

Department of Philosophy

Course Offerings

Spring 2011



Liberal Arts Core Offerings

PHIL 100-001 (CRN: 20873) 3 hrs. (LAC 3c)
Introduction to Philosophy
T 5:00-8:00 p.m., Ross 1010

Instructor: Paul Hodapp
McKee 321
Phone: 351-2572

This section of Introduction to Philosophy is designed to help students learn to reason more effectively with others about important moral issues by way of discussions drawing on a close reading of Plato's *Republic* and reflections on a number of films.

Grades will be based on 12 short (750-word) papers that will be on the films assigned for class and Plato's *Republic*. Each week's paper is due at the beginning of class the week after the film is shown. If you are unable to see a film during class time, you must add to your paper a one-page list of the scenes in the film. The structure of each paper will be as follows: state and clarify a specific thesis regarding a key problem posed by the film in relation to the philosophy of Plato; defend the film's resolution of that problem with specific examples from the film; finally, consider a specific counterexample to your analysis of the film. Papers must be submitted in hard copy. The grading scale is 90-100=A, etc.

PHIL 100-002 (CRN: 20875) 3 hrs. (LAC 3c)
Introduction to Philosophy
W 5:00-8:00 p.m., Ross 1010

Instructor: Paul Hodapp
McKee 321
Phone: 351-2572

See the description for PHIL 100-001 just above.

PHIL 100-003 (CRN: 20876) 3 hrs. (LAC 3c)
Introduction to Philosophy
TTh 3:30-4:45 p.m., Candelaria 1260

Instructor: Jeff Cook
McKee 322
Messages: 351-2572

In this section of Introduction to 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 workload is average, but participation is highly valued.

Grades will be based on a midterm a final and one or more writing assignments.

PHIL 100-004 (CRN: 24040) 3 hrs. (LAC 3c)
Introduction to Philosophy
MWF 1:25-2:15 p.m., Michener L108

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

This section of the course is designed to introduce you to philosophy by way of a reading of a number of Plato's best-known Sokratic dialogues: the *Apology*, the *Ion*, the *Crito*, the *Phaedo*, the *Meno*, the *Republic* (brief selections), and the *Symposium*. After some preliminaries on the differences between Plato's portrayal of Sokrates and those of two of Sokrates' other contemporaries, Aristophanes and Xenophon, we'll be using the seven Platonic dialogues we'll be reading to explore basic questions of logic and epistemology (the theory of knowledge), metaphysics (the theory of being), and axiology (the theory of value).

Grades will be determined as follows: weekly quizzes (10%), participation in classroom and/or online discussion (40%), a series of logic exercises (10%), a midterm (10%), an essay (20%), and a final (10%).

PHIL 150-001 (CRN: 23596) 3 hrs. (LAC 3c)
Ethics in Theory and Practice
TTh 2:00-3:15 p.m., McKee 424

Instructor: Nancy Matchett
Office: McKee 324
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 class discussions and case studies, three writing assignments, and a final exam.

PHIL 150-970 (CRN: 20878) 3 hrs. (LAC 3c)
Ethics in Theory and Practice
Online Class

Instructor: Nancy Matchett
Office: McKee 324
Phone: 351-1567

See the description of PHIL 150-001 just above.

MIND 288-002 (CRN: 23998) 3 hrs. (LAC)
Contemporary Arts Connections: Ethics Through Fiction and Film
TTh 9:30-10:45 a.m., McKee 333

Instructor: Nancy Matchett
Office: McKee 324
Phone: 351-1567

This course places theoretical writings alongside works of literature, film, and television to explore both the nature of morality and some of its practical applications. Although you will learn about the philosophical justifications for different forms of moral agency and different ways of thinking about morality, the emphasis of the course will be on the way these approaches are exemplified in narratives (including both fictional creations, and the real-life stories we tell about ourselves). Along the way, we will also consider the relevance of storytelling to moral development and ethical decision-making.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- identify morally significant features that arise in various contexts
- apply a variety of moral considerations to both fictional and real life inquiries
- explain how stories contribute to both personal and social understandings of morality
- articulate and defend interpretations of both visual and textual narratives
- articulate and defend a position on the relationship between theorizing, storytelling, & living an ethical life

There are no prerequisites, and prior coursework in ethics, literature and/or film studies is neither expected nor required. However, the course has also been carefully designed to ensure that it will not be redundant for students who have taken or plan to take PHIL 150 (Ethics in Theory and Practice). This course can be used to fulfill an elective requirement for Philosophy majors (traditional or Ethics and Public Policy track), Philosophy minors, and Film Studies Minors, as well as the general university elective requirement for any UNC undergraduate degree.



Other 200-Level and Upper-Level Offerings

PHIL 220-001 (CRN: 20879) 3 hrs.
Nature of Legal Reasoning
TTh 9:30–10:45 a.m., McKee 146

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 261–001 (CRN: 20880) 3 hrs
History of Modern Philosophy
MWF 9:05–9:55 a.m., McKee 338

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

“Modern” is the designation conventionally used for the philosophy developed in the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. This course focuses on the thought, particularly with regard to metaphysics and epistemology, of some of the key figures in the history of Western philosophy from Descartes through Kant. In particular, we will study representative works by Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of class participation and two papers.

PHIL 300–002 (CRN: 20881) 3 hrs
 Kierkegaard v. Sokrates
 W 7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m., McKee 338

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

This course will be devoted to a close examination of two of Søren Kierkegaard's most thought-provoking discussions of Sokrates: the one contained in his master's thesis, *The Concept of Irony*, and the one contained in the pseudonymous work, *Philosophical Fragments*. We'll begin with a look at Kierkegaard's posthumously published explanation of his pseudonymous authorship in *The Point of View for My Work as an Author*. The goal of the course will be to understand as well as we can the complexities of Kierkegaard's stance *vis-à-vis* Sokrates and its relation to his rejection of philosophy as belonging to what some of his pseudonyms, at least, sometimes characterize as the ethical stage of existence.

Grades will be determined as follows: weekly quizzes (10%), class participation (60%), essay (30%).

PHIL 370–001 (CRN: 24041) 3 hrs
 Philosophy of Religion
 TTh 5:00–6:15 p.m., Candelaria 2055

Instructor: Jeff Cook
 Office: McKee 322
 Office Phone: 351-2572

This class will survey the ways some of the greatest thinkers the world over have wrestled with the question of God. We will cover topics ranging from the nature of faith and belief to religious experiences, death, meaning, and immortality. We will spend the majority of the course looking at both reason for belief in a God and a series of contemporary challenges to God-belief.

You will be graded on 11 one-page papers and one final paper of no more than 10 pages.

PHIL 385-005 (CRN: 23597) 3 hrs.
 Epistemology
 MWF 10:10–11:00 a.m., McKee 252

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

In this course, we will examine some of the main issues in epistemology or the theory of knowledge. Among the questions to be considered are these: What is knowledge? Can we know anything? How can we know whatever we do know, if we know anything? How, if at all, are we to understand the nature of perception and its contribution to knowledge? Is *a priori* knowledge possible, and if so how? Can we have justified beliefs about matters that we cannot know *a priori* and of which we have no experience?

The text for the course is *Epistemology: Contemporary Readings*, edited by Michael Huemer. Despite its title, this anthology contains not only contemporary but also classical readings in epistemology.

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of a midterm paper, a final paper, and class participation.

PHIL 495-011 (CRN: 23598) 3 hrs
 Advanced Seminar: Wittgenstein
 T 7:00–10:00 p.m., McKee 219

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

This course is an advanced seminar devoted to the study of the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. To that end, we will study Wittgenstein's two major works: the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and the *Philosophical Investigations*. Topics to be discussed include: the relations among logic, language, and the world, the ultimate constituents of reality, meaning and understanding, the nature of rules and the privacy of experience. Above all, there will be a continuing focus on the nature of metaphysics and Wittgenstein's evolving views on philosophical method.

As with any seminar, students will bear a major responsibility to directing the course of discussion. Each student will be expected to lead the discussion at least once during the semester.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the quality of their work as discussion leaders, the quality of their work as discussion participants, and the quality of a final paper.

