

**SPRING 2006**  
**PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS**

**Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality**

We will read and discuss the work of some important historical and contemporary philosophers. We will focus on questions such as: What is the nature of reality and the self? What is the relationship between mind and body? How do I know what is real, and what is misleading appearance, error, or illusion? What is knowledge? Should we fear death? What is the meaning of life?

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14135  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a SHULT 109 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14136  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a TORG 1000 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14137  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a MAJWM 334 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14139  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p SQUIR 236 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14140  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 134 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14141  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p MAJWM 434 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14142  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p MAJWM 434 F

Instructor: J. Klagge RN: 14143  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a WMS 334 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14144  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a RAND 206 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14145  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 12:20-1:10p RAND 220 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14146  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 2:30p-3:20p MAJWM 334 F

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN: 14147  
 Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MCB 100 M W  
 Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p PAM 2028 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: J. Gardner CRN: 14133  
 Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p NOR 206 T Th

Instructor: J. Gardner CRN: 14138  
 Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p MAJWM 334 T Th

Instructor: J. Gardner CRN: 14148  
 Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a SHULT 104 T Th

Instructor: M. Rea CRN: 14134  
 Lecture: 9:05a-9:55a SHULT 104 MWF

**Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice**

This course is a comprehensive introduction to moral philosophy. We will combine a survey of some classic works (by Plato, Aristotle, Kant 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 stand in the way of 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 okay to use embryonic stem cells for research or tissue therapy? If so, is it right to deliberately create embryos just for the purpose of harvesting stem cells, as in the case of therapeutic cloning? 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? Do non-human animals have moral rights? Is it morally acceptable, for example, to cause harm to them in biomedical research or to factory farm them, or are such practices in violation of their rights?

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14150  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p SHULT 109 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14151  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a PAM 3010 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14152  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a SQUIR 234 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14153  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p SQUIR 236 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14155  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p SQUIR 234 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14156  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a MAJWM 434 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14157  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p SHULT 109 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14159  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p SHULT 109 F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick CRN: 14160  
 Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p TORG 2150 MW  
 Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a TORG 1030 F

(Additional sections on reverse)

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

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick      CRN: 14161  
Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p      TORG 2150      MW  
Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a      SHULT 109      F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick      CRN: 14163  
Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p      TORG 2150      MW  
Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p      MAJWM 334      F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick      CRN: 14164  
Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p      TORG 2150      MW  
Recitation: 2:30p-3:20p      MAJWM 434      F

#### Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

We all make moral judgments. We distinguish between right and wrong actions and good and bad people. For better or worse, however, we do not all share the same moral outlook. What should we do when we disagree about moral matters? On what grounds should we base our moral judgments? Students taking this course will learn that the most interesting and important part of our moral lives is not the judgments we make but the reasons we have for making those judgments. Can philosophical thinking improve our chances for moral agreement? Can it make us better people? In an effort to respond to these questions we will closely examine some important ethical theories and apply them to contemporary moral problems.

Instructor: P. Olson      CRN: 14158  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p      SHULT 104      T Th

#### Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

This course is a critical survey of theories concerning the good, the right, human nature or lack thereof, the meaningful life, and the moral evaluation of actions, persons, and institutions ... in partial historical context. One of the difficult things about philosophy in general, and ethics in particular, is that it (ethics!) often fails to present students with an answer. While one may feel free to posit that this is an indictment of philosophy rather than philosophy, I suspect that this is due at least in part to the very old idea that philosophy is a process as well as –or perhaps rather than– a product.

This can lead to the conclusion that philosophy never "gets anywhere." I'm not quite naïve enough to believe that the assertion that "the journey itself is the thing!" will impress itself upon you through the vehicle of syllabi or course descriptions, but my intuition that this is so has practical ramifications for how this class will be administered. To wit:

**Students must read.** I expect all students to have read the day's assignment *before* class. I further consider students responsible for the entire reading; whether we have time to discuss each item and article or not.

**Students must attend class.** Every absence, for whatever reason, results in a lowering of your participation grade ... because I'm pretty sure that you weren't participating if you weren't there. On that topic ...

**Students must participate.** 'Participation' means asking and answering questions in class, and contributing to the discussion. Sitting in a class is not participating. It is sitting. What I am after, in this course, is a conversation about the good, the bad, the ugly and how we tell these things apart.

Instructor: M. Rea      CRN: 14162  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p      DER 3081      T Th

#### Philosophy 1504: Language and Logic

Basic concepts in logic and critical thinking: argument, validity, deduction and induction, logical form, formal and informal fallacies, introduction to the logic of truth functions and of categorical statements, and critical analysis of arguments in ordinary language.

Instructor: J. Miller      CRN: 14167  
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p      TORG 3100      T Th

#### Philosophy 2116: Ancient/Medieval Philosophy

The Middle Ages is one of the richest and most complex periods in the development of Western culture. Philosophically, it was a time of synthesis between the thought of ancient Greece, its Arab and Jewish interpreters, and Christian thinkers, resulting in multiple solutions that tried to make sense of the world. Indeed, many of the philosophical problems about which we worry today, as well as the vocabulary we use to express them, were first formulated during that time period. The aim of the course is to explore the way medievals

approached the many problems associated with integrating secular learning with revealed doctrine, the issues at stake, and the solutions they proposed. Some of the most important concerns they had were the problem of how we know, the relation between theology and metaphysics, and the problem of universals. We will begin with the necessary historical and conceptual background before continuing with the different movements of the period, such as Augustinianism, Aristotelianism, realism, nominalism, and others.

Instructor: R. Mayorga      CRN: 14168  
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p      MAJWM 334      T Th

#### Philosophy 2126: History of Late Modern Philosophy

Although it may seem a bit strange, the "modern era" actually refers to 17th and 18th century European philosophy. This course will focus on the 18th century by examining three of its most important philosophical figures: George Berkeley, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant. We will trace the development of metaphysical and epistemological themes throughout the 18th century through a careful study of these philosophers' major works.

Instructor: B. Hall      CRN: 14169  
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a      PAM 2001      T Th

#### Philosophy 2304: Global Ethics

Ethical issues in international context. Application of the principles of moral theory to such issues as the obligations of richer nations toward poorer ones, cultural and other forms of relativism, emigration and immigration, nationalism, war, deterrence, intervention, environmental degradation, preservation of natural diversity, and responsibilities toward future generations.

Instructor: A. Garner      CRN: 14171  
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p      MAJWMS 334      MWF  
Instructor: A. Garner      CRN: 14172  
Lecture: 10:10a-11:00a      MCB 240      MWF

#### Philosophy 2606: Reason and Revolution

Study of philosophical approaches to understanding and justifying modes of human reasoning both in science and everyday life. Focus of this semester is on justifying the changing paradigms of human inquiry.

Instructor: M. Rea      CRN: 14174  
Lecture: 10:10a-11:00a      TORG 1000      MWF

#### Philosophy 3015: Political Theory

The course will examine the evolution of political thought from Greek antiquity to the medieval period, but particular attention will be paid to the political ideas that accompanied the rise and fall of democracy in classical Athens.

~~Instructor: M. Gifford      CRN: 15259      CANCELLED  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p      MAJWM 334      T Th  
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3015 – CRN 15850)~~

Instructor: D. Suzanne      CRN: 17096  
Lecture: 9:05a-9:55a      MAJWM 334      MWF  
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3015 – CRN 17097)

Instructor: D. Suzanne      CRN: 17098  
Lecture: 11:15a-12:05p      MCB 329      MWF  
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3015 – CRN 17099)

#### Philosophy 3016: Political Theory

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

Instructor: D. Suzanne      CRN: 17100  
Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p      MCB 329      MWF  
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 17101)

Instructor: D. Suzanne      CRN: 17102  
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p      TORG 1000      MWF  
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 17103)

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

Instructor: S. Nelson CRN: 14176\*  
 Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a PAT 215 T Th  
 (Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 14414\*)

Instructor: J. Hunsinger CRN: 14177\*  
 Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p NOR 205 T Th  
 (Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 14415\*)

\*Students will be dropped for not attending first and/or second class.

**Philosophy 3454: Philosophy of Religion**

This is an introductory course in the philosophy of religion. It is a philosophy course, not a religion course. Philosophy involves the rigorous examination of concepts and assumptions. It is characteristic of philosophy to ask what

reasons we might have for holding the beliefs we do, and to ask us to consider the possibility that we might be wrong in some of our most fundamental beliefs. That means that in this course we will focusing on fundamental questions about religion, for example: what reasons do we have to believe that there is a God? What reasons do we have to reject belief in God? What does it mean to say that God exists? But since philosophical inquiry is also self-reflective, we will considering questions like: is it necessary to have good reasons for our beliefs? Is there something wrong about believing something without having evidence for that belief (or in spite of having evidence against it)? We will be looking at the answers proposed by philosophers from ancient times as well as more modern solutions.

The goal of this course is to get you to think philosophically about religious belief. To do this well will require you to think critically about some of the beliefs you hold most dear. Whether you are a theist or an atheist, you will be expected to subject your belief about God to philosophical scrutiny. Although it is a difficult process, it can also be an enlightening and ultimately rewarding one.

Instructor: R. Mayorga CRN: 14181  
 Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p MAJWM 334 T Th

**Philosophy 3506: Modern Logic & Its Development**

In this course, we will work through some of the fundamental results of 20th century logic. We will start with set-theoretic foundations, cover the central theorems about first-order logic with identity (completeness, compactness, Löwenheim-Skolem theorems), and will conclude with Godel's incompleteness results.

Instructor: B. Epstein CRN: 15270  
 Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p NOR 211 T Th

**Philosophy 4224: Epistemology**

This course is designed to give the student a solid grounding in the main areas of debate in contemporary epistemology. Topics will likely include the analysis of justification and knowledge, externalism and internalism, naturalism, induction, skepticism, relativism, and anti-realism.

Instructor: W. Ott CRN: 15260  
 Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p SQUIR 234 T Th

**Philosophy 4304: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Ethical Pluralism in Liberal Democracy**

The course focuses on the significance of ethical, cultural, and religious diversity and disagreement for liberal democratic political theory and practice. Topics to be covered include the nature of moral disagreement and its implications for objectivity; civic friendship and social unity; religious toleration and the place of religion in the public sphere; the liberal values of autonomy, authenticity, and individuality; neutrality between lifestyles and conceptions of the good life; multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism; the proper conduct of public deliberation in a context of disagreement; and the place of civility, moderation, and compromise in political life. Authors to be studied include Aristotle, Locke, Mill, Rawls, Kymlicka, and Okin. Student participation in class discussion will be a major aspect of the course.

Instructor: S. May CRN: 15261  
 Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a SQUIR 238 T Th

**Philosophy 4324: Business and Professional Ethics**

In this course we will investigate moral and ethical issues that arise in the context of business practices. We will begin with an overview of relevant ethical theories and a consideration of various approaches to ethics, and then spend the majority of the course discussing specific problems. We will address questions such as: To what extent should considerations other than profits determine business decisions? What rights and obligations do employers and employees have with respect to one another? What obligations, if any, do businesses have to their consumers, or to the general public? To what extent should businesses adopt affirmative action measures or other policies designed to promote diversity in the workforce? In considering these issues we will read a combination of scholarly articles and influential court cases.

Instructor: S. Daskal CRN: 15263  
 Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a SQUIR 236 T Th  
 (Crosslisted with MGT 4324 -- CRN 15288)

**Philosophy 4334: Jurisprudence: The Authority of the Law**

The course is premised on the question: what is the law supposed to be, such that we are supposed to obey it? Topics to be discussed include civil disobedience and conscientious objection; competing theories of the nature of law and its normative content; the enforcement of morality; the problem of political legitimacy and the democratic genesis of the law; the nature of rights and their importance; constitutionalism and different approaches to constitutional interpretation; equality before the law; majoritarianism and the question of judicial review of legislation. Authors to be studied include Locke, Thoreau, King, Mandela, Raz, Feinberg, Hart, Dworkin, Coleman, Waldron, and Buchanan. Philosophy 4335 is a writing-intensive class and regular philosophical "briefs" will be expected.

Instructor: S. May CRN: 15262  
 Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p SHULT 109 T Th

*The following class is being taught by a professor from the Department of Philosophy. This course is in Area 2 of the Core Curriculum.*

**HUM 1114: Introductory Humanities: The Classical Age**

We will study the social, cultural, and intellectual life of ancient Greece (especially the Classical Age in Athens 500 B.C. to 323 B.C.). We will try to understand Athenian moral, political, and aesthetic values in their historical context, and in comparison with our own.

Instructor: J. Klagge CRN:  
 Lecture: 2:30p-3:45p MCB 126 MW

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