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?

Check the university timetable or the department website http://www.phil.vt.edu/HTML/courses.html for updated information.
Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

Format: This is an online course that will be taught at a distance using a computer. Lectures will be prerecorded and accessed through Blackboard at the student’s convenience, but at a structured pace. Quizzes will also be taken at the Blackboard site, as well as group discussions and written assignment submissions. Content: This is a first course in moral philosophy. We will begin with a short introduction to logic and logical fallacies. Then we will discuss classic theories about ethics (metaethics) such as subjectivism, natural law and natural rights theories, virtue ethics, as well as the more current feminist care ethics. These deal with such questions as: Can we have objective facts in ethics as we do in science, for example? Should our own moral beliefs be based on the consequences, or on duty, or on caring? Is there a relation between all of this and the happiness of the individual? These theories will then be applied to some contemporary issues such as: Is abortion morally permissible? What ethical issues are involved in cloning? Do non-human animals have rights? Can we justify preferential treatment based on race or gender? By the end of the semester you will be asked to analyze in a critical fashion your own moral beliefs by writing a Personal Code of Ethics paper.

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice
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.

Instructor: R. Mayorga
CRN: 94412
Online

Instructor: R. Mayorga
CRN: 96311
Online

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: 94428
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 3100
Recitation: 8:00a-8:50a F SHULT 109

Instructor: L. Perini
CRN: 95933
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 3100
Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a F MCB 327

Instructor: L. Perini
CRN: 95934
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 3100
Recitation: 11:15a-12:05p F SHULT 109

Instructor: L. Perini
CRN: 95935
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 3100
Recitation: 12:20p-1:10p F SQUIR 236

Instructor: L. Perini
CRN: 95936
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p MW TORG 3100
Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p F SHULT 109

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: 94429
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p T Th WHIT 349

Instructor: M. Gifford
CRN: 94430
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p T Th MAJWM 434

Philosophy 2125: History of Modern Philosophy

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

Instructor: W. Ott
CRN: 94431
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p T Th DAV 308

Instructor: W. Ott
CRN: 96308
Lecture: 5:00p-6:15p T Th MAJWM 434

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
In this course we will explore ethical issues that arise in a global context. We will focus on questions about war, humanitarian intervention, and national sovereignty. We will also address the ethics of global poverty and foreign aid, as well as considering issues involving the environment and international trade. Throughout the course, we will combine a theoretical investigation of the relevant ethical principles with a discussion of actual cases. The aim of the course is for students to learn about recent and current issues in global ethics and develop the ability to think critically about similar problems as they arise in the future.

Instructor: J. Miller  
Lecture: 8:00a-9:15a  T Th  MCB 224  
CRN: 94433

Philosophy 2606: Reason and Revolution
Study of philosophical approaches to understanding and justifying modes of human reasoning both in science and everyday life. Justifying changing paradigms of human inquiry.

Instructor: M. Rea  
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p  MWF  NOR 205  
CRN: 95769

Philosophy 3015: Political Theory
Analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory. Plato to the 17th century.

Instructor: B. Koch  
Lecture: 11:15a-12:05p  MWF  SHULT 104  
CRN: 96380

(Cross listed with: PSCI 3015 – CRN: 96380)

Instructor: D. Suzanne  
Lecture: 11:15a-12:05p  MWF  SHULT 104  
CRN: 97000

Philosophy 3016: Modern Political Theory
An analysis of the fundamental ideas in the history of political theory from the mid-seventeenth century on, with special emphasis on the concept of liberty. Theorists include Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and Mill.

Instructor: S. May  
Lecture: 3:30p-4:45p  T Th  MCB 232  
CRN: 94439

(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN: 94660)

Philosophy 3024: Philosophical Movements  
Existentialism, War, and Terrorism
We will use existentialism as a way of understanding armed conflict from the perspectives of soldiers, of occupied peoples, and of terrorists. Primary topics will be the meaning/meaninglessness of life, and reasons for living and dying. This course will not address just war theory, will not involve debate regarding the rightness or wrongness of the current war, and will not discuss Islam. Inquiry will be philosophic and moral, not political or religious. Materials will include theoretical works, novels, and films. Please be forewarned: the reading load will be heavy and the material covered will be difficult both intellectually and emotionally.

Instructor: D. Suzanne  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p  T Th  RAND 209  
CRN: 97038

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  
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p  T Th  GYM 219  
CRN: 94442

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,  
Lecture: 11:00a-12:15p  T Th  MAJWM 225  
CRN: 94443

Philosophy 4204: Philosophy of Mind
In this course we 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. The principal text for the course will be David Chalmers (ed.), Philosophy of Mind: Classical and Contemporary Readings (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Instructor: R. Burian  
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p  T Th  SQUIR 238  
CRN: 95904

Philosophy 4614: Philosophy of Science
The course will focus on the debate between scientific realism and anti-realism, endeavouring to explore two fundamental questions concerning science: ‘What is science’ and ‘What should science do?’ Naturally, these questions are interrelated. Does/Should science predict, explain, classify or increase our understanding of the physical world? What does one mean by each of these terms? How is scientific inquiry related to truth? Does science aim to discover “the way the world really is”, or is it merely a useful way of organizing and coordinating known facts about the observable world?

Instructor: D. Parker  
Lecture: 1:25p-2:15p  MWF  RAND 320  
CRN: 96375

Updated 7/21/06

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