



UNC
GREENSBORO

Department of
Philosophy

SPRING 2025
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 111: Introduction to Philosophy

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

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

Dr. Richard Gallimore

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 God's existence, what we can know, the connection between the mental and the physical, and free will.

PHI 115: Critical Thinking

01 & 03: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: T/TH 9:30 - 10:45 AM

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01: Dr. Richard Gallimore | 02 & 03 : 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 119: Introduction to Ethics

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

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

Dr. Richard Gallimore

Fundamental questions of ethics, such as the nature of the distinction between good and evil, moral right and wrong, the foundation of moral judgments, relativism, absolutism, and subjectivism. Readings from major figures in the history of ethics.

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 121: Contemporary Moral Problems
01 & 02: ONLINE - ASYN
[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]
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 137: Minds & Brains
01: ONLINE - ASYN
[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.*



SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 202: Arguing About... Ethics

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

03: M/W/F 10:00 - 10:50 AM | 04: M/W/F 11:00 - 11:50 AM

[MAC Oral Communication]

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

This is a speaking-intensive course that examines how we think, talk, and make reasoned arguments about how we ought to act. 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.*

PHI 220: Medical Ethics

01: M/W/F 12:00 - 12:50 PM | 02: ONLINE - ASYN

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01: Dr. Elliot Goodine | 02: Prof. Zachariah Wrublewski

This course examines various dimensions of the moral challenges faced in medicine. Students will learn about the principles that healthcare workers use to guide their ethical decision-making, including duties to respect patient autonomy, the duty to promote patient well-being, and the duty to do no harm. Various aspects of justice will also be investigated, including questions about distribution of scarce medical resources, disability rights, and racial disparities in healthcare. Further issues covered in the course may include (but won't be limited to): euthanasia, abortion, vaccine mandates, genetic selection, and AI in medicine.

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.

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 222: Ethics in the Computer Age

01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: T/TH 11:00 - 12:15 PM | 03: ONLINE - ASYN
[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01: Prof. Christopher Metivier | 02 & 03: Prof. Zachariah Wrublewski

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.

PHI 224: Philosophy of Race and Gender

01 & 02: 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 & 02: ONLINE - 1st Half of Term

03: ONLINE - 2nd Half of Term | 04: T/TH 9:30-10:45 AM

05 & 06: ONLINE - ASYN |

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

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01, 02, 03: Prof. Michael Matteson | 04, 05, 06: Dr. Andrew Ruble

07: Prof. Zachariah Wrublewski

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.*

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 301: Topics: Classical Chinese Philosophers as Influencers

01: ONLINE - SYN, T/TH 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Dr. Andrew Ruble

This course will look at classical Chinese thought and its influence on the surrounding region. We will survey seven main thinkers of the "classical" period of Chinese philosophy (approx. 550-221 BCE): Kongzi (Confucius), Mozi, Mengzi (Mencius), Laozi, Zhuangzi, Xunzi, and Han Feizi. These thinkers developed a complex and rich debate about ethics, human nature, moral psychology, and self-cultivation. The positions they established greatly influenced later Chinese history, including Buddhism, as well as philosophical discourse in Japan, Korea. Readings will consist mainly of primary texts in translation, with some secondary literature.

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

PHI 310: Introduction to Formal Logic

01: ONLINE - ASYN

Dr. Insa Lawler (Pryor)

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.



UNC GREENSBORO

Department of Philosophy

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 331: Social and Political Philosophy

01: ONLINE - ASYN

Dr. Elliot Goodine

What justifications (if any) can be offered for the existence and the power of the state? What would a just society look like, and can any sort of inequality exist in such a society? Is democracy the best form of government? This course examines these questions and others.

PHI 335: Philosophy of Law

01: ONLINE - ASYN

Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of law, which, if it were being taught in a law school—and this course is excellent preparation for law school, by the way—might also be called “jurisprudence” or “legal theory.” We will discuss the following questions, considering canonical answers to them and developing answers of our own. What is law? What does a society have to have in order to have a legal system? What is important about law? What is the relationship between law and morality? Are immoral laws really laws? The readings for this course include both works of philosophy and landmark U.S. legal cases.



UNC GREENSBORO

Department of Philosophy

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 341: History of Ancient Philosophy

01: ONLINE - ASYN

[CIC: College Writing]

Dr. Adam Rosenfeld

This course explores the emergence and development of the Greek philosophical tradition, from so-called “Pre-Socratic” thinkers such as Anaximander, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Anaxagoras and Democritus, to Plato and Aristotle, and into the Hellenistic schools of Epicureanism, Stoicism, and Pyrrhonic Skepticism. Topics covered range from metaphysics, to epistemology, to ethics and political philosophy, with attention to the ways these domains of inquiry are interrelated.

PHI 342: History of Modern Philosophy

01: M/W 2:00 - 3:15 PM | 02: 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.

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 348: Existentialism, Phenomenology, and Structuralism

01: ONLINE - ASYN

Dr. Frances Bottenberg

From what rests on the surface, one is led into the depths. – Edmund Husserl, 1936

I took a test in Existentialism. I left all the answers blank and got 100. – Woody Allen, 2013

This online course addresses profound questions of human existence and experience as explored by important phenomenological and existentialist philosophers of the 19th and 20th centuries, including Jean-Paul Sartre, Edmund Husserl, Albert Camus, Søren Kierkegaard, Hannah Arendt, Frantz Fanon and Friedrich Nietzsche. Topics include analysis of consciousness, the challenge of free will, mortality and the meaning of life, and the formation of self-identity through relations with others. Students will develop a familiarity with phenomenology and existentialism, while practicing critical reasoning and communicating philosophical arguments and ideas, both in writing and speaking. Open to all students.

PHI 357: Metaphysics

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

[CIC: College Writing]

Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz

Metaphysics as a systematic philosophical study of the fundamental structure of reality: ontology and cosmology. Objections to the possibility of metaphysics. Theories of ontological categories. The epistemology of systematic ontology. The Problem of Universals. Identity and Individuation. Substance among other categories: the nature and existence of individual substances. Living beings. Causation. Space and Time. Parts and Wholes.

Prerequisite: PHI 111 or PHI 341 or PHI 342

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 363: Environmental Ethics

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

Dr. Adam Rosenfeld

This course asks and attempts to answer questions concerning our environmental obligations. It takes an “expanding moral circle” approach, with the first half of the course exploring anthropocentric approaches and the second half exploring non-anthropocentric approaches to justifying environmental obligations. Students will also explore the relationship between moral theory and moral practice through a variety of practical assignments.

PHI 494: Senior Capstone Seminar

01: T/TH 12:30-1:15 PM | 02: ONLINE - ASYN

[CIC: College Writing]

Dr. Heather Gert

This capstone course is built around Saul Kripke's seminal series of lectures, published as *Naming & Necessity*. We'll begin by reading works that influenced Kripke, and to which he is responding. For the most part these authors are presenting variations on the idea that the meaning of a word is determined by necessary and sufficient conditions. Next we'll discuss Kripke's book, and see how he completely rejects this idea, at least for many common types of terms. The course ends with articles by philosophers who have made use of Kripke's ideas naming and necessity in other areas of philosophy, such as ethics.

Prerequisite: *PHI 310, PHI 341, PHI 342; Philosophy major; senior standing.*

SPRING 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHI 620: Ethics and Genetics

01: TH 1:30 - 4:15 PM

Dr. Derek Skillings

Ethical issues in the acquisition and application of knowledge about the human genome. Topics include genetic testing and abortion, predictive testing, testing for minors, confidentiality, gene therapy, and human cloning.

Prerequisite: *Matriculation to third semester of MS genetic counseling program or permission of instructor.*



UNC GREENSBORO

Department of Philosophy

MEET THE FACULTY I



Dr. Frances Bottenberg



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

MEET THE FACULTY II



Dr. Andrew Ruble



Dr. Derek Skillings



Zachariah Wrublewski



UNC GREENSBORO

Department of
Philosophy

