



UNC  
GREENSBORO

Department of  
Philosophy

FALL 2026  
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

# FALL 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **PHI 121: Contemporary Moral Problems**

**02, 03, 04: ONLINE - ASYN**

**[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]**

**02 & 03: Dr. Richard Gallimore | 04: 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 133: Sex & Death**

**01: TR 3:30 - 4:45 PM**

**[MAC Foundations]**

**Dr. Andrew Ruble**

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. 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.***



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Department of Philosophy

# FALL 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**PHI 137: Minds & Brains  
01 & 02: 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.***

**PHI 138: Good & Evil  
01: TR 2 - 3:15 PM | 02: TR 5 - 6:15 PM  
[MAC Foundations]  
Dr. Richard Gallimore**

This course focuses on fundamental moral issues, including objective and subjective morality, whether the means justifies the ends, and the moral status of ordinary forms of behavior that we typically take to be unobjectionable. 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 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **PHI 141: What Makes a Life Good?**

**01: TR 2 - 3:15 PM**

**[MAC Health and Wellness]**

**Dr. Heather Gert**

This course is an introduction to philosophy through consideration of theories about what makes a life a good one, and the relation between one's own well-being and the well-being of others.

## **PHI 144: Probability in Your Life**

**01: TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM | 02: TR 11 AM - 12:15 PM**

**[MAC Quantitative Reasoning]**

**Dr. Insa Lawler (Pryor)**

Cicero said that probability is the very guide of life. Inductive reasoning uses arguments whose premises render their conclusion probable to some degree. Probability fallacies are common in everyday life. They cause us to misinterpret information, which can affect decisions we make considering news, events, or our health. Many people struggle with understanding and calculating conditional probabilities, with recognizing where these probabilities matter in their lives, and with appreciating different interpretations of probability in everyday life. This course helps you to master these topics; it teaches Bayesian reasoning; and it includes an introduction to decision theory to teach how to utilize probabilistic information for making everyday decisions under uncertainty.



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## **PHI 202: Arguing About... Ethics**

**01: MW 2 - 3:15 PM | 02: MW 3:30 - 4:45 PM**

**03: MWF 12 - 12:50 PM**

**[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]**

**01 & 02: Michael Matteson | 03: 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 & 02: ONLINE - ASYN**

**03: MW 2 - 3:15 PM | 04: MW 3:30 - 4:45 PM**

**[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]**

**01 & 02: Zachariah Wrublewski | 03 & 4: Dr. Frances Bottenberg**

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.



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# FALL 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**PHI 221: Philosophical Concepts in Everyday Contexts**  
**01 & 02: ONLINE - ASYN**  
**[MAC Written Communication, CIC 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 & 02: ONLINE - ASYN | 03: MW 3:30 - 4:45 PM**  
**[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]**  
**01 & 03: Zachariah Wrublewski | 02: Christopher Metivier**

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 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## PHI 261: Ethical Issues in Business

01, 03 - 04, 07: ONLINE - ASYN | 02, 05: ONLINE - ASYN - 1<sup>st</sup> Half of Term  
 06: ONLINE - ASYN - 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Term | 08: MWF 9 - 9:50 AM  
 09: MWF 10-10:50 AM

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

01, 03, 08-09: Wade Maki | 02, 05-06: Michael Matteson  
 04, 07: Dr. Andrew Ruble

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 only receive credit for PHI 261 or PHI 262 or PHI 263.***

## PHI 263: Business Ethics with East Asian Philosophy

01: TR 12:30 - 1:45 PM

[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

Dr. Andrew Ruble

This course discusses ethical theory and its application to business with East Asian Ethics: Confucian Mercantilism, Confucian and Legalist bureaucratization, Mohism, guanxi, and economic justice. Other topics included are corporate responsibility, self-regulation and government regulation, conflict of interest, investment policy, advertising, and environmental responsibility.

***\*Students may only receive credit for PHI 261 or PHI 262 or PHI 263.***



# FALL 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **PHI 301: Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Life**

**01: TR 5 - 6:15 PM**

**Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz**

Philosophical problems about the nature of life and different kinds of life. Topics include organisms, cells, and persons; purpose and goal-directness; suspended animation; death; how can one live one's best life.

*\*PHI 301 may be repeated for credit when topic varies.*

## **PHI 310: Introduction to Formal Logic**

**01: TR 3:30 - 4:45 PM**

**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.



# FALL 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **PHI 322: Philosophy of the Arts**

**01: TR 6:30 - 7:45 PM**

**[CIC College Writing]**

**Dr. Janine Jones**

Philosophy 322, an online course, is designed for students interested in an introduction to the philosophy of the arts. The first main theme of the course is described by the title of the book we use: *Why Is That Art?*, by Terry Barrett. Many of you may be familiar with such a question. You may have asked it yourself, while viewing something in a museum. For instance, a pair of glasses lying in San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art. (Philosophical problems concerning description, interpretation, and evaluation of the visual, performing, and literary arts, discussed generally and in relation to specific works of art. Reading in philosophy and art theory.) Why is that art? Well, why couldn't it be art? The second main theme of the course investigates protest art, a category which might seem to be an oxymoron, following some Western traditions of what art is. Using Josh MacPhee's *Graphic Liberation: Image Making & Political Movements*, we explore differences between political art and what MacPhee calls movement art, which mobilizes communities for specific societal changes. This discussion engages us in another, which pertains to what Audre Lorde called "The Master's Tools." Following MacPhee, in this course we ask whether movement art can deploy the master's tools for societal change considering what Lorde told us: namely, that the master's tools cannot dismantle the master's house?



# FALL 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **PHI 325: Introduction to the Philosophy of Science**

**01: ONLINE - ASYN**

**Dr. Derek Skillings**

For the last four centuries, scientific research has provided our most reliable understanding of the world. Although the scientific revolution started modestly with attempts to understand stellar movement, we now know the age and constitution of the universe, the basis of heredity, and we can make and break chemical bonds at will. By all appearances, science seems to have made substantial progress from the scientific revolution to the global scientific enterprise of the 21st century.

This course is about how science generates knowledge, and whether it has been as progressive and reliable as it seems. We will consider methodological issues such as the sources of scientific knowledge, objectivity, and the nature of scientific theories. We will examine products of scientific research: explanations, models, theories, and laws of nature. And we will discuss questions about science and values, including whether non-scientific values can and should enter scientific research and the role of the public in guiding the scientific enterprise.



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## **PHI 335: Philosophy of Law**

**01: TR 2 - 3:15 PM**

**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.

## **PHI 336: Philosophy of Crime and Punishment**

**01: TR 11 AM - 12:15 PM**

**Dr. Heather Gert**

The primary goal of the state is to protect people living within its borders. Given this fact, the idea that the state can be justified in imposing harm, by punishing people, seems almost a paradox. But clearly it is not. What exactly justifies the state in imposing punishments? Is the justification simply that punishment is necessary to protect people from dangerous or harmful behavior? What sorts of justifications or excuses, if any, should courts accept if someone has committed a crime? What makes behavior criminal? What criteria should legislators use when criminalizing specific activities? In this class we will consider these and other philosophical questions a crime and punishment.



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**PHI 341: History of Ancient Philosophy**  
**01: ONLINE - ASYN | 02: MW 3:30 - 4:45 PM**  
**[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.

***\*Section 01: Online students only or enroll with permission of instructor.***

**PHI 342: History of Modern Philosophy**  
**01: ONLINE - ASYN**  
**[CIC College Writing]**  
**Dr. Adam Rosenfeld**

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, John Locke, David Hume, Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Immanuel Kant.

***\*Online students only or enroll with permission of instructor.***



# FALL 2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **PHI 348: Existentialism and Phenomenology**

**01: ONLINE - ASYN**

**Dr. Frances Bottenberg**

“From what rests on the surface, one is led into the depths.” - Edmund Husserl, 1936  
This online course addresses the profound questions of human existence and conscious experience as explored by canonical phenomenological and existentialist philosophers of the 19th and 20th centuries, including Hannah Arendt, Albert Camus, Frantz Fanon, Martin Heidegger, Edmund Husserl, Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Edith Stein. Course themes relate to the construction of meaningful experience, the challenge of free will, mortality and the meaning of life, and the formation of self-identity through relations with others.

## **PHI 359: Philosophy of Religion**

**01: ONLINE - ASYN**

**[CIC College Writing]**

**Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz**

This course explores various concepts of divinity, the nature of the divine attributes, the coherence of the concept of a Supreme Being, religious experience, and arguments on both sides of the question “Does God exist?”



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# MEET THE FACULTY I



**Dr. Frances  
Bottenberg**



**Dr. Richard Gallimore**



**Dr. Heather Gert**



**Dr. Elliot Goodine**



**Dr. Janine Jones**



**Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan**



**Dr. Insa Lawler  
(Pryor)**

# MEET THE FACULTY II



**Michael Matteson**



**Christopher Metivier**



**Dr. Adam Rosenfeld**



**Dr. Gary Rosenkrantz**



**Dr. Andrew Ruble**



**Dr. Derek Skillings**



**Zachariah Wrublewski**



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