Philosophy

The faculty, with teaching and research interests:
Jerry Miller (Chair): Ethics, post-structuralism, philosophy of race.
Ashok Gangadean: logic and language; global ontology; Hindu, Buddhist, and Zen in global context.
   (On leave Spring 2014) NB: In connection with his mandate to develop a more global, cross-disciplinary
curriculum, Gangadean’s courses at all levels no longer count towards the major or minor in philosophy.
Kathleen Wright: 19th and 20th century European phil, Hegel, Nietzsche, aesthetics, phil of lit.
   (On leave in 2013/14)
Danielle Macbeth: Phil of language, phil of mind, epistemology, metaphysics, phil of math.
Joel Yurdin: Ancient philosophy, philosophical psychology, epistemology, phil of perception.
Jill Stauffer: Political phil, continental phil, human rights and international justice, philosophy of law.
Ian Blecher (Visiting Faculty): Modern philosophy, Kant, philosophy of mind, German idealism.

Advice to first-year students
Philosophy is unique in focusing on the overview of human experience, and cultivates the critical
skills and reflective habits of value and thought that bring out the underlying meaning of all aspects
of cultural life. Our entry-level courses, all at the 100-level, introduce students to key figures and texts
in philosophy and provide them with the critical and analytical skills essential for understanding all
facets of intellectual history and the discourse of the liberal arts. They also help students to develop
the skills peculiar to a philosophical perspective. Some courses examine culturally comparative
philosophical perspectives, or knowledge generated through feminist and/or racial perspectives, in
addition to those of the classic texts of the European tradition of philosophy. All attempt to develop
a historical perspective on the evolution of philosophy thereby providing students with a crucial
orientation and background in the philosophical contributions to our cultural heritage.

The philosophy department offers a range of one-semester introductory, 100-level courses, some
(odd-numbered) in ethics, some (even-numbered) in metaphysics and epistemology, all of which are
open to, and to some extent geared toward, first-year students. One course at this level is a
prerequisite for all upper-level courses in philosophy (except Phil 260); and students may take only
two, one even-numbered and one odd-numbered, for College credit. Our 100-level courses are
generally offered in a two-year cycle, with each regular member of the department offering one even-
numbered course one year and one odd-numbered the other. Five entry-level courses are offered in
2011-2012.

Introductory philosophy courses taught in the fall:
- Philosophy 103: Global Ethics (Gangadean). Limited enrollment with 5 places reserved for
  first-year students. This course does not count toward the major or minor in philosophy.
- Philosophy 106: Philosophy of Consciousness (Blecher) No limit on enrollment.
- Philosophy 110: Mind and World (Macbeth). No limit on enrollment.
- Philosophy 111: The Wicked and the Worthy (Miller). No limit on enrollment.

Introductory philosophy courses taught in the spring:
- Philosophy 106: Philosophy of Consciousness (Blecher) No limit on enrollment.
- Philosophy 107: Happiness, Virtue, and the Good Life (Yurdin). No limit on enrollment.

Bryn Mawr also offers introductory courses in philosophy that may be taken in place of our 100-level
courses. In AY 13/14, they are offering Philosophy B102: Science and Morality in Modernity (Fall),
and B101: Happiness and Reality in Ancient Thought and B102: Science and Morality in Modernity,
both in the spring.