

**PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS
FALL 2002**

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

We will read and discuss some imaginative literature, brief philosophical classics, and short philosophical analyses, which deal with problems about the nature of human knowledge and the constitution of reality. For example we will ask: What do you know for certain? Does God exist? Is there a difference between humans and machines?

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93953
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 MAJWM 434 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93954
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 MCB 329 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93955
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 8:00-8:50 MAJWM 434 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93956
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 SQUIR 116 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93957
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 SQUIR 116 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93960
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 MCB 328 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93970
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 SHULT 109 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93971
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 RAND 320 F

Instructor: J.C. Pitt CRN: 93972
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 WHIT 300 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 MCB 233 F

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

Examines the questions: What is the nature of reality? How do I know what is real and what is misleading appearance, error, or illusion? What is knowledge? How do I find out who I am and how I relate to the world around me?

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93958
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 MCB 304 M W F

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93959
Lecture: 3:30-4:45 MCB 240 T Th

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93967
Lecture: 2:00-3:15 SQUIR 116 T Th

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93968
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 SQUIR 116 T Th

Instructor: L. Perini CRN: 93973
Lecture: 12:30-1:45 MCB 202 T Th

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93974
Lecture: 2:30-3:20 SQUIR 116 M W F

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

A critical survey of theories concerning human nature, the meaningful life, and the moral evaluation of actions, persons, and institutions. Theories will be applied to such issues as abortion, justice, and moral problems faced by professionals.

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93975
Lecture: 9:30-10:45 PAT 215 T Th

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

This course is a comprehensive introduction to moral philosophy. We will combine a survey of some classic texts (by Plato, Aristotle and Mill) with an examination of prominent treatments of issues in ethical theory and applied ethics by leading contemporary philosophers. Some questions we'll explore: What should our ultimate goal in life be? Is living morally most conducive to true happiness? What in general makes something right or wrong? Is it always possible for a good enough end to justify bad means, or do considerations of justice sometimes preclude this? Does morality depend on the commands of God? Are there really objective facts about right or wrong, perhaps transcending differences across cultures and times, or is morality ultimately subjective and/or "relative"? Does anyone ever really act from unselfish

motives? Some more particular problems: Is it morally justifiable to use human embryonic stem cells for research or tissue therapy? If so, is it right to deliberately create embryos for the purpose of harvesting stem cells (which destroys the embryos)? Can abortion ever be morally justified, and if so, how? In what cases might euthanasia be morally permissible? Is capital punishment morally justifiable in principle? In practice? How far does our duty to aid distant strangers extend? Is it morally acceptable to cause harm to non-human animals in biomedical research?

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93976
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 NOR 210 F (location updated)

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93977
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 RAND 210 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93979
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 MCB 316 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93978
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 RAND 212 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93981
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 10:10-11:00 RAND 316 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93982
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 8:00-8:50 MAJWM 334 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93983
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 RAND 320 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93984
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 SQUIR 116 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93985
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 MCB 230 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93986
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 12:20-1:10 SQUIR 116 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93988
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 11:15-12:05 RAND 209 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 93989
Lecture: 12:20-1:10 TORG 2150 MW
Recitation: 9:05-9:55 RAND 318 F

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

This is a synchronous multi-media distance (computer-based) course that uses a web-based platform. It is not a regular lecture course, but rather one that will be taught at a distance using a computer. We will meet in a classroom the first few classes, and for the rest of the semester we will have synchronous (live) classes using Centra Symposium software. There will be a classroom equipped with computers reserved for this period, or you may log on to the class remotely. Advanced computer skills are not required, and basic instruction, as well as assistance, in using the program will be provided. The course was designed to bring students and faculty together with an intimate classroom feel: it features live instructor-led lectures using audio-visual (Powerpoint) presentations, interaction of students with their peers and instructor, with real-time feedback, and live group collaboration.

The first part of the course will cover traditional moral theories such as deontology and utilitarianism, as well as more contemporary ones like feminist care ethics. The second part will be devoted to applied ethics. Here, students will have the opportunity to apply these theories as part of group presentations to the class on topics such as abortion, cloning, affirmative action, etc.

Instructor: R. Mayorga CRN: 95394
Lecture: 1:25-2:15 TORG 1010 M W F
***NEW TIME, DAY, AND LOCATION**

Philosophy 1504: Language and Logic Distance Section

This is a first course in logic and some preliminary parts of the philosophy of language. It deals with the basic concepts of reasoning, with deductive and nondeductive inference, with sources of information, with the uses of language, and with causal inquiry. Students will be introduced to truth functional and syllogistic logic, the study of formal and informal fallacies, and to theories of truth.

This section is a distance offering of this course, intended for students who are not in Blacksburg, but local students may register if they choose. There is a required text with a CD-ROM of software especially written for this course. Students will use email as the primary means of communication and for the scheduling of tests, which will be administered by fax.

For a provisional description of this offering see <http://www.phil.vt.edu/Miller/1504dist.html>. Be sure to read the warning about the need for self-discipline when taking a course in this way. For further information contact Harlan B. Miller, Dept. of Philosophy, 231-8484, or hmillervt@vt.edu

Instructor: H. Miller CRN: 93990
Distance Learning Section No Meetings – Course Specific Software

Philosophy 1504: Language and Logic

This is a first course in logic and some preliminary parts of the philosophy of language. It deals with the basic concepts of reasoning, with deductive and nondeductive inference, with sources of information, with the uses of language, and with causal inquiry. Students will be introduced to truth functional and syllogistic logic, the study of formal and informal fallacies, and to theories of truth.

There will be a full set of lecture meetings, which are optional, and a required text with a CD-ROM of interactive software.

For a detailed description of the current offering of the course see the Web pages at <http://www.phil.vt.edu/Miller/hbm1504.html>. Test deadlines and other things will of course be different in different terms. For further information contact Harlan B. Miller, Dept. of Philosophy, 231-8484, or hmillervt@vt.edu

Instructor: H. Miller CRN: 93991
Lecture: 12:30-1:45 TORG 3100 T Th

Philosophy 2115: Ancient/Medieval Philosophy

We will examine some of the key moments in ancient Greek philosophy from both a historical and a philosophical perspective. The bulk of the course will be devoted to a close study of the philosophical positions and arguments advanced by Plato and Aristotle, though attention will also be given to Socrates, Sextus Empiricus, and some of the important figures from the Presocratic period. The contrasting views in ethics and epistemology adopted by these thinkers will form a central theme of the course.

Instructor: M. Gifford CRN: 93993
Lecture: 12:30-1:45 MCB 304 T Th

Instructor: M. Gifford CRN: 93994
Lecture: 3:30-4:45 MCB 318 T Th

Philosophy 2125: History of Modern Philosophy

In this course we will examine the history of 17th century philosophy. Readings will include works from Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz and Locke, and our discussions will focus on their contrasting positions on the nature of knowledge, reality, and freedom.

Instructor: A. Baxley CRN: 93996
Lecture: 9:30-10:45 SEITZ 207 T Th

Instructor: A. Baxley CRN: 93995
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 RAND 222 T Th

Philosophy 2304: Global Ethics

In this course we will examine global issues of ethics and justice such as: environmental problems, development, poverty, famine, war, technology and the oppression of women. In addition, the concept of a "global" problem/issue will itself be examined. That is, to what degree are these problems "constructed," by whom, and to what end? The readings will be moderate in terms of quantity, however the amount of writing will be fairly substantial since it is considered a "writing intensive" course. Significant class participation is expected of all students.

Instructor: W. Galusky CRN: 93998
Lecture: 2:00-3:15 SHULT 109 T Th

Instructor: A. Garnar CRN: 94001
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 SHULT 109 T Th

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93999
Lecture: 3:30-4:45 SHULT 109 T Th

Instructor: Staff CRN: 94000
Lecture: 3:30-4:45 MCB 329 T Th

Instructor: Staff CRN: 93997
Lecture: 2:30-3:45 RAND 316 M W

Philosophy 2605: Reason and Revolution in Science

Study of philosophical approaches to understanding and justifying modes of human reasoning both in science and everyday life. Nature of theory confirmation and falsification.

Instructor: J. Miller CRN: 94002
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 MAJWM 334 T Th

Philosophy 3015: Political Theory

This is a historical introduction to Western political philosophy from ancient times through the Renaissance. We will focus on the views of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle (who are Ancient Greek philosophers); the Bible (Hebrew and Christian views); St. Augustine & St. Thomas Aquinas (Medieval Christian theologians), and Niccolo Machiavelli (Renaissance politician and political thinker). We will be studying philosophical texts, Biblical stories and texts, and plays by Sophocles, Aristophanes, and Shakespeare. We will examine such topics as: the nature of justice, the beginnings of democracy, the obligation to obey the state, the relationship between religion and the state, the ideal society, the process of liberation, the role of women, the purpose of education, and the value and dangers of art.

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 95413
Lecture: 9:30-10:45 MCB 204 T Th
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3015 -- CRN 95519)

Philosophy 3016: Political Theory

Analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory. Late 17th century to the present.

Instructor: Forman-Barzilai CRN: 94005
Lecture: 3:30-4:45 MCB 307 T Th
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94282)

Instructor: Forman-Barzilai CRN: 94006
Lecture: 12:30-1:45 ROB 101 T Th
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94283)

Instructor: Staff CRN: 94004
Lecture: 1:25-2:15 WHIT 277 M W F
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94281)

Philosophy 3505: Modern Logic & Development

This will be a rigorous introduction to propositional and predicate logic up to and including polyadic quantified logic with identity. Students will obtain mastery of elementary and advanced proof strategies and techniques for translation from English into formal logical languages. Basic metalogical results will also be discussed.

Instructor: D. Mayo CRN: 95420
Lecture: 2:00-3:15 RAND 208 T Th

Philosophy 4015: Special Topics in Philosophy Ludwig Wittgenstein

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) is widely considered to be the most important philosopher of the 20th Century. He produced two influential yet very different philosophies in his lifetime, and he was thought by most everyone who knew him to be a genius. Though his work is often alluded to by philosophers as well as other intellectuals, it is not easily read and understood. In this course we will carefully read and study his two most significant works, the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921), and the *Philosophical Investigations* (1953), as well as a recent biography. Among the philosophical topics we will discuss are: the nature of language, the relationship between language and reality, the nature of philosophy and its relationship to science, the place of value, and the nature of thought and the mind. The aim is to give students an understanding of his main philosophical ideas, the place of his ideas in the history of philosophy, and the relationship between his life and his work. There will also be an opportunity for interested students to study the influence or relevance of his work to disciples outside of philosophy, such as architecture, literary theory, sociology, science studies, and cultural studies. Students will write weekly reaction papers to the reading, and three longer papers.

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 95421
Lecture: 11:00-12:15 MAJWM 225 T Th

Philosophy 4614: Philosophy of Science

This course is an introduction to the philosophical study of science. It is writing intensive and has been approved for use as a writing intensive course within the biology as well as the philosophy major. Students from different disciplines will have the opportunity to examine and to criticize work from their own discipline by employing tools from the philosophy of science. We will work with such questions as: What is distinctive about science? What are the appropriate standards of adequacy of evidence in evaluating a scientific paper? Is there such a thing as "the" scientific method, or are methods specific to disciplines and subject matters? What makes an explanation a good scientific explanation? We will explore some ways in which scientific laws and theories are developed and supported, and ask how observation, experiment, technology, logical argument, model building, and theorizing interact in forefront science. We will explore different views about the nature of science and ask how these views shape our interpretation of what science tells us about our universe. These 'big' questions do not have settled answers. Students will be evaluated on their understanding of the issues presented and their ability to construct cogent arguments about, or criticisms of, the positions examined in the course. This course is available for graduate credit with completion of a longer term paper and some additional assignments.

Instructor: R. Burian CRN: 95425
Lecture: 9:30-10:45 MAJWM 532 T Th

Check the university timetable or the department website <http://www.phil.vt.edu/courses.html> for updated information.