**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS PHILOSOPHY Spring Semester 2025**

PHIL 1110 INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY Section Time Days Instructor 001 11:00-12:15 TR Bailey, G.

691

**(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 Section Time Days Instructor 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 Section Time Days Instructor

603 Olsen, L.

604

**(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 Section Time Days Instructor

601 Roberts, R.

602

**(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 1175 INTRO TO ETHICS Section Time Days Instructor

605 Newhard, J.

691

**(GE:HU)**

This introductory level philosophy course provides a systematic introduction to philosophy and especially to the main areas of ethical theory. An ethical theory is a theory offering an answer to the question, what is it which makes an action morally right or wrong? The nature of morality is explored by examining certain challenges to justifying an ethical claim, which are also challenges to developing an ethical theory. 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, deontologism, and virtue ethics—will be explored in some detail.

PHIL 1176 INTRO TO SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHIL Section Time Days Instructor

001 8:00-8:50 MWF Wall, E.

**(GE:HU,GE )**

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 also break off and be paired one-on-one with a student from the partner nation to engage in video-conferencing. This course will be inter-disciplinary. Questions can be directed to Dr. Edmund Wall at walle@ecu.edu.

PHIL 1180 INTRO TO CRITICAL REASONING Section Time Days Instructor

601 Miller, R.

**(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 1500 INTRO TO LOGIC Section Time Days Instructor

001 11:00-12:15 TR Miller, R.

**(GE:HU)**

A philosophical examination of death and dying. The examination will be directed to certain ethical, social, and political aspects of death and dying. Our focus will be on philosophical arguments, pro and con, on issues concerning abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment. When investigating those issues, we will, among other things, become familiar with Mill’s utilitarian ethical theory, natural law ethics, and other moral approaches. We will follow up with an examination of philosophical arguments, pro and con, concerning the possibility of life after death and personal immortality

PHIL 2001 PHILOSOPHY THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION Section Time Days Instructor

601 Yalcin, U.

***PHIL. 2001*** focuses on philosophical themes that emerge in the science fiction genre, introduces them in a literary context, but further expands on them through rigorous philosophical analysis. The course covers philosophical themes in Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion and Moral Philosophy, themes that might be covered in any introductory level philosophy course.

PHIL 2261 INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE Section Time Days Instructor

001 11:00-12:15 TR Veber, M.

**(GE:HU)**

Intro to Philosophy of Science: An introduction to the major philosophical issues and problems surrounding science. These include: What is the difference between science and pseudoscience? Is all scientific knowledge based on observation? What is the nature of confirmation, refutation, and explanation in science?

PHIL 2271 INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY OF ART Section Time Days Instructor

001 9:30-10:45 TR Bailey, 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 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 to 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 points-of-view and to modern-day disagreements about art. We explore the various methods philosophers have for deciding which theory makes the most sense so that we can get a better idea of the philosophical theory that best reflects our own understanding of art. To accomplish these goals effectively, and become better educated people, we discuss the views of numerous other philosophers, as well as the views of artists, art historians, and art critics. For more information: contact Dr. George Bailey at 328-6215 or 328-6121, email: bailey@ecu.edu.

PHIL 2274 BUSINESS ETHICS Section Time Days Instructor

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 Section Time Days Instructor

691 Yalcin, U.

602

**(GE:HU)**

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 the discussion boards).

PHIL 2277 BIOMEDICAL ETHICS Section Time Days Instructor

601 Smith, J.

**(GE:HU)**

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 2282 PHILOSOPHY OF LAW Section Time Days Instructor

001 9:30-10:45 TR Collins, J.

This course will address many of the central questions in the philosophy of law, including, but not limited to, these: What are laws? How are laws different from other rules? Is it morally wrong to disobey the law? What is civil disobedience and when is it justified? When we interpret the law, should we care about the intentions of the legislators or the meaning of the text? Is the meaning fixed or can it change over time? Should judges merely apply the law, or should they ever make law? Are plea bargains an acceptable form of criminal justice? What kinds of laws should we have? How should criminal lawyers balance their duties to their clients with their duties to the court? What is the moral duty of a juror? What is legal entrapment, and why is it wrong? How should we understand legal standards of proof like beyond a reasonable doubt, or preponderance of evidence? We will look at some philosophers’ and jurists’ answers to these questions, but we will also try to figure out whose answers are correct. That is, in addition to studying philosophy, we will be doing philosophy.

PHIL 3281 INTRO PHIL ETHICS HEALTH CARE Section Time Days Instructor

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 3340 TWENTIETH-DENTURY ANALYTIC PHIL Section Time Days Instructor

001 12:30-1:45 TR Veber, M.

**(WI)**

Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that deals with questions surrounding the nature and limits of knowledge.

What is knowledge? How does knowing something differ from just having an opinion about it? And what, if anything, can

we really know.

PHIL 4276 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHIL Section Time Days Instructor

601 Wall, E.

(WI)

This will be an asynchronous online course. 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,” selections from The Federalist Papers, Anti-Federalist arguments, the U. S. “Constitution,” Lincoln’s “First Inaugural Address, “Gettysburg Address,” and his “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 after examining Thoreau’s philosophical opposition to slavery, etc., we will engage in a philosophical examination of Martin Luther King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and of King’s “I Have a Dream Speech.”