledge and human freedom, the analysis of divine attributes, immortality, and the soul.

MEET THE FACULTY



Dr. Heather Gert



Dr. Richard Gallimore



Dr. Elliot Goodine



Dr. Janine Jones



Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan



**Dr. Insa Lawler
(Pryor)**



Wade Maki



Michael Matteson



Christopher Metivier



Dr. Adam Rosenfeld



Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz



Dr. Derek Skillings



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