

Philosophy

Course Offerings

Fall 2008



General Education / Liberal Arts Core Offerings

MIND 100-028 (CRN: 11314) 3 hrs. (LAC elective)
The First Year Preceptorial — *Open to incoming freshmen only.*
MWF 2:30 p.m.–3:20 p.m., McKee 220

Instructor: Tom Trelogan
McKee 323
Phone: 351-1561

MIND 100-035 (CRN: 11319) 3 hrs. (LAC elective)
The First Year Preceptorial — *Open to incoming freshmen only.*
TTh 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., McKee 220

Instructor: Nancy Matchett
McKee 322
Phone: 351-1567

PHIL 100-006 (CRN: 11114) 3 hrs. (GE 4e; LAC 3c)
Introduction to Philosophy
MWF 12:20 p.m.–1:10 p.m., Michener L74

Instructor: Jeff Cook
McKee 305
Phone: 351-2961

In order to introduce Philosophy, we will be focusing on three philosophic topics about which most of us already have detailed opinions: Meaning, Ethics, and God. Our classes will be mostly discussion, with brief lectures to set up the topics. We will read short essays by 16 different thinkers including Hume, Nietzsche, Sartre, Jesus, Plato, and Aristotle. The work load is average, but participation is highly valued.

Grades will be determined by the quality of your work on 12 one-page papers. There may also be occasional quizzes, and class participation may be taken into account as well.

PHIL 100-009 (CRN: 11116) 3 hrs. (GE 4e; LAC 3c)
Introduction to Philosophy
MWF 3:35 p.m.–4:25 p.m., Candelaria 1220

Instructor: Jeff Cook
McKee 305
Phone: 351-2961

In order to introduce Philosophy, we will be focusing on three philosophic topics about which most of us already have detailed opinions: Meaning, Ethics, and God. Our classes will be mostly discussion, with brief lectures to set up the topics. We will read short essays by 16 different thinkers including Hume, Nietzsche, Sartre, Jesus, Plato, and Aristotle. The work load is average, but participation is highly valued.

Grades will be determined by the quality of your work on 12 one-page papers. There may also be occasional quizzes, and class participation may be taken into account as well.

PHIL 100-970 (CRN: 12199) 3 hrs. (GE 4e; LAC 3c)
Introduction to Philosophy
Online Course

Instructor: Nancy Matchett
McKee 322
Phone: 351-1567

This section of Introduction to Philosophy is designed to familiarize students with the main branches of philosophical inquiry and sharpen their critical reasoning skills so that they can begin to articulate their own philosophical views about knowledge, reality, values, and even the meaning of life! Since developing a satisfactory position on any of these topics is a lifelong task, the 15-week term provides a survey of the major philosophical positions that one might hold in each of these areas, rather than an in-depth exploration of any one. Students who successfully complete the course will know what it means to “love wisdom” and will be better equipped to pursue wisdom both during college and throughout their life.

Grades will be determined by weekly quizzes (20%), participation in online discussions (20%), philosophical journaling (20%), and performance on the midterm (20%) and final exams (30%).

Note: Students should expect to spend roughly 3 hours each week reading and posting to the online discussion boards (the same amount of time they would spend in a traditional classroom during a 3-credit course); and an additional 3-6 hours completing reading and writing assignments (again, roughly the same amount of “out of class” time as is required by a traditional course).

PHIL 150-008 (CRN: 11117) 3 hrs. (GE 4e; LAC 3c)
 Ethics in Theory and Practice
 TTh — 2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m., Candelaria 2135

Instructor: Nancy Matchett
 Office: McKee 322
 Phone: 351-1567

This course is designed to help students identify the ethical dimension of their choices and deliberate more effectively about how they should live. Although we will explore the most influential theories of ethics and their contemporary applications, the emphasis of the course is on practical moral decision-making in real world contexts. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to articulate and defend carefully reasoned positions about both the nature of moral values and their concrete application to daily life.

Grades will be determined by weekly online quizzes, active participation in small group discussions, individual contributions to group assignments, and a final exam.

MIND 289-007 (CRN: 11112) 3 hrs. (GE 7a; LAC elective)
 Coming of Age in the Twentieth Century
 TTh 2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m., Ross 1060

Instructors: Paul Hodapp and Sharon Wilson
 McKee 321 & Ross 1170b
 Phones: 351-2572 & 351- 2985

Our aim in this course is practical—to create a humane humanities environment that will contribute to a lessening of the passive acceptance of violence in this society. We will begin by exploring moral motivation in Plato, Kohlberg, and Gilligan. We will use *Anna Karenina* to illustrate the emotional motive of love and to see whether empathy with Anna can create a situation where we are less likely to participate in a future war against the Russians. We will also use two other novels, *The Makioka Sisters* and *The Blind Assassin*, to explore these issues and the issue of passive responsibility for war. Films such as Yasujiro Ozu's *Late Spring* will be used to make these fictional characters and their problems even more vivid. The moral philosophy/psychology of Martha Nussbaum will be used as a basis to question the morality of the Mideast wars. The film *The Battle of Algiers* will be used to introduce the Mideast colonial wars. We will read *Cat's Cradle* to examine if satire can alter attitudes about war. Lastly, we will read *The Memoir of a Survivor* about the effects of a long-term war society and the possibility of a birth of a new nonviolent society.

Student performance will be determined by 6 papers, approximately 3 pages each. The quality of the writing will be a factor in our evaluation.



200-Level and Upper-Level Offerings

PHIL 220-003 (CRN: 11118) 3 hrs.
 Nature of Legal Reasoning
 TTh 8:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m., Candelaria 1065

Instructor: Paul Hodapp
 Office: McKee 321
 Office Phone: 351-2572

This course is intended for students who wish to learn the basic skills of logical reasoning by practice in applying these skills to law-related examples.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part will introduce students to the basic structures of deductive logic. The second portion of the course will teach the traditional logical forms by reference to short legal cases. We will brief each case using the basic IRAC formula. Then we will use the deductive forms to determine the validity and soundness of the court's reasoning. Finally, we will evaluate the policy basis for the court's arguments.

Grading will be determined by daily assignments (extra credit), midterm examination (50%) and final examination (50%).

PHIL 260-004 (CRN: 11119) 3 hrs
 History of Ancient Philosophy
 MWF 10:10 a.m.–11:00 a.m., Candelaria 395

Instructor: Tom Trelogan
 Office: McKee 323
 Office Phone: 351-1561

This course is an introduction to the history of ancient philosophy from the time of the Presocratics up to the end of the Hellenistic period. Specifically, we'll be covering the thought of the Presocratics, the Sophists, Sokrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epikuros, the early Stoics, Pyrrho and the Academic Skeptics. Neither Neoplatonism nor Roman philosophy is covered in this course. The graded work for the course will consist of unannounced quizzes, three short (*i.e.*, four to five page) papers, a midterm, a final, and class participation. N.B.: This course requires a substantial amount of reading.

Grades for the course are determined by performance on the quizzes (10%), performance on the papers (15% each), performance on the midterm and the final (10% each), and quantity and quality of class participation (25%).

PHIL 300-005 (CRN: 11120) 3 hrs.
 Topics in Philosophy—Existentialism and Phenomenology
 MWF 11:15 a.m.–12:05 p.m., Candelaria 2055

Instructor: Tom Trelogan
 Office: McKee 323
 Office Phone: 351-1561

This course is designed to introduce some of the central ideas of existentialism and phenomenology—two of the most important movements in twentieth century continental philosophy—as background for a close examination of one of the classics of existential phenomenology (the branch of phenomenology developed particularly by Heidegger and Sartre in mid-century in Germany and in France): Jean-Paul Sartre’s *Transcendence of the Ego*. We shall begin with a look at a number of classic texts by a variety of writers belonging to the existentialist tradition, proceed to an examination of the main ideas of phenomenology proper, plunge into the text of *The Transcendence of the Ego*, and then reflect on the effectiveness and plausibility of Sartre’s attempted illustration of that work’s central thesis concerning the non-egological character of consciousness in his well-known novel, *Nausea*.

Writers to be covered, to some extent at least, include Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Jaspers, Dostoevski, Rilke, Kafka, Ortega y Gasset, Husserl, Heidegger, and Sartre. If you have never heard of most of these people, then you need to take this course.

Grades for the course are determined by performance on the quizzes (10%), performance on two short papers (30% each), and quantity and quality of class participation (30%). N.B.: This course requires a substantial amount of reading.

PHIL 300-008 (CRN: 12215) 3 hrs.
 Topics in Philosophy—God and Evil
 MWF 2:30 p.m.–3:20 p.m., Candelaria 2395

Instructor: Jeff Cook
 Office: McKee 305
 Office Phone: 351-2961

Our world is filled with pain. From war and genocide to cancer and tsunamis, many in our world suffer in intense ways. We might even call such undeserved suffering “evil.” Pain and evil are clues about what it means to be human, what purposes our lives have (if any), and if there is a God that made us. Many have argued that the pain and evil we experience make the existence of a good God unlikely. In reply, others have said that the total elimination of evil would take something very meaningful away from us as human beings. This class will examine some of the great works of literature and philosophy on the problem of evil, and ask what (if anything) it says about us, and what (if anything) it says about God.

Grades will be based on 12 one-page response papers, attendance, and participation.

PHIL 350-002 (CRN: 11121)
 Ethics
 MWF 8:00 a.m.–8:50 a.m., Candelaria 220

Instructor: Jack Temkin
 Office: McKee 328
 Office Phone: 351-1568

In this course we will study some major ethical theories—i.e., theories of the right and the good—through a consideration of the views of some of the major figures in the history of Western ethical thought. Among the figures to be studied are: Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Bentham, Kant, Mill, and Moore. The text for the course is *Ethical Theories*, edited by A.I. Melden.

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of class participation and two papers: one due at mid-term and one at the end of the semester.

ID 420-003 (CRN: 11111) 3 hrs.
 Legal Research and Writing
 TTh 9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m. Ross 1010

Instructor: Paul Hodapp
 Office: McKee 321
 Office Phone: 351-2572

I am offering this course to provide students with practical skills in legal research and writing. My hope is that the course will give students an edge in law school and later on, in the practice of law, which requires careful writing based on intelligent legal research. Despite its high number, no prior background in law or philosophy is required as a prerequisite for this course. The course will be structured as follows. The first half of the class will be spent on short writing assignments. In the last half of the class you will complete short research assignments.

The majority of research class time will be spent on the computer in the Michener Library.

Students will be graded on whether the work is complete and professionally competent. If all work is complete and competent, students will earn an “A.” Otherwise, the grading scale is 80-89 = B, etc. An important component of your grade is my subjective evaluation of your effort in completing course work. Please advise me of problems you are having completing the work when it is due.

Texts will be available at The Book Stop, 16th St. and 10th Ave.

