Department of Philosophy’s Course Descriptions
for Fall 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 2:30p-3:20p (Lecture)  Instructor: Joseph Pitt
(Recitations :)
CRN: 86542 – F 11:15a-12:05p
CRN: 86545 – F 1:25p – 2:15p
CRN: 86546 – F 1:25p-2:15p
CRN: 86549 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN: 86551 – F 8:00a-8:50a
CRN: 86552 – F 9:05a-9:55a
CRN: 86553 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN: 86554 – F 10:10a-11:00a
CRN: 86555 – F 11:15a-12:05p
CRN: 86556 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN: 86557 – F 10:10a-11:00a

** This course is an introduction to two central philosophical questions, “What is knowledge?” and “What is real?” We will look at three different approaches to answering these questions, rationalism, empiricism and pragmatism, considering their strengths and weaknesses and how they might apply to our own lives. To help make some of the points the philosophers we will read are arguing for, we will also read some science fiction stories that deal with these issues.

PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality
CRN: 88431 – MWF 10:10a-11:00a  Instructor: Staff
CRN: 88432 – MWF 9:05p-9:55a  Instructor: Nate Rockwood
CRN: 88434 – MWF 1:25p-2:15p  Instructor: Staff
CRN: 88435 – TR 9:30a-10:45a  Instructor: Nate Rockwood

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 12:20p-1:10p (Lecture)  Instructor: Staff
(Recitations :)
CRN 86559 – F 11:15a-12:05p
CRN 86560 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN 86561 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN 86562 – F 8:00a-8:50a
CRN 86563 – F 10:10a-11:00a
CRN 86564 – F 9:05a-9:55a
CRN 86566 – F 2:30p-3:20p
CRN 86568 – F 1:25p-2:15p
CRN 86569 – F 10:10a-11:00a
CRN 86570 – F 10:10a-11:00a
CRN 86571 – F 12:20p-1:10p
CRN 86572 – R 3:30p-4:20p
(Large lecture, with recitation sections Thurs. or Fri., as noted on the timetable)
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 1304: Morality and Justice
CRN: 88436 – TR 8:00a-9:15a  Instructor: Staff
CRN: 88438 – MWF 11:15a-12:05p  Instructor: Staff
CRN: 88439 – TR 2:00p-3:15p  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 11:15a-12:05p (Lecture)  Instructor: Gregory Novack
(Recitations :)
CRN 86573 – F 10:10a – 11:00a
CRN 86574 – F 11:15a – 12:05p
CRN 86575 – F 1:25p-2:15p
CRN 86576 – F 12:20p-1:10p
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 2115: Ancient through Medieval Philosophy
CRN: 86577 – TR 12:30p-1:45p  Instructor: Nathan Rockwood
Ancient Philosophy including Presocratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
PHIL 2126: History of Modern Philosophy  
CRN: 86578 – TR 2:00p-3:15p  
Instructor: Lydia Patton  
Western philosophical thought from Kant onward.

PHIL 2304: Global Ethics  
CRN: 86579 – MWF 10:10a-11:00a  
Instructor: Staff  
CRN: 86580 – MW 2:30p-3:45p  
Instructor: Staff  
CRN: 86581 – MW 5:30p-6:45p  
Instructor: Staff  
CRN: 86582 – TR 12:30p-1:45p  
Instructor: Hannah Wildman Short  
CRN: 86583 – TR 11:00a-12:15p  
Instructor: Staff  
CRN: 86584 – MW 4:00p-5:15p  
Instructor: Staff  
CRN: 86585 – ONLINE  
Instructor: Grace McGee  
CRN: 86586 – ONLINE  
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.

**This course explores ethical issues in a global context. Students will receive an introduction to ethical and political theory and cover ethical issues including global poverty, inequality and distributive justice; immigration; global conflict; animal and environmental ethics. The class will consist of lectures, individual and group work, and class discussion. A high level of student contribution is required.** You will be required to read textbook chapters and/or online articles each week, and contribute to class discussions. There will be a number of quizzes and other activities during class which will contribute to your final grade. (CRN:86582,88444,86586)

PHIL 2894: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics  
CRNs: 86587 (PHIL); 83113 (PSCI), and 87074 (ECON)  
Instructor: Michael Moehler  
MW 4:00p-5:15p  
Integrated study of philosophy, politics, and economics. Trains students to make decisions that are not only economically sound, but also socially, ethically, and politically informed. Topics include: models of human nature, rational choice theory, social cooperation, distributive justice, markets, and democracy. This is the Gateway Course for the PPE Minor.

PHIL 2974: Independent Study  
CRN: 86588  
Work with instructor overseeing the course to complete paperwork first.
PHIL 3015/PSCI 3015: Political Theory
CRN: 86589 (PSCI CRN: 87076) Instructor: Staff
MW 4:00p-5:15p
CRN: 88359 (PSCI CRN: 88358) Instructor: Staff
TR 3:30p-4:45p
The analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory from Plato to the 17th century

PHIL 3016/PSCI 3016: Political Theory
CRN: 86590 (PSCI CRN: 87077) Instructor: Staff
MW 2:30p-3:45p
CRN: 88362 (PSCI CRN: 88361) Instructor: Staff
TR 5:00p-6:15p
The analysis of fundamental ideas in the history of political theory from the late 17th century to the present

PHIL 3024: Philosophical Movements
TS: - -
CRN: 86591 – MWF 10:10a-11:00a Instructor: Staff
This course focuses on the assumptions and methods of one or more contemporary or historically important philosophical movements such as Pragmatism, Phenomenology, Logical Positivism, Naturalism, Idealism, or Feminism. 3 Philosophy credits required.

PHIL 3324: Biomedical Ethics
CRN: 88448 – TR 9:30a-10:45a 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
**We shall consider religious belief and its justification with attention to such philosophical issues as the nature and existence of God, the problem of evil, the way in which religious faith can or ought to affect how one lives, the relation between reason and faith, and the respective capacities of reason and faith to provide ethical orientation and help us find meaning. This is a course in the philosophy of religion. It is a philosophy course, not a religion course. 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. In this course we will focus on some 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? Is a disposition toward religion a part of our
psychological hardwiring? Is God’s existence compatible with the existence of evil? We will also consider whether it is necessary to have evidence for theistic belief, and upon what sorts of evidence such beliefs might be based. We will be looking at the responses to these questions, proposed by philosophers living and dead.

PHIL 3505: Modern Logic and Development  
CRN: 86594 – MWF 11:15a-12:05p  
Instructor: Ben Jantzen  
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: Philosophy of Language  
CRN: 86595 – T 7:00p-9:45p  
Instructor: Kelly Trogdon  
**This course is an advanced introduction to the philosophy of language. We will consider various philosophical issues concerning meaning, reference, the semantic/pragmatic distinction, and metaphor. The aims of the course are to become familiar with the overall landscape of contemporary philosophy of language and to prepare you for further study in philosophy and related fields, particularly courses that touch on themes concerning language (e.g. metaphysics, epistemology, logic, philosophy of mind, cognitive psychology, and linguistics).**

PHIL 4015: Special Topics in Philosophy  
TS: History and Philosophy of Science  
CRN: 88449 – W 4:00p-6:45p  
Instructor: Lydia Patton  
Critical examination of special issues of current philosophical interest. 3 Philosophy credits required.

PHIL 4204: Philosophy of Mind  
CRN: 86596 – TR 3:30p-4:45p  
Instructor: Kelly Trogdon  
**This course is an advanced introduction to the philosophy of mind. Topics include the existence and nature of mental states, mental content, the extended mind, mental causation, conscious experience, and cognitive phenomenology. The aims of the course are to become familiar with the overall landscape of contemporary philosophy of mind and to prepare you for further study in philosophy and related fields, particularly courses that touch on themes concerning the mind (e.g. metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language, and cognitive psychology).**

PHIL 4614: Philosophy of Science  
CRN: 88980  – TR 5:00-6:15p  
Instructor: Gregory Novack  
An examination of the structure and methodology of science as well as key concepts such as explanation, confirmation, realism, and instrumentalism. One year of science and 3 philosophy credits required.
PHIL 4974: Independent Study  
Instructor: Staff  
CRN: 86600  
Work with instructor overseeing the course to complete paperwork.

PHIL 4994: Undergraduate Research  
Instructor: Staff  
CRN: 86601  
Work with instructor overseeing the course to complete paperwork.