

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**PHILOSOPHY****Fall Semester 2024**

PHIL 1110	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	9:30-10:45	TR	Veber, M.

(GE:HU)

An introduction to the major issues and problems in philosophy including the existence of God, freedom and determinism, the mind body problem and skepticism.

PHIL 1110	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		002	11:00-12:15	TR	George, B.

(GE:HU)

This course introduces students to the core areas of philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Value Theory and Logic. Problems examined include some or all of the following traditional topics: reality and appearance, free will, proofs that God exists, what is knowledge and how do we get it, and theories about what is and is not moral/ethical and why. Students learn what logic is and how it is the basis for philosophical reflection. Other philosophical issues can be introduced because of their current importance, free speech, for example.

PHIL 1110	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		601			Olsen, L.

(GE:HU)

Introduction to Philosophy is a course designed to give the student a general overview of the nature and history of philosophy as an academic discipline in the western tradition. The course will introduce students to some of the main philosophical questions about knowledge, existence, and value, e.g. What can we be certain of? Does God exist? What is the difference between right and wrong? Selected original works from major philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke and Kant, will be supplemented by works written by contemporary philosophers who help to explain these original works and the philosophical problems treated in them.

PHIL 1175	INTRO TO ETHICS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	11:00-12:15	TR	Newhard, J.
		602			
		691 8W2			

(GE:HU)

001-This introductory level philosophy course provides a systematic introduction to philosophy and especially to the main areas of ethical theory. As an introductory level course, no background in ethics or philosophy is presupposed. The course begins by discussing what philosophy is, and what ethics is. An ethical theory is a theory offering an answer to the question, What is it to be a morally good person? or, What is it which makes an action morally right or wrong? We study some fundamental moral concepts such as those raised by asking, What is it to be a morally good person? Are there other ways to be good, or other kinds of goodness? Is morality just a matter of getting along with others? The nature of morality is explored by examining certain challenges to justifying or proving an ethical claim. Such challenges are posed by questions such as, Are ethical claims subjective or objective? and, How is it possible to establish the truth of an ethical claim at all? Several ethical theories will be studied, including relativism and divine command theory. The three major approaches to the development of an ethical theory—consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics—will be explored in some detail. Two topics in applied ethics are also studied.

602-This course is an asynchronous online course. It is an introductory level philosophy course providing a systematic introduction to philosophy and especially to the main areas of ethical theory. As an introductory level course, no background in ethics or philosophy is presupposed. The course begins by discussing what philosophy is, and what ethics is. An ethical theory is a theory offering an answer to the question, What is it to be a morally good person? or, What is it which makes an action morally right or wrong? We study some fundamental moral concepts such as those raised by asking, What is it to be a morally good person? Are there other ways to be good, or other kinds of goodness? Is morality just a matter of getting along with others? The nature of morality is explored by examining certain challenges to justifying or proving an ethical claim. Such challenges are posed by questions such as, Are ethical claims subjective or objective? and, How is it possible to establish the truth of an ethical claim at all? Several ethical theories will be studied, including relativism and divine command theory. The three major approaches to the development of an ethical theory—consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics—will be explored in some detail. Two topics in applied ethics are also studied.

691-

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PHIL 1175	INTRO TO ETHICS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		601			Olsen, L.
		605			

(GE:HU)

Introduction to Ethics is a course in moral theory designed to give the student a general overview of the nature and history of philosophical ethics. Some questions that we will examine are: How ought one to live? What is the greatest good? What is the ultimate goal in life for humans? What makes an act morally right? What role do reason and sentiment play in morality? What is human nature? We will read classic ethical works by Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Hume, Kant, and Mill, in conjunction with a more general and applied view of ethics provided by James Rachels.

PHIL 1175	INTRO TO ETHICS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		603			Robert, R.
		604			

(GE:HU)

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the study of ethics by examining some of the traditional approaches to moral theorizing found in Western philosophy and some of the contemporary challenges to these approaches. Course grades will be based on four objective examinations: three intermediate exams and a final exam.

PHIL 1176	INTRO TO SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	<u>Section</u> 001	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u> Wall, E.
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GE:HU, GD, GU

This course will provide a unique learning environment in which we interact with partner universities from two or three other countries. This is a Global Understanding course (GU) that is a face-to-face course, but one that moves to ZOOM and other online instruments enabling our ECU students to meet and interact with students from other nations. Early on in the semester, our ECU class will meet alone, and the plan is for our ECU class to meet alone later in the semester on "local days." The ECU students in our class will read and discuss online lectures on Henry David Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" and on an excerpt from his "A Plea for Captain John Brown." Students also will read and discuss online lectures on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and on his "I have a Dream Speech." Our ECU class also will be meeting with students from 2 or 3 different partner nations, one partner nation at a time, with maybe a total of 18 "linking" days for the entire semester. ZOOM will be used to connect our ECU students with students from each of those partner nations for class discussions. Our ECU students and students from partner nations will constitute small groups engaging in that video-conferencing, and there also will be written correspondence between pairs of students (one student from ECU, another student from a partner nation). This course will be inter-disciplinary. Questions can be directed to Dr. Edmund Wall at walle@ecu.edu.

PHIL 1180	INTRO TO CRITICAL REASONING	<u>Section</u> 601	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u> Miller, R.
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(GE:HU)

This is a course in informal or non-symbolic logic. Topics include categorical, conditional, and disjunctive arguments. common fallacies, finding conclusions, critically responding to arguments, and identifying assumptions. Students can work at their own pace but must complete an average of one module per week in order to earn at least a B.

PHIL 1263	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY	<u>Section</u> 001	<u>Time</u> 11:00-12:15	<u>Days</u> TR	<u>Instructor</u> Veber, M.
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(GE:HU)

A survey of the philosophical implications of some famous experiments in psychology. These questions include: Do we have free will? Are humans rational? Can we know our own minds? The course will also cover the philosophical implications of the "replication crisis".

PHIL 1290	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	TR	9:30-10:45	Collins, J.

GE:HU GD

In this course, we will look at religion from a philosophical perspective. A philosophy of religion course is probably best understood as a critical examination of basic religious beliefs and concepts. Among the questions we will try to answer: Are there good reasons to believe in God? Are there good reasons to believe that there is no God? What is involved in the idea or concept of God? What role should faith play in a person's life and beliefs? Should we regard God's commands as the basis of morality? Should we pray? If so, for what? What are miracles, and is it reasonable to believe in them? What is the nature of religious experience? Is it possible for more than one religion to be correct? (We will not be studying the history of the world's major religions.) Also, we will not just be learning philosophical theories, but also evaluating them. It will not be my job to tell you what the right answers in philosophy of religion are (though you may have to remind me of this once in a while), but we will be interested not just in what philosophers have said, but also whether they were right. That is, we will not just be studying philosophy; we'll be doing philosophy. The only text for this course is *The Philosophy of Religion: an Introduction*, by William Rowe.

PHIL 1500	INTRO TO LOGIC	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	TR	12:30-1:45	Miller, R.
		002	TR	2:00-3:15	

(GE:HU)

This course fulfills the General Education Math Requirement. This is a course in deductive logic. Most of the course is devoted to Sentential logic. The last two weeks of the course will briefly cover Predicate Logic. Topics include definitions of validity, consistency, tautology and contradiction; truth tables for individual sentences, sets of sentences and arguments; proofs in sentence logic including conditional and indirect proof; predicate logic translations with identity. The course is designed around mastery level learning. Short quizzes cover each distinct set of problems. Students must demonstrate thorough understanding of each small unit in order to move to the next. Failing a quiz means that you must retake a quiz on the same material until it is mastered. Final grades are determined by the total number of units mastered.

PHIL 2271	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY OF ART	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	TR	9:30-10:45	Bailer, G.

(GE:HU)

This class is an introduction to classical and contemporary issues in the philosophy of art. We explore how people go about philosophizing about art, and the sorts of views they create when they do this. The views we examine play a major role in Western Civilization's present understanding of modern and postmodern art. Our central concern is with views that are relevant to the art of being created right now. We explore theories about what an artist working today must do to turn something into art, and theories about the sorts of value contemporary artworks should have. We are especially concerned to examine the relevance of the artist's intentions, feeling and knowledge of her art making and to examine the relation that exists between the artist, her work, and the viewer. In class, we apply what we learn from our studies to our personal.

PHIL 2274	BUSINESS ETHICS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	11:00-11:50	MWF	Ferguson, K.
		002	12:00-12:50	MWF	

(GE:HU)

Introduces undergraduate students to the philosophical approach to business ethics. The emphasis is on the application of normative theories to determine the moral obligations of businesswomen and businessmen. The normative theories covered include authoritarianism, evolutionary ethics, egoism, Kantian ethics, and utilitarianism (Mill). Also introduced are the leading contemporary theories of corporate responsibility, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Triple Bottom Line (TBL), and resilient prosperity (the most common view inside the corporate world). Topics to be covered include insider trading, price gouging, the rights of workers, sexual harassment, affirmative action, discrimination, product safety standards, animal rights, and other important issues related to business ethics.

PHIL 2275	PROFESSIONAL ETHICS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		601			Yalcin, U.
		602			
		691			

Professional Ethics focuses on ethics at work, for individuals who work in professional fields. Ethics is the philosophical study of morality, or of moral right and wrong. Professional Ethics, therefore, applies the study of morality to issues arising in professional experience. The course develops a model for analyzing such morally complex situations and focuses on applying it to numerous case-studies. This is a fully online course taught by means of the resources provided by Canvas. Participants need to be fully conversant with internet navigation processes and procedures (including netiquette), word-processors, and the Canvas environment. Course grades are based on a number of online tests or quizzes (currently eight) and weekly class participation (posting to discussion boards).

PHIL 2277	BIOMEDICAL ETHIS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		601			Smith, J.

After an extended study of background materials and ideas relevant to the study of applied philosophical ethics, our course proceeds to a careful study of the longest standing and most revered study of biomedical ethics ever published. We make a close study of all ten chapters of the 8th edition of Principles of Biomedical Ethics, by Tom Beauchamp and James Childress, published in 2019. This is a text that began in first edition in the 1970s and has followed the development of bioethics over the last fifty years, culminating in the most up-to-date history and content of biomedical ethics currently available under one cover. We will pursue their detailed considerations of Moral Foundations, Moral Principles, and Theory and Method. We will compare the conclusions reached by the authors in those areas with the extended study of background materials with which the course begins. Student will take midterm and final essay examinations and produce a semester essay that may be optionally submitted for professorial critique before finally submission for grading. Each of the five course requirements has equal weight in determining the course grade.

PHIL 2280	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY OF SPORT	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	TR	11:00-12:15	Collins, J.

Introduction to Philosophy of Sport will be an introduction to philosophy through some philosophical issues surrounding sports and games. Here are some of the questions we will try to answer: What is a sport? What is involved in sportsmanship? Should performance enhancing drugs be banned in sports? Are sports an important part of a good life?

Should college athletics be treated as extracurricular, as a performance art, or as a job? Should trans women compete athletically with cis women? The only required text is The Grasshopper: Games, Life and Utopia, by Bernard Suits.

PHIL 3272	AESTHETICS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		601			Bailey, G.

An investigation of current issues in aesthetics. These include the status of artificial intelligence applications as creators of art, the role of social media in the artworld (Instagram, Pinterest, etc.), entitlement to copyright, the shifting boundaries between art and non-art, the meaning and significance of art-status, identity criteria for works of art, artistic value as intrinsic or instrumental (especially instrumental political value), the subjective/objective distinction, and the ethical dimensions of art.

PHIL 3281	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		601			Smith, J.

We begin with a story that for more than thirty years has produced the obvious need for the class to discuss moral relativism. That discussion will lead to interrelated topics dealing with the relation of the social sciences to philosophy, with the nature of inference, and with some introductory considerations of the cognitive status of moral claims. These considerations will include issues regarding inferential justification, domestic and foreign diversity, the nature of the American founding, domestic and foreign diversity, and methods for the presentation of sound argumentation in cases of moral importance in health care. Students will complete three exams, a semester essay, and a final exam

PHIL 4270	ETHICS	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	2:00-2:50	MWF	Ferguson, K.

Survey of advanced issues in metaethics, with concentration on the definition of the good, an analysis of how moral theories are developed and defended, the question of whether ethical statements have truth values, and the relationship between nature and ethics.

PHIL 4276	SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
		001	2:00-2:50	TR	Wall, E.

We will begin this semester with a philosophical examination of the social and political thought of John Locke in his *Second Treatise of Government*, including an examination of his justificatory foundation for political society and government, which, in turn, includes, among other things, his accounts of natural moral rights, consent, and the philosophical basis for legal duties. Locke's work very much influenced the U. S. Founding Fathers. Our examination of Locke's work will lead us into an analysis of key concepts, principles, arguments and contexts in the founding documents of the American Republic. This will include evaluating key milestones in progress, challenges, and injustices when it came to implementing the founding ideals and forming "a more perfect Union." Pursuing the above analyses will include summarizing and examining, among other things, the following United States founding documents: the U. S. "Declaration of Independence," *The Federalist Papers*, Anti-Federalist arguments, the U. S. "Constitution," Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," and the "Emancipation Proclamation." Continuing those themes (liberty, natural rights, consent, representative government, etc.) we will engage in a philosophical examination of Henry David Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" and of an excerpt from Thoreau's "Plea for Captain John Brown." Then we will follow up on Thoreau's philosophical opposition to slavery, etc., with a philosophical examination of Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and of King's "I Have a Dream Speech."

TEXT 2000	Transformative Texts and Ideas of the Law	<u>Section</u> 001	<u>Time</u> 12:30-1:45	<u>Days</u> MW	<u>Instructor</u> Collins, J.
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GE:HU

This is an interdisciplinary team-taught course, led by a philosopher but including guest lectures by historians, classicists, and religion and literature faculty. We will closely examine great works of the law, including Hammurabi's Code; dialogues of Plato; essays by the Stoics and St. Thomas Aquinas on natural law; the Federalist Papers; the US Constitution; Mill's On Liberty; Melville's Bartleby the Scrivener; Las Casas' Historia de las Indias, on colonial oppression in the West Indies; many famous Supreme Court cases, such as Marbury v Madison and Brown v The Board of Education; Qutb's Milestones, on sharia law; Dr. King's Letter from Birmingham Jail; and others.