

# Fall 2008 Philosophy Courses

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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.

**TuTh.....11:00am-11:50am (MMH 1400) plus Friday discussions**

**Maximum size 150** Instructor - Dan Blair [danbl24@gmail.com](mailto:danbl24@gmail.com) [Books](#)

I shall discuss some of the classic topics of Western Philosophy, together with readings from classic sources. Among the topics: the nature of truth and whether it is possible to know reality; the nature of the self and of our capacity for acting freely; some of the traditional arguments for and against the existence of good; the nature of moral goodness. 2 tests and a final, with some modest writing assignments. No background knowledge is assumed for this course.

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

**MW.....12:00pm-12:50pm (SKN 0200) plus Friday discussions**

**Maximum size 225** Instructor Ryan Millsap [millsap@umd.edu](mailto:millsap@umd.edu) [Books](#)

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.

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

**TuTh.....11:00am-11:50am (SHM 2102) plus Friday discussions**

**Maximum size 225** Instructor Matt King [mattking@umd.edu](mailto:mattking@umd.edu) [Books](#)

The uses of philosophical analysis in thinking clearly about such widely debated moral issues as abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, pornography, reverse discrimination, the death penalty, business ethics, sexual equality, and economic justice.

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

**MW.....12:00pm-12:50pm (SHM 2102) plus Friday discussions**

**Maximum size 225** Instructor Samuel Kerstein [kerstein@umd.edu](mailto:kerstein@umd.edu) [Books](#)

This course explores currently debated issues concerning life and death. It introduces you to philosophical reasoning on controversial topics such as abortion, euthanasia, and stem cell research. The course aims to help you to develop your ability to understand, evaluate, and construct arguments in the realm of applied ethics.

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

**MW.....10:00am-10:50am (SHM 2102) plus Friday discussions**

**Maximum size 225** Instructor Michael Morreau [mimo@umd.edu](mailto:mimo@umd.edu) [Books](#)

In this course you'll learn about artificial languages such as the propositional calculus, and their relationship to natural languages such as English. You'll learn how to determine the validity of arguments in both sorts of

languages. You'll learn about inferences that are purely formal, in the sense that they get their validity from the forms of the sentences involved, not from the particular contents of these sentences.

**PHIL233 Philosophy in Literature; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.  
MW.....11:00am-11:50am ([TYD 1101](#)) plus Friday discussions

**Maximum size 75** Instructor Elizabeth Picciuto [epicciuto@gmail.com](mailto:epicciuto@gmail.com) [Books](#)

This course will be devoted to the study philosophical questions as they arise in works of literary fiction (including drama, short stories, and novels). We will study how topics such as personal identity, consciousness, epistemology, aesthetics, free will, life and death, God, and ethics are elucidated by both philosophers and authors of fiction.

**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.*

MW..... 2:00pm- 3:15pm ([ASY 3215](#))

**Maximum size 25** Instructor Charles Manekin [manekinc@umd.edu](mailto:manekinc@umd.edu) [Books](#)

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.

**PHIL245 Political and Social Philosophy I; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Humanities (HO) Course.

TuTh..... 2:00pm- 2:50pm ([TYD 2106](#)) plus Friday discussions

**Maximum size 75** Instructor Heidi Tiedke [htiedke@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:htiedke@hfx.eastlink.ca) [Books](#)

A critical examination of such classical political theories as those of Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, and such contemporary theories as those of Hayek, Rawls, and recent Marxist thinkers.

**PHIL261 Philosophy of the Environment; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD. CORE Interdisciplinary & Emerging Issues (IE) Course.

*Not open to students who have completed HONR218F or PHIL209N. Formerly HONR218F.*

MW..... 1:00pm- 1:50pm ([TYD 2106](#)) plus Friday discussions

**Maximum size 75** Instructor Susan Bilek [sbilek@umd.edu](mailto:sbilek@umd.edu) [Books](#)

An evaluation of different kinds of arguments for the claim that the natural environment should be preserved. Perspectives cut across the disciplines of philosophy (environmental ethics, philosophies of nature), economics (cost-benefit analysis), and biology (evolution, ecology, environmental studies).

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

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy.

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

**Maximum seats 30** Instructor Elizabeth Schechter [lizschechter@gmail.com](mailto:lizschechter@gmail.com) [Books](#)

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?

**PHIL310 Ancient Philosophy; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy or classics.*

**MW.....11:00am-11:50am (TYD 2106) plus Friday discussions**

**Maximum size 75 Instructor Rachel Singpurwalla [rgks@umd.edu](mailto:rgks@umd.edu) [Books](#)**

In this course we will study works by Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenistic philosophers- the Epicureans, Stoics, and Skeptics. Topics will include the ultimate nature of reality (metaphysics), our ability to understand that reality (epistemology), and what kind of life is best for a human being (ethics). Students can expect to come away from the course with a basic understanding of the major schools of thought in ancient Greek philosophy and with sufficient background to take upper-level courses on a single figure or single text of the classical or Hellenistic period

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

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

**MW.....10:00am-10:50am (TYD 1102) plus Friday discussions**

**Maximum size 75 Instructor Samuel Kerstein [kerstein@umd.edu](mailto:kerstein@umd.edu) [Books](#)**

A critical examination of classical and contemporary systems of ethics, such as those of Aristotle, Kant, Mill, and Rawls.

**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 PHIL462.*

**TuTh..... 9:30am-10:45am (SKN 1112)**

**Maximum size 30 Instructor Dimiter Kirilov [iastre@yahoo.com](mailto:iastre@yahoo.com) [Books](#)**

Some central topics in the theory of knowledge, such as perception, memory, knowledge, and belief, skepticism, other minds, truth, and the problems of induction.

**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*

**TuTh..... 2:00pm- 3:15pm (BPS 1124)**

**Maximum size 30 Instructor Dan Blair [danbl24@gmail.com](mailto:danbl24@gmail.com) [Books](#)**

I shall be covering many of the classic arguments concerning the nature of subjective mental and perceptual states, including consciousness, as well as some of the important views about the content of mental states. The viability of physical and computational theories of mind will also be discussed at some length. 2 tests, a final and some writing will be required. I shall assume some background in philosophy generally.

**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. 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: nine credit hours in philosophy. A critical study of selected dialogues.*

**MW..... 2:00pm- 3:15pm (ARM 0101)**

**Maximum size 25 Instructor Rachel Singpurwalla [rgks@umd.edu](mailto:rgks@umd.edu) [Books](#)**

The aim of this course is to examine Plato's moral philosophy. Plato's goal is to understand what kind of life is best for human beings; he is particularly interested in how virtue, especially wisdom and justice, and pleasure

are related to achieving this life. Accordingly, we will read dialogues that focus on these themes, including the *Euthydemus*, *Protagoras*, *Gorgias*, *Republic*, and *Philebus*. Our primary purpose will be to understand and critically examine the views and arguments presented in these texts, but we will also address other issues, such as whether Plato holds a consistent position in these dialogues, and his purpose in writing in the dialogue form.

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

*Prerequisite: six credit hours in philosophy.*

**MWF..... 1:00pm- 1:50pm (SKN 1112)**

**Maximum size 25** Instructor Lars Svenonius [lars@umd.edu](mailto:lars@umd.edu) [Books](#)

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 PHIL326.*

**MW..... 2:00pm- 3:15pm (SKN 1112)**

**Maximum size 20** Instructor Michael Morreau [mimo@umd.edu](mailto:mimo@umd.edu) [Books](#)

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.

**PHIL428K Topics in the History of Philosophy: Rousseau, Kant Marx; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

**Tu..... 2:00pm- 4:30pm (ARC 1103)**

**Maximum size 25** Instructor Andrew Levine [alevine@earthlink.net](mailto:alevine@earthlink.net) [Books](#)

In *The Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807), G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831) maintained that Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) discovered what Hegel called "the moral view of the world," and that Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) then went on to explore and also defend that discovery. This contention, which has to do as much with conceptual affinities as with historical linkages, is in accord with some of Kant's own remarks, and has been corroborated by subsequent philosophical and historical investigations. Karl Marx (1818-1883) was implicitly a proponent of the moral view of the world in the sense that he faulted the social divisions and institutional arrangements of his time for blocking its realization. This was plainly his position in his early writings (before he "settled accounts with ...[his] erstwhile philosophical conscience," as he put it in *The German Ideology* (1845)), and was arguably his view thereafter. What Hegel thought Rousseau discovered was, in effect, a certain conception of freedom, which, as Kant showed, is replete with moral philosophical implications. Marx's concern was to create the social and political conditions for realizing this conception, not just in theory but in practice as well. This course will explore the nature and trajectory of the idea in question as it unfolds in the writings of Rousseau, Kant, and Marx. In other (only slightly facetious) words, the aim of the course will be to examine an idea of freedom and related notions that Rousseau discovered, that Kant worked out, and that Marx believed (enough to want to change the world to conform with it). We will do this by working through some of Rousseau's political writings, including *The Social Contract* (1762) and *The Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

(1754); some of Kant's writings in moral philosophy, including *The Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785); and some of Marx's early work, including the "Introduction" to *The Critique of Hegel's "Philosophy of Right,"* (1843) and parts of *The Paris Manuscripts* (1844).

**PHIL431 Aesthetic Theory; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: nine credits in philosophy or permission of department*

**TuTh.....12:30pm- 1:45pm (SKN 1115)**

**Maximum size 25** Instructor John Brown [jhbrown@umd.edu](mailto:jhbrown@umd.edu) [Books](#)

Description: In this course we will deal with core issues in aesthetic theory as well as a selection of topics concerning applications. The core issues include the conception of the aesthetic as a distinctive domain of human experience and activity, the relation between the aesthetic and the artistic, the nature of aesthetic properties, the ontology of art objects and events, criteria of interpretation, and the like. Among the topics in applied aesthetics will be environmental and architectural aesthetics.

The main text is Robert Stecker, *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art*. This will be supplemented by a number of articles or excerpts from books. Course requirements will include a midterm test, an 8-10 page paper, a final exam, and contributions to a discussion file on the course website.

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

*Prerequisite: PHIL341.*

**TuTh..... 9:30am-10:45am (SKN 1115)**

**Maximum size 24** Instructor Dan Moller [dmoller@umd.edu](mailto:dmoller@umd.edu) [Books](#)

This course will provide an overview of ethics as it is pursued among philosophers who have (for the most part) not yet expired. We will focus on three topics in particular that have been the subject of recent interest: nihilism (the view that there are no moral facts), situationism (the view that our behavior is determined largely by circumstance, not by character), and the moral significance of animals and the natural world. These topics are connected by the emphasis on naturalism and the natural sciences that modern philosophy has exhibited and that we will discuss in detail.

**PHIL446 Law, Morality, and War; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/P-F/AUD.

*Prerequisite: GVPT300, GVPT401, PHIL341, or permission of department. Also offered as GVPT403.* An exploration of fundamental moral and legal issues concerning war.

**TuTh.....12:30pm- 1:45pm (SKN 1112)**

**Maximum size 25** Instructor Aaron Hoytink [ahoytink@yahoo.com](mailto:ahoytink@yahoo.com) [Books](#)

An exploration of fundamental moral and legal issues concerning war.

What wars, if any, are just? What are we forbidden from doing when prosecuting a war? We shall examine traditional doctrines of just war and contemporary discussions of war. Readings will draw from classical works as well as contemporary writings about the two Iraq wars. We shall also discuss terrorism.

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

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

**TuTh.....11:00am-12:15pm (SKN 1115)**

**Maximum size 25** Instructor Mathias Frisch [mfrisch@umd.edu](mailto:mfrisch@umd.edu) [Books](#)

What is space? Is space a thing, like a star? Is it a 'container' in which objects and events live? Or is space nothing but the relative distances we can measure between different objects? What is the geometry of space? How do we come to know it? How has Einstein's theory of relativity come to influence the answers we give to these questions? Similar questions can be asked about time. But, in other ways, time is unlike space: We can move around in space in any direction we please, but move inexorably forward with the march of time. Does time 'flow'? What is the difference between past, present, and future? Do past and future exist in the same way as the present or is only the present real? Is time travel possible?

In this course we will examine philosophical questions such as these, concerning space and time, and their 20th century offspring, spacetime. Our approach will be quasi-historical, with readings ranging from Aristotle, to a debate between Newton and Leibniz, to twentieth century philosophers and physicists.

**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.*

**MW..... 2:00pm- 3:15pm (SKN 1115)**

**Maximum size 25** Instructor **Georges Rey** [georey@carnap.umd.edu](mailto:georey@carnap.umd.edu) [Books](#)

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.*

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

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

**Tu..... 2:00pm- 4:30pm (SKN 1116)**

**Maximum size 15** Instructor **Erin Eaker** [eeaker@umd.edu](mailto:eeaker@umd.edu) [Books](#)

**PHIL670 Epistemology; (3 credits)** Grade Method: REG/AUD.

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

**M..... 5:00pm- 7:35pm (SKN 1116)**

**Maximum size 15** Instructor **Georges Rey** [georey@carnap.umd.edu](mailto:georey@carnap.umd.edu) [Books](#)

**PHIL688P Selected Problems in Philosophy: Proseminar in Politics, Philosophy and Public Policy; (3 credits)**

Grade Method: REG/AUD.

Also offered as PUA698E.

**Tu.....12:30pm- 3:15pm (VMH 1107)**

**Maximum size 15** Instructor **Karol Soltan** [ksoltan@umd.edu](mailto:ksoltan@umd.edu) [Books](#)

**PHIL788 Research in Philosophy; (1-6 credits)** Grade Method: REG/AUD. Individual Instruction course: contact department or instructor to obtain section number.

**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.

**PHIL788I (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.

**PHIL799 Master's Thesis Research: Masters Thesis Research; (1-6 credits)** Grade Method: REG. Individual Instruction course: contact department or instructor to obtain section number.

**PHIL848 Seminar in Ethics: Moral Theory; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.**

**M..... 2:00pm- 4:35pm (SKN 1116)**

**Maximum size 15 Instructor Dan Moller [dmoller@umd.edu](mailto:dmoller@umd.edu) [Books](#)**

This course will cover a number of connected issues related to our susceptibility to error. The focus will be on value theory, but we will also do a fair amount of epistemology, and there will be an emphasis on relevant empirical literature. Topics will include: (1) experimental data suggestive of errors in our moral theory (misleading moral heuristics we employ, prospect theory as debunking the doing-allowing distinction, attribution errors, etc.); (2) the contingency of our values (natural selection and accidents of birth determine much of what we care about, our "epistemic twins" often reject our beliefs, etc.); (3) failures in reasoning (bias, motivated reasoning, the perception of risk and related issues in, e.g., clinical trial ethics, etc.); (4) failures in feeling (mistakes about what makes us happy, implications for social justice, psychopaths, etc.).

**PHIL858L Seminar in Logic and Philosophy of Sciences; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.**

**Th..... 2:00pm- 4:30pm (HBK 0125)**

**Maximum size 15 Instructor Erin Eaker [eeaker@umd.edu](mailto:eeaker@umd.edu) [Books](#)**

**PHIL858P Seminar in Logic and Philosophy of Sciences; (3 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.**

**Th..... 5:00pm- 7:30pm (SKN 1116)**

**Maximum size 15 Instructor Mathias Frisch [mfrisch@umd.edu](mailto:mfrisch@umd.edu) [Books](#)**

**PHIL878 Seminar in Cognitive Studies; (3-9 credits) Grade Method: REG/AUD.**

**Tu..... 5:00pm- 7:30pm (SKN 1116)**

**Maximum size 15 Instructor Georges Rey [georey@carnap.umd.edu](mailto:georey@carnap.umd.edu) [Books](#)**

**PHIL889 (PermReq) Pedagogical Mentoring for Doctoral Students; (1-3 credits) Grade Method: S-F.**

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

**PHIL898 Pre-Candidacy Research; (1-8 credits) Grade Method: REG.** Individual Instruction course: contact

department or instructor to obtain section number.

**PHIL899 (PermReq) Doctoral Dissertation Research: Doctoral Dissertation Research; (6 credits) Grade**

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