### Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

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?

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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>CRN</th>
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<tr>
<td>J. Klagge</td>
<td>14135</td>
<td>12:20p-1:10p</td>
<td>MCB 100</td>
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<td>10:10a-11:00a</td>
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### 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 enough 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 deliberatively 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?

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<tr>
<td>W. FitzPatrick</td>
<td>14150</td>
<td>1:25p-2:15p</td>
<td>TORG 2150</td>
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### 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?

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<td>J. Gardner</td>
<td>14133</td>
<td>12:30p-1:45p</td>
<td>NOR 206</td>
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### Philosophy 1204: Knowledge and Reality

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<tr>
<td>J. Gardner</td>
<td>14138</td>
<td>3:30p-4:45p</td>
<td>MAJWM 334</td>
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Check the university timetable or the department website [http://www.phil.vt.edu/courses.html](http://www.phil.vt.edu/courses.html) for updated information.
The Middle Ages is one of the richest and most complex periods in the philosophy of the world. Indeed, many of the philosophical problems about which we worry today, as well as the vocabulary we use to express them, were first formulated during that time period. The aim of the course is to explore the way medievals approached the many problems associated with integrating secular learning with revealed doctrine, the issues at stake, and the solutions they proposed. Some of the most important concerns they had were the problem of how we know, the relation between theology and metaphysics, and the problem of universals. We will begin with the necessary historical and conceptual background before continuing with the different movements of the period, such as Augustinianism, Aristotelianism, realism, nominalism, and others.

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
CRN: 14161
Lecture: 12:25p-2:15p
TORG 2150
MW
Recitation: 9:05a-9:55a
SHULT 109
F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
CRN: 14163
Lecture: 12:25p-2:15p
TORG 2150
MW
Recitation: 1:25p-2:15p
MAJWM334
F

Instructor: W. FitzPatrick
CRN: 14164
Lecture: 12:25p-2:15p
TORG 2150
MW
Recitation: 2:30p-3:20p
MAJWM334
F

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice
This course is a critical survey of theories concerning the good, the right, human nature or lack thereof, the meaningful life, and the moral evaluation of actions, persons, and institutions ... in personal historical context. One of the difficult things about philosophy in general, and ethics in particular, is that it (ethics?) often fails to present students with an answer. While one may feel free to posit that this is an indictment of philosophy rather than philosophy, I suspect that this is due at least in part to the very old idea that philosophy is a process as well as -- or perhaps rather than -- a product.

This can lead to the conclusion that philosophy never "gets anywhere." I'm not quite naive enough to believe that the assertion that "the journey itself is the thing!" will impress itself upon you through the vehicle of syllabi or course descriptions, but my intuition is that this is so has practical ramifications for how this class will be administered. To wit:

Students must read.
I expect all students to have read the day's assignment before class. I further consider students responsible for the entire reading; whether we have time to discuss each item and article or not.

Students must attend class.
Every absence, for whatever reason, results in a lowering of your participation grade. ... because I'm pretty sure that you weren't participating if you weren't there. On that topic ... Students must participate. Participation means asking and answering questions in class, and contributing to the discussion. Sitting in a class is not participating. It is sitting. What I am after, in this course, is a conversation about the good, the bad, the ugly and how we tell these things apart.

Instructor: P. Olson
CRN: 14158
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p
SHULT 104
T Th

Instructor: M. Rea
CRN: 14169
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a
PAM301
T Th

Philosophy 1304: Morality and Justice

Instructor: P. Olson
CRN: 14158
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p
SHULT 104
T Th

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 toward future generations.

Instructor: A. Garnar
CRN: 14171
Lecture: 12:20p-1:10p
MAJWMS 334
MW

Instructor: A. Garnar
CRN: 14172
Lecture: 10:11a-11:00a
MCB 340
MW

Philosophy 2306: Reason and Revolution
Study of philosophical approaches to understanding and justifying modes of human reasoning both in science and everyday life. Focus of this semester is on justifying the changing paradigms of human inquiry.

Instructor: M. Rea
CRN: 14174
Lecture: 10:11a-11:00a
TORG 1000
MW

Philosophy 3015: Political Theory
The course will examine the evolution of political thought from Greek antiquity to the medieval period, but particular attention will be paid to the political ideas that accompanied the rise and fall of democracy in classical Athens.

Instructor: M. Gifford
CRN: 13529
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p
MAJWM334
T Th
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3015 – CRN 13529)

Instructor: D. Suzanne
CRN: 17096
Lecture: 9:05a-9:55a
MAJWM334
MW
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3015 – CRN 17097)

Instructor: D. Suzanne
CRN: 17098
Lecture: 11:15a-12:05p
MCB 329
MW
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3015 – CRN 17099)

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

Instructor: D. Suzanne
CRN: 17100
Lecture: 12:25p-2:15p
MCB 329
MW
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 17101)

Instructor: D. Suzanne
CRN: 17102
Lecture: 2:30p-3:20p
TORG 1000
MW
(Crosslisted with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 17103)

Check the university timetable or the department website http://www.phil.vt.edu/courses.html for updated information.
In this course, we will investigate moral and ethical issues that arise in the context of business practices. We will begin with an overview of relevant ethical theories and a consideration of various approaches to ethics, and then spend the majority of the course discussing specific problems. We will address questions such as: To what extent should considerations other than profits determine business decisions? What rights and obligations do employers and employees have with respect to one another? What obligations, if any, do businesses have to their consumers, or to the general public? To what extent should businesses adopt affirmative action measures or other policies designed to promote diversity in the workforce? In considering these issues we will read a combination of scholarly articles and influential court cases.

Instructor: S. Daskal  CRN: 15263
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a  SQUIR 236  T Th
(Cross listed with: MGT 4324 – CRN 15288)

Philosophy 4343: Jurisprudence: The Authority of the Law
The course is premised on the question: what is the law supposed to be, such that we are supposed to obey it? Topics to be discussed include civil disobedience and conscientious objection; competing theories of the nature of law and its normative content; the enforcement of morality; the problem of political legitimacy and the democratic genesis of the law; the nature of rights and their importance; constitutionalism and different approaches to constitutional interpretation; equality before the law; majoritarianism and the question of judicial review of legislation. Authors to be studied include Locke, Thoreau, King, Mandela, Raz, Feinberg, Hart, Dworkin, Coleman, Waldron, and Buchanan. Philosophy 4335 is a writing-intensive class and regular philosophical "briefs" will be expected.

Instructor: S. May  CRN: 15262
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p  SHULT 109  T Th
(Cross listed with: PSCI 3016 – CRN 14414*)

*Lectures are required for this course.

Philosophy 4344: Business and Professional Ethics
This course is designed to give the student a solid grounding in the main areas of debate in contemporary epistemology. Topics will likely include the analysis of justification and knowledge, externalism and internalism, naturalism, induction, skepticism, relativism, and anti-realism.

Instructor: B. Epstein  CRN: 15270
Lecture: 12:30p-1:45p  NOR 211  T Th

Philosophy 4324: Epistemology
This course is designed to give the student a solid grounding in the main areas of debate in contemporary epistemology. Topics will likely include the analysis of justification and knowledge, externalism and internalism, naturalism, induction, skepticism, relativism, and anti-realism.

Instructor: W. Ott  CRN: 15260
Lecture: 2:00p-3:15p  SQUIR 234  T Th

Philosophy 4304: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Ethical Pluralism in Liberal Democracy
The course focuses on the significance of ethical, cultural, and religious diversity and disagreement for liberal democratic political theory and practice. Topics to be covered include the nature of moral disagreement and its implications for objectivity; civic friendship and social unity; religious toleration and the place of religion in the public sphere; the liberal values of autonomy, authenticity, and individuality; neutrality between lifestyles and conceptions of the good life; multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism; the proper conduct of public deliberation in a context of disagreement; and the place of civility, moderation, and compromise in political life. Authors to be studied include Aristotle, Locke, Mill, Rawls, Kymlicka, and Okin. Student participation in class discussion will be a major aspect of the course.

Instructor: S. May  CRN: 15261
Lecture: 9:30a-10:45a  SQUIR 238  T Th

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