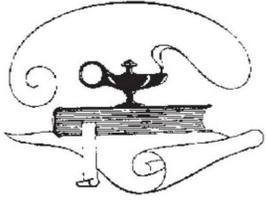


The Lantern



Philosophy Newsletter for Students

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Fall 2019

ETHICS BOWL

Did you know that UWG has an ethics bowl team? Last year our competition team had four members: Tsion Gedion (Philosophy), Brian Steward (Philosophy), Alan Valdes (Philosophy), and Joseph Dean (Political Science). The team competed in Dahlonga last November, and will compete this November in Gainesville, GA. The team did well last year, winning two rounds and losing two. They missed winning a third round by just a point.

What is an ethics bowl? An ethics bowl is a competitive and collaborative event. Student teams come together to analyze and discuss case studies on real life ethical issues. Unlike debate, student teams are not assigned opposing positions, but instead defend the position they find morally best on reflection. Teams present analyses of the cases, and respond to questions and constructive criticism offered by other teams and judges. Teams earn points by providing good justifications for their perspectives on the moral issues under discussion, by engaging with others in a respectful, civil manner, and by offering genuinely constructive criticism and suggestions to others.

Here are some of the team's thoughts on the experience of preparing for and competing in an ethics bowl.

Q: What do you find valuable or like about preparing for and/or participating in intercollegiate ethics bowl?

- Alan: I like that ethics bowl exists as a sort of antithesis to more combative forms of debate. Its emphasis on the discussion of ideas is what really resonated with me.
- Brian: The type of discussion and panel style format; as well as the rule that you do not have to disagree with the other team. It also helps with my communication skills, and I have to learn how to communicate my ideas quickly and effectively both to my team and the judges.
- Joseph: The ability to think and discuss critically about philosophical dilemmas and scenarios with other students.
- Tsion: Participating in ethics bowl was the first time that I experienced any form of debate. It was a new experience, which pushed me to come out of my shell.

Q: What is the best aspect of participating in an ethics bowl?

- Brian: The ability to explore and discuss entirely different aspects of philosophy outside of policy and law.

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Philosophy Honors Society



During the Spring semester, UWG's chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the national philosophy honors society, will be inducting new members. You are eligible to join if you have 45 credit hours, have taken at least two philosophy courses, have a 3.0 overall GPA and over a 3.0 (B average) in your philosophy courses. Members of this group meet a few times per semester to talk about careers and how to translate your philosophy skills to potential employers; applying for graduate school and law school; enrichment opportunities like internships and study abroad; and how to present and publish your philosophy papers. Please email the faculty advisor, Dr. Riker, at wriker@westga.edu for more info if you are interested in joining.

- Joseph: The tournament, because we met some cool people and I learned a lot about public speaking.
- Tsion: Being able to apply philosophy to current events.
- Alan: Being able to discuss issues in a truly unique competitive format. The cases we discuss in ethics bowl frame political issues in an engaging, flexible moral framework. Crafting the team's stance on a moral conundrum is what made it really fun.

Q: Did any aspect of preparing for or competing at ethics bowl catch you by surprise? Did you ever think, "well, I didn't expect that?"

- Joseph: I didn't expect the cases to be so applicable to the real world. For example, one last year was about gun rights and another was about trans-racialism.
- Tsion: Although we would do the mock competitions, we truly did not know what the judges would ask and at times they threw some unexpected questions at us.
- Brian: I didn't expect a lot of variation in terms of the style of competition between teams. For example, I didn't know that one team had equal participation talking/presenting, while another team had one sole writer and two sole speakers.

Q: How do you prepare for an ethics bowl?

- Alan: Preparation mainly consisted of a lot of engaging discussions on the different angles from which the cases could be addressed.
- Joseph: We go over what everyone in the squad thinks about each case then work out a position we can collectively take.
- Brian: Study the cases and talk about them with my team as much as I can, as well as figure out who the primary speakers/writers are.
- Tsion: Our team would split up and do mock competitions.

Q: Is anything particularly challenging about ethics bowl?

- Tsion: To me the most difficult thing about the competition was that I was scared to speak, but once I started speaking I began to enjoy the competition.
- Alan: For me, it was probably the fear that I would say something stupid. The team aspect of ethics bowl, however, helps alleviate this fear greatly compared to other debate formats.
- Brian: Keeping your train of thought while presenting or writing. I had to make sure to communicate effectively and concisely.

Q: Would you recommend ethics bowl to your classmates? What would they get out of it?

- Alan: I think joining ethics bowl for a Philosophy major is a no-brainer. You're essentially getting to do competitive philosophy! Even if you don't plan to compete, you still get to participate in an engaging discussion with fellow Philosophy majors.
- Brian: I would say that the ability to talk about issues not only in a policy sense but a moral one is a privilege; it helps you frame your beliefs at a time that is the best time to do it (college).
- Tsion: I most definitely would recommend ethics bowl to my classmates. Ethics bowl is a great way to get experience in public speaking. The cases are also really interesting.
- Joseph: Definitely and you'll gain a new perspective on philosophy and you'll see how it can be applied to all facets of life.

Want to learn more? Ask classmates or Dr. Riker at wriker@westga.edu!

Spring 2020 Course Descriptions

PHIL 2010-01: Introduction to Philosophy**Dr. Alex Feldman****M/W 12:30-1:45pm**

This course provides an introduction to philosophy. No prior study of philosophy is required. We will cover a broad range of topics from many different subfields of philosophy, including ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and political philosophy. Students can expect to read classic historical texts as well as important contemporary contributions. Among others, we will explore the following questions: What is the meaning of life (and death)? What is truly real? What can we know about the world and about ourselves? What is the significance of evil? Are we genuinely free? What does it mean to be responsible? What is democracy—and can a good argument be given for it? *Fulfills Core Area C2. Required for all major Tracks and all minors.*

PHIL 2010-02: Introduction to Philosophy**Dr. Alex Feldman****M/W 2-3:15pm**

Same description as above.

PHIL 2010-03: Introduction to Philosophy**Dr. Alex Feldman****T/R 9:30-10:45am**

Same description as above.

PHIL 2010-04: Introduction to Philosophy**Dr. Alex Feldman****T/R 11am-12:15pm**

Same description as above.

PHIL 2010-05: Introduction to Philosophy**William Crawford****M/W 8-9:15am**

A historically framed introduction to philosophy, highlighting major developments that have defined Western philosophical inquiry. *Fulfills Core Area C2. Required for all major Tracks and all minors.*

PHIL 2010-91: Introduction to Philosophy**Dr. Carmen Zinn****NEWNAN T/R 9-10:15am**

This course surveys major developments and themes in Western philosophy. Our focus will be on metaphysics, epistemology, the free will/determinism debate, ethics, and political philosophy. We'll explore the nature of reality and how we are acquainted with reality; the relationship between our minds and bodies; whether we are free to do as we choose, or determined to act by our genes, upbringing, and environment; what makes something good, bad, right, or wrong; and, the ideal relationship between governments and citizens. *Fulfills Core Area C2. Required for all major Tracks and all minors.*

PHIL 2010-E01: Introduction to Philosophy**James Butler****100% Online**

A historically framed introduction to philosophy, highlighting major developments that have defined Western philosophical inquiry. This section is 100% online. *Fulfills Core Area C2. Required for all major Tracks and all minors.*

PHIL 2020-01: Critical Thinking**Dr. John V. Garner****M/W 9:30-10:45am**

This course provides an introduction to logic and critical thinking. First, we study the power of Socratic questioning and Aristotelian logic. We discern the differences between deductive and non-deductive reasoning, the temptations of argumentative fallacies, and the clear and unclear uses of language. Second, we engage in open, critical discussion about ethical and social questions, e.g. about the value of charity, the purpose of a business, the ethics of violence, and/or questions about love, marriage, or voting. Third, students present their own research on a topic of their choice relating to the class. Overall, this course helps us understand whether we should be persuaded by others' arguments, by the media, or by our pre-existing beliefs. It helps us to reason better, to be self-questioning, to make better arguments, and to evaluate others' arguments charitably. *Fulfills Core Area B1. Required for all major Tracks and the Philosophy minor. May count toward the Religion minor.*

PHIL 2020-02: Critical Thinking**Dr. John V. Garner****M/W 11-12:15pm**

Same description as above.

PHIL 2020-03: Critical Thinking**Geoffrey Lundeen****T/R 8-9:15am**

An investigation of logical fallacies and patterns of valid reasoning in primarily oral by also written discourse. *Fulfills Core Area B1. Required for all major Tracks and the Philosophy minor. May count toward the Religion minor.*

PHIL 2020-04: Critical Thinking**Geoffrey Lundeen****T/R 9:30-10:45am**

Same description as above.

PHIL 2020-025H: Critical Thinking—Honors**Dr. Walter Riker****M/W 11am-12:15pm**

Learn to recognize different types of arguments (e.g., deductive, inductive generalization, inference to the best explanation, analogy) and their strengths and weaknesses. Learn to evaluate arguments and construct strong arguments of your own. Learn to avoid common mistakes in reasoning ("fallacies"). Apply your knowledge by evaluating certain practical and theoretical arguments in philosophy. *Fulfills Core Area B1. Required for all major Tracks and the Philosophy minor. May count toward the Religion minor.*

PHIL 2020-91: Critical Thinking**Dr. Carmen Zinn****NEWNAN: T/R 10:30-11:45am**

This course aims to sharpen your reasoning skills, and to help you to identify and avoid errors in reasoning. We'll study cognitive biases; how to construct and evaluate inductive and deductive arguments; and how to identify and avoid formal and informal mistakes in reasoning. The course will culminate in a practical application of these skills to current public policy debates. *Fulfills Core Area B1. Required for all major Tracks and the Philosophy minor. May count toward the Religion minor.*

PHIL 2030-01: Introduction to Ethics**Dr. Walter Riker****M/W 2-3:15pm**

What makes something right or wrong, or good or bad? Are all moral judgments relative to cultures or individuals, or are there objective or absolute moral values? Is morality independent of god's will, or simply what god commands? Is morality about producing good consequences, or doing the right thing, regardless of the consequences? What does it mean to have good character? We will consider these and other questions, and apply various answers to them to real-life situations. *Fulfills Core Area C2. Required for all major Tracks and the Philosophy minor. May count toward the Religion minor.*

PHIL 2030-02: Introduction to Ethics**Dr. Robert Lane****T/R 9:30-10:45am**

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. *Fulfills Core Area C2. Required for all major Tracks and the Philosophy minor. May count toward the Religion minor.*

PHIL 2030-04: Introduction to Ethics**Dr. Robert Lane****T/R 2-3:15pm**

Same description as above.

PHIL 2130-01: Introduction to World Religions**Dr. Rosemary Kellison****T/R 11am-12:15pm**

This course revolves around two central questions: how has the world shaped religion(s), and how have religions shaped the world? As we move through an introductory survey of some of the world's major religious traditions, including indigenous religious traditions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and selected new religious movements, we will pay special attention to the ways in which these traditions have been shaped by historical, political, and geographical changes in the world—and will also consider how these traditions and their communities have influenced these changes. Over the course of the semester, we will seek to better understand both the significance and relevance of religion in world history and some of the important philosophical questions addressed within religious communities as well as by those who study them. *This course fulfills the Core Area E-4 requirement. Required for Religion Track majors and Religion minors.*

PHIL 3100-01W: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy**Dr. John V. Garner****M/W 2-3:15pm**

This course begins with readings of Presocratics, Plato, and Aristotle, focusing on how they raise foundational questions about the natural world, knowledge, and the good life for humans. Shifting to the Hellenistic and Roman eras, our focus turns to competing "life philosophies," each of which promoted its own path to happiness and tranquility. Finally, we close with a few thinkers who paved the way for long conversation between reason and revelation in the medieval Christian and Islamic worlds. *Required for all Philosophy majors. Counts toward the Philosophy minor. Any prerequisite or restriction may be waived upon request by emailing jgarner@westga.edu.*

PHIL 3250-01W: Islamic Thought**Dr. Rosemary Kellison****T/R 2-3:15pm**

In this course, we will examine some of the most important historical developments in Islamic thought, focusing especially on the areas of Islamic theology, jurisprudence and ethics, and political theory. Reading both premodern and modern thinkers, we will critically analyze various methods of appealing to and reinterpreting authoritative tradition. Areas of special focus will include gender and sexuality, piety and virtue, politics and the modern state, and the relationship between human will and divine will. *Counts toward the Religion Track. May count toward all Philosophy majors and all minors. May fulfill an Area or Elective requirement. Fulfills a Religion Track requirement. Any prerequisite or restriction may be waived by emailing rkellison@westga.edu.*

PHIL 4100-01: Phenomenology**Dr. Janet Donohoe****M/W 12:30pm-1:45pm**

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, Young, Yancy, Derrida, and Ricoeur. We will address such issues as how to overcome the subject/object dichotomy, the role of the body, the effect of gender and race on experience, and the relationship between self and world. *May count toward all Philosophy majors and the Philosophy minor. May fulfill an Area or Elective requirement.*

PHIL 4110-01: Philosophy of Law**Dr. Walter Riker****M/W 9:30-11am**

This course will focus on key issues in normative jurisprudence. (a) To what extent can law legitimately be used to restrict human autonomy? For instance, should we ever use law to force people to do things for their own good (legal paternalism), such as wear seatbelts or helmets, or to prevent conduct that is immoral or offensive (to some) but not otherwise harmful (legal moralism), such as some instances of public nudity? (b) Is there a moral duty to obey the law just because it is the law? Socrates argues that there is. Most philosophers today reject this. Who is right? (c) Is civil disobedience morally justifiable? If so, what are the limits? Is hacktivism a kind of civil disobedience or is it just vandalism or digital trespassing? (d) Is legal punishment morally justifiable? If so, what are the limits? *May count toward all Philosophy majors and the Philosophy minor. May fulfill an Area or Elective requirement. Fulfills a Law and Justice Track requirement.*

PHIL 4160-01: Symbolic Logic**Dr. Robert Lane****T/R 11am-12:15pm**

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 whether an argument in symbolic form is valid or invalid. *May count toward all Philosophy majors and the Philosophy minor. May fulfill an Area or Elective requirement. Recommended for all Law and Justice Track majors.*



Registration is Nearly Here!

Remember, if you are a philosophy major, you are required to meet with your advisor before you will be able to register for classes next spring. You may have already heard from your advisor, but if you haven't, you may want to email to see if you can sign up for a time for advising. The registration schedule is listed below, so be sure to meet with your advisor before your time to register.

Spring 2020 On-Time Registration Dates for CURRENTLY* enrolled students:

- Current Seniors & all Graduate level students – October 28
- Current Juniors ss# ending in 00-49– October 29
- Current Juniors ss# ending in 50-99 – October 30
- Current Sophomores ss# ending 00-49 – October 31
- Current Sophomores ss# ending 50-99 – November 1
- Current Freshmen ss# ending 50-99 – November 4
- Current Freshmen ss# ending 00-49 – November 5
- Open registration begins November 18, 2019 at 8am**

IMPORTANT!
 See your advisor before your assigned date to register, and your advisor or department will remove your advisement hold.

*Currently enrolled student are those taking courses in the current term – Fall 2019. (Students that are active but not currently enrolled, are currently serving a one term suspension, are readmitted, or are admitted as a transient—must wait until Open Registration to register.)

**Registration will come down at 4:00 pm on November 7. Registration will re-open at 8:00 am on Monday, November 18.

West Georgia Philosophical Society



INTERESTED IN PHILOSOPHY?

Join the West Georgia Philosophical Society!

West Georgia Philosophical Society is a student organization open to UWG students of any major who want to get together to discuss philosophy in an informal and friendly setting. Currently, the group meets every other Wednesday at 4:30pm in TLC 2237. For more information, email the group's president Trinity Rothwell at trothwe1@my.westga.edu

PHILOSOPHER'S WISDOM



"To speak a language is to take on a world, a culture."

- Frantz Fanon



Upcoming Events

- ❑ The Philosophy Program invites you to a talk by historian Jacques Semelin on the experience of French Jews during the Holocaust and the higher survival rate of Jews in France via-à-vis other countries. The event, open to the public, is Monday, Oct. 21, in Kathy Cashen Hall (HUM), 6pm (reception at 5:30).
- ❑ West Georgia Philosophical Society invites you to a talk by Dr. Ahmed Siddiqi of Emory University: "Struggle and Salvation in the Thought of Al-Farabi." The talk is on 10th-century philosopher al-Farabi and addresses the human need for struggle as a means of proving our moral worth. The event is on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 5pm in TLC 1301.
- ❑ Dr. Kellison invites you to the "Philosophy Senior Seminar Symposium." Philosophy seniors will present their original work on philosophical responses to antisemitism and the Holocaust. The event is on Friday, Nov. 15, 10am in TLC 1301.
- ❑ The UWG Ethics Bowl Team and is prepping for the Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl event in Gainesville, GA on Nov. 16, 2019. Interested students should contact advisor Dr. Riker at wriker@westga.edu.
- ❑ The High School Ethics Bowl will take place in January 2020 on the UWG campus. Student volunteers are needed! Contact Dr. Riker at wriker@westga.edu.
- ❑ The annual Meeting of the Minds stage event will be developed and performed in Spring 2020. Interested students should contact Dr. Donohoe at jdonohoe@westga.edu.

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM NEWS



Recent News

- ❑ In August 2019 the Philosophy Program welcomed new faculty member Dr. Alex Feldman, who specializes in Social-Political and Continental Philosophy and has competencies in Philosophy of Race, Bioethics, and Philosophy of Law. Welcome, Alex!
- ❑ In August 2019 Dr. Riker rotated out, and Dr. Kellison rotated in, as Philosophy Program Director.
- ❑ In April 2019 at the annual Philosophy Program Awards Ceremony several students were recognized for achievement, including Tsion Gedion (Best New Major); Brieana Roberts (Burdett and Shirley Wantland Philosophy Scholarship); Avery Stanley (Bunch Family Scholarship and Gordon Watson Award). Congratulations to everyone, once again!
- ❑ The UWG Philosophy faculty have been busy publishing in 2018-2019. Recent works include: Dr. Kellison published her book, *Expanding Responsibility for the Just War: A Feminist Critique* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019); Dr. Donohoe published her chapter, "Cities Remade: On Deciding the Fate of Building in the City," in *Philosophy and the City*, edited by Keith Jacobs and Jeff Malpas (London: Rowman & Littlefield, International, 2019); Dr. Feldman published his article, "Power, Labor, and Productive Force in Foucault's Reading of *Capital*," in *Philosophy and Social Criticism* (v. 45.3, 2019); Dr. Lane published his book, *Peirce on Realism and Idealism* (Cambridge University Press, 2018); Dr. Garner published his article, "Thinking Beyond Identity: Numbers and the Identity of Indiscernibles in Plato and Proclus," in *Idealistic Studies* (v. 47.1-2, 2018).

PRESENT YOUR WORK!

Undergraduate Conferences

Annual GSU Student Philosophy Symposium

Georgia State University, GA
 Conference Date: Early 2020
 Submission Deadline: **Dec. 2020 (TBA)**

North Carolina Philosophical Association

UNC-Asheville, NC
 Conference Date: Mar. 27-28, 2020
 Submission Deadline: **Jan. 1, 2020**

Scholars' Day Research Conference

University of West Georgia, GA
 Conference Date: Apr. 7, 2020
 Submission Deadline: **Jan. 13, 2020**

12th Southeast Philosophy Congress

Clayton State University, GA
 Conference Date: Feb. 2020 (TBA)
 Submission Deadline: **Jan. 2020 (TBA)**

Midsouth Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Rhodes College, TN
 Conference Date: Mar. 20-21, 2020
 Submission Deadline: **Feb. 7, 2020**

And many more!

**These are just a few of the many opportunities. Your philosophy professors are always willing to help you make a paper appropriate! If you are accepted to a conference, be sure to ask your professor about a 'Student Travel Award Application' as a possible source of travel funds.*

Undergraduate Journals

Ephemeris
 Deadline: **Jan. 6, 2020**

Aporia
 Deadline: **Rolling**

And many more!