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: 93877
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F MCB 226

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93878
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F WHIT 277

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93879
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 9:00a-9:50a F MAJWM 334

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93880
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW SQUIR 236
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F SQUIR 236

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93881
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F RAND 331

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93882
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a F SQUIR 236

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93883
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F MCB 232

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93884
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F NOR 211

Instructor: J.C. Pitt  CRN: 93885
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F MAJWM 334

Instructor: M. Rea  CRN: 93886
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MWF MAJWM 434

Instructor: S. Thomson  CRN: 93887
Lecture: 9:05a-9:55a MWF MAJWM 434

Instructor: S. Thomson  CRN: 93888
Lecture: 11:15a-12:05p MWF RAND 207

Instructor: M. Rea  CRN: 93889
Lecture: 10:10a-11:00a MWF TORG 1080

Instructor: E.P. Lewis  CRN: 96496
Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p MWF MCB 226

Instructor: E.P. Lewis  CRN: 96497
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p MWF PAM 1004

Instructor: J.A. Miller  CRN: 96495
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p T Th RAND 208

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality
Examines the following questions from a multicultural perspective: 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.A. Miller  CRN: 96498
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a T Th TORG 210

Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality
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: 93894
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 2150
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F RAND 331

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick  CRN: 93895
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 2150
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F NOR 210

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick  CRN: 93896
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 2150
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F MCB 210

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick  CRN: 93897
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 2150
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F SHULT 109

Check the university timetable or the department website http://www.phil.vt.edu/courses.html for updated information.
Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice
This course is conducted completely online, with synchronous and asynchronous components. This is not a traditional lecture course, nor is it a correspondence course; instead, there are elements of both. As in any other traditional course, you will be part of an active, vital learning community.

Online

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice
Given contemporary events, has it ever been more important to ask ourselves how should we live our lives and what do we want our society to be like? Certainly many people report finding some solace in redefocusing their own thinking in this way. We will examine those questions and others: What is the nature of moral reasoning? Can it help? Or are moral views purely relative to cultural or other influences? How should I live my life, and how am I to go about making up my mind on the major moral questions of the day? Students will have some input in deciding which questions they are most interested in, but there will be a special emphasis on moral thinking in our close personal relationships: What kind of relationship do I want for myself and my current or future partner? What kind of son or daughter, friend or neighbor, should I be? We will also take time to examine larger questions about the nature of fairness and justice in society as a whole. By close reading of contemporary and historical examinations of such issues, we will begin to think through some of the deep problems that naturally arise when one thinks about morality in personal and social terms.

Instructor: B. A. Kelley   CRN: 96501
Lecture: 11:15a-12:05p   MW  NOR 204

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: B. Epstein   CRN: 93907
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p   T Th  TORG 3100

Philosophy 2115: Ancient Through 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: 93909
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p   T Th  MCB 223

Philosophy 2304: Global Ethics
Ethical issues in international context. Application of the principles of moral theory to such issues as the obligations of richer nation toward poorer ones, cultural and other forms of relativism, emigration and immigration, nationalism, war, deterrence, intervention, environmental degradation, preservation of natural diversity, and responsibilities.

Instructor: J. York   CRN: 93915
Lecture: 8:00a-9:15a   T Th  MAJWM 434

Instructor: A. Garnar   CRN: 96502
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a   T Th  GYM 126

Instructor: A. Garnar   CRN: 96504
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15a   T Th  NOR 204

Updated 8/19/04

Check the university timetable or the department website http://www.phil.vt.edu/courses.html for updated information.
**Philosophy 3016: Political Theory**
Analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory. Late 17th century to the present.

Instructor: A. Baxley  
CRN: 93921  
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p  T Th  MCB 307  
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94190)

Instructor: G. V. Davis  
CRN: 93922  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p  T Th  MCB 329  
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94191)

Instructor: G. V. Davis  
CRN: 93923  
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a  T Th  WHIT 277  
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94192)

Instructor: G. V. Davis  
CRN: 96088  
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p  T Th  NOR 205  
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 96087)

**Phil 3024: Philosophical Movements: Philosophy & Literature**
This course will focus on the relationship between philosophy and literature. We will consider philosophical issues as they are raised in works of literature. And we will consider the differences between philosophy and literature as modes of reflecting on the world—the long-standing quarrel between philosophy and poetry, as Plato put it. We will read literature such as Aeschylus' "Agamemnon," Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure," Dostoevsky's "Brothers Karamazov," Deborah Goldstein's "The Mind-Body Problem," and Dan Brown's "Angels and Demons." We will read philosophy by Plato, Jean-Paul Sartre, Iris Murdoch, and Martha Nussbaum. Interested students should have at least one course in philosophy, and be prepared to do a lot of reading.

Instructor: J. Klagge  
CRN: 95547  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p  T Th  MCB 224

**Philosophy 3314: Ethical Theory**
This course in ethical theory offers a survey of some of the central issues and texts in the history of ethics. We will focus on Plato's "Republic," Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics," Kant's "Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals," and Mill's "Utilitarianism." A portion of the class will also be devoted to Epicurean and Stoic ethical thought. Some of the questions we will address are: What constitutes the good life for human beings? Is it happiness? If so, in what does happiness consist? What does it mean to be a virtuous person and how, if at all, does virtue contribute to happiness? What reasons do we have to be moral or to cultivate a virtuous character? Is there a price to be paid for being virtuous and is that sacrifice worth the cost? How should we understand the relationship between politics and personal happiness?

Instructor: A. Baxley  
CRN: 96009  
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a  T Th  WHIT 349

**Philosophy 3505: Modern Logic & Its 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: B. Epstein  
CRN: 93924  
Lecture: 5:00p-6:15p  T Th  NOR 200

**Phil. 4015: Special Topics in Philosophy: 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.

Instructor: J. Klagge  
CRN: 95549  
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p  T Th  MAJWM 225

**Philosophy 4204: Philosophy of Mind**
This course will examine several theories concerning the relationship between "mental" and "physical" properties, including dualism, behaviorism, identity theories, functionalism, and materialism. We will follow up with some more specific topics, including the nature of consciousness and experience, mental causation, and reductionism. Readings will include some classical articles and articles by such contemporary philosophers of mind as Ned Block, David Chalmers, Paul Churchland, Daniel Dennett, Jerry Fodor, Frank Jackson, Jaegwon Kim, David Lewis, and John Searle.

Instructor: R. Burian  
CRN: 95548  
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p  T Th  MCB 219

**Philosophy 4984: Special Study: Philosophy of Science and Economic Methodology**
This course will be a solid introduction to the central problems of the philosophy of science and their relationships with fundamental issues of methodology in economics and other social sciences. We will begin with a study of the central topics that form the backdrop for philosophical problems in economics: Hume and the problem of induction; logical positivism and empiricism, discovery/justification distinction; confirmation theory; Popper, testability and falsificationism; Lakatos and the methodology of scientific research programs; Kuhn and scientific revolutions; problems of underdetermination, theory-laden data, Duhem-Quine theses, and relativity of science to context and values (social, ethical, policy, and economic). Midway through, we will interweave, and increasingly turn our main attention to, key contemporary views on economic methodology that have arisen in reaction to the current "crisis in philosophy of science". We will read several papers by economists and philosophers of economics on the special problems of testing, modeling, prediction, and experimentation in economics, and will end with a discussion of the "new experimentalism" in philosophy of science, and related, current topics of interest to the participants of the course.

This course does not require any philosophical background—only the interest in acquiring one. It is intended to provide students sufficient philosophical and logical tools to (a) understand the relationship between problems in economics and those of philosophy of knowledge and philosophy of science; (b) critically evaluate work in interdisciplinary arenas of social science methodology, economic science, and foundations of scientific and statistical inference; and (c) bring a broad philosophical perspective to bear on more advanced research across the spectrum of empirical modeling and experimental methods.

Instructor: D. Mayo  
CRN: 96673  
Lecture: 2:30-3:45  MW  MCB 210  
(Cross listed with: ECON 4984 —CRN 96253 and STS 4304—CRN 96584)

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