



The Lantern

New Director for the Philosophy Program

I come to West Georgia having spent one year at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington and the two years before that at Santa Clara University in California. But the majority of my adult life has been spent outside the United States. I lived in Tokyo Japan, as a student from 1982 until 1988, and, as a teacher, from 1994 until 2001. The years in between were spent in Munich, Germany where I did my PhD.



I suspect that you readers of *The Lantern* will be most interested in my philosophical background and projects. The historical period that interests me the most is German Idealism. I am a student of Kant, Schelling and Hegel. I do not profess to have adequately grasped their thought yet, but I enjoy reaching up to them. The kind of philosophical

problems that interest me are the relationship between faith and reason, or philosophy and theology, how truth is communicated (i.e. hermeneutics, problems of interpretation), how thought forms a system. Further, I am very interested in and do research on the problem of violence and religion.

Given the above, it may come as a surprise that most of my energy in the last few years has been spent writing a book on the thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Rousseau is sometimes slighted in the history of philosophy, but his influence on the culture, as well as on philosophers was astounding. Immanuel Kant called him “the Newton of the moral world.” I find him to be an incredibly deep, multi-faceted thinker.

One finds his influence in French Literature (the *Confessions*), Education (*Emile*), Political Science (*The Social Contract*), Music (the *Dictionary of Music*), and Anthropology (*The Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*). The difficulty is to find the unity in all of this creativity. Rousseau proclaimed that he had a system, but he never succeeded in giving it systematic expression. I am hoping that my research will bring the unity of his thought and show the foundation upon which the system is built. To put it in as few words as possible, the foundation of this thought is theological.

I am also writing on the problem of violence and religion. In September I will deliver a paper at the Freie Universität in Berlin entitled “The Spiritual Life as Solidarity with the Victims of Violence.” My thesis is that all religious practices and dogmas have to be judged by the way in which they bring us into solidarity with the victims of violence or lead us away from that communion. I believe this gives believers in different traditions and even non-believers a basis for dialogue.

I am very excited about being part of the Philosophy Program at West Georgia. My own goals for the Program are to work with the other faculty to develop clear tracks, such as a Pre-law track, within the Program. My hope is that we will be able to better

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Interested in Philosophy? Join the West Georgia Philosophical Society

Interested in Philosophy? 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. Previous 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. This semester meetings will be held every other Friday at 2:00 pm in Humanities 211. 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 the advisors (Dr. Lane: rlane@westga.edu or Dr. Manlowe: jmanlowe@westga.edu).

Focus on a Student: Richard Cabe

On the Value of Philosophy

Most people that I talk to about how they got into philosophy usually tell me that they were struggling with personal philosophical questions such as "What is the meaning of life?" or "Why am I here?". These types of questions were honestly not in my mind when I decided to become a student of philosophy at West Georgia. In fact, I really didn't think philosophically that much at all. I had an associate degree in fine arts and was planning on a history major.

I chose to study philosophy not because I sought answers, but because I noticed that I wasn't asking pertinent questions. In other words, I noticed a lack of contemplation. I walked over to the registrars' office the next day and changed my major. I think that as a young college student I became aware that I needed a little self-contemplation and that some contemplation was a very good thing. Philosophy offered me that contemplation and I think it has potential to do the same for others.

"I chose to study philosophy not because I sought answers, but because I noticed that I wasn't asking pertinent questions."

Philosophy helped me to think critically. It also helped me to become more aware of not only what but also *how* I think and how people interpret things differently. It has opened up a vast realm of perspective regarding my world-view and thought. If philosophy means the love of wisdom, my study here at West Georgia has been an exciting intellectual love affair.

The value of philosophy is too immense to be put into a few words, but I can say what it's given me, a new sense of appreciation of ideas, awareness, and intellectual growth. It is this that I had hoped to gain by getting a college education and the philosophy program here at UWG helped and guided me in that task.

~Richard Cabe

Meeting of the Minds Call for Players

It's time to think about Meeting of the Minds for the spring 2005 semester. If you are interested in participating in the Meeting of the Minds this year either by playing the role of a philosopher or helping with publicity, please contact Dr. Janet Donohoe. There will be an organizational meeting prior to the end of the fall 2004 semester, so make your interest known as soon as possible.

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serve the various needs of the students who choose to major in Philosophy. I also hope to develop a Critical Thinking course that allows students to take more responsibility for their own learning.

~Jay Alberg

Spring 2005 Courses in Philosophy

Phil 2100-01: Introduction to Philosophy
MWF 9:00-9:50, Humanities Room 227

Dr. Joel Auble

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

Using James L. 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.

Phil 2100-02: Introduction to Philosophy
MWF 11:00-11:50, Humanities Room 227

Dr. Joel Auble

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

Description same as above.

Phil 2100-25H: Introduction to Philosophy (Honors)
MWF 11:00-11:50, Humanities Room 211

Dr. Janet Donohoe

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.

Phil 2110-01: Critical Thinking
MW 7:00-8:15, Humanities Room 227

Dr. Jay Alberg

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area B1.

It seems a little obvious to say that no one can do your thinking for you, but that insight guides this class. The emphasis of the class is on student activity. A wide variety of exercises are given, both inside and outside the classroom, so that students develop the skills they need for critical thinking. The students learn to identify the conclusion of a piece of reasoning, as well as the reasons given in support of that conclusion. They also learn to make explicit the assumptions of the author. Having learned to identify the conclusion, the reasons, and the structure of an argument, the students are in a position to make judgments about the validity and soundness of the arguments, as well as constructing some of their own. This is an ideal class for sharpening your studying skills.

Phil 2110-02: Critical Thinking
TR 9:30-10:45, Humanities Room 227

Dr. Jay Alberg

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area B1.

Description same as above.

Phil 2110-03: Critical Thinking
TR 2:00-3:15, Humanities Room 227

Dr. Jennifer Manlowe

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area B1.

An investigation of logical fallacies and patterns of valid reasoning in primarily oral but also written discourse. Text(s) and requirement(s) for this course may be obtained by contacting Dr. Jennifer Manlowe.

Phil 2110-04: Critical Thinking
TR 12:30-1:45, Humanities Room 209

Dr. Jennifer Manlowe

Required for Philosophy Majors. Required for the Minor in Religion. May count for credit in Core Area B1.

An investigation of logical fallacies and patterns of valid reasoning in primarily oral but also written discourse. Text(s) and requirement(s) for this course may be obtained by contacting Dr. Jennifer Manlowe.

Phil 2120-01: Introduction to Ethics

Dr. Robert Lane

MWF 10:00-10:50, Humanities Room 227

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

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 euthanasia immoral? what about causing non-human animals pain? 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?; what makes an ethical argument good or bad?; and what general rules or principles ought we to live by? We will be paying special attention to the issue of morality in our post-Darwinian society: if humanity evolved from other animal species, what does this imply about human dignity and morality?

Phil 2120-L2C: Introduction to Ethics

Dr. Robert Lane

MWF 10:00-10:50am Humanities Room 227

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

Description same as above.

Phil 2130-01: Introduction to Religion

Dr. Jennifer Manlowe

TR 3:30-4:45, Humanities Room 312

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 what 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.

Phil 3110-01: Modern Philosophy

Dr. Joel Auble

MWF 2:00-2:50, Humanities Room 227

Required for Philosophy Majors.

This course investigates the sort of confident philosophical reasoning which typified what we call the Enlightenment. The concepts of substance, the self, the reality of the world external to consciousness, and the nature of God all play major roles during this period. They are examined from a largely epistemological/metaphysical point of view. Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant are among those covered. Texts: *Hobbes to Hume*, W. T. Jones, and *Kant and the Nineteenth Century*. Requirements: Three tests, daily discussion, and a short paper.

Phil 3120-01: American Philosophy

Dr. Robert Lane

MWF 12:00-12:50, Humanities Room 205

What is truth? What's the best way for me to form beliefs about the world? Is absolute certainty possible, or must we be satisfied with beliefs that are not certain? If there is no solid evidence for or against the existence of God, is it legitimate to believe that God exists? What is philosophy, and what is its relationship with science? This course tackles those questions and others by examining how they were treated by the thinkers who founded America's distinctive philosophical tradition: pragmatism. In particular, we will study the works of the classical American pragmatists, including Charles Peirce, William James, and John Dewey, as well as the contemporary American pragmatist Richard Rorty.

Phil 3170-01W: Asian Philosophy

Dr. Jennifer Manlowe

TR 11:00-12:15, Humanities Room 227

Required for Philosophy Majors.

This course is a survey of Asian Philosophical texts on "non-duality." Our aim is to examine key philosophical texts of three separate regions of the globe: China, India and Japan. By the end of this course students will be able to: highlight four major texts on Asian Philosophy; Identify basic religio-philosophical perspectives of Confucianism,

Taoism, Indian Vedanta, and Zen Buddhism; and answer such questions for ourselves that include: What is of value? What is really real? Who exists? and What is skillful seeing/living?

Phil 4140-01: Existentialism

Dr. Joel Auble

MW 5:30-6:45, Humanities Room 227

An examination of the historical development and representative themes of existentialism, beginning with Kierkegaard and Nietzsche and continuing through Sartre.

Text(s) and requirement(s) for this course may be obtained by contacting Dr. Joel Auble.

Phil 4220-01: Hermeneutics

Dr. Janet Donohoe

MWF 1:00-1:50, Humanities Room 205

Hermeneutics is the philosophical discipline investigating the process of textual interpretation. How do we know how to interpret what we read? Is the meaning of a text what the author intended? How would we know what an author intended? Should we understand a text within a historical context? This course addresses the development of the hermeneutic tradition through the primary texts of such influential philosophers as Friedrich Schleiermacher, Martin Heidegger, Hans-Georg Gadamer, and Paul Ricoer.

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

New Philosophy Program Honors Society

In spring 2004, the Philosophy Program petitioned the national office of Phi Sigma Tau, the national honor society in philosophy, to approve the formation of a chapter of that organization at UWG. In May, our petition was approved, and the Georgia Iota chapter of Phi Sigma Tau was installed on September 24, with Brian Larkin as president, Nicole Walker as vice-president, and Dr. Robert Lane as faculty advisor.

Students are now invited to apply for active membership in Phi Sigma Tau. To be admitted to membership, a student must:

- a) have completed three full semesters (45 hours) of college courses
- b) have completed two philosophy courses, with a mean overall GPA greater than 3.0 in all philosophy courses taken
- c) have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher

The Philosophy Program will hold an initiation ceremony for new members during fall semester. To apply for membership, see Dr. Lane.

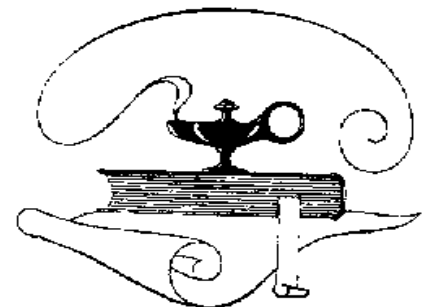
Philosophy Program is Moving to TLC

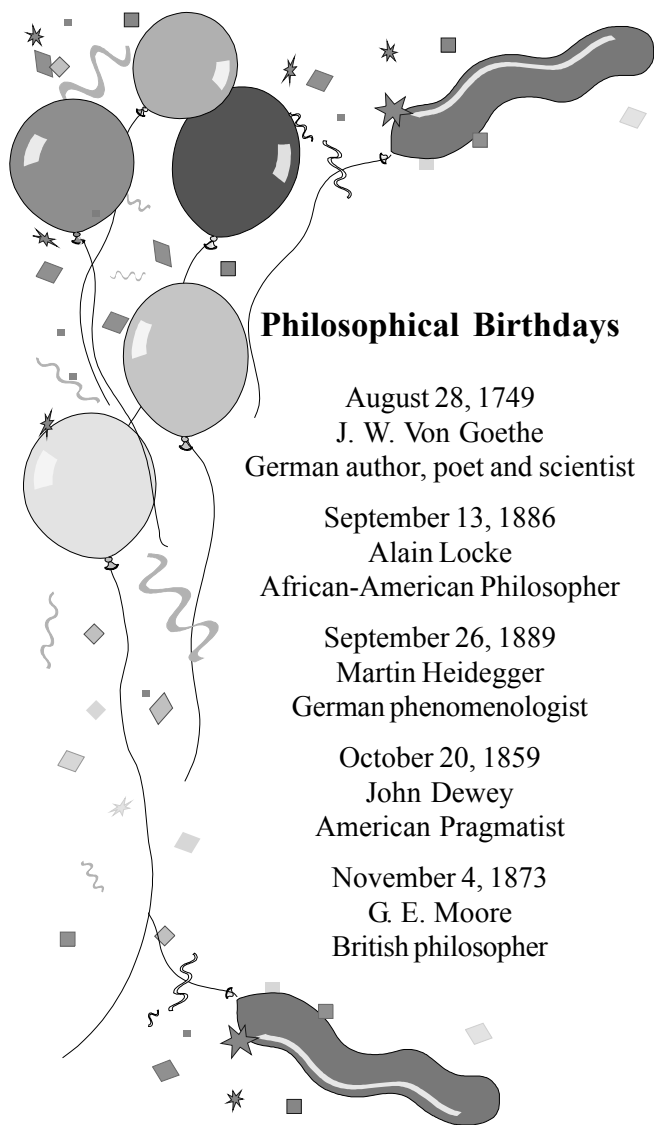
During semester break the philosophy program and some of its faculty members will be moving their offices to the second floor of the TLC building. Most classes will still meet in the Humanities Building, but if you want to see Drs. Alberg, Donohoe and Lane, you'll have to find them in new offices in TLC.

Philosopher's Wisdom

“The freedom of the subject is not the highest or primary value. The heteronomy of our response to the human other, or the God as the absolute other, precedes the autonomy of our subjective freedom. Even if I deny my primary responsibility to the other by affirming my freedom as primary, I can never escape the fact that the other has demanded a response from me before I affirm my freedom not to respond.”

~Emmanuel Levinas





Philosophical Birthdays

August 28, 1749
J. W. Von Goethe
German author, poet and scientist

September 13, 1886
Alain Locke
African-American Philosopher

September 26, 1889
Martin Heidegger
German phenomenologist

October 20, 1859
John Dewey
American Pragmatist

November 4, 1873
G. E. Moore
British philosopher

New Philosophy Program Phone Numbers

Since the campus is converting to a new phone system, the philosophy office and its faculty have new phone numbers. The new numbers are listed below.

- Philosophy Office 678-839-4848
- Dr. Jay Alberg 678-839-4738
- Dr. Joel Auble 678-839-4739
- Dr. Janet Donohoe 678-839-4743
- Dr. Robert Lane 678-839-4745
- Dr. Jennifer Manlowe 678-839-4746

Philosophy Programs Partners with Carrollton High School

Many students never have any exposure to philosophy until they get to college. Philosophy isn't usually taught at the high school level. But, this semester the philosophy program is trying to change that. The program has begun a new and exciting project of introducing philosophy to high school students. Once a month students in the philosophy program will be going to Mr. Lynch's World History classes at Carrollton High School to teach some philosophy. Dr. Donohoe and Mr. Lynch have been working together this semester to make this program a hit. Nicole Walker and Zack Adgie taught the first session of the project and both reported it to have been a very good experience. They commented that the high school students were very receptive to hearing about the ideas of Socrates and Plato and that they were asking good questions. While the program is just in its infancy, the hope is that the program can grow to include other local area high schools and more students from the philosophy program. Anyone who is interested in details about the project can contact Dr. Janet Donohoe at 678-839-4743, or at jdonohoe@westga.edu.

Department of Philosophy

Department Office: Humanities 154

Telephone: 678-839-4848

Department Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-1 pm

Fax: 770-830-2322

Website: www.westga.edu/~phil/

Faculty Offices

(all offices are located in Humanities)

Faculty	Office	Phone
Alberg, Jay	154	678-839-4738
Auble, Joel	143	678-839-4739
Donohoe, Janet	148	678-839-4743
Lane, Robert	151	678-839-4745
Manlowe, Jennifer	147	678-839-4746

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