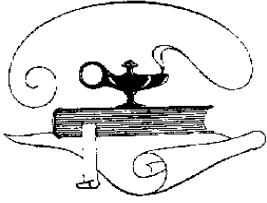


# The Lantern



Department of Philosophy Newsletter for Students

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## Undergraduate Research in Philosophy: An Advantage for Life Beyond College

There are many ways to make your undergraduate degree more valuable beyond the halls of academe and one is to gain valuable experience in research, writing, and public speaking. These opportunities come in the form of undergraduate philosophy conferences, Big Night here on our own campus, and philosophy journals that publish undergraduate research papers.

Sometimes it is a bit intimidating to think about these kinds of activities either because you know lit-

tle about them or because it always seems like it is what other people do. But our philosophy program is actually quite successful in promoting

Each of your professors is more than willing to help you polish a paper for submission to a conference or journal.

undergraduate research. How is it done? Read on.

In order to pursue the publication or presentation of your paper, you must begin with a paper that you are especially proud of or that received a particularly good grade. Approach one of your professors about the paper and see if he or she would be willing to work with you to polish it for submission to a conference or an undergraduate journal. Each of your philosophy professors is more than willing to help you do this. Then, check out the many sources on the web that indicate places to publish or present philosophy papers. Some of those sites are:

[www.earlham.edu/~phil/undjourn.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~phil/undjourn.htm)

[www.conferencealerts.com/philosophy.htm](http://www.conferencealerts.com/philosophy.htm)

[www.umd.umich.edu/casl/hum/phil/journals.htm](http://www.umd.umich.edu/casl/hum/phil/journals.htm)

In the past, students have attended conferences in the southeast and have had good experiences meeting students and faculty from other programs and hearing what their philosophical interests are. David Ellis, who attended three conferences last year, says "that it was interesting encountering the diversity of philosophical areas of pursuit. It was nerve wracking on one level, but being able to socialize with philosophy students from other schools was worth it. Besides, it's always fun to force people to pay attention to you."

Philip Brewer presented at two conferences last spring. He says "Having the opportunity to present my work at a conference was a tremendous experience of excitement, intimidation, and accomplishment that went far beyond the mere pursuit of being accepted into graduate school. Most importantly, the experience helped cultivate a desire to continue learning, reading, and studying so that I can one day come away from college with much, much more than just a degree to be placed on a wall."

You don't necessarily have to leave campus

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## Philosophical Birthdays

Friedrich Nietzsche,  
German Philosopher  
October 15, 1844-August 25, 1900

John Dewey,  
American Pragmatist and Psychologist  
October 20, 1859-June 1, 1952

G. E. Moore,  
British Philosopher  
November 4, 1873-December 24, 1958

Jacques Maritain,  
French Neo-Thomist Philosopher  
November 18, 1882-April 28, 1973

Voltaire,  
French Political Philosopher  
November 21, 1694-May 30, 1778

to get experience in presenting your research. Every spring on our own campus there is a celebration of undergraduate research called Big Night. Students from each of the areas of the university (humanities, arts, social sciences, hard sciences, business, and education) audition for a position as a presenter for the Big Night event. Each area selects a winner in its area and a runner-up. The winner goes on to give his or her presentation to the university community at Big Night. This is an excellent opportunity to present your research to a group of people who are not experts in the field but who are nonetheless interested in student research. David Ellis presented his research two years in a row. He placed third last year and was runner-up the year before. He says of his experience with the event that "Having to adjust philosophical language to address a broader audience forced me to become more intimate with the concepts I was explaining."

For those students who do get papers accepted to conferences off campus there are funds available to help defray the costs of attending the conference. The funds are available through application to the Dean's office and the Academic Vice President's office.

So, pull out those excellent papers and dust them off. It's time to represent West Georgia to the broader philosophical world!

## Philosopher's Wisdom

"It is the task of radical thought, since the world is given to us unintelligibly, to make it more unintelligible, more enigmatic, more fabulous."

~Jean Baudrillard

French Philosopher and Sociologist  
(1929- )

## Spring 2008 Course Descriptions

**Philosophy 2100-01 Introduction to Philosophy Dr. Janet Donohoe**  
MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. (PAFF 102)

*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, Nietzsche and Camus. Students are exposed to questions of what it means to be a human being, how to live the good life, what we can know, why we are here, whether there is a God, why there is evil in the world, and whether anything at all has meaning. Through the texts we learn not only the way that philosophers attempt to address these questions, but we also learn what it means to engage in philosophical thought and how the process of thinking philosophically can change our understanding of our own existence.

**Philosophy 2100-02 Introduction to Philosophy Dr. Janet Donohoe**  
MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m. (HUM 207)

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

Course description same as above.

**Philosophy 2100-03 Introduction to Philosophy Mr. Marcus Marena**  
TR 2:00-3:15 p.m. (HUM 207)

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

This course investigates, both historically and systematically, questions about human nature, knowledge, and the nature of the world around us. The focus is Western philosophical inquiry and as such, the major developments that have defined this inquiry are explored through introductions to Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume and Kant. We will proceed historically in this course: the subjects approached as defining moments in an ongoing rational debate.

**Philosophy 2100-04 Introduction to Philosophy Mr. Marcus Marena**  
TR 3:30-4:45 p.m. (HUM 207)

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

Course description same as above.

**Philosophy 2110-01 Critical Thinking Mr. Marcus Marena**  
TR 9:30-10:45 a.m. (PAFF 105)

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

This course investigates logical fallacies and patterns of valid reasoning in primarily written but also some oral discourse. Critical thinking requires that one be able to identify an argument, recognize whether it is valid or invalid, and also to construct arguments. This course will provide an overview of concepts in argumentation with a concentration on the formalization and symbolic representation of argument structures. We will consider many examples of arguments from everyday contexts and evaluate them for successfulness, validity and soundness.

**Philosophy 2110-02 Critical Thinking Mr. Marcus Marena**  
TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (PAFF 105)

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

Course description same as above.

**Philosophy 2120-01 Introduction to Ethics Dr. Robert Lane**  
MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. (HUM 207)

*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 mal-

nutrition? 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 2120-02 Introduction to Ethics**

**Dr. Robert Lane**

**MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m. (HUM 207)**

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

Course description same as above.

**Philosophy 2130-25H Introduction to Religion--Honors**

**Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**TR 9:30-10:45 a.m. (TLC 1204)**

This course will investigate religion through the avenues of comparative religious study and philosophy. In the first half of the course we will examine several of the world religions—their origins, ethical views, and beliefs about the divine. In the second half of the course we will undertake a close reading of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, a classic text in the philosophy of religion that raises issues like the rationality of faith, the possibility of miracles, and the problem of evil.

**Philosophy 3110-01W Modern Philosophy**

**Dr. Jay Alberg**

**TR 12:30-1:45 p.m. (PAFF 105)**

This course covers the history of philosophy from Descartes to Kant, from Rationalism through Empiricism to Idealism. In this course we will read a variety of shorter primary texts arranged both thematically and historically. Thus, we will look at the beginning of the Scientific Revolution, Descartes and his critics, as well as the political philosophy of the early modern period (Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Pufendorf). We will look at Rationalism and Kant's position, as well as arguments for the existence of God, the political philosophy, and the moral philosophy of the late modern period. The course will consist of careful reading and short writing assignments.

**Philosophy 3160-01W Philosophy in Literature and Film**

**Dr. Janet Donohoe**

**MW 2:00-3:15 p.m. (HUM 205)**

Literature and film are often the most fruitful genres for thinking about philosophical themes. Through analysis of these media we can begin to address philosophical questions outside of straightforward philosophical treatises. This semester this course will address the themes of knowledge and tradition in philosophical and literary texts as well as in film. We will attempt to grasp how authors understand the relation of tradition to what we know and how we know it. We ask these questions in an effort to come to a deeper understanding of ourselves as human beings and our own relationship to our traditions

**Philosophy 3205-01 Religious Texts**

**Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**TR 2:00-3:15 p.m. (PAFF 105)**

Through an exploration of both scriptural and non-scriptural religious literature, this course considers many of the important themes of religion such as the nature and activity of God, the function of religious community, and the challenges of religious belief.

**Philosophy 4160-01 Symbolic Logic**

**Dr. Robert Lane**

**MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. (PAFF 105)**

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 the validity or invalidity of arguments in symbolic form. Because Symbolic Logic enhances one's abilities in skills necessary for the LSAT, students in the Pre-Law track are strongly encouraged to take this course.

## Do You Have a Term Paper You are Especially Proud of?

You Should Consider Submitting It  
for One of These Conferences.

### **Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference**

Conference date: November 3, 2007 Submission deadline: September 24,  
2007 University of North Carolina at Asheville

Sponsored by: UNCA's Philosophical Society and Phi Sigma Tau Chapter

This symposium provides a professional style philosophical forum for aspiring undergraduates to present significant and original work. All papers will be evaluated by blind review process. At the conference, a judge from a university with important graduate program will determine the top three presentations.

For submissions or further information, please contact:

Dr Keya Maitra  
Department of Philosophy/CPO # 2830, UNCA  
One University Heights  
Asheville, NC 28804-8505  
kmaitra@unca.edu

### **University of Memphis Undergraduate Philosophy Conference**

Conference dates: February 22-23, 2008

Submission deadline: January 14, 2008

Papers in any area are welcome. Submissions must not exceed a length of 3000 words, and must include a cover letter stating the author's name, university or college, mailing address, telephone number and/or email address. Send *two* printed copies to:

Undergraduate Philosophy Conference  
Department of Philosophy  
327 Clement Hall  
University of Memphis  
Memphis  
TN 38152

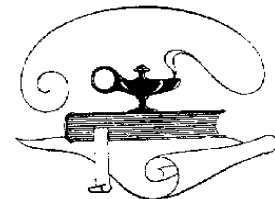
Papers for the Undergraduate Philosophy Conference must be postmarked by *January 14*. Direct questions about the Undergraduate Philosophy Conference to Pleshette DeArmitt.

Thomas Nenon has reserved rooms for Thursday (2/21) through Saturday (2/23) nights at the Sleep Inn (901-522-9700) on 40 North Front Street, and at the Comfort Inn (901-526-0583) on 100 North Front Street. Make reservations directly, and as soon as possible. The airport shuttle goes to the hotels for about \$15, taxis for about \$30.

### **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. The Society is a registered student organization that meets every other week for lively discussions of philosophical topics. So far this year the discussion topics have ranged from the problem of evil (if God is all-knowing, -powerful, and -good, why do innocent beings suffer?), to the apparent incompatibility between determinism and the belief in human free will, to the question whether man is naturally good or bad. 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. In fall 2007 meetings will be held every other Monday at 2:00 pm in the Dean's conference room on the third floor of TLC. For more information, check out the philosophy bulletin board outside TLC 2254 or the Society's website at <http://www.westga.edu/~philsoc>, or contact Dr. Tietjen (mtietjen@westga.edu).



## How does a Philosopher Kiss? Here's How!

(from <http://www.trygve.com/uekiss.html>)

### Aristotelian kiss

a kiss performed using techniques gained solely from theoretical speculation untainted by any experiential data by one who feels that the latter is irrelevant anyway.

### Hegelian kiss

dialiptical technique in which the kiss incorporates its own antithe kiss, forming a synthekiss.

### Wittgensteinian kiss

The important thing about this type of kiss is that it refers only to the symbol (our internal mental representation we associate with the experience of the kiss--which must necessarily also be differentiated from the act itself for obvious reasons and which need not be by any means the same or even similar for the different people experiencing the act) rather than the act itself and, as such, one must be careful not to make unwarranted generalizations about the act itself or the experience thereof based merely on our manipulation of the symbology therefore.

### Socratic kiss

really a Platonic kiss, but it's claimed to be the Socratic technique so it'll sound more authoritative; however, compared to most strictly Platonic kisses, Socratic kisses wander around a lot more and cover more ground.

### Kantian kiss

a kiss that, eschewing inferior "phenomenal" contact, is performed entirely on the superior "noumenal" plane; though you don't actually feel it at all, you are, nonetheless, free to declare it the best kiss you've ever given or received.

### Kafkaesque kiss

a kiss that starts out feeling like it's about to transform you but ends up just bugging you.

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*Please direct any questions or comments about this newsletter to Dr. Janet Donohoe, 678-839-4743.*