

Fall 2018 Philosophy Courses

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Philosophy Advising

philadv@umd.edu

PHIL100.0101 Introduction to Philosophy Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: HO General Education: DSHU

An introduction to Western philosophy and logical reasoning. Readings will include classics by Plato, Kant and Descartes, as well as contemporary authors. Topics will include the existence of God, the nature of mind, moral values, and elementary logic.

TuTh 11:00am - 11:50am MMH 1400 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 150, Instructor Dan Moller dmoller@umd.edu

PHIL100.0201 Introduction to Philosophy Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: HO General Education: DSHU

An introduction to philosophy through a study of some central and recurring problems of philosophy such as the existence of God, the nature of mind, whether we have free will and what distinguishes right from wrong.

MW 10:00am - 10:50am TWS 1100 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 75, Instructor STAFF

PHIL140.0101 Contemporary Moral Issues Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: HO General Education: DSHU

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

TuTh 9:30am - 10:20am SKN 0200 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 150, Instructor STAFF

PHIL140.0201 Contemporary Moral Issues Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: HO General Education: DSHU

This course focuses on the themes of sex, money, and death. We will examine philosophical argument structure, moral concepts, and moral theories. We will then go on to examine the following applied topics: euthanasia, sexual consent, prostitution, the meat industry, abortion, and the death penalty. The course will involve reading philosophical articles, forming objections to moral arguments, and learning to communicate about philosophy effectively through writing and discussion

MW 12:00pm - 12:50pm JMZ 0200 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 150, Instructor Hallie Liberto liberto@umd.edu

PHIL170.0101 Introduction to Logic Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: MS General Education: FSAR

Logic is primarily concerned with two questions: When does something follow from something else? What are the principles of valid reasoning? For centuries, logic has been primarily a philosophical discipline. Nowadays, logical notions are an important part of the background for researchers from many disciplines such as mathematics, computer science, linguistics, cognitive science, and economics. The objective of this course is to become proficient at elementary formal reasoning involving propositional/first-order logic. Students will learn to identify some common informal reasoning errors, learn to identify arguments and their parts, learn how to 'speak' the language of first-order logic, study the method of truth tables, become proficient in giving formal and informal proofs, and learn how to construct and argue about first-order interpretations.

MW 11:00am - 11:50am ESJ 0224 plus Thursday or Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 225, Instructor Eric Pacuit epacuit@umd.edu

PHIL209A.0101 Philosophical Issues; Bioethics: Regulating Right and Wrong Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit General Education: DSHU or DSSP

Bioethicists formulate ethical guidelines. They answer questions such as: When life-saving health resources are scarce, who should get them? Should we increase supply of one such resource, kidneys, by buying them from living "donors"? If drug trials in developing countries benefit patients who consent to participate, are the trials ethical, even if the same research would be forbidden in the US? If a sick person aims to hasten her death, how, if at all, might her doctor permissibly help her? In this course, students construct and defend ethical rules in four domains: research ethics, allocation of scarce resources, markets in organs, and physician-assisted dying.

TuTh 9:30am - 10:20am SQH 1120 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 75, Instructor Samuel Kerstein kerstein@umd.edu

PHIL209E.0101 Philosophical Issues; Happiness Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit General Education: DSHU, SCIS

What does the discipline of philosophy teach us about happiness? This course explores how philosophers have addressed questions about the nature of happiness and its role in the good human life. Questions to be addressed include: what is it to be happy? What social, economic, and political institutions foster and support human happiness? Can an immoral person be happy? And is a happy life the same as meaningful life?

TuTh 2:00pm - 2:50pm TYD 2106 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 75, Instructor Rachel Singpurwalla rgks@umd.edu

PHIL209I.0101 Philosophical Issues: Spooky Action at a Distance: Where Physics meets Metaphysics Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: HO General Education: DSHU, SCIS

Einstein believed that physics should represent a "reality in space and time, free from spooky action at a distance" but he worried that quantum theory failed this test. Later developments have convinced many people that quantum systems really can influence one another instantly, no matter how far apart they are. This course will ask whether we're justified in drawing that conclusion; the answer is less obvious than the headlines suggest. There are no prerequisites, but students should be comfortable with basic algebra and geometry and have placed into MATH110 or higher.

MW 12:00pm - 12:50pm TYD 2109 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 75, Instructor Allen Stairs stairs@umd.edu

PHIL209N.0101 Know Thyself: Wisdom Through Cognitive Science Credits: 3:

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

Core HO General Education: DSHS or DSHU, SCIS

Most of what goes on in our minds is unconscious, and we are ignorant of many of the factors that influence our behavior. This course will outline a range of practically-important findings that have been made by psychologists. These include: our difficulties in knowing our own values; our susceptibility to unconscious racial and gender biases; the surprising resilience many people have in the face of tragedy; the unreliability of eyewitness testimony. Students will be invited to reflect on the significance of these findings for areas of personal and professional life, and will be encouraged to propose and defend effective solutions.

MW 10:00am - 10:50am SHM 2102 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 150, Instructor Peter Carruthers pcarruth@umd.edu

PHIL236.0101 Philosophy of Religion Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: HO General Education: DSHU

Also offered as: RELS236. Credit only granted for: PHIL236 or RELS236.

In this course, we will analyze and critically evaluate arguments concerning Western monotheistic religion (e.g., Islam, Christianity, and Judaism), according to which there is exactly one supreme entity, God, who is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omnibenevolent (morally perfect). We will begin by carefully evaluating a series of arguments that God exists (e.g., ontological argument, cosmological argument, teleological argument). We will then evaluate some attempts to prove that God does not exist (e.g., the problem of evil). We will also explore topics like reformed epistemology, miracles, religious experience, and tension between religious and scientific worldview. For each topic, we will critically examine whether the alleged arguments for/against God really succeed.

The course is not an introduction to cultural, sociological, or psychological studies of world religions. Nothing in this course is intended to be an approval or dismissal of a certain religion. We will not be comparing or contrasting the religious beliefs of groups of people. The course is open to both believers of any religion and nonbelievers as well. This course is reading intensive: we will explore multiple texts that cover important questions about philosophy of religion. The course is also writing intensive and requires careful attention to developing writing skill in reading responses and formal essays. Students are expected to engage with the texts and reflect on the ways that philosophy and religion interact.

TuTh 12:30pm - 1:20pm TWS 0310 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 75, Instructor Sungwon Woo swoo@umd.edu

PHIL245.0101 Political and Social Philosophy I Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit CORE: HO General Education: DSHU

A fundamental question of political philosophy is: what justifies the state's use of coercive force? Social contract theorists have an answer: the state's use of coercive force is justified because persons would agree to such coercion when in a state of anarchy. This course offers an overview of the main thinkers in the social contract tradition: Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and John Rawls. In answering the fundamental question of what justifies the state's use of coercive force we touch on several other themes as well: why persons ought to comply with the law, the nature of property rights, what human nature is really like, and issues arising from inequality.

MW 1:00pm - 1:50pm ASY 3211 plus Friday discussion sections

Maximum size 75, Instructor Brian Kogelmann bkogelma@umd.edu

PHIL308T.0101 Studies in Contemporary Philosophy; A Philosopher's Toolkit Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

There are two parts to this course: the *first third* will consist of informal, introductory material that will present some basic ideas and distinctions of recent Anglophone (mis-called "analytic") philosophy that I think many of you will find useful in dealing with many philosophical issues that arise in much *ordinary* thought, e.g., *what is the nature of truth, knowledge, value and the mind*. We'll see that we can say a surprising number of things that will at least allow one to "keep afloat" in ordinary reasoning, even if all these things are subject to relatively non-ordinary, more purely *theoretical* problems that usually only interest professional philosophers.

However, it is for these theoretical, often technical problems that philosophers of the last century developed formal, "*extensional*" logic. Explaining the significance of this latter material will be the content of the *second* part (two thirds) of the course. Although mathematics was the original inspiration for logic, and provides a convenient domain of clear examples of its application, very little beyond a knowledge of high school algebra will ever arise. Even when we turn at the end to one of the more amazing and important results of modern logic –Gödel's celebrated proof of the incompleteness of arithmetic– the most math you'll need to know are things like "3+2=5" and "17 is prime." *I'll try hard try to keep use of formal symbolisms to a minimum, always supplying ordinary English equivalents where symbolisms are standardly provided. In my view, the formalism is there only as a backup.*

Otherwise, the course will be very like many philosophy courses, full of distinctions where one would least suspect a difference, arguments for claims every school child knows, and doubts that only a madman would take seriously (as Bertrand Russell once put it). It's said that this sort of thing sharpens one's reasoning ability generally.

TuTh 2:00pm - 3:15pm CHE 2145

Maximum size 25, Instructor Georges Rey georey2@gmail.com

PHIL308Y.0101 Studies in Contemporary Philosophy Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

MW 2:00pm - 3:15pm SKN 1115

Maximum size 25, Instructor STAFF

PHIL310.0101 Ancient Philosophy Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

Prerequisite: Must have completed 6 credits in philosophy or classics.

In this course we will study a selection of works by Plato, Aristotle, and to a lesser extent, the Hellenistic philosophers (the Epicureans, Stoics, and Skeptics). There is a strong tendency in ancient Greek thought to insist that a life well lived must be devoted to the pursuit of virtue and especially wisdom. Though all of the philosophers we will study manifest this tendency, they do not agree on the details of what virtue and wisdom are and their role in the happy human life. Our aim is to understand and evaluate these philosophers' distinctive positions on the nature of virtue, wisdom, and happiness, as well as related issues, such as how virtue and wisdom are attained, and the role of society in cultivating and fostering human happiness.

TuTh 11:00am - 11:50am TWS 1100 plus Monday discussion sections

Maximum size 75, Instructor Rachel Singpurwalla rqks@umd.edu

PHIL328D.0101 Studies in the History of Philosophy Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

Blended Learning 

MW 1:00pm - 1:50pm ASY 3219 Class time/details on ELMS discussion

Maximum size 25, Instructor STAFF

PHIL332.0101 Philosophy of Beauty Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

Prerequisite: 3 courses in PHIL; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department.

Do you think beauty is merely in the eye of the beholder -- that is, merely personal? Think again. Do you think it's what the culture drums into you in order to sell you stuff? Don't be a dupe! Do you think that the secret of beauty is found in definite proportions like the Golden Section? No way. We survey opinions about beauty, test them, and then develop a theory of beauty as a real property of things that has a good chance of being true.

TuTh 9:30am - 10:45am SKN 1112

Maximum size 25, Instructor John Brown jhbrown@umd.edu

PHIL338D.0101 Studies in Value Theory Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

MW 3:30pm - 4:45pm ASY 3207

Maximum size 30, Instructor STAFF

PHIL341.0101 Ethical Theory Credits: 3

Grading method: Regular

Prerequisite: 6 credits in PHIL courses.

Is there a systematic way of deciding which acts are right or wrong and which agents morally praiseworthy or blameworthy? Major historical philosophers have proposed competing theories to address these questions, and this course will study key contrasts: Mill's "total happiness" principle versus Kant's principle of universalizability as explaining what makes an act right or wrong, Aristotle's emphasis on reason versus Hume's insistence on the passions as determining virtuous character, and Rawls's explanation of the sense of justice in terms of social contract theory and the development of the moral sentiments.

TuTh 12:30pm - 1:45pm SQH 1103

Maximum seats 30, Instructor Patricia Greenspan pg@umd.edu

PHIL362.0101 Theory of Knowledge Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

Prerequisite: 6 credits in PHIL courses; and PHIL170. Formerly: PHIL462.

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

TuTh 2:00pm - 3:15pm SKN 1115

Maximum size 30, Instructor Aidan Lyon aidanlyon@gmail.com

PHIL370.0101 Symbolic Logic Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

Prerequisite: PHIL170 or CMSC250; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department.

Credit only granted for: PHIL271, PHIL370, or PHIL371.

The goal of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the proof theory and semantics of classical propositional and first-order logic; we prove fundamental meta-theoretic results, including equivalences between different proof-theoretic systems, soundness, and completeness. By the end of the term, students should have a good understanding of these results, as well as the techniques involved in establishing them and in constructing proofs about formal systems more generally. Although the subject of symbolic logic was developed by mathematicians and philosophers for their own special purposes (which we will discuss), logical concepts and techniques have found applications in a variety of disciplines including computer science, economics, law, linguistics, and psychology; students in any of these subjects can benefit from the ideas studied in this course.

MW 2:00pm - 3:15pm JMZ 0103

Maximum size 25, Instructor STAFF

PHIL386 (Perm Req) Experiential Learning Credits: 6

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail

Restriction: Permission of ARHU-Philosophy department; and junior standing or higher.

Consult Director of Undergraduate Studies: R. Singpurwalla Prerequisites: 12 credit hours of philosophy and 3.0 GPA. Carries no credit toward philosophy major.

Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL418D.0101 Topics in Epistemology/Metaphysics Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit



Blended Learning

MW 1:00pm - 1:50pm ASY 3215 Class time/details on ELMS ONLINE Discussion

Maximum size 25, Instructor STAFF

PHIL438D.0101 Topics in Value Theory Credits: 3
Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit
TuTh 2:00pm - 3:15pm CCC 1105
Maximum size 25, Instructor STAFF

PHIL453.0101 Philosophy of Science II Credits: 3
Grading Method: Regular, Pass-Fail, Audit

Prerequisite: Students must have completed a minimum of two philosophy courses.

In this course we will investigate some key issues about the metaphysics of science. Here is one example: Scientists often talk about certain facts being laws of nature. But they never tell us what it means for something to be a law of nature. Perhaps laws of nature are extra entities in the world which somehow control, or govern, the events which happen in the world. Or perhaps laws of nature are just particularly useful ways of describing the events which happen in the world. Similarly, scientists talk about causation and probability without explaining what they are. In this course we will look at the metaphysical nature of foundational scientific concepts — laws, causation, and probability, amongst others — and will study how they fit into the practice of science.

TuTh 12:30pm - 1:45pm SYM 0209

Maximum size 20, Instructor Harjit Bhogal bhogal@umd.edu

PHIL498F (Perm Req) Topical Investigations; Topical Investigation Credits: 1 - 3

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy or permission of the department.

Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL498G (Perm Req) Topical Investigations; Topical Investigation Credits: 1 - 3

Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy or permission of the department.

Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL660.0101 Metaphysics, Mind, and Language Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Audit

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.

W 1:00pm - 3:30pm SKN 1116

Maximum size 10, Instructor Georges Rey georey2@gmail.com

PHIL688T.0101 Selected Problems in Philosophy; Introduction to Semantics Credits: 3

Grading Method: Regular, Audit

Also offered as LING660. Credit granted for LING660 or PHIL688.

A thorough overview of linguistic pragmatics, covering implicature and indirect speech acts, the gap between sentence meaning and direct speech act content, presupposition, reference and dynamic semantics, focus, information structure, and the discourse functions of nonbasic syntax.

TuTh 11:00am - 12:15pm MMH 1108B

Maximum size 15, Instructor Alexander Williams alxndrw@umd.edu

PHIL788G (Perm Req) Research in Philosophy; Research in Philosophy Credits: 1 - 6

Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL788I (Perm Req) Research in Philosophy; Research in Philosophy Credits: 1 - 6

Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL799 Master's Thesis Research; Masters Thesis Research Credits: 1 - 6

Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL848F.0101 Seminar in Ethics Credits: 3
Grading Method: Regular, Audit
Tu 3:30pm - 6:00pm SKN 1116
Maximum size 15, Instructor Patricia Greenspan pg@umd.edu

PHIL848L.0101 Seminar in Ethics Credits: 3
Grading Method: Regular, Audit
M 3:00pm - 5:30pm SKN 1116
Maximum size 15, Instructor Hallie Liberto liberto@umd.edu

PHIL858F.0101 Seminar in Logic and Philosophy of Sciences Credits: 3
Grading Method: Regular, Audit.
Seminar on Mechanisms and Causation The course begins with an introduction to the new mechanistic philosophy of science, with which I've been engaged for nearly 20 years. Then we will read together a new book in the field by Stuart Glennan, whose primary concern is with the relation of mechanisms and causes. One student project will be to give a lecture and write a short summary paper on one of the many views of causation. Glennan and Phyllis Illari edited a recent Routledge handbook on mechanisms. Another student project will be to give a lecture on one of the articles in that handbook (perhaps related to the student's final paper topic). Final papers **MUST** be completed before the end of the semester.
Tu 1:00pm - 3:30pm SKN 1116
Maximum size 15, Instructor Lindley Darden darden@umd.edu

PHIL888 Professional Mentoring for Doctoral Students Credits: 1 - 3
Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL889 (*Perm Req*) Pedagogical Mentoring for Doctoral Students Credits: 1 - 3
Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL898 Pre-Candidacy Research Credits: 1 - 8
Contact department for information to register for this course.

PHIL899 (*Perm Req*) Doctoral Dissertation Research; Doctoral Dissertation Research Credits: 6
Contact department for information to register for this course.