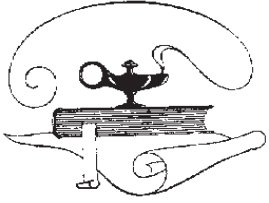


# The Lantern

UNIVERSITY of  
West Georgia



Philosophy Newsletter for Students

Volume 17, Number 1

Fall 2015

## What Do Your Professors Do When They're Not Teaching?

UWG's philosophy professors devote a lot of time to research and writing: articulating new arguments and criticizing existing ones, unraveling and clarifying the ideas of important figures from the history of philosophy and applying them in new and interesting ways. They frequently bring the new ideas, theories and arguments that their research yields back into the classroom.

Dr. Rosemary Kellison's research is in the field of comparative religious ethics. Currently, she is writing a book about the tradition of just war reasoning, the basic idea of which is that while war may sometimes be necessary to achieve justice, it ought to be governed by moral principles that define when, why, and how armed force is used. Dr. Kellison defends a feminist approach to just war reasoning. In contrast to typical modern just war "theory," this approach understands just war reasoning as a tool of

deliberation rather than of assigning blame for past actions. Additionally, it emphasizes the relationality of human persons and the responsibilities we bear to one another—responsibilities that include repair of the caused by uses of force. Dr. Kellison's research informs several classes that she teaches, including a special-topics course on Ethics, Religion and War.

Dr. Walter Riker's research specialization is

political philosophy. Much of his work concerns the question whether some non-democratic, non-liberal societies deserve good standing in the international community. In particular, he is interested in whether or not there is a human right to democratic political participation. He argues that democratic participation rights are valuable, not due to any power that they give citizens over elected officials, but because of the shared values that make democratic participation possible in the first place. He is currently working on a paper on the "fair play" account of political obligation, according to which it is not fair to benefit from the collective efforts of others without contributing to the collective effort yourself. In the context of law, this means that we should obey the law because when most people do, certain benefits are created for everyone (e.g., domestic order, national defense, water and air policies, etc.). His work on these topics helps to shape some of the courses he teaches, including Political Philosophy and his Senior Seminar on Political Obligation.

Dr. Robert Lane's recent work has been focused on the views of Charles Peirce, founder of philosophical Pragmatism. Dr. Lane is working on a book about the kinds of realism that Peirce defended. Starting with the definition of "real" as *independent of what anyone believes it about it*, Peirce argued that there is a real world consisting of both "internal" (mental) and "external" (non-mental) things and events, including natural laws and kinds—he held that the laws of nature, for example, are not projected onto the world by human thinking but are instead discovered by us. Peirce also argued that the real world is incomplete in a peculiar way: sometimes there is no fact of the mat- (continued on p. 2)

### IN THIS ISSUE

Philosophy Honor Society

Spring 2016  
Course Descriptions

Registration Information

Philosophical Society

Philosopher's Wisdom

Philosophers' Lunch  
and Colloquium

Cartoons

## PHILOSOPHY HONORS SOCIETY

The Georgia Iota chapter of Phi Sigma Tau is West Georgia's philosophical link to the world of honor societies. The chapter consists of students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and a sincere interest in philosophy. Founded to recognize and reward philosophical scholarship, the chapter provides both an academic and a social environment for its members.

### Criteria for Membership:

- ◆ a 3.0 overall GPA,
- ◆ the completion of at least two philosophy courses,
- ◆ a GPA higher than 3.0 in all Philosophy courses taken,
- ◆ the completion of 45 hours of coursework.

For more information, go to <http://www.westga.edu/~pst> or contact Dr. Riker ([wriker@westga.edu](mailto:wriker@westga.edu)) if you are interested in applying for membership.

(continued from p. 1)

ter about whether a real thing does or does not have a given real property. Dr. Lane's research on Peirce feeds into a number of his courses, including American Philosophy and his special-topics course on Truth and Reality.

Dr. Janet Donohoe's current research investigates the connections between memory and place. Her recent book explores these connections through monuments and memorials, as well as through the role of "home". Using phenomenology as an avenue into these issues, her work suggests deep interweaving of humans, earth, and world. This interweaving has an impact on how we understand and interpret the world, and on what we understand our role to be vis-à-vis current environmental concerns. Broadly speaking, to view humans as inseparably intertwined with world and earth means that former conceptions of ourselves as more able to control and manipulate the environment are drawn into question. It also makes possible a different understanding of the relationship between human and non-human animals. Dr. Donohoe's Phenomenology course and her recent Senior Seminar on the Phenomenology of Place have been informed by this research.

Dr. John Garner's specialization is ancient Greek philosophy. He is currently writing a book about Plato's dialogue, *Philebus*, in which Plato argues that the good life is formed from elements of knowledge and also from some cases of pleasure. Dr. Garner contends that while the elements of knowledge have priority, the "pure" pleasures are intrinsic goods, providing a valuable contribution to the good life. Yet, since these pleasures are bound to the world of process, change, and temporality, their contribution reveals a larger thesis: genuine goodness is found not only in being but also in the other-than-being. Thus, we attain our purpose not through denigrating this world but through living in it. This work helps inform Dr. Garner's teaching in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.

Patricia Grosse's research also deals with the philosophy of the ancient world. She is currently doctoral candidate at Villanova University, and her dissertation seeks to bridge the epistemological gap between reason, love, and other emotions by engaging 4E+A [Extended, Embodied, Embedded, Enacted, and Affective] theory within philosophy of mind with feminist epistemology by means of the philosophy of love in the work of St. Augustine. Through her reading of feminist philosophy and Late Antiquity, Grosse seeks to bring conceptions of "affect" and "extended mind" closer together. She contends that reason is extended and that that extension takes the form of love. She also has ongoing research interests in the gendered nature of soul, the psychological and metaphysical trauma of rape and sexual violence, and the portrayal of religion and philosophy in popular culture.

## PHILOSOPHER'S WISDOM

"There will be no end to the troubles of states, or of humanity itself, till philosophers become kings in this world, or till those we now call kings and rulers really and truly become philosophers, and political power and philosophy thus come into the same hands."

~Plato, *The Republic*

- Phil 2010-01: Introduction to Philosophy**                      **Patricia Grosse**                      **MWF 10:00-10:52 a.m. Paff 308**  
 The inscription *gnōthi seauton*, “Know Thyself,” could once be found above the lintel at the oracle at Delphi. An interesting command, but what does the statement mean? If one were to know anything at all, wouldn’t one know oneself? This call to know, and to know oneself, stalks the Dialogues of Plato and, indeed, philosophers have pursued this line of inquiry for the past 2,500 years. It is the call to know what it is to be human, and what it is to be in a community. Moreover, it is a call to know how one ought to live. This semester, we will be addressing fundamental questions as to the nature of the human and her community, namely, how do we know what we know, about ourselves and about our relationships with others? In the first half of this course, we will read and analyze several Ancient and Medieval philosophical texts from Plato, Aristophanes, Cicero, and Augustine. Through these thinkers, we will examine the question, “How do we know what we know about ourselves?” In the second half of this course, we will focus on Modern and Contemporary philosophers such as Descartes, Ellison, Beauvoir, and Gruen, keeping in mind their Ancient and Medieval roots. In this section of the course we will consider the question, “How do we know what we know about our relationships with others?” Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.
- Phil 2010-02: Introduction to Philosophy**                      **Patricia Grosse**                      **MWF 11:00-11:52 a.m. Paff 308**  
 Same as above. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.
- Phil 2010-03: Introduction to Philosophy**                      **Patricia Grosse**                      **MWF 1:00-1:52 p.m. Paff 308**  
 Same as above. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.
- Phil 2010-04: Introduction to Philosophy**                      **Patricia Grosse**                      **MWF 2:00-2:52 p.m. Paff 308**  
 Same as above. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.
- Phil 2010-05: Introduction to Philosophy**                      **Andrew Hookom**                      **MW 2:00-3:20 p.m. Paff 102**  
 We are granted only a precious short time on earth. What should we do with it? How should we live? To answer those questions, perhaps we need to know what sort of creatures we are. Do we have souls? Can we be responsible for our actions? If so, what do we owe others and what do they owe us in turn? Given that people disagree about all these things, how should we go about deciding what to believe? What would entitle someone to say they know the answers to these or any questions? Science? Religion? In this course, we are going to tackle a number of the big, seminal questions of philosophy such as these. In doing so, we will call upon a variety of authors for help, including a mixture of contemporary scholars and major philosophers from history such as Plato, Aquinas, Descartes and Nietzsche. Students will be exposed to philosophy as done by others, but also asked to do philosophy themselves as they question their assumptions and develop their own reasoned positions in both writing and discussion. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.
- Phil 2020-01 : Critical Thinking**                      **Dr. John Garner**                      **MW 2:00-3:20 p.m. Paff 109**  
 This course provides an introduction to logical reasoning and critical thinking. We will focus on the analysis of arguments, deductive and non-deductive reasoning, informal fallacies, and the uses of language. Perhaps more importantly, we will engage in an “open dialogue” on important questions pertaining to ethics and social-economic justice. This course has many practical benefits. Every day we are met with a barrage of radio and television commercials, appeals by friends, speeches by politicians, and lectures in the college classroom. In many of these situations, we are asked to accept some claim about what we ought or ought not to believe (e.g. to accept or reject capitalism; to accept or reject polyamory; etc.) or what we ought to do or refrain from doing (e.g. to protest or remain calm). Do we have good reasons for being persuaded of something, for thinking the way we do, or for believing what we believe? This course is about learning to be self-questioning, to make better arguments, and to evaluate the arguments of others. Your own education and life are enhanced by your ability to think critically. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area B1.
- Phil 2020-02: Critical Thinking**                      **Dr. John Garner**                      **MW 3:30-4:50 p.m. Paff 109**  
 Same as above. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area B1.
- Phil 2020-03: Critical Thinking**                      **Dr. John Garner**                      **TR 12:30-1:50 p.m. Paff 308**  
 Same as above. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area B1.
- Phil 2020-04: Critical Thinking**                      **Geoff Lundeen**                      **TR 3:30-4:50 p.m. Paff 106**  
 This course emphasizes the critical assessment of argument in a wide variety of contexts. Topics covered include: formal logic and validity, fallacies, various models of informal argument, persuasive language and rhetorical tropes, deliberation, and visual argument. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area B1.
- Phil 2030-01: Introduction to Ethics**                      **Dr. Walter Riker**                      **MWF 10:00-10:52 a.m. Paff 109**  
 This course introduces students to moral philosophy. We will consider some questions in metaethics: Are there moral truths or objective moral facts? What is the relationship between God/religion and morality? Is morality relative to cultures or to individuals? We will consider questions in normative ethics: Does morality depend on the consequences of actions, or is it about doing the right thing, regardless of the consequences? Does morality really require us to sacrifice ourselves for others? Is morality primarily about the characteristics of actions or about the character of the actor? We will also consider some questions in applied ethics: What does the best normative theory tell us about issues like: assisted suicide; new reproductive technologies (e.g., cloning or genetic modification

(Spring 2016 Course Descriptions, continued)

of fetuses meant to improve human beings); the rights and privileges of prisoners (should we make prisoners work on chain gangs? Should prisoners have access to televisions or law books?). Does the best normative theory say that only human beings deserve moral consideration, or does it imply that non-human animals and/or non-existent future human beings deserve consideration too? Required for philosophy majors and minors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

**Phil 2030-02: Introduction to Ethics** **Dr. Walter Riker** **MWF 11:00-11:52 a.m. Paff 109**  
Same as above. Required for philosophy majors and minors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

**Phil 2030-03: Introduction to Ethics** **Dr. Robert Lane** **TR 9:30-10:50 a.m. Paff 109**  
Everyone has beliefs about morality, and to some extent we all agree about what actions are right and wrong; for example, we all agree that murder is wrong and that helping those less fortunate than us is right. But there are many moral questions about which people disagree: is abortion immoral? what about physician-assisted suicide? is it wrong to spend money on expensive cars and homes when people in other parts of the world are dying from malnutrition? do non-human animals have rights? This course will enable you critically to evaluate your own beliefs about concrete ethical issues like these. We'll also be dealing with more theoretical questions, such as: where does morality come from? (God? society? or somewhere else?); what makes an ethical argument good or bad?; and what general rules or principles ought we to live by? No prior experience in philosophy is necessary, so if you want to start thinking critically about morality, this course is a great place to begin. Required for philosophy majors and minors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

**Phil 2130-25H: Introduction to World Religions** **Dr. Rosemary Kellison** **TR 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Paff 309**  
This course revolves around two central questions: how has the world shaped religion(s), and how have religions shaped the world? As we move through an introductory survey of some of the world's major religious traditions, including indigenous religious traditions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and selected new religious movements, we will pay special attention to the ways in which these traditions have been shaped by historical, political, and geographical changes in the world—and will also consider how these traditions and their communities have influenced these changes. Over the course of the semester, we will seek both to understand the significance and relevance of religion in world history and to begin to grapple with some of the important philosophical questions addressed within religious communities as well as by those who study them. May count for credit in Core Area E4.

**Phil 3110-01: Modern Philosophy** **Dr. Robert Lane** **TR 2:00-3:20 p.m. Hum 205**  
An examination of such seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European philosophers as Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant, with special attention to their metaphysical and epistemological theories. Required for philosophy majors.

**Phil 3160-01: Philosophy in Literature and Film** **Dr. Janet Donohoe** **MWF 1:00-1:52 p.m. Hum 205**  
The aim of this course is to examine critically a variety of theories of friendship and love through examining important primary philosophical texts; to explore what it means to love and how such notions of love and friendship have changed through the centuries; to grasp the value and meaning of friendship and love as social and personal elements; to recognize the historical nature of definitions and questions of friendship and love. We will also be addressing questions of the relationship between love, friendship, sex, and sexuality.

**Phil 4110-01: Political Philosophy** **Dr. Walter Riker** **MWF 2:00-2:52 p.m. Hum 205**  
In this course we will consider significant themes in political philosophy by focusing on contemporary philosophical understandings of human rights. In recent years there has been a proliferation of rights talk that has fed an increasingly extensive and somewhat dubious set of claims about the nature and extent of human rights. For example, Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims a human right to “periodic holidays with pay.” (Look it up: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>.) So we will back up a bit and ask: What is a human right? How do we tell if a proposed human right is a real human right? How do we determine the content of human rights? How do we resolve conflicts between human rights? Do we have human rights to life, to privacy, to democratic political institutions, or to paid vacations? Do groups have “human” rights distinct from the human rights of individuals who constitute the groups?

**Phil 4130-01: Feminist Philosophy** **Dr. Rosemary Kellison** **TR 9:30-10:50 a.m. Hum 205**  
Feminists argue for the equal dignity of women and against the oppression of women. In this course, we examine how these arguments have been expressed in philosophy. We will consider the ways in which philosophers have contributed to the development of feminist thinking and practice, as well as the ways in which feminists have critiqued philosophy. We will also consider some of the major debates within feminist philosophy. Students will leave this course with a deeper understanding of what is distinctive about feminist philosophy as well as how this tradition has developed and differentiated over time.

**Phil 4160-01: Symbolic Logic** **Dr. Robert Lane** **TR 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Paff 109**  
An introduction to the application of symbolic methods to reasoning, covering sentential logic and predicate logic. Students will learn how to translate ordinary language sentences and arguments into the notation of symbolic logic, determine the truth value of compound sentences, distinguish among various valid and invalid argument forms, and demonstrate whether an argument in symbolic form is valid or invalid. Recommended for students enrolled in the pre-law track.



## Registration is Nearly Here!

Remember, if you are a philosophy major, you are required to meet with your advisor before you will be able to register for classes next spring. You may have already heard from your advisor, but if you haven't, you may want to swing by his or her office to see if you can sign up for a time for advising. The registration schedule is listed below, so be sure to meet with your advisor before your time to register.

### Spring 2016 On-Time Registration Dates for CURRENTLY\* Enrolled Students:

Current Seniors & all Grad-level students – October 26  
Current Juniors ss# ending in 00-49 – October 27  
Current Juniors ss# ending in 50-99 – October 28  
Current Sophomores ss# ending 00-49 – October 29  
Current Sophomores ss# ending 50-99 – October 30  
Current Freshmen ss# ending 50-99 – November 2  
Current Freshmen ss# ending 00-49 – November 3

\*Currently enrolled students are those taking courses in the current term – fall 2015.

**Open Registration\*\* – Begins November 9, 2015** (Students who are currently serving a one term suspension, are readmitted, or are admitted as a transient must wait until Open Registration to register.)

**Important!** See your advisor before your assigned date to register, and your advisor or department will remove your advisement hold.

## INTERESTED IN PHILOSOPHY?

Enjoy open discussions on every imaginable topic? Then you should join the West Georgia Philosophical Society. The Society is a registered student organization that meets every other week for lively discussions of philosophical topics. Topics we'll be discussing this semester include, among others, feminism, disability, paranormal experience, and issues related to trans identity. All students, regardless of background or experience, are invited to join. Meetings are held in TLC 2237 every fourth Monday at noon and every fourth Wednesday at 4; specific meeting dates are announced via email and Facebook.

You are also all invited to join us at our Lunch with Philosophers event on Weds., Oct. 28, from 12–12:50pm in Pafford 106. Bring your lunch and hear from Philosophy instructor Patricia Grosse, who will be presenting her paper “Little Women and False Wives in Augustine’s *Confessions*.”

If you would like more information about the Society,  
check out our Facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136625026403394/>.

## Philosophers' Lunch and Colloquium

**Bring your lunch. Professor Grosse will provide the entertainment!**

Philosophy students and faculty will be gathering to learn about Professor Patricia Grosse's research on

**Wednesday, October 28**  
**12:00 noon–1:00 p.m.**  
**Pafford 106**

Professor Grosse is completing her dissertation at Villanova University and will share with us some of her insights. Her talk is titled "Little Women and False Wives in Augustine's *Confessions*." It will be derived from a chapter of her dissertation, a version of which will be published in *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. Grosse will give a feminist analysis of Augustine of Hippo's theory of love through a philosophical, psychological, and theological reading of his complicated relationships with his mother and the mother of his child. She argues that, given the "embodied" nature of his many loves throughout his life, there is room in Augustine's account of love for a gendered reading of love that is unconstrained by patriarchal notions of which gender is capable of which kind of love.

**Bring your lunch and join us!**



From The New Yorker, August 2013.