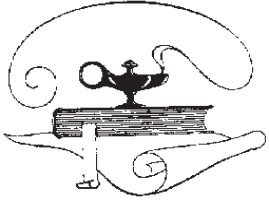


# The Lantern

UNIVERSITY of  
West Georgia



Philosophy Newsletter for Students

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## What Does a Philosopher Look Like?



Photographer Steve Pyke has recently put together a second book of photographs of philosophers. He published a first volume in 1993 with 78 portraits of philosophers. Each portrait is accompanied by a brief statement from the philosopher summarizing what he or she thinks philosophy is. This new volume brings the number of portraits to over 200. The book, published by Oxford University Press, has received some notoriety, among philosophers, of course, for what it might say about us.

Cynthia Freeland suggests in an article in *The Philosopher's Magazine* that the book shows that philosophers look

“The contents of a photograph are not facts, nor reality, nor truth. They are a means we have created to extend our way of seeing on a search for truth.”

“rather odd, I’m afraid, or if truth be told, Unappetizing.” But Freeland does not necessarily think that this is the truth of philosophers, instead she seems to indicate that it may reveal more about Steve Pyke. She suggests that the book shows that Pyke finds philosophers strange. Only a couple of portraits show philosophers smiling. Most are quite close up and show the wrinkles and the blemishes, the crooked teeth and crossed eyes of deeply serious people. Pyke, in an interview included in the book, acknowledges that he was initially intimidated to take photographs of such

luminary philosophical figures as A.J. Ayer, but that in the course of the years-long project he discovered that philosophers are quite human.

Freeland questions whether it is possible to capture the look of philosophers in such individual shots. Pyke has taken on this kind of project before with other kinds of groups. He has photographed astronauts and cyberpunks, film directors and the London homeless. One wonders whether it is easier to capture some common characteristic in such groups or whether the attempt to collect individual photos into “communities” of people is a failing prospect altogether. Again, Freeland comments, “related to the problem of trying to show a community by depicting its members in isolation is another problem: the philosophers seen here are mostly heads (remember those aliens from *Star Trek*). Rarely do they have bodies. Nor do they employ any tools of their trade.” More traditional portraits of philosophers of the past have included tools of the trade or at least a setting or an action. Consider Raphael’s *The Academy of Athens* with Aristotle pointing down and Plato pointing—*(continued, page 2)*

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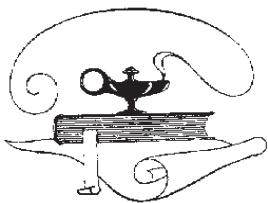
## PHILOSOPHY HONORS SOCIETY

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,
- ◆ the completion of 45 hours of coursework.

For more information, visit [www.westga.edu/~pst](http://www.westga.edu/~pst) or contact Dr. Lane at [rlane@westga.edu](mailto:rlane@westga.edu) if you are interested in applying for membership.



(Continued from page 1)

ing up while all around them others are gathered on the steps. Or the group of weeping men at the feet of the dying Socrates in David's painting *The Death of Socrates*. For Freeland, "removing the body from a portrait erases a lot of information about size, posture, and setting, all of which are used by artists to convey character, including status and duties." She is skeptical of Pyke's occasionally blurry shots using a close-up lens that can distort features making some philosophers look cross-eyed or with oddly receding chins. Pyke, however, claims that "the contents of a photograph are not facts, nor reality, nor truth. They are a means we have created to extend our way of seeing on a search for truth". Whether Pyke wants to believe it or not, others certainly think that the portraits reveal a certain kind of truth about their subjects. Sean O'Hagen writes in *The Guardian* that Pyke shows us "a map of the human face that reveals something of the life lived or the particular – and often peculiar – reverie of a single moment." And further, that "they are portraits of individuals who share a vocation, but they tell us more about the endless variety of the human face, and Steve Pyke's power to plot it, than they do about that vocation."

So, what can a portrait photograph tell us? Does it capture something of one's character? Can it help to identify a community? Does it incline us to thoughts of identity, mortality, temporality? Or does it simply reveal the inclination of the photographer?

You can go to the website (<http://www.pyke-eye.com/philosophers.html>) or locate the book and look at the photos. Then ask yourself: What does a philosopher look like?

Thanks to Dr. Walter Riker for bringing the photos and websites to our attention. Information for this article was gathered from the following: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2011/sep/08/philosophers-steve-pyke-portraits>; <http://www.thephilosophersmagazine.com/TPM/article/view/FREELAND/TPM-55>.

## PHILOSOPHER'S WISDOM

"Every man has a property in his own person. This nobody has a right to, but himself."

~John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*

Session I: May 7-May 21

**Phil 2030-01: Introduction to Ethics, Dr. Robert Lane**

**MTWRF 1:00-4:25 p.m. (PAF 308)**

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 all philosophy majors and minors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

Session II: June 4-July 24

**Phil 2030-03: Introduction to Ethics, Dr. Walter Riker**

**MWF 10:00 a.m.-11:50 p.m. (PAF 110)**

This course introduces students to central concepts in normative ethical theory and explores some contemporary moral problems, such as euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion, gay marriage, and just war. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

Session III: June 4-June 26

**Phil 2020-01: Critical Thinking, Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**MTWRF 3:00-5:15 p.m. (PAF 306)**

This course addresses the basics of how to think critically and how to evaluate arguments. Students will learn to identify both well known argument forms and well known fallacies in reasoning. They will explore the importance of clear definitions, the role of emotion in argumentation, and how critical thinking skills might be useful in analyzing contemporary issues in politics, science, and religion. Students will apply skills they learn to philosophical texts and also to their particular major fields of study. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area B1.

**Phil 2130-01: Introduction to World Religions, Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**MTWRF 10:00-12:15 p.m. (PAF 302)**

This course is a comparative study of the beliefs and practices of several world religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will explore not only the history of these faiths and their early doctrinal and communal development but their place in today's world. May count for credit in Core Area E4.

Session IV: July 2-July 25

**Phil 2010-03: Introduction to Philosophy, Dr. Thomas Brommage**

**MTWRF 12:30-2:45 p.m. (PAF 306)**

This short 4-week course will survey some of the most influential texts in the the history of the Western intellectual tradition. The texts which we will closely examine include Plato's *Republic*, St. Augustine's *Confessions*, Rene Descartes' *Discourse on Method* and *Meditations on First Philosophy*, David Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, Friedrich Nietzsche's *Twilight of the Idols* and Bertrand Russell's *Problems of Philosophy*. Overall, the texts are organized around a series of questions pertaining to the inquiry into the nature and methods for acquiring knowledge within several distinct spheres of belief—including divine revelation, rational inquiry, sensory experience, instinct, and scientific method. Among the types of knowledge we shall discuss include the moral, religious, artistic, political, mathematical and scientific fields. We will compare and contrast the benefits (and drawbacks) of each sphere of knowledge for human life. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

**FALL 2012 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Phil 2010-01: Introduction to Philosophy, Dr. Janet Donohoe**

**MWF 10:00-10:52 a.m. (TLC 1200)**

This course takes an historical look at major philosophical questions through the primary texts of such important philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Boethius, Descartes, 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. Required for philosophy majors. May count in Core Area C2.

**Phil 2010-02: Introduction to Philosophy, Dr. Tom Brommage**

**TR 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m. (TLC 1200)**

This course will survey some of the most important figures in Western philosophy, from the ancient Greeks all the way through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Emphasis will be placed on understanding each thinker within historical context. The student will develop an understanding of the historical tradition of Western philosophy, as well as a grasp of the basics of each figured covered. The course will trace the dialogue concerning epistemological and metaphysical problems through the ancient, medieval and modern periods, and end by surveying recent trends such as pragmatism, continental and analytic philosophy.

**Phil 2010-03: Introduction to Philosophy, Dr. Tom Brommage**

**TR 2:00-3:20 p.m. (TLC 1200)**

Same as above.

**Phil 2010 04: Introduction to Philosophy, Dr. Tom Brommage**

**TR 3:30-4:50 p.m. (TLC 1200)**

Same as above.

**Phil 2020-01: Critical Thinking, Dr. Tom Brommage**

**MW 2:00-3:20 p.m. (PAF 306)**

This course is designed to strengthen students' skills in reasoning about problems and issues of everyday life by helping them to distinguish between good and bad arguments. Students work to achieve these goals through reading and discussion of course materials. Some of the topics to be considered include the structure of inductive arguments, rhetorical fallacies, and the connection between logic and belief.

The second half of this course will stress information literacy, developing critical thinking skills necessary for each. Topics will include television and print media reports, advertising, maps and the internet. Throughout the course, the student will develop the skills necessary to become a better consumer of information. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area B1.

**Phil 2020-02: Critical Thinking, Dr. Tom Brommage**

**MW 3:30-4:50 p.m. (PAF 306)**

Same as above.

**Phil 2020-03: Critical Thinking, Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**TR 9:30-10:50 a.m. (PAF 306)**

This course addresses the basics of how to think critically and how to evaluate arguments. Students will learn to identify both well known argument forms and well known fallacies in reasoning. They will explore the importance of clear definitions, the role of emotion in argumentation, and how critical thinking skills might be useful in analyzing contemporary issues in politics, science, and religion. Students will apply skills they learn to philosophical texts and also to their particular major fields of study. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area B1.

**Phil 2030-01: Introduction to Ethics, Dr. Robert Lane**

**TR 12:30-1:50 p.m. (TLC 1200)**

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. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

**Phil 2030-25H: Introduction to Ethics—Honors, Dr. Walter Riker**

**MWF 10:00-10:52 p.m. (PAF 309)**

This course introduces students to central concepts in normative ethical theory and explores some contemporary moral problems, such as euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion, gay marriage, and just war. Required for philosophy majors. May count for credit in Core Area C2.

**Phil 3100-01: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**TR 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m. (PAF 306)**

This course explores philosophers including Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas and seeks to make their philosophical thinking relevant to that of their modern and contemporary successors. Required for Philosophy majors.

**Phil 3205-01: Religious Texts, Dr. Mark Tietjen**

**TR 2:00-3:20 p.m. (PAF 308)**

Through an exploration of a variety of texts and religious traditions, 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.

**Phil 4100-01: Phenomenology, Dr. Janet Donohoe**

**MWF 11:00-11:52 a.m. (PAF 308)**

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.

**Phil 4120-01: Professional Ethics, Dr. Walter Riker**

**MWF 1:00-1:52 p.m. (PAF 305)**

The “professions” are traditionally understood to be those occupations that require extensive training, significant intellectual work, and service to society. Members of the professions often serve clients—people who hire or come to them just for their special knowledge—and have a great deal of autonomy in how they do their work. The list of professions includes physician, lawyer, members of the clergy, engineers, accountants and others in business, nurses, and several others. In this course, we will examine ethical issues common to these occupations as professions, including, but not limited to, the following: When, if ever, are members of the professions morally permitted to withhold services from clients? When, if ever, are they morally permitted, or even morally required, to deceive a client for the client’s own good? To what extent is informed consent possible in the professional/client relationship, given the asymmetries in knowledge that cause clients to seek the help of professionals in the first place? When, if ever, are members of the professions morally permitted or required to violate a client’s confidentiality and reveal to others what they learn from or about a client? When, if ever, can someone violate the confidentiality of an employer? Should a person ever be barred from entering the professions for reasons of character? Does professional training cause morally regrettable but nevertheless necessary deformations of a person’s character?

**Phil 4150-01W: Analytic Philosophy, Dr. Robert Lane**

**TR 9:20-10:50 a.m. (PAF 308)**

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 4300-01W: Senior Seminar: Environmental Phenomenology, Dr. Janet Donohoe**

**MW 2:00-3:15 p.m. (PAF 309)**







This course will focus on phenomenological interpretations of the environment looking at different ways in which we understand our relationship to a variety of places and spaces. We will read texts from several different phenomenologists and environmental theorists. Students will be required to produce a major written work: the seminar paper, a high-quality essay that is suitable for submission to undergraduate philosophy conferences and that 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. This is a capstone course, required for philosophy majors and restricted to seniors. All philosophy majors planning to graduate before December 2013 should register for this section of Senior Seminar.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Minds What is the Best Form of Government?

This election year is not a bad time to be thinking about what makes the best form of government! Come here what some important historical philosophers have to say about the issue.

12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Meeting of the Minds  
a panel discussion between philosophers on

**What Is the Best Form  
of Government?**

 <small>Plato played by Elizabeth Mathis</small>	 <small>John Locke played by Alex Richardson</small>
 <small>Karl Marx played by Mitchell Cleaver</small>	 <small>John Rawls played by Joshua Moore</small>
 <small>Martha Nussbaum played by Savannah Bergevine</small>	 <small>Moderator by Chazz Hall</small>

Wednesday, April 4, 2012  
7:00 pm  
Kathy Cashen Auditorium  
Sponsored by The Department of English & Philosophy

**When:** Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
at 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Kathy Cashen Hall

**Who:** Plato, Locke, Marx, Rawls  
and Nussbaum.

**Why:** Because we're philosophers  
and we're interested in what's best.

Philosophers will be played by  
Elizabeth Mathis, Joshua Moore, Alex  
Richardson, Mitchell Cleaver, and  
Savannah Bergevine with Chazz Hall  
as the moderator.

## Annual Philosophy Awards Ceremony Let's Celebrate!

Come celebrate the end of the semester and the accomplishments of many of our philosophy majors! This year's awards ceremony will take place on Friday, April 13, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at The Border. All Philosophy majors are invited to attend. This is a fun annual event where students and faculty have an opportunity to relax together and celebrate the accomplishments of students within our program. This is also when students who have been accepted into Phi Sigma Tau will be inducted into the honors organization. Students who have presented papers at conferences in the course of the year will also be recognized.

### Students who will be recognized are:

Best New Major Award: Micah Dickie; Gordon Watson Award in Philosophy: Savannah Bergevine; Wantland Scholarship in Religion: Jacob Morton; Inductees to Phi Sigma Tau: Micah Dickie, Delila Ozier, Alex Richardson; Meeting of the Minds participants: Chazz Hall, Elizabeth Mathis, Alex Richardson, Joshua Moore, Mitchell Cleaver, and Savannah Bergevine.; Student Conference Presenters: Alex Richardson, Joshua Moore, Alex Foley, Micah Dickie, RaeAnna Hogle, Andrew McKown; Philosophical Society Essay Prize Winner: TBA.

This list may not be exhaustive. If you have been involved in a philosophical activity which is not listed here, please contact Dr. Lane to let us know. Congratulations go out to the students. Come help us celebrate the success of our students and our program!

## 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. In the past, discussion topics have ranged from the role of technology in our lives, 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 Spring 2012, meetings are being held every other Friday at 2:00pm in the conference room on the second floor of TLC (2237). Check out the Society's website at <http://www.westga.edu/~philsoc>, or contact Dr. Riker ([wriker@westga.edu](mailto:wriker@westga.edu)) for more information or to be added to the Society's email list.

## Upcoming Undergraduate Conferences

Although most of the submission deadlines for the following conferences have passed, students should think about attending one or more of these conferences to see what it is like so that you can present a paper in the future. It's great experience and gives you feedback from people outside the department. Keep these conferences in mind for next year!

### Undergraduate Philosophy Conference on Social Responsibility

Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA; Conference date: April 13, 2012; Abstract submission dates: March 1, 2012.

### Fourth Annual Philosophy Student Colloquium

University of Georgia; Conference dates: March 31, 2012; Submission deadline: March 17, 2012.

### 5th Annual Appalachian Regional Student Philosophy Colloquium

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN; Conference dates: March 30-31, 2012; Abstract submission dates: Feb. 4, 2012.

### 4th Annual Student Philosophy Conference

UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC; Conference dates: March 30-31, 2012; Abstract submission dates: Feb. 17, 2012.

### National Conference on Undergraduate Research

Ogden State University, Ogden, Utah; Conference dates: March 29-31, 2012; Abstract submission dates: Oct. 3-Nov. 15, 2011.

## Summer Reading Suggestions 2012

### **Dr. Janet Donohoe suggests**

*Inhabiting the Earth: Heidegger, Environmental Ethics, and the Metaphysics of Nature*  
by Bruce Foltz

*Ecological Feminism*  
by Karen Warren

### **Dr. Tom Brommage suggests**

*The Broom of the System*  
by David Foster Wallace

*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*  
by Thomas Kuhn

### **Dr. Mark Tietjen suggests**

*Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism*  
by Alvin Plantinga

*Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*  
by Lauren Winner

### **Dr. Walter Riker suggests**

*Ethics for Enemies: Terror, Torture and War*  
by Frances M. Kamm

*The Return of Feminist Liberalism*  
by Ruth Abbey

### **Dr. Robert Lane suggests**

*The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life*  
by Jeff McMahan

*Consequences of Pragmatism: Essays 1972-1980*  
by Richard Rorty