

# Fall 2007 Philosophy Courses

[www.philosophy.umd.edu](http://www.philosophy.umd.edu)

🏰 Philosophy Advising 🏰

[philadv@umd.edu](mailto:philadv@umd.edu)

PHIL100.01 Introduction to Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

🏰 Instructor Elizabeth Picciuto,

[epicciuto@gmail.com](mailto:epicciuto@gmail.com)

## Books

MW 12:00pm–12:50pm ([EGR](#) 1202) plus Friday discussions.

An introduction to the literature, problems, and methods of philosophy either through a study of some of the main figures in philosophic thought or through an examination of some of the central and recurring problems of philosophy.

PHIL100.02 Introduction to Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

🏰 Instructor S. Jack Odell, [sjodell@umd.edu](mailto:sjodell@umd.edu)

## Books

TuTh 11:00am–11:50am ([HJP](#) 0226) plus Friday discussions.

Description: An introduction to the principles, concepts, methods, questions, theories, applications, and subdivisions of philosophy – metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics, and aesthetics. We will learn how to determine whether or not an argument is valid. We will look at what various philosophers have said about: ethical obligation; God's existence; the existence of ourselves, other persons, and physical objects; whether or not human existence is absurd, and about various contemporary issues, for example, whether or not abortion is ethically permissible, and whether or not human intelligence is reducible to or identical with what a computer does, when it implements a program. Among the philosophers we will cover are Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, St. Anselm, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Bertrand Russell, Bernard Williams, A.J. Ayer, J.L. Austin, L. Wittgenstein, John Searle, Judith Jarvis Thomson, and Thomas Nagel.

PHIL140.01 Contemporary Moral Issues; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

🏰 Instructor Darren Hick,

[darrenhick@hotmail.com](mailto:darrenhick@hotmail.com)

## Books

TuTh 11:00am–11:50am ([SHM](#) 2102) plus Friday discussions.

This course has been designed to introduce you to the study and practice of ethical reasoning through an array of currently-debated issues in moral philosophy. We will discuss the ethical issues surrounding such controversial practices as abortion, euthanasia, and war, as well as some of the central moral debates concerning gambling, pornography, and drugs. Many of these are contentious issues for which you will already have firm beliefs or intuitions. Most of us do, though we certainly do not all agree. The aim of this course is not to provide definitive answers to these questions. Rather, its aim is to help you develop your ability to rationally evaluate, understand, and construct arguments in this realm of applied ethics.

PHIL140.02 Contemporary Moral Issues; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

🏰 Instructor Christopher Morris,

[cwmorris@umd.edu](mailto:cwmorris@umd.edu)

## Books


MW 12:00pm–12:50pm ([SHM](#) 2102) plus Friday discussions.

An introduction to *ethics* or *moral philosophy*. Our approach will be to think critically and systematically about several moral controversies. We shall concentrate on *questions of life and death*: in particular, euthanasia, abortion, capital punishment, the treatment of non-human animals, and killing in time of war. All of the controversies we shall study concern killing and causing death. Consequently the conclusions we reach about one

controversy will usually have implications for others.

The questions we shall consider include: Why is it generally wrong to kill? What exactly is the harm of death? Who, or what, ought to be protected by norms against killing? May we ever kill ourselves? Is the difference between killing and letting die important? When do humans acquire *moral standing*? Might they ever lose it? May death be used as a form of punishment? When may we kill in war-time? Is it ever permissible to kill civilians in war? Students will be asked to devote a great deal of effort to *reflecting* about the controversies that we shall be examining. The course does not presuppose a background in philosophy or critical reasoning. It does, however, presuppose a willingness to work hard and to think critically about some very difficult problems, and it will be hard to do well without a considerable investment of effort. The primary objectives of the course are (1) to acquaint students with contemporary philosophical discussions of some ethical problems and (2) to assist students in developing certain skills: for instance, understanding a moral problem or controversy, presenting and evaluating the different sides of a debate, analyzing a moral argument, developing a position and defending it, detecting nonsense.

PHIL170.01 Introduction to Logic; (3 credits)  
Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE  
Mathematics or Formal Reasoning (MS) Course.  
Satisfies Philosophy Major Logic Requirement


 Instructor STAFF [Books](#)

MW 10:00am-10:50am ([SHM](#) 2102) plus  
Friday discussions.

Development of analytical reasoning skills through  
study of formal logics, reasoning systems, and  
fallacious inference patterns.

PHIL233 Philosophy in Literature; (3 credits)  
Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities  
(HO) Course.


Satisfies Philosophy Major Metaphysics/  
Epistemology OR Value Theory Requirement

 Instructor Jerrold Levinson,  
[august@umd.edu](mailto:august@umd.edu) [Books](#)

TuTh 11:00am-11:50am ([TYD](#) 0117) plus  
Friday discussions.

This course is conceived as an introduction to philosophical problems through the vehicle of literature. This means that we will read a fair amount of both literature and philosophy. In reading the literature we will be concerned with how philosophical issues are raised by or embodied in works of literary fiction. In reading the philosophy we will be concerned with how philosophy proper conducts its business, and how its treatment of philosophical issues differs from that which literature accords them. Thus in addition to studying particular works of literature and of philosophy, we will confront questions about the nature of philosophy and the nature of literature. Students will acquire experience in interpreting literature from a philosophical point of view, and with the analysis and evaluation of philosophical argument for its own sake. Authors to be read will likely include Kafka, Borges, Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Sartre, and Mann; Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, James, and Russell; and a number of contemporary philosophers, notably Thomas Nagel.

PHIL234 Fundamental Concepts of Judaism; (3  
credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE  
Humanities (HO) Course. *Also offered as  
JWST250. Not open to students who have  
completed JWST250. Credit will be granted for  
only one of the following: PHIL234 or JWST250.*  
Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory  
Requirement

 Instructor Charles Manekin,  
[manekinc@umd.edu](mailto:manekinc@umd.edu) [Books](#)

MW 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([KEY](#) 0125)

A conceptual introduction to Judaism, analyzing  
its fundamental concepts from both analytical and  
historical perspectives. Discussion of "normative"  
Judaism as well as other conceptions of Judaism.  
Topics include: God, the Jewish people, authority,  
ethics, the sacred and the profane, particularism  
and universalism.

PHIL236 Philosophy of Religion; (3 credits)  
Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities  
(HO) Course.

Satisfies Philosophy Major

Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor Allen Stairs, [stairs@umd.edu](mailto:stairs@umd.edu)

[Books](#)


MW 11:00am-11:50am ([KEY](#) 0102) plus Friday  
discussions

This course is open to believers and non-believers  
of all stripes. The only prerequisite is a  
willingness to think seriously and to take seriously  
the possibility that – whatever your religious or  
irreligious view – you might be wrong. A good bit  
of the course will cover familiar territory: we will  
look at the standard arguments for and against  
belief in God. We will also explore the topics of  
miracles, religious experience, and religious  
diversity. On this latter topic, we will spend some  
time thinking about several of the world's major  
religions, and guest speakers will help us gain  
insight into their meaning and doctrines. We will  
also think about the connection between religion  
and the meaning of life. Our texts will include  
philosophical works, and Houston Smith's *The  
World's Religions*.

PHIL250 Philosophy of Science I; (3 credits)  
Grade Method: REG/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO)  
Course.

Satisfies Philosophy Major

Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor William Kallfelz,

[wkallfel@umd.edu](mailto:wkallfel@umd.edu) [Books](#)

TuTh 12:30pm- 1:45pm ([HZF](#) 0106)

This course offers an overview of some of the  
central issues in the philosophy of science.  
Surveying science from an external perspective,  
this course will explore questions like: (a) How can  
one distinguish science from pseudo-science? (b)  
To what degree and extent do values influence  
what are considered “scientifically objective”  
theories and facts, and from what basis do we  
evaluate their objectivity? (c) How does one best  
characterize the growth and evolution of  
scientific knowledge? Internal to science, we will  
also tackle questions like: (d) What does it mean  
for a scientific theory to be confirmed? (e) What

characterizes a “law of nature?” (f) How do  
scientific theories interrelate and when can one  
talk about one theory “reducing to” another? For  
more information, please check course website  
<http://www.glue.umd.edu/~wkallfel/PHIL250/index.html>

PHIL271 Symbolic Logic I; (3 credits) Grade  
Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: PHIL170 or CMSC250; or permission  
of department. Formerly PHIL 371.*

 Instructor Jeffrey Bub, [jbub@umd.edu](mailto:jbub@umd.edu)

[Books](#)

TuTh 9:30am-10:45am ([SKN](#) 1112)

In this course in symbolic deductive logic, we  
introduce a symbolic language for sentential logic  
(the branch of logic that takes sentences as the  
fundamental units of logical analysis), and for  
predicate logic (the branch of logic that takes  
subsentence units - predicates and individual  
terms - as the fundamental units of logical  
analysis). In terms of this symbolic language -  
first-order logic with identity - we develop  
formal techniques for assessing the logical  
relations among sentences and groups of  
sentences in a wide range of arguments.

PHIL282 Action and Responsibility; (3 credits)  
Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities  
(HO) Course.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory  
Requirement

 Instructor Matt King, [mattking@umd.edu](mailto:mattking@umd.edu)

[Books](#)

TuTh 9:30am-10:20am ([CSS](#) 1113) plus Friday  
discussions

If what science tells us is true, that every event  
has a cause, can we still have free will? Does a  
horrible childhood mitigate a violent criminal's  
blameworthiness? Is anyone ever truly  
responsible for anything? This course deals with  
these problems in ethics, philosophy of mind, and  
metaphysics, covering such topics as personal  
agency, free will, and responsibility. The current  
version of the course will focus on theories of  
free will and responsibility, and the related  
phenomena of reactive emotions (like gratitude  
and guilt) and excuses (e.g., accidents and  
mistakes).


The required text for the course will be: Robert Kane, *A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will* (Oxford), possibly along with further readings containing highlights of contemporary debates over issues of responsibility.

Written requirements will include midterm and final exams, plus regular short writing assignments.

PHIL308C Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Philosophy and Feminism; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

Prerequisite: two courses in PHIL.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Metaphysics/Epistemology OR Value Theory Requirement

 Instructor Elizabeth Schechter, [lizschechter@hotmail.com](mailto:lizschechter@hotmail.com) [Books](#)


TuTh 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([BPS](#) 1124)

This is a course on feminist theory, and one that examines philosophical questions raised by the feminist movement. We will be asking questions like: What is the relationship between sex and gender? Are women more "feminine" than men, and if so, are they innately more feminine than men, or are gender traits the product of socialization? What is oppression, and are (all? some?) women oppressed--and if so, are they oppressed as women? What is a patriarchy, and is America one? Is feminism sexist? Is philosophy androcentric? What are the ideological and political/social links between racism and sexism? What are the connections between patriarchy, capitalism, globalization, and environmental destruction? Are women innately less intelligent than men, or innately less capable of excelling in math and the physical sciences? Is this a "purely empirical" or a value-laden question? Are our very norms and practices of scientific objectivity somehow suspect?

PHIL308L Studies in Contemporary Philosophy: Meaning of Life; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

Prerequisite: two courses in PHIL.

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

 Instructor S. Jack Odell, [sjodell@umd.edu](mailto:sjodell@umd.edu) [Books](#)

TuTh 12:30pm- 1:45pm ([SKN](#) 1115)


Some philosophers have argued that human existence is meaningless or pointless; others that it is inexorably miserable and disappointing; and others claim that it is absurd. We will examine all these claims as well as various others concerning the meaning of life. Among those philosophers and literary luminaries we will read are: Schopenhauer, Tolstoy, Bertrand Russell, Camus, Sartre, Paul Edwards, Thomas Nagel, and Robert Nozick.

Requirements: Two examinations (100 pts. each), an eight to ten page paper (100 pts.) and a final (200 pts.). You will also receive credit for attendance and participation (50 pts.).

PHIL320 Modern Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy.* A study of major philosophical issues of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries through an examination of such philosophers as Descartes, Newton, Hume, and Kant.

Satisfies Philosophy Major History Requirement

 Instructor Charles Manekin, [manekinc@umd.edu](mailto:manekinc@umd.edu) [Books](#)

MW 11:00am-11:50am ([TYD](#) 1102) plus Friday discussions.

A study in the major philosophical issues of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries through an examination of portions of the works of Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant, with special emphasis on the relationship between philosophical thought and the development of science.

PHIL341 Ethical Theory; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy.*

*Junior standing.* A critical examination of classical and contemporary systems of ethics, such as those of Aristotle, Kant, Mill, and Rawls. Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

 Instructor Patricia Greenspan, [pg@umd.edu](mailto:pg@umd.edu) [Books](#)

MW 12:00pm-12:50pm ([BPS](#) 1243) plus Friday discussions.

Selections from major texts in the history of philosophy exhibiting key contrasts within theoretical ethics: Mill's utilitarianism versus Kant's duty-based approach to understanding what makes an act right or wrong; Aristotle's emphasis on rationality versus Hume's focus on the passions as determining what makes certain character traits virtues or vices; and the connection drawn by Rawls between social contract theory and moral psychology.

PHIL362 Theory of Knowledge; (3 credits)

Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: PHIL170 and 3 additional credits in Philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL462. Formerly PHIL 462.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major

Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor Christopher Cherniak,

[cherniak@umd.edu](mailto:cherniak@umd.edu) [Books](#)

TuTh 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([SKN](#) 1112)

The course begins with the philosophical question, How do I know there is an external world of objects and persons existing independently of me? We start from the "classical" answer, Descartes' [Meditations](#) -- and the persistent embarrassment of skepticism already arising there. The course is structured in terms of some responses: the puzzle of the relation, i.e., the clash, between skepticism and common sense; next, empiricist / verificationist attempts to eliminate skeptical challenges as meaningless; finally, the current conception of epistemology as a basic part of a complete cognitive science. Readings include Carnap, Quine, and Kant's [Prolegomena](#).

PHIL364 Metaphysics; (3 credits) Grade

Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL464. Formerly PHIL 464.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major

Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor Dan Blair [Books](#)

TuTh 9:30am-10:45am ([SKN](#) 1115)

Introduction to contemporary topics and debates in Anglo-American analytic metaphysics. We'll

first consider the following questions: Why is there a universe rather than nothing at all? What is truth? Are we justified in believing that the goal of our creating theories about the world is their coming to mirror the details of that world, such that the properties our theories describe are objective, mind-independent ones? We'll then use some of what we've learned via the examination of those questions by undertaking two case studies involving the appearance of metaphysical conundrums which relate to those above and which are also at the forefront of contemporary philosophical debate—the question of whether or not nature's value is intrinsic, and realism versus antirealism in the theory of moral value.


PHIL366 Philosophy of Mind; (3 credits) Grade

Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy. Not open to students who have completed PHIL380.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major

Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor Joel Gibson,

[joel\\_gibson11@hotmail.com](mailto:joel_gibson11@hotmail.com) [Books](#)

TuTh 12:30pm- 1:45pm ([PLS](#) 1111)

An introduction to core issues in the philosophy of mind, focusing especially on the basic metaphysical question of dualism versus physicalism.

PHIL386 (*PermReq*) Experiential Learning; (6

credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F. Individual

Instruction course: contact department or instructor to obtain section number.

*Prerequisite: permission of department. Junior standing.* Consult Director of Undergraduate Studies: C. Manekin ([manekinc@umd.edu](mailto:manekinc@umd.edu)).


Prerequisites: 12 credit hours of philosophy and 3.0 GPA. Carries no credit toward philosophy major.

PHIL412 The Philosophy of Plato; (3 credits)

Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major History Requirement

 Instructor Pierre Destrée [Books](#)

TuTh 11:00am-12:15pm ([SKN](#) 1115)

The course will focus on Plato's ethics, and politics. It will primarily consist in a detailed reading of the Republic (in D.Reeve's translation, Hackett), with references, and readings, of various passages of other dialogues.

PHIL416 Medieval Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major History Requirement

 Instructor Lars Svenonius, [lars@umd.edu](mailto:lars@umd.edu)

[Books](#)


MWF 1:00pm- 1:50pm ([SKN](#) 1112)

The aim of the course is to make the student familiar with the thinking of some of the main figures in the Western philosophical tradition in the middle ages, from Augustine to Ockham. ("Western" here will admit non-European Arabic and Jewish authors.) Some attention will also be given to the ancient roots of medieval thinking (Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, and Neoplatonists). In the course, we will study the chosen authors largely through reading their own works, and keep the reliance on secondary sources to a minimum.

PHIL426 Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Capstone (CS) Course.

*Prerequisite: permission of department. Senior standing. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: PHIL326 or PHIL426. Formerly PHIL 326*

Satisfies Philosophy Major Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor Michael Morreau, [mimo@umd.edu](mailto:mimo@umd.edu)

[Books](#)

TuTh 12:30pm- 1:45pm ([SKN](#) 1112)

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, impressive advances were made in physics, mathematics, and symbolic logic. However, the traditional problems in Western philosophy seemed far from solutions. What things exist? How is knowledge possible? What is the relation between the body and the mind? Then, philosophers and mathematicians began to approach these questions from a different angle. A rapidly growing group of analytic philosophers argued that the seemingly unsolvable problems of

philosophy were not really problems at all, but rest on misunderstandings about language. This course will cover many theories advanced by this new generation of philosophers.

PHIL428B Topics in the History of Philosophy: Greek Aesthetics; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: two courses in PHIL.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major History Requirement

 Instructor Pierre Destrée [Books](#)

TuTh..... 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([BPS](#) 1238)

The course will offer a detailed reading of the most important Greek philosophical texts on aesthetics: Plato, Ion, Phaedrus, Symposium, Republic, books 2, 3, 10; Aristotle, Politics, book 8, and Poetics.

PHIL428P Topics in the History of Philosophy: Phenomenology; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: two courses in PHIL.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major History Requirement

 Instructor Jerrold Levinson

[august@umd.edu](mailto:august@umd.edu) [Books](#)

TuTh 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([SKN](#) 1115)

This course will give students an idea of the fundamental concepts and objectives of phenomenology, a twentieth-century European philosophical tradition that aims to illuminate the structure of mind and world through a close examination of consciousness itself, shorn as far as possible of all presuppositions. We will read a good deal of Edmund Husserl, the founder of phenomenology, aided by some works of secondary literature. After that we will deal with some significant texts of Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, and perhaps Heidegger. We may also, or alternatively, read some contemporary philosophers working in the phenomenological-analytical tradition, such as Hubert Dreyfus.

PHIL440 Contemporary Ethical Theory; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: PHIL341*

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

 Instructor Dan Moller [Books](#)

MW 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([KEY](#) 0123)

This is a class for courageous contrarians. We will examine four -isms that threaten all or part of our moral thinking. In order of peril, they are nihilism, relativism, situationism and particularism. Nihilism denies that there are moral facts; relativism denies that there are *universal* moral facts; situationism denies that people have robust character traits; and particularism denies that rules or principles should play an important role in our moral reasoning. In addition to discussing the theories themselves, we will also explore what kind of impact taking them seriously might have on real-world choices we must make.

PHIL445 Contemporary Political Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: three credit hours in philosophy or political theory or permission of department.*

*Sophomore standing.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major Value Theory Requirement

 Instructor Andrew Levine,

[alevine@earthlink.net](mailto:alevine@earthlink.net) [Books](#)

Th 2:00pm- 4:30pm ([HZF](#) 0101)

An advanced introduction to political philosophy, focusing on core issues -- the connection between the state and civil society, democracy, justice, rights, freedom and equality. Readings from, among others, Quentin Skinner, David Gauthier, Carole Pateman, Charles Taylor, Robert Dahl, Jon Elster, Joshua Cohen, Cass Sunstein, John Rawls, T.H. Marshall, H.L.A. Hart, Isaiah Berlin, G.A. Cohen, Bernard Williams, Amartya Sen, Michael Walzer, and Brian Barry. There will (probably) be take-home examinations assigned at the end of the fifth, tenth and final week, respectively. In each case, answers will be due within one week of the assignment. In special circumstances, to be negotiated on a case by case basis, students who do very well on the first assignment may be permitted to substitute a paper on a topic of their own choosing for one or both of the two final assignments.

PHIL454 Philosophy of Space and Time; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy. Senior standing.*

Satisfies Philosophy Major

Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor Giovanni Valente,

[gvalente@mail.umd.edu](mailto:gvalente@mail.umd.edu) [Books](#)

TuTh 9:30am-10:45am ([HZF](#) 0101)


What is Space? And what is Time? Are they separated, independent entities or are they, so to speak, melded together to form such a thing as Spacetime? How can we determine whether two events taking place at different spatial locations are simultaneous, that is are happening at the same time? What geometry describes Spacetime? How can the arrow of time be established? These and other issues, such as the dilation of time and the contraction of space in Einstein's theories of Relativity, will be addressed in detail during the semester. Through a semi-historical overview of the philosophical development of the concepts of Space and Time based on readings of Euclid, Aristotle, Newton, Leibniz, Mach and Poincaré, the mutual influence of philosophy, physics and mathematics will be widely emphasized and investigated. The course will then focus on the puzzles arising from the reduction of Thermodynamics to Statistical Mechanics and the revolutionary achievements of Special and General Relativity as regards our understanding of reality. All the technical background to appreciate the conceptual upshot of such physical theories will be provided in class.

PHIL458B (*PermReq*) Topics in the Philosophy of Science: History of Biology; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

PHIL256 or PHIL250 or biological science major or permission of instructor. Also offered HIST404.

Satisfies Philosophy Major

Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement

 Instructor Lindley Darden, [darden@umd.edu](mailto:darden@umd.edu)

[Books](#)


Tu 4:00pm- 6:30pm ([SKN](#) 1115)

This is a combined history and philosophy of modern biology course. The philosophical issue to be discussed is the reasoning in constructing,


evaluating, and revising biological theories. The historical cases to be examined are nineteenth and twentieth century evolutionary theory, Mendelian genetics and molecular biology. Readings include both primary and secondary historical sources including Darwin's (1859) *ORIGIN OF SPECIES*, Mendel's (1865) paper on pea hybrids, and James Watson's (1968) *THE DOUBLE HELIX*.

This course is appropriate for history, philosophy, and biological science majors, STS and Life Science Scholars, science journalists, biology teachers, and graduate students interested in the history and philosophy of biology. The course is especially appropriate to satisfy the CORE Advanced Studies requirement for science majors.

PHIL478 Topics in Philosophical Logic: Philosophical Logic; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F.  
Prerequisite: PHIL271 or permission of the instructor.

 Instructor Erin Eaker [Books](#)  
MW 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([SKN 1112](#))  
This course will explore the philosophical topics surrounding modal logic, the logic of necessity and possibility. We will begin by covering the basic modal logic system and its extensions, with discussions of related logics such as temporal, deontic and doxastic logics. We will discuss the philosophical issues arising from possible worlds semantics for modal logic; the problems surrounding the addition of quantifiers to modal logic; and topics such as *de re* modality, essentialism, haecceitism, and rigid designation. Familiarity with propositional logic will be presupposed.

PHIL481 Philosophy of Psychology: Representation; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.  
*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy; one of which must be PHIL280 or PHIL366.*


Satisfies Philosophy Major  
Metaphysics/Epistemology Requirement  
 Instructor Georges Rey,  
[georey@earthlink.net](mailto:georey@earthlink.net) [Books](#)

MW 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([SKN 1115](#))  
Semantics and representations within computational framework: intentionality, explicit vs. implicit representation, syntax vs. semantics of thought, connectionist approaches, images, classical vs. prototype theories of concepts.

PHIL498F (*PermReq*) Topical Investigations: Topical Investigation; (1-3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. Individual Instruction course: contact department or instructor to obtain section number.  
Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy or permission of the department.

PHIL498G (*PermReq*) Topical Investigations: Topical Investigation; (1-3 credits) Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. Individual Instruction course: contact department or instructor to obtain section number.  
Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy or permission of the department.


PHIL651 (*PermReq*) Philosophy of Science; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.  
*Prerequisite: Graduate status in philosophy or permission of department.*

 Instructor Lindley Darden, [darden@umd.edu](mailto:darden@umd.edu)  
[Books](#)  
W 1:00pm- 3:30pm ([SKN 1116](#))  
This course surveys twentieth century philosophy of science, including some of the main philosophers (Karl Popper, Thomas Kuhn) and main themes: falsification, models of scientific change, causal mechanistic vs. unificationist accounts of explanation, debates about a logic of scientific discovery. Additional possible topics, depending on the interests of the students, might include scientific realism, experimentalism, analysis of errors in science, unity of science, scientific models and analogies, or philosophical issues in the special sciences (physics, chemistry, biology, cognitive science). Several written and oral requirements for the course include developing a syllabus for teaching introductory philosophy of science (or a related course, such as philosophy of biology or bioethics); surveying the more recent literature to write a review of an on-going

topic in the field; and completing a final examination.

PHIL660 Metaphysics, Mind, and Language; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

*Prerequisite: Graduate status in philosophy or permission of department*

 Instructor Georges Rey, [georey@earthlink.net](mailto:georey@earthlink.net) [Books](#)

M 5:00pm- 7:30pm ([SKN](#) 1115)

A basic course on selected issues in metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language for beginning graduate students, covering a number of topics in depth, to provide a springboard for further study and research in the area.

PHIL688P Selected Problems in Philosophy: Proseminar in Politics, Philosophy and Public Policy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD. Also offered as PUA698E.

 Instructor Karol Soltan,


[ksoltan@gvpt.umd.edu](mailto:ksoltan@gvpt.umd.edu) [Books](#)

Tu 12:30pm- 3:15pm ([VMH](#) 1107)

PHIL788G (*PermReq*) Research in Philosophy: Research in Philosophy; (1-6 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD. Individual Instruction course: contact department or instructor to obtain section number.

PHIL808A Seminar in the Problems of Philosophy: Problems in Metaphysics; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

Th 3:30pm- 6:00pm ([SKN](#) 1116)

 Instructor Michael Morreau, [mimo@umd.edu](mailto:mimo@umd.edu) [Books](#)

Ordinary things like clouds, kittens and mountains are vague, in the sense that they lack fully determinate spatial and temporal boundaries. Or so, anyway, it is sometimes said. Philosophers who have given the matter any thought have tended to say otherwise. Following Bertrand Russell, they have argued that to think the world is inherently vague is to confuse a property of our thoughts and linguistic representations of things for a property of these things themselves. One might as well imagine, Russell scoffed, that the world is inherently muddleheaded.

As it happens, the idea that things lack determinate spatio-temporal boundaries is not at all strange in the ways that Russell thought it must be. Things can be inherently vague and yet still have fully determinate identities.

Furthermore, there isn't anything especially odd about their part-whole theory, or mereology. But is there any reason to think that, in addition to being coherent, this idea might actually be true?

In this seminar, we'll explore and develop several reasons to think that the world is inherently vague. Some, such as Peter Unger's lovely "Problem of the Many" have been in the literature for a while now. Others are work-in-progress. The discussion will range widely, from medieval paradoxes, to the nature of the intentionality, to the apparent needs of theorists in other fields including Medicine, Geography and Artificial Intelligence. It will draw on and develop your knowledge not only of Metaphysics, but also of Philosophy of Language and Philosophy of Mind.

PHIL808B Seminar in the Problems of Philosophy: Justice; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD

 Instructor Christopher Morris,

[cwmorris@umd.edu](mailto:cwmorris@umd.edu) [Books](#)

M 2:00pm- 4:30pm ([SKN](#) 1116)

The topic of this seminar is justice. There are a number of interesting questions to be raised about justice. The ones that preoccupy most theorists today seem to concern the requirements of justice: what does the virtue ask of us? The debate between Rawls and his critics is often thought of as one about the demands of justice (right vs left, egalitarian vs something else, etc.). These questions are interesting and important. However, I propose to focus on questions I think of as prior. It seems important to have a good understanding of the nature of justice -- how this virtue differs from others (e.g., benevolence, prudence), why this virtue is thought to be so important by most (but not by others, e.g. most moral consequentialists). And a lot of thought needs to be given to the nature of the reasons for action that justice is said to give us. I propose to spend much of the fall on these

last questions. Readings will include a number of thinkers, classical (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Thomas, Hobbes, Hume, Mill) and recent (A. Buchanan, G.A. Cohen, P. Foot, Gauthier, Nagel, Nozick, Rawls, P. Singer, M. Thompson).

PHIL828 Seminar in the History of Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

 STAFF [Books](#)

Tu..... 5:00pm- 7:30pm ([SKN](#) 1116)

PHIL858 Seminar in Logic and Philosophy of Sciences: Quantum Theory; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.

 Instructor Jeffrey Bub, [jbub@umd.edu](mailto:jbub@umd.edu)  
[Books](#)

Tu..... 2:00pm- 4:30pm ([SKN](#) 1116)