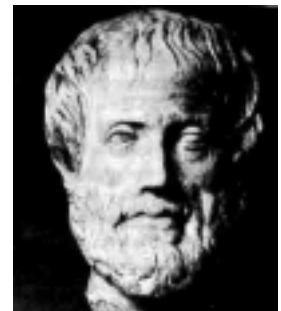




Lantern

Fourth Annual Meeting of the Minds

Interested in meeting Nietzsche or Hume or even Lao Tzu? They will all be on campus soon or at least they will be represented on campus soon. They will be engaging in a philosophical discussion of morality at this year's *Meeting of the Minds*. This year's *Meeting of the Minds* on Wednesday evening seven o'clock in Kathy Cashen Hall. The *Meeting of the Minds* is sponsored by the Phi-Kappa Phi West Georgia Philosophical Society. The topic for this year's meeting is the question of morality, or what constitutes moral life. The philosophers who will be in attendance are: Lao Tzu played by Josh Eaton, Aristotle played by Nicole Walker, St. Thomas Aquinas played by Brian Larkin, David Hume played by Jason Gibson, Friedrich Nietzsche played by Zach Adgie, and Hannah Arendt played by Kristina Swim. The moderator for the meeting will be Terry Hill.



**See the great philosophers
talk about morality
Come to the
Meeting of the Minds
April 14, 2004
7:00 p.m.
Kathy Cashen Hall**



tutes the
tendance
played by

Brian Larkin, David Hume played by Jason Gibson, Friedrich Nietzsche played by Zach Adgie, and Hannah Arendt played by Kristina Swim. The moderator for the meeting will be Terry Hill.

The event began in 2000 with six students addressing the topic of "The Good Life." Student response was so positive that the Philosophy Program decided to sponsor the event annually. Other topics that *The Meeting* has addressed have included "The Just Society" and "Freedom."

Students who are involved in putting on the production write a script based upon the research they have done about the philosophies of great thinkers. Each student takes on the role of a philosopher, writes a monologue about that philosopher's theory on the proposed topic and then the monologues are worked into a dialogue that allows for these great thinkers to interact with one another in a way that they never would have interacted in "real life." By bringing Aristotle into the same room with Nietzsche, the audience is given the opportunity to think through how those two philosophers might have reacted to each other's theories.



In This Issue:

Philosopher's Birthdays

Summer 2004 Courses

Fall 2004 Courses

Focus on a Student

Philosophical Society

Meeting of the Minds

Philosophy Awards to be Presented

For the past few years the philosophy program, in conjunction with the English department, has been celebrating its students with an awards ceremony in conjunction with West Georgia's Honors Day. This year the program is April 7, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in the lobby of the TLC. All philosophy students are invited to come to celebrate the excellent scholarship that takes place in the philosophy program. Food and beverages are provided to contribute to the conviviality as students and professors mingle prior to the presentation of awards.

Gordon Watson Award in Philosophy: This award is presented annually to the outstanding student from philosophy. Recipients must have a declared major in philosophy, superior academic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, potential for development in philosophy and active involvement in extracurricular activities. The award was established in memory of the late Bailey Gordon Watson, first head of the English Department at West Georgia. This year's recipient is A. Nicole Walker.

Award for the Most Promising New Major: This award recognizes a student who has declared a philosophy major within this academic year. The award will be based upon performance in philosophy courses, contribution to the major, and promise as a successful philosophy student. This year's recipient is Michelle Fellows.

Burdett and Shirley Wantland Award in Religious Studies: This scholarship was established by the members of Liberty Christian Church in honor of Burdett and Shirley Wantland's dedicated leadership of the church and their service to the State University of West Georgia. It is awarded to a junior or senior majoring in philosophy and minoring in religion who has a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA. This year's recipient is Ginger Evans.

West Georgia Philosophical Society Essay Prize: This award is for an essay of 5-7 typed double-spaced pages on any philosophical topic submitted by any student. The essay must be submitted to the Philosophical Society Executive Committee through the philosophy program office. One winner will be selected to receive a \$50 cash prize. The deadline for submissions is March 19, 2004.

All philosophy majors are invited to attend this reception whether they are receiving awards or not. Come out to support your peers as they are recognized for their excellence and show how lively and supportive the philosophy program is!

Philosopher's Spring Birthdays

Karl Barth, Swiss Theologian
May 10, 1886

Nicolai Berdyaev, Ukrainian Religious
Existentialist March 6, 1874

Donald Davidson, American
Philosopher March 6, 1917

Rene Descartes, French Philosopher and
Mathematician March 31, 1596

Soren Kierkegaard, Danish Philosopher/
Theologian May 5, 1813

Moses Maimonides, Spanish Jewish
Rabbi and Philosopher
March 30, 1135

Mary Wollstonecraft, Enlightenment
Philosopher, Mother of Mary Shelley
April 27, 1759

Department of Philosophy

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Fax: 770-830-2322

Website: www.westga.edu/~phil/

Philosophy Faculty Offices

(all offices are located in Humanities)

Auble, Joel	143
Donohoe, Janet	148
Dugan, Dennis	153
Lane, Robert	151
Manlowe, Jennifer	147

Summer 2004 Courses in Philosophy Session II, June 7 through July 27

Philosophy 2100-01 & 02 Introduction to Philosophy **Dr. Joel Auble**

MWF 10:00-11:50 p.m. Humanities 227 & TR 8:00-10:30 a.m. Humanities 227

Required for the Major in Philosophy and the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area C.

Using James Christian's text, this course is an excellent introduction to the subject matter and methods of philosophy. A synoptic approach to doing philosophy is taken, which means that information from all relevant areas is to some extent considered when attempting to make headway on any philosophical problem. Freedom/determinism, ethics, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, and epistemology are among the areas covered.

Text: James L. Christian, *Philosophy—An Introduction to the Art of Wondering*, 7th edition, Harcourt Brace Publishers

Philosophy 2110-01 Critical Thinking **Dr. Joel Auble**

MWF 12:00-1:50 a.m. Humanities 227

Required for the Major in Philosophy and the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area B-2.

An investigation of patterns of logical reasoning, both deductive and inductive, and a study of the common fallacies in informal thinking, including oral communication as well as written.

Text: Moore and Parker, *Critical Thinking*, 6th edition, Mayfield Publishing Company.

Philosophy 2130-01 Introduction to Religions **Dr. Jennifer Manlowe**

TR 11:00-1:30 p.m. Humanities 203

In this course we will investigate what thinking about "religion" entails today. The focus will be on how religion is thought, both in the broad sense of how it is estimated and why, and in the narrow sense of what the structure or method of such thinking is and where the place of religion in thinking is taken to be. The course will be an exercise in careful, critical, yet sympathetic reading. Part of students' task will be to relate the readings and what is discussed in class to pertinent issues in particular religious traditions. We will be guided by ruminations of paramount thinkers of the recent past and some significant figures of the more recent present. Intense, thoughtful student participation is presumed.

XIDS 2100 The Christian Tradition: Mystics, Monks and Rebels **Dr. Jennifer Manlowe**

TR 2:00-4:30 p.m. Humanities 226

This course surveys the Christian Tradition in several dimensions and includes a close look at the prayerful writings, the contemplative practices, and the inspiring sermons of four historical figures within the tradition. Students explore the following questions: (1) Who are these figures? (2) When and where were they writing and to whom? (3) What is their main message and why were they considered controversial? (4) Who has been her/his primary influence within the Christian Tradition? And finally, (5) What roles have these controversial Christians had in shaping contemporary views of the Christian Tradition?

Fall 2004 Courses in Philosophy

Philosophy 2100-01 & 03 Introduction to Philosophy **Dr. Joel Auble**

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. Humanities 227, MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. Humanities 227

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area C.

Using Christian's text, this course is an excellent introduction to the subject matter and methods of philosophy. A synoptic approach to doing philosophy is taken, which means that information from all relevant areas is to some extent considered when attempting to make headway on any philosophical problem. Freedom/determinism, ethics, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, and epistemology are among the areas covered.

Text: James L. Christian, *Philosophy—An Introduction to the Art of Wondering*, 7th edition, Harcourt Brace Publishers

Philosophy 2100-02 Introduction to Philosophy **Dr. Janet Donohoe**

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m. Humanities 227

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area C.

This course takes an historical look at major philosophical questions through the primary texts of such important

philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Boethius, Descartes, Kant, Camus and Foucault. Students are exposed to questions of what it means to be a human being, how to live the good life, what we can know, and why we are here.

Philosophy 2110-01 & 02 Critical Thinking

Staff

TR 9:30-10:45 a.m. Humanities 208, TR 2:00-3:15 p.m. Humanities 208

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area B-2.

This course addresses the basics of how to think critically and how to evaluate arguments. By looking at the fundamentals of logic, and addressing contemporary cultural debates, we will focus on how to argue well and how to identify the fallacies of weak arguments.

Philosophy 2120-01 Introduction to Ethics

Dr. Robert Lane

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. Humanities 203

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area C.

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 human cloning? homosexuality? is it wrong to spend money on expensive cars and homes when people in other parts of the world are dying from malnutrition? 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.

Philosophy 2130-01 Introduction to Religion

Dr. Jennifer Manlowe

TR 11:00-12:15 p.m. Humanities 227

This course will investigate what thinking about "religion" entails today. The focus will be on how religion is thought, both in the broad sense of how it is estimated and why, and in the narrow sense of what the structure or method of such thinking is and where the place of religion in thinking is taken to be. The course will be an exercise in careful, critical, yet sympathetic reading. This course will prepare you well for taking PHIL 3240: World Religions.

Note: Philosophy 2100 is a prerequisite for courses Philosophy 3100 through 4385, except Philosophy 4120.

Philosophy 3100-01 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

Staff

TR 11:00-12:15 p.m. Humanities 205

Required for Philosophy Majors.

An exploration of such philosophers as the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Augustine, Aquinas, and Ockham.

Philosophy 3160-01 Philosophy and Literature

Dr. Joel Auble

MWF 2:00-2:50 a.m. Humanities 208

An examination of significant philosophical and literary texts in terms of their thematic and/or conceptual interconnections. Text(s) and requirement(s) for this course may be obtained by contacting Dr. Joel Auble, Humanities 143, jauble@westga.edu.

Philosophy 3200-01 Religious Texts

Dr. Jennifer Manlowe

TR 2:00-3:15 p.m. Humanities 226

This course introduces the student to the ancient world of religious textual traditions including: geographical areas; time lines; political, social, economic, and cultural environments; languages; literary genre; manuscript traditions and translation problems. Four core sacred texts required. Three tests; six text related mini-projects; one extended research project; class discussion; and attendance policy will constitute the structure of the course.

Philosophy 4100-01 Phenomenology

Dr. Janet Donohoe

MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m. Humanities 208

Phenomenology is a philosophical movement of the twentieth century that focuses on descriptive investigations of the ways in which the world appears to consciousness. In this course we will examine the development of the phenomenological method through primary texts of major phenomenologists including Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Levinas, Derrida, and Ricoeur. We will address such issues as how the phenomenological method attempts to overcome the subject/object dichotomy, and how it lays the groundwork for such contemporary movements as hermeneutics and deconstruction.

Focus on a Student: Andrew Giles

After having taken intro to philosophy class, I felt I wanted something more. I felt that an introduction to Asian philosophy might give me something to contemplate. I was not sure what to expect and I thought I had a pretty good handle on Buddhism and Daoism. I was very wrong. The class opened me up to new ways of thinking and approaching social and personal relationships.

Asian philosophy was taken out of the cryptic and into the comfortable. But I had nothing in the western traditions to balance this so Philosophy of Religion and Christian Traditions helped to give context to western concepts of faith and God.

I was self taught to be antagonistic when regarding Christian traditions but through those classes I felt as if I had a better understanding of what faith

means for the adherent and what God in the "big G" sense might mean and do for the practitioner. The exploration of religion is one of the most important things an individual can do for his or her well being. By understanding that there are multiple beliefs and practices, a deeper tolerance of your own concerns as well as those of others can be appreciated.

"The exploration of religion is one of the most important things an individual can do for his or her well being."

The classes I had within the Philosophy program have opened me up to new ways of thinking and humbled my arrogance.

Ethics was one of the last classes I had and it was one that I will be forever thankful for having. Ethics confirmed what I was beginning to understand in Asian philosophy and that is there are no short answers. Ethics gave me the tools to discern a good argument from a bad one with out attributing right and wrong to it.

I have continued to contemplate philosophical principles outside of the classroom by applying what I have learned to the news/newspaper, television programs and further reading about Dogen and dogma. Philosophy on some level has provided me with the guardrails for a career path. On one side there is the ethics and on the otherside there is harmony and harmonizing with what is. I may not have the perfect job right now but I can work with change and create a positive space. If I cannot then I have the choice to leave. After it has all been said and done Philosophy gave me the compass to chart my own course in life through aligning with all that is around me.

--Andrew Giles
Class of 2003

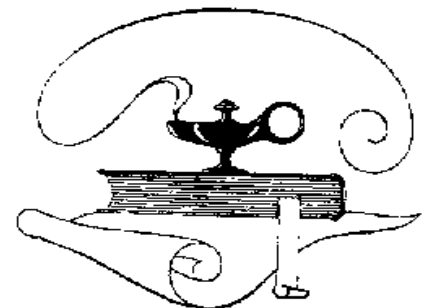
Summer Reading Group

Anyone interested in reading some philosophy and discussing it this summer? If you are interested in keeping your mind active during those sleepy summer months, please notify Dr. Janet Donohoe in Humanities 148 or at 770-838-3012. If there are a group of people interested, we can jointly decide on a convenient meeting time and a text of interest to us all.

Interested in Philosophy?

Join the West Georgia Philosophical Society

Do you enjoy open discussions on every imaginable topic? Then you should join The Philosophical Society. Reincarnated in the fall of 2003, the society is now a registered student organization and meets every other week to discuss everything philosophical. Meetings involve discussions, paper presentations, community service projects, movie nights, and the occasional night out. So far this year alone, discussion topics have ranged from "Morality" to "Just War Theory" to "What makes a good society." Members of the society have also been involved in canned food drives, bake sales, and trivia nights at local restaurants. All students, regardless of their background or experience are invited to join. The Society meets every other Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in Humanities 211. The Society will also be hosting the Meeting of the Minds colloquium on April 14, 2004 where students will be representing some of the major philosophers in a debate on morality. For more information, check out the philosophy bulletin board outside Humanities 154 or the Society's website at www.westga.edu/~philsoc. If you have any questions, contact the society at philsoc@westga.edu or contact Dr. Lane: rlane@westga.edu or Dr. Jennifer Manlowe: jmanlowe@westga.edu.



Philosophy 4120-01 Professional Ethics
MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m. Humanities 208

Dr. Robert Lane

This course examines ethical questions that can arise in the professions and other occupations, such as: is my privacy violated when my job requires that I be tested for drugs? What should I do if I know that my employer is making an unsafe product? Should physicians ever lie to their patients? Do corporations have any responsibilities beyond making a profit for their shareholders? We will also examine more theoretical issues concerning professionalism and the professions, such as the nature of the relationship between professionals and clients and the connection between ordinary and professional morality.

Philosophy 4240-01 Philosophy of Friendship and Love
MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. Humanities 226

Dr. Janet Donohoe

The aim of this course is to examine critically the historical theories of friendship and love through analysis of 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.

Philosophy 4300-01W Senior Seminar
MW 2:00-3:15 p.m. Humanities 205

Dr. Robert Lane

Required for Philosophy Majors of Senior level standing.

The topic of the course will be the work of Charles S. Peirce, the American philosopher and logician who founded the philosophical tradition known as pragmatism. We will consider Peirce's contributions to a number of different areas of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology and logic, as well as his contributions to semiotics, the theory of signs. In addition to mid-term and final exams and a number of short writing assignments, students will be assessed by way of one major writing assignment: the seminar paper, a high-quality philosophical essay which will be suitable for submission to undergraduate philosophy conferences and which will become part of the student's senior portfolio. Students will present their seminar papers to the class and respond to questions from the professor and their peers.

Philosophy 4385-01 Special Topics: Religion Through Film
TR 3:30-4:45 p.m. Humanities 208

Dr. Jennifer Manlowe

Film has been likened to a language and watching films as analogous to reading or interpreting a language. This metaphor is not fully appropriate but it does usefully convey the fact that directors rely on shared conventions and symbols to succinctly communicate complex ideas. In a similar manner "religion" can be likened to a language, with its own metaphors, symbols, and rituals. In short, religion and film are two different sign systems or "semiotics." In this course we will be **READING**/analyzing religious themes through films from around the world. To **READ** these films will draw upon the following disciplines: Film Theory, Philosophical Hermeneutics, and Gender Studies. By taking this course students will learn how to watch a film critically; gain skills to narrate how a film's form and content work together to produce/construct meaning; and finally, apply the above objectives to the cultural production/construction of the term and experience of "religion".

Summer Reading Suggestions

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Dr. Auble | <i>The DaVinci Code</i> by Dan Brown
<i>The Unity of Philosophical Experience</i> by Etienne Gilson |
| Dr. Donohoe | <i>The Genealogy of Morals</i> by Freidrich Nietzsche
<i>Love's Knowledge</i> by Martha Nussbaum |
| Dr. Lane | <i>Defending Science--Within Reason: Between Scientism and Cynicism</i> by Susan Haack
<i>On Peirce</i> by Cornelis deWaal |
| Dr. Manlowe | <i>Saint Francis</i> by Nikos Kazantzakis |

Please direct any questions or comments about this newsletter to Dr. Janet Donohoe, 770-838-3012.