Department of Philosophy’s Course Descriptions
for Spring 2016 Undergraduate Level Courses

(If marked with **, this is the instructor’s revised description of the course content; all others are the general descriptions provided from the UG catalog.)

NOTE: Courses, rooms, times and instructors are subject to change; please see Timetable of Classes on HokieSpa for current information

PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality
MW 12:20p-1:10p (Lecture)
(Recitations: )
CRN: 17385 – F 1:25p-2:15p
CRN: 17389 – F 9:05a – 9:55a
CRN: 17390 – F 10:10a-11:00a
CRN: 17391 – W 5:45p-6:35p
CRN: 17392 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN: 17393 – W 4:40p-5:30p
CRN: 17394 – R 5:00p-5:50p
CRN: 17397 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN: 17398 – R 6:30p-7:20p

** 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?

PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality
CRN: 17386 - TR 8:00a-9:15a
CRN: 17388 – MWF 11:15a-12:05p
CRN: 17395 - TR 2:00p-3:15p

**This course serves as a general introduction to philosophy. Students will gain proficiency in philosophical thinking through critical engagement with the Platonic dialogues before moving on to the work of other philosophers. A balanced approach to philosophy that emphasizes both the argumentative as well as literary qualities of the works under consideration will be pursued. (CRN: 17388)

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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?
PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice
MW 1:25p-2:15p (Lecture)                          Instructor: Michael Moehler
(Recitations: )
CRN 17399 – F 1:25p-2:15p
CRN 17400 – F 11:15a-12:05p
CRN 17402 – F 8:00a-8:50a
CRN 17403 – F 10:10a-11:00a
CRN 17405 – W 5:45p-6:35p
CRN 17406 – W 4:40p-5:30p

(large lecture, with recitation sections Wed. or Fri., as noted on the timetable)
** In this course, we will discuss the works of some of the greatest thinkers in moral and political philosophy in the Western philosophical tradition, including the works of Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Hume, Mill, and Kant. The primary goal of this course is not merely to understand the ideas of these philosophers, but rather to find our own answers to the questions they address, questions that a reflective person at any time or place might ask him- or herself. Such questions include: What does morality demand of us? Under what conditions are we morally responsible? Why be moral? What is the relationship between morality and justice? What constitutes a just society?

In order to find answers to these questions, we will read, in addition to classical and classic texts, articles by contemporary moral and political philosophers. Examples of such contemporary readings include articles on John Harsanyi's rule-consequentialism and Thomas Scanlon’s account of moral motivation. In some cases, these articles are primarily of exegetical value and help us better understand the original texts. In other cases, these articles advance novel answers to the questions addressed in this course.

PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice
CRN: 17401 – MWF 9:05a-9:55a                          Instructor: Caitlyn Parker
CRN: 17404 – TR 9:30a-10:45a                           Instructor: Gregory Novack
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.

PHIL 1504: Language and Logic
MW 1:25p-2:15p (Lecture)                          Instructor: Caitlin Parker
(Recitations: )
CRN 17407 – F 10:10a – 11:00a
CRN 17408 – F 10:10a – 11:00a
CRN 17409 – F 12:20p - 1:10p
CRN 17410 – F 12:20p - 1:10p
CRN 17411 – F 11:15a - 12:05p
CRN 17412 – F 11:15a - 12:05p
(Large lecture, with recitation sections on Fri., as noted on the timetable)
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. Critical analysis of arguments in ordinary language.

**PHIL 2116: Ancient through Medieval Philosophy**  
**CRN: 17413 – TR 12:30p-1:45p**  
Instructor: Eric Lewis  
The main trends in Post-Aristotelian Greek and Roman philosophy and medieval philosophy, including Augustine, Aquinas, and Ockham.

**PHIL 2125: History of Modern Philosophy**  
**CRN: 17414 – TR 2:00p-3:15p**  
Instructor: Nate Rockwood  
Western philosophical thought from Descartes to Hume.

**PHIL 2304: Global Ethics**  
**CRN: 17415 – MW 2:30p – 3:45p**  
Instructor: Hannah Wildman Short  
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.

**PHIL 2304: Global Ethics**  
**CRN: 17419 – MW 10:10a-11:00a**  
Instructor: Melissa Schwartz  
CRN: 17420 – TR 11:00a-12:15p  
Instructor: Michael Zarella  
CRN: 17422 (ONLINE COURSE)  
Instructor: Grace McGee  
CRN: 17421 – TR 12:30p-1:45p  
Instructor: Darren Jackson  
* We will begin the semester with an introduction to some of the historically significant perspectives in ethics. Then, students will organize themselves into groups based on their interests in an ongoing global issue for the purpose of researching that particular issue in depth and offering an ethical analysis of it. (CRN: 17421)

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.

**PHIL 2964: Field Study**  
**CRN: 17425**  
Work with instructor overseeing the course to complete paperwork first. Pass/Fail only. Variable credit course.

**PHIL 2974 or 2974H: Independent Study**
CRN: 17426 for 2974  
CRN: 17427 for 2794H

Work with instructor overseeing the course to complete paperwork first.

PHIL 2984: Special Study (Minds and Machines)  
CRN: 19670 – MWF 11:15a-12:05p  
Instructor: Ben Jantzen  
*We talk to our phones and expect them to answer. We leave robots unattended to clean our floors, fly our most sophisticated airplanes, and even go to war. We live in an age of cheap and ubiquitous computation. At the same time, we speak of our brains as computers. We talk about mental 'programs' for recognizing faces or developing affection, and the ways in which these programs can go wrong. But are our minds and souls literally software running on the hardware of the brain? If so, can that software run on a machine? Can we build devices that think, that feel that create in the same sense that we do? In this course, we'll chase those questions and more through the fields of mathematics, logic, music, art, psychology, and of course, philosophy. You'll learn what it means for something to be "computable" and consider what it would mean for the mind to be a computation of the brain. Come join in one of the most important and vigorous debates about the world we will all inhabit soon. Will it be a world of machines with minds? Is it already?*

PHIL 3015/PSCI 3015: Political Theory  
CRN: 17428  (PSCI CRN: 17916)- MW 2:30p-3:45p  
Instructor: B. Koch  
Analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory. 3015: Plato to the 17th century.

PHIL 3016/PSCI 3016: Political Theory  
CRN: 17429  (PSCI CRN: 17917) – TR 9:30a- 10:45a  
Instructor: M Khreiche  
The analysis of fundamental ideas in the history of political theory from the late 17th century to the present

PHIL 3324: Biomedical Ethics  
CRN: 17433 – TR 3:30p-4:45p  
Instructor: Hannah Wildman Short  
Philosophical analysis of ethical issues in medicine and biotechnology, such as problems arising in connection with the relations between physicians and patients, the challenges of cultural diversity, practices surrounding human and animal research, decisions about end of life care, embryonic stem cell research, genetic engineering, biotechnological human enhancement, and social justice in relation to health-care policy.

PHIL 3454: Philosophy of Religion  
CRN: 19927 – TR 11:00a-12:15p  
Instructor: Eric Lewis  
A consideration of religious belief and its justification with attention to such philosophical issues as the nature and existence of God, the problem of evil, and the notion of faith.

PHIL 3505: Modern Logic and Development  
CRN: 17437 – TR 8:00a-9:15a  
Instructor: Ted Parent  
Logic and logical theory and the history of its development. Validity of arguments. Syllogistic logic from Aristotle to modern times. Deductive methods in truth functional and quantificational logic through the theory of identity. Translation from English into symbolic form.
PHIL 4015: Special Topics in Philosophy (TS: Kant's Critique of Pure Reason)
CRN: 17439 – T 3:30p-6:15p  Instructor: Lydia Patton
A seminar on Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. We will begin with discussion of the argumentative aims of the work, and will analyze these aims in the context of earlier debates in which Kant was engaged, as well as in the context of Kant's critical philosophy overall. Topics for discussion here may include Kant's responses to Hume and to Descartes, Kant's relationship to the Leibnizian-Wolffian tradition, and Kant's account of metaphysics and how this sheds light on his goal of limiting the reach of metaphysics in order to secure its claims. Reading of the *Critique* then will focus on the main arguments of the text, and on evaluating the support they provide for Kant's transcendental idealism. The perspective of transcendental idealism is intended to support the claims of science and philosophy to constitute a system of nature. We conclude by evaluating Kant's account of the laws of nature, of the nature of regulative and constitutive principles in constructing systems of knowledge, and of the resolution of paradoxes (antinomies) generated by pure reason (infinity, the soul, and the beginning and end of time).

PHIL 4214: Metaphysics
CRN: 17442 – TR 9:30a-10:45a  Instructor: Ted Parent
Examination of some of the central problems of metaphysics. Topics may include: existence, necessary truth, the problem of universals, causation, the identity of the self through time, free will. Attention will be given both to the historical development of these problems and to contemporary philosophical responses to them.

PHIL 4224: Epistemology
CRN: 19949 – MWF 12:20p-1:10p  Instructor: Gregory Novack
The Theory of knowledge. Is all knowledge based on experience? Does knowledge have a foundation? Can knowledge of the present and the nearby give us reasons for beliefs about the future, the past, or about events far away?

PHIL 4334: Jurisprudence
CRN: 17443 – MW 2:30p-3:45p  Instructor: Douglas Lind
An examination of the nature of law and legal systems with attention to traditional theories of law and to such topics as judicial decision and discretion, law and morality, the justification of legal coercion.

PHIL 4884: Adv Philosophy, Politics and Econ
CRN: 18972 – W 4:00p-7:00p  Instructor: Michael Moehler

PHIL 4974 or 4974H: Independent Study
CRN: 17446 for 4974
CRN: 17447 for 4974H
Work with instructor overseeing the course to complete paperwork.
PHIL 4994 or 4994H: Undergraduate Research
CRN: 17448 for 4994
CRN: 17449 for 4994
CRN: 17450 for 4994H
Work with instructor overseeing the course to complete paperwork.