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: 94136
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a F MAJWM 334

Instructor: J.C. Pitt    CRN: 94137
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F NOR 211

Instructor: J.C. Pitt    CRN: 94138
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a F SQUIR 236

Instructor: J.C. Pitt    CRN: 94139
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F SQUIR 238

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: 94140
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F MCB 238

Instructor: J. Gardner    CRN: 94141
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW SQUIR 238
Recitation: 10:10a-11:00a F MAJWM 334

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 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: 94142
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 2150
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F SQUIR 234

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick    CRN: 94143
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW SQUIR 238
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F MAJWM 334

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick    CRN: 94144
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW WHIT 300
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F MAJWM 334

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick    CRN: 94145
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW SQUIR 238
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F MAJWM 334

Check the university timetable or the department website http://www.phil.vt.edu/HTML/courses.html for updated information.
This course, is a conversation about the good, the bad, the ugly and how we tell these things apart.

Instructor: M. Rea  
CRN: 94154  
Lecture: 10:10a-11:00a  
MWF  
SHULT 104

**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: 96671  
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p  
T Th  
MAJWM434

**Philosophy 1504: Language and Logic**

This is an introduction to logic designed to provide the skills needed to evaluate arguments. We will cover basic logical concepts, analyze aspects of language relevant to evaluating arguments, identify common fallacies, and learn formal evaluative techniques like truth tables and proofs.

Instructor: L. Perini  
CRN: 94168  
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p  
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: 94169  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p  
T Th  
MAJWM334

Instructor: M. Gifford  
CRN: 94170  
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p  
T Th  
PAB 105

**Philosophy 2125: History of Modern Philosophy**

Western philosophical thought of the 17th century, including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz, and Locke.

Instructor: W. Ott  
CRN: 94171  
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p  
T Th  
TORG 1060

Instructor: W. Ott  
CRN: 93912  
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a  
T Th  
SQUIR238

Check the university timetable or the department website [http://www.phil.vt.edu/HTML/courses.html](http://www.phil.vt.edu/HTML/courses.html) for updated information.
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: S. Daskal
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p T Th MCB 210
CRN: 9:4175

Lecture: A. Garnar
Lecture: 9:05a-9:55a MWF MCB 202
CRN: 96723

Lecture: A. Garnar
Lecture: 11:15a-12:05p MWF MCB 134
CRN: 96724

Philosophy 2605: Reason and Revolution
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: D. Mayo
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p T Th SQUIR 234
CRN: 95769

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); and Niccolo Machiavelli (Renaissance politician and political thinker). We will be studying philosophical and historical 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 political change, the role of women, the purpose of education, and the value and dangers of art.

Instructor: J. Klagge
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p T Th SQUIR 234
CRN: 95767
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3015 – CRN: 96120)

Philosophy 3016: Political Theory
Analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory. Late 17th century to the present.

Instructor: S. May
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p T Th MCB 232
CRN: 9:4177
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94392)

Instructor: A. Vazquez-Arroy
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a T Th WHIT 277
CRN: 94179
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94994)

Philosophy 3314: Ethical Theory
Careful examination of some important historical or contemporary ethical theories. Includes coverage of such topics as the assessment of character and action; the foundations of ethical theories, their justification, their relationship to scientific theories, and their objective or subjective status.

Instructor: S. Daskal
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p T Th RAND 121
CRN: 94182

Check the university timetable or the department website http://www.phil.vt.edu/HTML/courses.html for updated information.
Philosophy 4984: Special Study
Philosophy of Science and Economics

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 (about), 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 philosophy of experimental economics.

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: 96975
Lecture: 5:00p-6:15p T Th  PAM 2028
(Also taught as ECON 4984 and STS 4984)

Check the university timetable or the department website [http://www.phil.vt.edu/HTML/courses.html](http://www.phil.vt.edu/HTML/courses.html) for updated information.