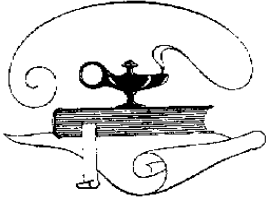


# The Lantern



Philosophy Newsletter for Students

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## Philosophy Major Gains Popularity

Every philosophy major knows that when you tell someone what your major is, the first response you usually get is “what are you going to do with that?” Now, the answer is easy. Philosophy majors can do just about anything they want. An article in England’s *The*

**Philosophy students are most frequently courted by employers in the fields of finance, property development, health, social work and business according to *The Guardian* sources.**

*Guardian* suggests that philosophy graduates are in demand by employers. In fact, the article published last November indicates that the employment rates for philosophy graduates have gone up by 13% between 2002-03 and 2005-06 as opposed to the only 9% for all graduates. Philosophy students are most frequently courted by employers in the fields of finance, property development, health, social work and business according to *The Guardian* sources. Why are philosophy majors such sought-after employees? Again, according to a source quoted by *The Guardian*, “A philosophy degree has trained the individual’s brain and given them the ability to provide management-consulting firms with the sort of skills that they require and clients demand. These skills can include the ability to be very analytical, provide clear and innovative thinking, and question assumptions.”

As to the growing popularity of philosophy, Simon Blackburn, a professor at Cambridge University in England, suggests that there has been an overall change in public opinion about philosophers. “I guess the public image of a philosopher has tended to concentrate on an ancient Greek in a toga, or some unwashed hippy lying around not doing very

much. I do detect a change in the way the public sees philosophers. I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of people who come to philosophy events nowadays.”

*The Guardian* is not the only major paper reporting the increasing popularity of the philosophy major. *The New York Times* published an article in April claiming that more and more students are opting for a philosophy degree not only because of its marketability, but because of the way in which the study of philosophy can improve the quality of life. *The Times* quotes the Chancellor of The City University of New York as saying “I think [philosophy] is really at the core of just about everything we do. If you study humanities or political systems or sciences in general, philosophy is really the mother ship from which all of these disciplines grow.” He notes also that philosophy majors often go on in their careers to become doctors, lawyers, writers, investment bankers and even commodities traders.

Philosophy is appealing to more and more students because of its emphasis on the big questions, and larger social issues of concern

### In This Issue:

**Philosophers’ Birthdays**

**Philosopher’s Wisdom**

**Famous People with  
Philosophy Degrees**

**Spring 2009 Courses**

**Alberg Publishes Book**

**Opportunities for  
Presentations, Publication,  
Professional Development**

**Philosophy Honors Society**

## Philosophers' Birthdays

**Catharine A. MacKinnon**

Oct. 1, 1946–

Feminist legal scholar and Philosopher teaching at University of Chicago Law School.

**John Dewey**

Oct. 20, 1859–June 1, 1952

American philosopher and educator who was one of the founders of the philosophical school of pragmatism, a pioneer in functional psychology, and a leader of the progressive movement in education in the United States.

**St Augustine**

Nov. 13, 354–Aug. 28, 430

Originally named Aurelius Augustinus, also known as Augustine of Hippo. Christian theologian and philosopher. One of the Latin Fathers of the Church.

**Chomsky, Noam Avram**

Dec. 7, 1928–

American linguist and philosopher. Chomsky's psycholinguistic approach holds that competence in the use of language reveals innate possession of universal generative grammatical structures that cannot be acquired simply by empirical evidence.

## Philosopher's Wisdom

“Common sense is the best distributed commodity in the world, for every man is convinced that he is well supplied with it.”

~Descartes, *Discourse on Method*

such as globalization or the environment. Since it is increasingly difficult to predict where our economy is headed and what kinds of specialties might be in demand in the future, students are choosing a major based upon what they enjoy and not solely on what they think will prepare them for a specific career. Philosophy fares well on this approach because not only does philosophy provide skills that can be applied to whatever field one chooses, it's just plain fun.

\*\*information for this article gathered from “In a New Generation of College Students, Many Opt for the Life Examined” *The New York Times*, April 7, 2008. And “I Think, Therefore I Earn” *The Guardian*, November 20, 2007.\*\*

## Famous People with Philosophy Degrees

When people ask you what you are going to do with a degree in philosophy, think about what these famous people have done! They all have undergraduate degrees in philosophy.

**Justice Stephen Breyer, Assoc. Justice of the Supreme Court**

**Patrick Joseph Buchanan, politician, candidate for President 1992**

**Pearl Buck, writer, Pulitzer Prize (1932) and Nobel Prize for Literature (1937), activist for Amer-asian children**

**Ethan Coen, filmmaker**

**Umberto Eco, novelist, semiologist**

**Carly Fiorina, CEO, Hewlett Packard**

**Philip Glass, composer**

**Rudi Giuliani, former mayor of New York, Urban Security Consultant. Candidate for President 2008**

**Robert Motherwell, painter**

**Iris Murdoch, novelist**

**Lachlan Murdoch, son of Rupert Murdoch, media magnate. New media manager**

**Robert Musil, Austrian novelist**

**Robert McNamara, former Secretary of Defense and Head of the World Bank**

**George Soros, financier & money manager**

**Justice David Souter, Supreme Court Justice**

**P. Michael Spense, economist and Nobel Prize Economics 2001**

**Steve Thomas, host for TV show, *This Old House***

**Alex Trebek, host for TV show, *Jeopardy***



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## Spring 2009 Course Descriptions

**Phil 2100 01 Introduction to Philosophy**  
**MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. Paff 302**

**Dr. Janet Donohoe**

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.

**Phil 2100-02 Introduction to Philosophy**  
**TR 9:30-10:45 a.m. Paff 102**

**Dr. Jeremiah Alberg**

In this course we are going to study the two most important philosophers from ancient Greece, Plato and Aristotle. Then we will turn to two very important figures from the Middle Ages, Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. We will end with three of the Moderns, Descartes, Rousseau and Kant. We will be reading some of the classics of the Western Tradition including Plato's Republic and Augustine's Confessions. This course has one overarching goal that determines all in-class and out-of-class assignments—to help you engage philosophically with these texts. To that end, I will assign a question for each class that will require a one page answer. These one page papers will be Pass/Fail. There will be a three page paper in place of the one page paper at the end of each philosopher—again in response to a question. These will be graded in the usual manner. There will be no exams.

**Phil 2100-03 Introduction to Philosophy**  
**TR 12:30-1:45 p.m. Paff 305**

**Dr. Jeremiah Alberg**

Same as above.

**Phil 2110-01 Critical Thinking**  
**MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m. Paff 105**

**Dr. Walter Riker**

In this course students learn to recognize and evaluate several different kinds of arguments. Students will practice their developing skills by analyzing several influential contemporary arguments for and against different uses of animals (e.g., for food, research, entertainment, and companionship). This course satisfies the Oral Communication component of the Core Curriculum, so students will discuss these issues in both formal and informal settings.

**Phil 2110-02 Critical Thinking**  
**MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. Paff 105**

**Dr. Walter Riker**

Same as above.

**Phil 2110-03 Critical Thinking**  
**MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m. Paff 105**

**Dr. Walter Riker**

Same as above.

**Phil 2110-04 Critical Thinking**  
**TR 9:30-10:45 a.m. Paff 105**

**Dr. Mark Tietjen**

This course addresses the basics of how to think critically and how to evaluate arguments. By learning the fundamentals of logical reasoning and addressing contemporary cultural debates, we will focus on how to argue well and how to identify the fallacies of weak arguments. Students will also have the opportunity to apply skills they learn to their particular major.

**Phil 2120-01 Introduction to Ethics**  
**MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m. Paff 305**

**Dr. Robert Lane**

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. Required for all philosophy majors and minors.

**Phil 2130-01 Introduction to World Religions**

**Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Paff 106**

This course is a comparative study of the beliefs and practices of several world religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will explore not only the history of these faiths and their early doctrinal and communal development but their place in today's world.

**Phil 3110 Modern Philosophy**

**Dr. Jeremiah Alberg**

**TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Paff 109**

This course covers the history of philosophy from Descartes to Hegel. In this course we will look at the some the same philosophers that you have studied in Intro, but in more depth. For example, we will read Descartes Meditations, but examine in depth its claim to originate modern philosophy. After looking at the turn to the subject instituted by Descartes we will continue to look at the rationalists in the figures of Spinoza and Leibniz. We will then turn to the British empiricists. Finally, we will turn to the great German philosophers Kant and Hegel. There are three examinations.

**Phil 3220-01 Christian Thought**

**Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**TR 2:00-3:15 p.m. Paff 105**

This new course examines the development of Christian thought from the New Testament to present day (e.g. feminist and liberation theologies). A sample of thinkers to be considered includes Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Schleiermacher, Barth, and Bultmann.

**Phil 4110-01 Philosophy of Law**

**Dr. Walter Riker**

**MW 3:30-4:45 p.m. Paff 102**

This course examines central positions and problems in analytic and normative jurisprudence. Analytic jurisprudence aims to discover the nature of law and legal authority. For example: "how does law differ from other kinds of commands?" and "is there a necessary connection between law and morality?" Philosophers studied include Aquinas, Austin, Holmes, Hart, Fuller, Finnis, and Dworkin. Normative jurisprudence aims to identify criteria (both moral and non-moral) for evaluating existing legal systems. For instance: "how important is it for a legal system to emancipate the oppressed (or to achieve fairness, or efficiency, or stability)?" and "how is some particular legal system faring in terms of this or that metric?" Philosophers approach normative jurisprudence from a variety of perspectives, including feminist jurisprudence, critical race theory, critical legal studies, and the law and economics movement.

**Phil 4120-01 Professional Ethics**

**Dr. Robert Lane**

**MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m. Paff 102**

This course examines ethical questions that can arise for individuals working in medicine, business, and law. To provide a general theoretical background for these questions, we will also examine ethical theories such as utilitarianism, Kantianism, and virtue ethics. Required for all students in the pre-law track.

**Phil 4150-01 Analytic Philosophy**

**Dr. Robert Lane**

**MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. Hum 205**

This course is an historical overview of analytic philosophy, the most widespread and influential movement among Anglo-American philosophers during the 20th century. We will consider how the most important members of this tradition, including Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell, G. E. Moore, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and W. V. O. Quine, attempted to answer questions within metaphysics, epistemology, meta-ethics, and the philosophy of language.

**Phil 4220-01W Hermeneutics**

**Dr. Janet Donohoe**

**MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m. Hum 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 Ricoeur.

## Dr. Alberg Publishes Book

In October 2007, Dr. Alberg's new book on Rousseau came out. The book, entitled *A Reinterpretation of Rousseau: A Religious System* is the result of much research that Dr. Alberg has been doing on the concept of scandal and is noted as a rich contribution to Rousseau scholarship. Dr. Alberg's book illuminates the role of the doctrine of original sin and Rousseau's rejection of it as a way of leading back into a discussion of a more originary forgiveness. As the jacket of the book attests, "Alberg shows how only Christianity can bring the coherence of Rousseau's system to light, arguing that the philosopher's system of thought is founded on theological scandal and on his inability to accept forgiveness through Christianity. This book explores Rousseau's major works in a novel way, advancing his system of thought as an alternative to Christianity." The 252 page book is published by Palgrave Macmillan and is available on Amazon.com for \$75.00, but is also available for checkout in the West Georgia Library.

## Opportunities for Paper Presentations, Publication, and Professional Development

### REVIEW OPPORTUNITY

**Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal**

*Stance* seeks talented undergraduate students to serve as external reviewers for our next issue. *Stance* is produced and edited entirely by currently enrolled undergraduate students. You may examine the electronic version of the publication at <http://stance.iweb.bsu.edu>.

We seek bright, insightful, and responsible students to serve as external reviewers. External reviewers are asked to evaluate one or two of the manuscripts submitted to the most recent volume of *Stance*. *Stance* will provide reviewers with a rubric to guide their evaluation. It is also quite likely that a reviewer will need to conduct independent research concerning the topic of the manuscript(s) to ensure a high quality review. External reviewers must be self-motivated and dependable.

Please notice that the application requires a professor's recommendation. **The application is due November 3, 2008.**

### CALL FOR PAPERS

**Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal**

*Stance* welcomes papers concerning any philosophical topic. Current undergraduates may submit papers between 1500 and 3500 words

## 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 role of technology in our lives, to the question of what equality really means and whether all humans are equal, to the question of what philosophy is. 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 2008 meetings will be held every other Monday at 12:00 noon in TLC room 3238. 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](mailto:mtietjen@westga.edu)).

## 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. The criteria for membership are: a 3.0 overall GPA, the completion of at least two philosophy courses, a GPA higher than 3.0 in all philosophy courses taken, and the completion of 45 hours of coursework. For more information, go to <http://www.westga.edu/~pst>, or contact Dr. Lane ([rlane@westga.edu](mailto:rlane@westga.edu)) if you are interested in applying for membership.

in length (exclusive of notes and bibliography). Papers should avoid unnecessary technicality and strive to be accessible to the widest possible audience without sacrificing clarity or rigor. They are evaluated on the following criteria: depth of inquiry, quality of research, creativity, lucidity, and originality. For more specific guidelines see the website at <http://stance.iweb.bsu.edu>.

#### Submission Procedures:

- Manuscripts should be in Microsoft Word format and sent as an attachment to [stance@bsu.edu](mailto:stance@bsu.edu)
- Manuscripts should be double spaced (including quotations, excerpts, and footnotes)
- The right margin should not be justified
- To facilitate our anonymous review process, submissions are to be prepared for blind review. Include a cover page with the author's name, affiliation, title, and email address. Papers, including footnotes, should have no other identifying markers.
- Footnotes should use the author-date format found in *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- Please use American spellings and punctuation, except when directly quoting a source that has followed British style.

**Deadline: Friday, December 19, 2008**

#### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**OtherWise: A Journal for Student Philosophy** <http://otherwisejournal.org/>

is seeking paper submissions for its 2008 issue. Undergraduate and graduate submissions dealing with any philosophical topic are welcome. Although all submitted works are considered, please note preferences will be given to those focusing primarily on continental and comparative themes. Book reviews relevant to these two areas are also welcome.

#### SUBMISSIONS

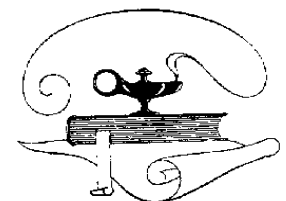
All submissions to the Journal are blind-reviewed and will be evaluated by a board consisting of both students and professors. Authors may expect to hear from the editor about the suitability of their submissions within several months. The publisher holds the copyright of all articles published in the Journal.

Please send submissions via e-mail in WORD format to Justin Downey at [prometheus836@yahoo.com](mailto:prometheus836@yahoo.com).

Papers should be no longer than 5,000 words and must include the following information on a cover page: name, university affiliation and status (undergraduate or graduate), paper title, and contact information (email, phone, address).

Papers must be received in Chicago Manual of Style (14th edition) with in-text citations and minimal endnotes and must be double spaced with 12 point Times New Roman font. Submissions must also include a References section that immediately follows the conclusion. Explanatory footnotes rather than endnotes are adopted. For more information on Chicago Style citations, please visit <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/chicago.html#docnote>.

For more information, please contact either Justin Downey, editor of *OtherWise*, at [prometheus836@yahoo.com](mailto:prometheus836@yahoo.com) or Dr. David Jones, head faculty advisor, at [djones@atlas.kennesaw.edu](mailto:djones@atlas.kennesaw.edu).



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