

LSU

Philosophy



Course Offerings

Spring 2027

PHIL 1000: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Chris Blakley

T Th 9:00–10:20am (Section 001)

T Th 10:30–11:50am (Section 002)

This introduction to philosophy course covers basic logic and critical thinking, epistemology (problem of skepticism, intellectual vices, and echo chambers, conspiracy theory), metaphysics (the mind-body problem, artificial intelligence and consciousness, simulation argument), moral philosophy (the challenges of moral relativism and moral skepticism, deontology, utilitarianism, virtue ethics, care ethics, existentialist ethics), and political philosophy (social contract theory, extremism, propaganda). **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit.**

PHIL 1000: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Grant Heller

100% Asynchronous Online (Section 003)

M W F 10:30–11:20am (Section 006)

Introduction to philosophical ideas, problems, and methods through a study of major philosophers and the systems of philosophy. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit.**

PHIL 1000: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Chris Wells

M W F 2:30–3:20pm (Section 004)

M W F 3:30–4:20pm (Section 005)

This course provides an introduction to philosophy through a survey of a number of figures and themes in western philosophy. We will especially consider the relationships between belief, understanding, reason, and self. Along the way we will ask, for example: What do I believe, what should I believe, and on what grounds? Can the use of reason lead to social and historical progress? Are there boundaries and limits to what we can know? What is the self? If we are free, then are there justifiable limits that can be placed on one's choices and actions by others? Why is democracy something of value to us? Figures we will discuss include (but are not limited to): Plato, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, and Mill. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit.**

PHIL 1021: INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

Instructor: Tyler Huismann

M W F 1:30–2:20pm (Section 001)

An introduction to modern logic and its applications. Emphasis is placed on deductive logic, but may also include some treatment of inductive logic. Various common fallacies and errors in reasoning will also be discussed. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also a core requirement for the B.A. in Philosophy with a Concentration in Law, Ethics, & Social Justice.**

PHIL/LING 2010: SYMBOLIC LOGIC I

Instructor: Jeffrey Roland

T Th 10:30–11:50am (Section 001)

This course covers the basics of classical propositional and first-order logic. We will learn a formal language and use it to help us understand logical consequence and related concepts. In addition to philosophy students, this course will be particularly useful to students interested in mathematics, computer science, and linguistics. There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course is a core requirement for the B.A. in Philosophy and the B.A. in Philosophy with a Concentration in Law, Ethics, & Social Justice, but it does not contribute to fulfilling the general education analytical reasoning requirement.

PHIL 2020: ETHICS

Instructor: Chris Blakley

100% Asynchronous Online (Section 002)

T Th 1:30–2:50pm (Section 003)

Classical and recent theories of obligation and value, including works of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hume and Nietzsche; topics including freedom, rights, justification of moral judgments. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also a core requirement for the B.A. in Philosophy and the B.A. in Philosophy with a Concentration in Law, Ethics, & Social Justice.**

PHIL 2020: ETHICS

Instructor: Chris Wells

M W F 10:30–11:20am (Section 001)

M W F 9:30–10:20am (Section 005)

M W F 11:30am–12:20pm (Section 006)

This course examines the history, applications, and challenges of ethical theory. In the most basic sense, this course asks: What is right? How ought we act and live? How ought we treat, and what do we owe, each other? Where do these obligations and responsibilities come from, i.e., what are their foundations? We grapple with how they challenge us to live our lives, give us meaning, and determine what we value. Our task is to consider who we are and who we want to (or, perhaps, who we ought to) become. In pursuing this task, we will consider virtue ethics, stoic ethics, Kantian ethics, utilitarianism, and care ethics. We will also consider critiques of morality and issues in applied ethics. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also a core requirement for the B.A. in Philosophy and the B.A. in Philosophy with a Concentration in Law, Ethics, & Social Justice.**

PHIL 2020: ETHICS

Instructor: Anthony Kelley

T Th 10:30–11:50am (Section 004)

What am I morally obligated to do? What should I care about and pursue for its own sake? This course introduces students to the philosophical study of ethics by investigating these fundamental and perplexing questions of human existence. The course is divided into three parts. First, we will investigate the normative ethics of behavior by asking questions such as whether the rightness of an action depends solely on its consequences. Second, we will ask what kind of life would be best for you to lead. The third part of the course examines controversial topics such as immigration, affirmative action, and abortion. The course is designed to help the student become a better thinker and writer, especially as it relates to the utilization of ethical concepts, terms, and reasoning. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also a core requirement for the B.A. in Philosophy and the B.A. in Philosophy with a Concentration in Law, Ethics, & Social Justice.**

PHIL 2025: BIOETHICS

Instructor: Jon Cogburn

M W F 11:30am–12:20pm (Section 001)

Medicine can keep us alive, alter our bodies, select among possible lives, relieve suffering, and sometimes determine how we die. What should it be allowed to do, and who gets to decide? This course examines major problems in bioethics, including health and disease, patient autonomy, reproduction and abortion, disability, genetic intervention and human enhancement, the allocation of scarce medical resources, and death and dying. Along the way we will use philosophical theories to think through cases in which reasonable people can disagree about what ought to be done.

PHIL 2035: HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Michael Ardoline

M W F 12:30–1:20pm (Section 001)

This course introduces students to major themes and topics in modern philosophy (ca. 1600–1800). The rise of mechanism and the scientific revolution challenge everything, from ancient philosophical authorities to the study of the self, the world, and God. Out of this movement emerge challenges to political and ecclesiastical religious establishments. Students will read the works of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century authors like René Descartes, Elisabeth of Bohemia, Blaise Pascal, Margaret Cavendish, Baruch Spinoza, Anne Conway, G. W. Leibniz, Lady Damaris Masham, John Locke, George Berkeley, Lady Mary Shepherd, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant. Topics will include philosophical methodology; human nature and non-human animal nature; metaphysics (causation; mind-body union; substance; action); the issue of freedom and determinism; the relation of the human person to the social; the nature of human knowing; and the passions and emotions. **This course is a core requirement for the B.A. in Philosophy and the B.A. in Philosophy with a Concentration in Law, Ethics, & Social Justice.**

PHIL 3952: PARANORMAL EPISTEMOLOGY

Instructor: Daniel Felty

T Th 4:30–5:50pm (Section 001)

An introduction to critical thinking and epistemology through the evaluation of extraordinary claims. Topics include the paranormal, miracles, pseudoscience, the mind–body problem, and the evidence for survival of consciousness after death. The course covers the standards for evaluating evidence, common fallacies, and foundational questions about the nature and limits of knowledge.

PHIL 4010: SYMBOLIC LOGIC II

Instructor: Jeffrey Roland

T Th 3:00–4:20pm (Section 001)

Having some facility with intermediate level symbolic logic is extremely useful in understanding contemporary debates in nearly every area of analytic philosophy (e.g., metaphysics, epistemology, philosophies of mind, language, and science, and metaethics). Areas such as philosophy and foundations of mathematics, philosophical logic, philosophy of logic, and of course logic proper require a familiarity with symbolic logic beyond the intermediate level. This is an intermediate level symbolic logic course. It will benefit not only graduate and advanced undergraduate students in philosophy, but also students in computer science, linguistics, and mathematics. Our goals will be to develop (i) a deeper understanding of the syntax and semantics of first-order logic than is normally attained in a first course in quantificational logic (such as PHIL 2010) and (ii) a serious appreciation for some of the main results in the metatheory of classical first-order logic, in particular, soundness, completeness, and compactness. Time permitting, we will have a look at some additional metatheoretic properties of classical first-order logic (e.g., the downward Löwenheim–Skolem theorem) as well as some consequences of compactness (specifically, the existence of non-standard models of arithmetic and the non-categoricity of first-order arithmetic). As a text we will use Herbert Enderton's *A Mathematical Introduction to Logic* (2nd edition). We will cover most of the first three chapters and supplement with notes of my own. **Prerequisite: PHIL 2010 or equivalent or permission of instructor.**

PHIL 4786/4786G: CLASSICAL CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Michael Ardoline

M 3:30–6:20pm (Section 001)

This course offers an overview of the history of Chinese philosophy from the ancient to medieval world. It begins with the Hundred Schools period (roughly 500 b.c.-200 b.c.), during the Warring States Era of ancient China. This time of political and social upheaval was equally a time of radical intellectual creativity, spawning philosophical traditions that continue to influence the world today, such as Confucianism, Legalism, and Daoism, and many lesser known, but no less fascinating schools like the Mohists and the School of Names. We will then continue through major developments in this history such as the introduction of Buddhism to China during the Han dynasty and the rise of Neo-Confucianism in the medieval period. Throughout this history, we will explore questions such as how should states rule? How do our relations to other people make us who we are? Must tradition and laws be followed strictly, innovated on, or abandoned completely? And what is the nature of change?

PHIL 4924/4924G: ARISTOTLE

Instructor: Tyler Huismann

M W F 11:30am–12:20pm (Section 001)

This class will address Aristotle's seminal contributions to metaphysics, natural philosophy, and ethics, with a focus on the role his theory of causation plays. Topics for discussion will include: substances and their relation to other ways of being; the nature of propositions, especially the present status of future contingent propositions; luck and chance; human function and its relation to happiness; and the soul and its relation to the body. **Prerequisite: PHIL 2033 or equivalent.**

PHIL 7905: GRADUATE SEMINAR—KANT’S THIRD CRITIQUE

Instructor: Deborah Goldgaber

W 3:30–6:20pm

In this graduate philosophy seminar, we will read Kant's magnificent and unsettling third Critique, the Critique of the Power of Judgment, in its entirety. Because Kant reframes, and arguably rewrites, central aspects of his critical project in this work, it can be read without prior knowledge of the first two Critiques. We will nonetheless prepare the ground by surveying the critical project as a whole through Gilles Deleuze's wonderfully succinct Kant's Critical Philosophy. Our reading will be holistic and functional. We will ask how the work's two parts, on aesthetic and on teleological judgment, fit together, and what each contributes to securing the critical project. Not missing the opportunity to be critical ourselves, we will also ask in what sense Kant's discoveries in the third Critique point beyond that project and bear on contemporary problems in aesthetics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of life.

Philosophy Faculty Directory



Michael Ardoline

Ph.D. University of Memphis
Philosophy of Mathematics, Science, &
Technology

208A Coates Hall



Deborah Goldgaber

Ph.D. Northwestern University
Contemporary European & Feminist
Philosophy

106 Coates Hall



Hannah Bacon

Ph.D. SUNY-Stony Brook
Contemporary Continental Philosophy

117 Coates Hall



Grant Heller

ABD, Southern University
Philosophy

315 Coates Hall



Chris Blakley

ABD, Sother Illinois University-Carbondale
Contemporary European Philosophy

210B Coates Hall



Tyler Huismann

Ph.D. University of Colorado
Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

231 Coates Hall



Emily Cogburn

M.A. The Ohio State University
Philosophy of Mind & Epistemology

309 Coates Hall



Anthony Kelley

Ph.D. University of Colorado
Theoretical & Practical Ethics

210 Coates Hall



Jon Cogburn

Ph.D. The Ohio State University
Metaphysics, Logic, & Speculative Realism

116 Coates Hall



Jeffrey Roland

Ph.D. Cornell University
Philosophy of Mathematics, Epistemology,
Logic, & Science

108 Coates Hall



Daniel Felty

M.A. LSU
Philosophy of Religion

102 Coates Hall



Chris Wells

Ph.D. Vanderbilt University
Ethics

110 Coates Hall

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (27 HOURS)

- ☐ PHIL 2010: Symbolic Logic
- ☐ PHIL 2020: Ethics or PHIL 3051: Moral Philosophy
- ☐ PHIL 2033 or PHIL 2053: History of Ancient & Medieval Philosophy
- ☐ PHIL 2035: History of Modern Philosophy
- ☐ PHIL 3***/4***
- ☐ PHIL 3***/4***
- ☐ PHIL 3***/4***
- ☐ PHIL 4***
- ☐ PHIL 4***

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (30 HOURS)

- ☐ **PHIL 1021: Introduction to Logic**
- ☐ **PHIL 2010: Symbolic Logic**
- ☐ **PHIL 2020: Ethics or PHIL 3051: Moral Philosophy**
- ☐ **PHIL 2033 or PHIL 2053: History of Ancient & Medieval Philosophy**
- ☐ **PHIL 2035: History of Modern Philosophy**
- ☐ **PHIL 4946 or PHIL 4947: Philosophy of Law**
- ☐ **PHIL 4942, 4943, or 4972: Ethics (or any special topics course in ethics)**
- ☐ **PHIL 3062, 4945, or 4949: Social/Political Philosophy (or any special topics course in social/political philosophy)**
- ☐ **PHIL 3***/4*****
- ☐ **PHIL 3***/4*****