

Philosophy

Office: 105 Newcomb Hall

Phone: (504) 865-5305

Fax: (504) 862-8714

Website: www.tulane.edu/~phil/

Professors

Radu J. Bogdan, Ph.D., Stanford

Ronna C. Burger, Ph.D., New School for Social Research

Graeme R. Forbes, D.Phil., Oxford (The Celia Scott Weatherhead Distinguished Professor of Philosophy)

Gerald Gaus, Ph.D., Pittsburgh

Eric M. Mack, Ph.D., Rochester

Andrew J. Reck, Ph.D., Yale

Michael E. Zimmerman, Ph.D., Tulane (Chair)

Associate Professors

Bruce W. Brower, Ph.D., Pittsburgh

John D. Glenn, Jr., Ph.D., Yale

Osborne H. Green, Jr., D.Phil., Oxford

Donald S. Lee, Ph.D., Yale

Assistant Professor

Paul A. Lodge, Ph.D., Rutgers

MAJORING IN PHILOSOPHY

All students majoring in philosophy and not writing an honors thesis must complete a total of nine courses (27 credits) in philosophy. All students majoring in philosophy and writing an honors thesis must complete ten courses (31 credits). In this case, honors thesis work in H499 and H500 counts for two courses and seven credits. (One of these seven credits is a writing requirement credit.) In addition to the standard major, the department offers two more specialized tracks within the major: Law, Morality, and Society; and Language, Mind, and Knowledge.

STANDARD MAJOR

For the standard major in Philosophy the specific course requirements are: the two course sequence in the history of philosophy (201, 202); one course in logic (106, 121, or 304, with 121 or higher strongly recommended); one course in ethics (103, 351, 355, 356 or 357). At least two of the remaining courses must be at the 600 level. No more than three of the required nine courses can be at the 100 level.

CONCENTRATION IN LAW, MORALITY, AND SOCIETY

For the concentration in Law, Morality, and Society the specific course requirements are: the two course sequence in classics of political philosophy (211, 212); one course in critical thinking or logic (106 or 121); five other courses in ethics, political philosophy or the philosophy of law (103, 105, 334, 351, 355, 356, 357, 364, 365, H499, H500, 613, 651, 652, 654 or 674); one course outside of these areas at the 300 level or above. At least two of these courses must be at the 600 level.

CONCENTRATION IN LANGUAGE, MIND, AND KNOWLEDGE

For the concentration in Language, Mind, and Knowledge the specific course requirements are: the two course sequence in the history of philosophy (201, 202); one course in logic (121 or 304); five other courses in philosophy of language, mind, or knowledge (104, 220, 312, 341, 342, 375, 380, 387, H499, H500, 609, 612, 617, 618, 619, 662); one course outside of these areas at the 300 level or above. At least two of these courses must be at the 600 level.

MINOR

A minor in philosophy consists of five philosophy courses, three of which must be above the 100 level.

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy (3)

Mr. Bogdan, Mr. Glenn, Mr. Green, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Mack, Mr. Reck. A general introduction to problems concerning knowledge, reality, and conduct.

PHIL 102 Philosophies of the Self (3)

Mr. Zimmerman. An examination of several theories of the nature of self and its relation to society and to the world. Techniques of thinking about the self and its identity crises.

PHIL 103 Ethics (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Gaus, Mr. Green, Mr. Mack, Mr. Reck. A critical study of alternative theories of the good life, virtue and vice, right and wrong, and their application to perennial and contemporary moral problems.

PHIL 104 Beginning with Minds (3)

Mr. Bogdan. A topical introduction to philosophy which surveys historical and current work in philosophy of mind and the study of cognition. The material revolves around the reasons we have to attribute minds to people. We explore several reasons for having a mind: the capacity for knowledge, innate representations, language, consciousness, agency, control over the body, freedom from natural causality. This course is particularly useful for those students interested in the cognitive studies program, a coordinate major.

PHIL 106 Critical Thinking (3)

Mr. Lee. This course is intended to enhance the student's analytical reasoning skills. Emphasis is placed on the study of arguments and the development of techniques of informal logic for assessing their cogency.

PHIL 121 Elementary Symbolic Logic (3)

Mr. Forbes, Mr. Lee, Mr. Lodge. The course concerns techniques of analyzing sentences and arguments by uncovering the formal structures and relations which underlie them. This involves translating ordinary language into the symbolic formulas of elementary logical systems and proving formalized arguments. This course satisfies the mathematics proficiency requirement.

PHIL 133 The Meaning of Life (3)

Mr. Zimmerman. This course provides students with an opportunity to explore an important philosophical topic: the question of the meaning of life, including the possibility that life does not have any "meaning". Historically, a number of important philosophers have regarded this question as the most important and profound of human inquiries. This course will examine a number of different philosophical attempts, from Western and Eastern traditions, to answer the questions of the meaning of life.

PHIL 201 History of Ancient Philosophy (3)

Ms. Burger, Mr. Reck. A study of ancient Greek philosophy, focusing on the thought of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle. Same as CLAS 201.

PHIL 202 History of Modern Philosophy (3)

Ms. Burger, Mr. Glenn, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Reck, Mr. Zimmerman. A study of early modern philosophy, focusing on the period from Descartes through Kant.

PHIL 211 Classics of Political Philosophy I (3)

Ms. Burger. This course will be devoted to a study of classical works of political philosophy in the Western tradition, primarily Plato's *Republic* and Aristotle's *Politics*. Same as CLAS 211.

PHIL 212 Classics of Political Philosophy II (3)

Mr. Mack. This course will be devoted to an examination and critical assessment of classical works of modern political philosophy in the Western tradition, focusing each term on the writings of approximately three or four of the following thinkers: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Mill.

PHIL 219 Philosophy and History of Natural Science (3)

Mr. Lee. Scientific method will be analyzed as a process of stages and illustrated by historical examples. The philosophical presuppositions of science are examined in light of the historical shift from Aristotelian to modern science. Whether change in scientific theories is revolutionary or evolutionary is studied with reference to actual case histories.

PHIL 220 Matter and Consciousness (3)

Mr. Bogdan. A systematic survey of philosophical and foundational theories of mind and cognition of this century. The course begins with the philosophical legacy of earlier centuries (mind/body dualism, consciousness and privileged access, introspection, sense data, and phenomenology), considers the first scientific response to this legacy (behaviorism and the rise of scientific psychology), and then follows the major theoretical positions and debates of this century such as physicalism and reductionism, functionalism and the computer model of the mind, eliminative materialism and neurophilosophy, instrumentalism, and commonsense psychology.

PHIL 288 Writing Practicum (1)

Staff. Writing practicum. Fulfills the college writing requirement.

PHIL 293 Special Topics in Philosophy (3)

Staff. Examination of philosophical issues not typically covered in existing courses. Primarily for freshmen and sophomores.

PHIL 301 Philosophy of Religion (3)

Ms. Burger, Mr. Glenn. A study of major writings in the Western tradition dealing with basic issues of philosophy of religion and philosophical theology.

PHIL 302 The Bible and Philosophy (3)

Ms. Burger. This course will focus on a reading of the Bible with a view to the philosophic questions it raises which have been central to the tradition of Western thought.

PHIL 304 Mathematical Logic (3)

Mr. Forbes. Prerequisite: PHIL 121 or two courses in mathematics. An introduction to and survey of the mathematical study of formalized logical systems.

PHIL 310 19th Century European Philosophy (3)

Mr. Glenn, Mr. Zimmerman. A study of major philosophical ideas and figures from Hegel through Nietzsche.

PHIL 311 Contemporary European Philosophy (3)

Mr. Glenn, Mr. Zimmerman. An examination of issues and ideas in 20th-century continental philosophy. Attention is given to the phenomenological movement with consideration of the transcendental phenomenology of Husserl and the existential phenomenologies of such thinkers as Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, and Ricoeur. Other topics which may be treated include Freudianism considered as a philosophical anthropology, structuralism, and postmodernism.

PHIL 312 Analytic Philosophy (3)

Mr. Forbes. An introduction both to major figures in the analytic tradition such as Frege, Russell, and Quine, and to major problems such as meaning, reference, and truth.

PHIL 313 Classic American Thought (3)

Mr. Reck. American philosophy from 1630 to 1885. Readings in and discussion of representative thinkers in each period from the Puritans to the pragmatists.

PHIL 314 Recent American Philosophy (3)

Mr. Reck. Readings in American philosophy from the pragmatists to the present, including Peirce, James, Royce, Mead, Dewey, Santayana, Whitehead, and others.

PHIL 319 Philosophy of Social Science (3)

Mr. Gaus. An introduction to philosophical issues raised in the study of the social sciences. Questions to be considered include: how is social scientific explanation similar to that in the physical sciences? Is social science concerned with explanations or understanding? What is the place of rational actor models on the social sciences? Can there be a value-free social science? Same as PECN 419.

PHIL 320 Plato (3)

Ms. Burger. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of instructor. An in-depth reading of one or more of the Platonic dialogues. Same as CLAS 307.

PHIL 324 Medieval Philosophy (3)

Staff. A study of the most influential philosophers of the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions (e.g., Augustine, Aquinas, Ockham, Maimonides, Avicenna, and Averroes). The focus is on metaphysics and epistemology. Representative topics: arguments concerning the existence of God, eternity and creation, divine foreknowledge and human freedom, the problem of universals, and skepticism.

PHIL 325 Descartes and the 17th Century (3)

Mr. Lodge. Rene Descartes is arguable the most important figure in 17th century philosophy. The class considers the way in which the intellectual landscape of the century was changed by Descartes' metaphysical and epistemological doctrines. Beginning with precursors such as Bacon and Hobbes, it moves through the debates between Descartes and his immediate contemporaries, and finishes with late 17th century reactions to Descartes' work in philosophers such as Leibniz, Locke, and Malebranche. Topics may include debates over skepticism and knowledge, scientific method, the nature of the material world, the relation between mind and body, and arguments concerning the existence of God.

PHIL 334 Humanity's Place in Nature (3)

Mr. Zimmerman. This course will compare the predominant Western conception of humanity's place in nature with alternative conceptions, including those held by non-Western thinkers.

PHIL 335 Transpersonal Philosophy (3)

Mr. Zimmerman. Examines and discusses alternative explanations for transpersonal phenomena, including near-death experience, non-dual forms of consciousness, and reported instances of memories of previous "incarnations". Such phenomena raise basic questions about the nature of "reality" and "truth".

PHIL 336 Sacred Symbols (4)

Mr. Zimmerman. Explores the role played by sacred symbols and images in the contemplative dimensions of two major religious traditions. Focus on philosophical and theological issues raised by using symbols to point to what cannot be adequately represented. Course includes mandatory contemplative practice sessions each week.

PHIL 341 Theory of Knowledge (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Lodge. An introduction to epistemology. Topics may include the problem of skepticism, theories of epistemic justification, the nature of empirical knowledge, a priori or mathematical knowledge, and our introspective knowledge of our mental states.

PHIL 342 Metaphysics (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Forbes. An introduction to one or more topics in metaphysics. Topics may include causality, identity, modality, existence, persons and minds, universals and particulars, space and time, and the nature and possibility of metaphysics itself.

PHIL 343 Semantics of Natural Language (3)

Mr. Forbes. An introduction to the study of meaning in natural languages. The central techniques involve extending the methods of logical semantics for formal languages. No prerequisites, but prior exposure either to generative grammar (e.g., ANTH 359) or symbolic logic (e.g., PHIL 121) would not be wasted. Same as LING 343.

PHIL 350 Buddhism (4)

Mr. Zimmerman. This course examines the metaphysical, epistemological, religious, and psychological dimensions of Buddhism, while also tracing its development from India into Southeast Asia, China, Japan, and the West. This course has a lab component: regular mindfulness practice.

PHIL 351 History of Ethics (3)

Mr. Green. The historical development of philosophies concerning the good life, moral duty and right, choice and consequences, freedom and necessity in their personal and social nature.

PHIL 355 Medical Ethics (3)

Mr. Green. A systematic and critical study of ethical problems in medicine concerning the physician-patient relationship, life and death, and social responsibility.

PHIL 356 Social and Political Ethics (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Mack. A study of the arguments and positions advanced by philosophers with regard to the need for and justification of social and political institutions and with regard to the character of human rights, justice, and the good society.

PHIL 358 Ethical Theory (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Glaus, Mr. Green. This course surveys the prominent ethical theories of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It considers both theories of meta ethics and normative ethics. Theories to be examined include: relativism, subjectivism, egoism, moral realism, utilitarianism, Kantianism, contractualism, virtue theory, and Existentialism.

PHIL 364 Philosophy of Law (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Mack. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy or social science. A study of the character and justification of law and legal systems. Legal realism, legal positivism, and natural law theories are explored as are such law-related issues as punishment, the enforcement of morals, and the grounds of legal responsibility. Same as PHIL 604.

PHIL 365 Crime and Punishment (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Mack. This course offers a critical examination of philosophical issues involving crime and punishment. In the first half, we will ask what forms of behavior, if any, the state is entitled to declare to be criminal, focusing on such issues as drug abuse, prostitution, blackmail, gambling, hate speech, suicide, pornography, ticket scalping, insider trading, and gun control. In the second half, we will ask what forms of punishment, if any, the state is entitled to impose on those who violate those laws, if any, which are permissible, focusing on such issues as capital punishment, corporal punishment, and competing justifications of punishment in general.

PHIL 374 Consciousness (3)

Mr. Bogdan. The questions this class addresses are the following: What is consciousness and why it matters? Why is consciousness puzzling if not mysterious? Is consciousness one phenomenon or many? The grand divide: the (so called) easy versus hard problems; function versus qualia, public facts versus private experiences. What mechanisms and competencies underpin consciousness? Where (brain location)? Who are the possessors of consciousness, phylogenetically and ontogenetically? Why consciousness: its rationale and functions? How does consciousness emerge from matter (if at all)?

PHIL 375 Mind and Knowledge (3)

Mr. Bogdan. An interdisciplinary examination of how cognitive systems, from the simplest to the most complex, perceive, form beliefs, and acquire knowledge.

PHIL 376 Interpreting Minds (3)

Mr. Bogdan. This course provides a systematic introduction to the recent and very dynamic interdisciplinary research area in naïve psychology or theory of mind. The course begins with the philosophical debates about naïve or folk psychology and the key philosophical concepts that have shaped the research agenda, then surveys the main empirical data, key experiments and hypotheses about ape and child interpretation of minds, and concludes with a comparative analysis of several and much debated proposals about how the interpretation of minds is accomplished—through innate mechanisms (modules), by simulation or in terms of a naïve theory. Same as PSYC 376.

PHIL 380 Language and Thought (3)

Mr. Bogdan. An introduction to the philosophy of language and mental representation. Major topics: the relation between language and thought, models of mind, representation as computation, the language of thought, mental imagery, propositional attitudes, meaning and intentionality.

PHIL 387 Mind in Evolution (3)

Mr. Bogdan. As any biological capacity, the mind must have evolved. Can evolution explain its design? The mind has many components, from perception to language and thinking. Are they all products of natural selection, of other evolutionary forces, or of no such forces at all? Can evolution explain the uniqueness of the human mind? What could be the factors that explain this uniqueness: tool making, language, social life? In attempting to answer these questions, the class brings an evolutionary perspective to some important topics in philosophy of mind and philosophical psychology and offers a multidisciplinary introduction to the emerging but rapidly developing field of evolutionary cognitive science.

PHIL 388 Writing Practicum (1)

Staff. Prerequisite: successful completion of the First-Year Writing Requirement. Corequisite: three-credit departmental course. Fulfills the college intensive-writing requirement.

PHIL 393, 394 Special Topics in Philosophy (3, 3)**PHIL H491, H492 Independent Studies (1-3, 1-3)**

Staff. Prerequisite: approval of department.

PHIL H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)

Staff. For senior honors candidates.

PHIL 604 Philosophy of Law (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Mack. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy or social science. A study of the character and justification of law and legal systems. Legal realism, legal positivism, and natural law theories are explored as are such law-related issues as punishment, the enforcement of morals, and the grounds of legal responsibility. Same as PHIL 364.

PHIL 606 Advanced Symbolic Logic (3)

Mr. Lee. Prerequisite: PHIL 121 or equivalent. Translation of propositions into quantified formulas with single-place and relational predicates. Deduction by quantification rules. Also, theorematic development of an axiomatic logistic system.

PHIL 607 Mathematical Logic (3)

Mr. Forbes. This course treats theory of computable (general recursive) functions, arithmetical coding of syntax, unprovability of consistency, and undefinability of truth. The course develops these topics and reflects on their philosophical significance. Instructor approval strongly recommended.

PHIL 609 Philosophy of Science (3)

Mr. Lee. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy or at least two courses in any of the sciences. The scientific method as phases of forming hypotheses and verifying them. The logic and epistemology of scientific explanation. Metaphysical presuppositions underlying scientific knowledge.

PHIL 612 Metaphysics (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Reck. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 and 202, or equivalent. An examination of the basic problems of metaphysics (being, substance, process, universals, person, God) as treated by the main traditions in classical and contemporary thought.

PHIL 613 Moral Philosophy (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Gaus, Mr. Green, Mr. Mack. Prerequisite: one previous course in ethics or graduate standing. An advanced critical inquiry into the major issues of normative and critical ethics. Problems and positions concerning moral conduct and responsibility and the meaning and justification of ethical discourse are discussed in connection with readings from classical and contemporary sources.

PHIL 617 Philosophy of Perception (3)

Mr. Bogdan. Prerequisite: approval of instructor. An historical and systematic examination of major theories of perception.

PHIL 618 Mental Representation (3)

Mr. Bogdan. Prerequisite: approval of instructor. A survey and evaluation of major theories of mental representation drawing on recent work in philosophy of mind, cognitive psychology, linguistics, semantics, and artificial intelligence. Major topics: linguistic representation, the language of thought, propositional attitudes, mental imagery, and innate representations.

PHIL 619 Philosophy of Mind (3)

Mr. Green. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy or graduate standing. The mind-body problem, knowledge of other minds, and problems about thought, action, and feelings are discussed in the light of readings from classical and contemporary sources.

PHIL 620 Plato (3)

Ms. Burger. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or PHIL 211. An in-depth study of one or more of the Platonic dialogues, *Republic*, *Theaetetus*, *Sophist*, *Statesman*, *Parmenides*, *Philebus* or *Timaeus*, with reading and discussion of related dialogues as background.

PHIL 621 Aristotle (3)

Ms. Burger. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or PHIL 211. An in-depth study of one or more of the Aristotelian treatises, *Metaphysics*, *Physics* and *De anima*, *Ethics*, *Politics*, or the logical writings.

PHIL 626 Rationalism (3)

Mr. Lodge. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 and 202, or equivalent. Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz examined individually and as contributors to one of modern philosophy's historical developments.

PHIL 627 Empiricism (3)

Mr. Lodge. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 and 202, or equivalent. Locke, Berkeley and Hume examined both individually and as contributors to one of modern philosophy's historical developments.

PHIL 628 Kant (3)

Mr. Glenn. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy including PHIL 202 or equivalent. An examination of Kant's critical philosophy.

PHIL 631 Kierkegaard (3)

Mr. Glenn. Prerequisite: PHIL 202 or approval of instructor. A study of one or more of the works of Søren Kierkegaard.

PHIL 633 Nietzsche (3)

Mr. Zimmerman. Prerequisite: approval of instructor. This course will involve close reading and critical examination of major texts by Nietzsche, such as *On the Genealogy of Morals*.

PHIL 651 Theories of Economic Justice (3)

Mr. Mack. A study of alternative conceptions of economic justice including the conceptions offered by utilitarians, contractarians, natural rights theorists, and Marxists. Other topics include the just distribution of natural resources and the choice between command and market economies.

PHIL 652 Environmental Ethics (3)

Mr. Zimmerman. Examination of ethical issues regarding treatment of nonhuman beings. Major topics include moral extensionism, as well as critiques of attempts to extend human-centered moral doctrines to nonhuman beings.

PHIL 653 Philosophy and Gender (3)

Mr. Zimmerman. Prerequisite: three courses in philosophy or approval of instructor. This course examines the claim that patriarchal culture has given a masculinist slant to the development of major themes in Western philosophy. The course will assess critically the efforts of philosophers who try to show the partiality and bias of philosophical concepts formerly viewed as universal by their male authors.

PHIL 654 Philosophy: Global Justice (3)

Mr. Mack. A study of the justice of relations among nations and among individuals across national boundaries. Topics include international distributive justice, the ownership of global resources, the morality of secession, just war, and terrorism.

PHIL 662 Philosophical Logic (3)

Mr. Forbes. Prerequisite: approval of instructor. Central topics in philosophical logic are covered, including reference, predication, vagueness, logical form, counterfactuals, propositional attitudes, logical truth, paradoxes.

PHIL 674 Contemporary Political Philosophy (3)

Mr. Brower, Mr. Mack. Analyzing contemporary approaches to normative concepts in politics, reviewing many writers, and concentrating on political philosophers such as Arendt, Marcuse, Oakeshott, Rawls, and Strauss. Same as POLT 479.

PHIL 675 Utilitarianism: From Bentham to Harsanyi (3)

Mr. Riley. This course introduces students to the utilitarian tradition and to the modern debate over whether some version of utilitarianism is likely to serve as the most adequate moral and political philosophy.

PHIL 688 Writing Practicum (1)

Staff. Prerequisite: successful completion of the First-Year Writing Requirement. Corequisite: three-credit departmental course. Fulfills the college intensive-writing requirement.

PHIL 693, 694 Special Offerings (1-3, 1-3)

Staff. Prerequisites: two courses in philosophy and junior standing. For specific offering, see the *Schedule of Classes*. For description, consult department.