PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

Courses

PHIL 101 | INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC
Units: 3
The study of arguments, including basic principles of traditional logic together with an introduction to modern sentential logic. Topics include recognizing arguments, premises, conclusions, induction and deduction, fallacies, categorical syllogisms, and sentential inference forms. Every semester.

PHIL 102 | BASIC SYMBOLIC LOGIC
Units: 3
An in-depth study of Sentential Logic. Topics include symbolization, syntax, truth tables, truth trees, and two systems of natural deduction.

PHIL 110 | INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3-4
A basic orientation course treating the principal problems of philosophy, such as knowledge, human nature, values, nature, God, etc. A historical approach may also be used as a means of further clarification of the topics being discussed. Every semester.

PHIL 111 | PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE
Units: 3-4
This introductory course surveys various approaches to human nature. The course may include such topics as the relation of mind and body, the nature of consciousness, life after death and the existence of the soul, the possibility of artificial intelligence, race and gender issues, the relation between the individual and society, and non-Western views of human nature.

PHIL 112 | PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An examination of the philosophical implications and themes contained in various works and genres of fiction. Questions such as free-will/determinism, love, justice, death and the meaning of life, the best (or worst) of all possible worlds, the religious dimension of life, and the role of the writer or intellectual in society will be discussed.

PHIL 114 | PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNOLOGY
Units: 3
Technology is the art of rational problem solving. Philosophy is the art of asking questions. The questions we shall raise include: What is science? When are scientific claims true? Is science relevant to art, religion, or everyday experience? Can we trust applied science (technology) to make life easier or less dangerous? In a nuclear era, is technology itself the problem? Is “alternative technology” an alternative? Does our survival depend on technology or its absence? Readings from classical and contemporary sources.

PHIL 115 | FAITH AND REASON
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
This course introduces some of the major areas and figures of philosophy through an exploration of some of the key issues and problems related to faith and reason. Questions to be considered might include: Are faith and reason compatible? Is religious belief rationally justifiable? Is religious language meaningful? Are there good arguments for God’s existence? Does God’s knowledge jeopardize human freedom? Are miracles possible? Does evil disprove God’s existence? Is the afterlife possible? Is eternal reward and punishment unjust?

PHIL 116 | MORALITY AND JUSTICE
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
This course aims to provide a thorough introduction to key themes in ethics and political philosophy, i.e., morality and justice. Students will be introduced to foundational questions in ethics such as: why be moral? What is the nature of the good and the good life? What are our duties to other humans? To animals? To ourselves? Students will also be introduced to foundational questions concerning justice: when, if ever, is paternalism justified? What is the moral justification of punishment? How far to our speech rights extend? Are their expressive harms that the state should regulate, like hate speech? What are our duties, if any, to persons in other nations suffering from economic deprivation and starvation?

PHIL 175 | ASIAN PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An examination of the major traditions, systems, and schools in India, China, and Japan. Readings from classical and modern texts. Cultural sources of philosophic beliefs. Comparisons between Eastern and Western thought.

PHIL 270 | HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Greek philosophy from the pre-Socratics through Plato, Aristotle, and later Hellenistic thought, culminating in Plotinus.

PHIL 271 | HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Origins of the medieval period; St. Augustine, St. Anselm, Abelard, scholasticism in the 13th century, St. Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, and the end of the medieval era as represented by Occam and the growth of nominalism.

PHIL 272 | HISTORY OF CLASSICAL MODERN PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An introduction to the development of European philosophy from the 16th to the 19th century, with an emphasis on Continental Rationalism, British Empiricism, and German Idealism.

PHIL 273 | CONTEMPORARY ANGLO-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An introduction to the main currents of late 19th- and 20th-century Anglo-American philosophy, including such movements as logical positivism and linguistic analysis, and recent issues such as the analytic-synthetic distinction, ontological relativity, and theories of meaning.

PHIL 274 | TWENTIETH CENTURY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An introduction to the main currents of late 19th- and 20th-century continental thought, including Marxism, phenomenology, existentialism, critical theory, structuralism, and recent developments such as post-structuralism, semiotics, and deconstructionism.

PHIL 276 | AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
A survey extending from the Colonial Period through the end of World War II. Emphasis on such topics as the Puritan controversy over predestination, the impact of Darwin, the advent of pragmatism, and the ending of the Golden Age. Authors to be studied include Edwards, Emerson, Wright, Peirce, James, Royce, Dewey, and Santayana.

PHIL 294 | SPECIAL TOPICS
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
The course aims to introduce students to some philosophical topic(s) or historical philosophical thinkers. Examples include: a survey course on a particular philosophical theme such as philosophy and the law, a survey course on a particular philosophical concept such as freedom of the will, or a survey course on a particular important philosophical figure such as Rousseau. Themes will vary according to Instructor design. The course may be repeated for credit, provided the content of the course has changed.
PHIL 300 | PHILOSOPHICAL METHODS  
Units: 3  Repeatability: No  
This course is intended for recently declared philosophy majors and minors. It is designed as a rigorous introduction to the methods of philosophical inquiry with a focus on argumentative writing and discussion, as well as the analysis, understanding, and evaluation of philosophical texts. The course pursues these goals by focusing on a single philosophical problem, such as the problem of personal identity, the mind-body problem, philosophical multiculturalism, truth and meaning, freedom and responsibility, and so on.

PHIL 321 | SOCIAL ETHICS  
Units: 3-4  
A study of the applications of ethical concepts and principles to different areas of human social conduct. Typical issues considered include abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, assisted reproductive technologies, racism, sexism, poverty and welfare, animal rights, environmental ethics, and world hunger.

PHIL 330 | ETHICS  
Units: 3  Repeatability: No  
A general study of principles or standards for judging individual and social conduct, focusing on major thinkers and philosophical issues in normative ethics, and the application of moral judgment to social or problem areas in human conduct.

PHIL 331 | BIOMEDICAL ETHICS  
Units: 3  Repeatability: No  
A systematic examination of ethical principles as they apply to issues in medicine and scientific research, that is: mercy killing; abortion; experimentation on human subjects; allocation of scarce medical resources; organ transplants; and behavior modification. Moral obligations connected with the roles of nurse, doctor, etc., will receive special attention.

PHIL 332 | BUSINESS ETHICS  
Units: 3  
A systematic application of various ethical theories to issues arising from the practice of modern business. Topics may include theories of economic justice, corporate social responsibility, employee rights, advertising and information disclosure, environmental responsibility, preferential hiring and reverse discrimination, self-regulation, and government regulation.

PHIL 333 | LEGAL ETHICS  
Units: 3  
An examination in the light of traditional and recent moral theory of the ethical issues faced by the practicing lawyer: the values presupposed by the adversarial system; the moral responsibilities of lawyers within corporations and government; the conflict between personal ethics and obligations to clientele; and whether legal education involves a social conditioning process with its own implicit value system.

PHIL 334 | STUDIES IN ETHICS  
Units: 3  Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)  
Exploration of selected issues in moral philosophy, often of an interdisciplinary nature, on such themes as: death and dying; environmental ethics; business ethics; morality and science fiction; morality and teaching; etc. Depending on the subject, the course may be repeated for credit.

PHIL 335 | DEATH AND DYING  
Units: 3  Repeatability: No  
The analysis of various ethical, epistemological, and metaphysical problems relating to death and dying. Topics may include: near-death experiences; immortality and resurrection models of eschatology; the evil of death; and value issues raised by the definitions of death, suicide, euthanasia, infanticide, and the killing of non-human animals.

PHIL 336 | VIRTUES AND VICES  
Units: 3  Repeatability: No  
An investigation of the morality of character that considers the question, “What kind of person ought I be?” This approach to morality is contrasted with standard Kantian and utilitarian positions. Specific virtues and vices typically considered include love, friendship, hate, jealousy, compassion, deceit, self-deception, anger resentment, and forgiveness.

PHIL 337 | MASS MEDIA ETHICS  
Units: 3  
What is the responsibility of citizens, consumers, corporations, advertisers, artists and performers, and federal or local government toward mass media? Do mass media influence human contact for better or worse? Does regulation of, for example, pornography or propaganda conflict with First Amendment rights? Are news and commercial media politically biased? Do educational media enhance or undermine traditional teaching methods? Lecture, discussion, group activities, and analysis of media presentations.

PHIL 338 | ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS  
Units: 3-4  
An exploration of ethical issues pertinent to the environment, for example: obligations to future generations; the question of animal rights; endangered species; pesticides and pollution; energy technologies; depletion of resources; and global justice and ocean resources. Consideration of the pertinent obligations of individuals, businesses, and government.

PHIL 340 | ETHICS OF WAR AND PEACE  
Units: 3  
Normative ethics applied to moral questions of war and peace, such as: Can war ever be justified? If so, what are the moral constraints upon the conduct of war? How can peace be attained? What do pacifists and others offer as non-violent alternatives to armed conflict? Other topics might include terrorism, humanitarian interventions, nuclear warfare and deterrence, and war crimes.

PHIL 341 | ETHICS AND EDUCATION  
Units: 3  Repeatability: No  
This course provides an introduction to such topics in moral theory as ethical relativism, deontological and consequentialist approaches to morality, and ethical egoism. Among the specific moral issues in education usually considered are preferential admissions policies, student-teacher confidentiality, the morality of grading, honesty and deception in educational contexts, and the allocation of scarce educational resources.

PHIL 342 | ENGINEERING ETHICS  
Units: 3  
Examines the rights, responsibilities, and social role of the professional engineer. Topics may include conflicts of interest, the moral status of organizational loyalty, public safety and risk assessment, reproductive engineering and human dignity, preventing environmental destruction, “whistle-blowing,” defective product liability, engineers and corporate power, engineers and government, and codes of conduct and standards of professional competence. Case studies may include military and commercial airplanes, automobiles, public buildings, nuclear plants, weapons research, computers and confidentiality, and the use and abuse of new technologies.

PHIL 343 | GENDER AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE  
Units: 3  Repeatability: No  
Discrimination in employment, the persistence of sex segregation in the labor force, the feminization of poverty, and the implementation of policies designed to minimize gender-based career and economic differences, and to improve the economic status of women — such as affirmative action — raise a number of ethical as well as economic questions. This course surveys ethical theory and considers the application of ethical principles to issues concerning the economic status of women and related gender-based issues, including the position of women in business and the professions.
PHIL 344 | ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Units: 3
An exploration of social justice in an environmental context, including considerations of distributive, participatory, and procedural justice. Topics may include civil rights and the environmental justice movement, rights of indigenous peoples, environmentalism, economic and development conflicts between the global north and south, toxic and hazardous waste and pollution, worker safety, environmental racism, environmental classicism, sustainability, and the protection of nature. Consideration of the pertinent obligations of individuals, social groups, businesses, and governments.

PHIL 345 | COMPUTER ETHICS
Units: 3
An exploration of ethical issues pertinent to computing and information technology, including: free speech and content control of the Web; intellectual property rights; privacy; accountability and responsibility; security and cyberspace; the impact of computing/IT on society.

PHIL 360 | ETHICAL THEORY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
A study of the major theories of ethics and selected moral concepts. Topics to be examined will include: the nature and grounds of morality; ethical relativism; egoism and altruism; utilitarianism; Kant’s deontological ethics; Aristotle and virtue ethics, rights, and justice. In addition, we may consider issues of the role of gender and race in ethical theory.

PHIL 400 | INTERMEDIATE SYMBOLIC LOGIC
Units: 3
This course will focus on symbolization, syntax, semantics, and derivations for predicate logic. It will include some metatheory such as soundness and completeness proofs.

PHIL 410 | METAPHYSICS
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An investigation of the ultimate philosophical commitments about reality. Representative figures in the history of philosophy may be considered and analyzed. Topics selected may include the basic components of reality, their relation to space, time, matter, causality, freedom, determinism, the self, and God.

PHIL 411 | PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An examination of the nature and scope of knowledge and justification, including consideration of such topics as skepticism, analyses of knowledge, foundationalism and coherentism, a priori knowledge, and others. Attention is also given to the nature of the epistemological enterprise, e.g. internalism and externalism, and naturalized epistemology.

PHIL 412 | PHILOSOPHY OF GOD
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
A study of the existence and nature of God. Discussion of the ontological, cosmological, and teleological arguments; topics may include atheistic challenges concerning divine benevolence, omnipotence, omniscience, and creation ex nihilo; logical positivism and religious meaning; miracles; the person and immortality; and religion and morality.

PHIL 413 | PHILOSOPHY OF MIND
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
The mind-body problem and the examination of mental state concepts. Topics may include the nature of mind, including dualist and contemporary materialist theories, representation, mental causation, consciousness, psychological explanation, and artificial intelligence; other topics such as personal identity or agency may be included.

PHIL 414 | PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Language is a fundamental medium by which we interact with others and the world. How words come to have the meanings that they do, refer to objects, express truths, and affect the meanings of other words and truth values are perennial questions in philosophy. These issues have become even more pronounced in 20th-century philosophy. Specific topics may include: language and reality; language and psychology; referential theories of meaning; ideal languages; meaning as use; private languages; truth-conditional theories of meaning; descriptive and causal theories of reference and of linguistic competence and performance; verificationism; and/or an introduction to modal semantics.

PHIL 415 | PHILOSOPHY OF NATURAL SCIENCE
Units: 3
The study of the language and activity of the scientific community. Topics include scientific explanation, prediction, laws, theories, models, paradigms, observations, experiment, scientific method, and the question of reductionism in science.

PHIL 420 | PHILOSOPHY OF RACE
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
This course aims to provide a comprehensive overview of key themes in the philosophy of race. Areas of inquiry include: historical origins of philosophical accounts of race, the metaphysics of race, the social construction of race and racial identity, contemporary social issues concerning race both nationally and internationally, as well as feminism and race, among other topics.

PHIL 460 | LEGAL REASONING
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHIL 101
This course introduces students to the concepts and forms of argument they will encounter in the first year of law school. It will examine the reasoning involved in the concepts of legal precedent, proximate cause, and burden of proof, and it will also investigate the legal reasoning in certain landmark cases from torts, contracts, property, constitutional law, and criminal law.

PHIL 461 | PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
What is law? How is it different from morality? Do we have an obligation to obey the law, and, if so, how strong is that obligation? This course is an exploration of philosophical issues arising from the interpretation and application of the law. The course examines classic answers to the above questions. The focus of the course may be either historical (e.g. Plato, Hobbes, or Hegel) or more contemporary (e.g. H.L.A. Hart and Ronald Dworkin), paying special attention to constitutional law.

PHIL 462 | POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
The nature and end of the state; relation of the individual’s rights and duties to those of the state, and vice versa, and the relation between states, the kinds of states, their institution, preservation, and destruction.

PHIL 467 | STUDIES IN RENAISSANCE PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3
This course studies main figures in Renaissance thought — Petrarch, Pico, Vives, Bacon, et al. It addresses such topics as: the revival of Greek and Roman culture; the Florentine academy; tensions between humanism and theology; the Copernican revolution in science; and the legacies of Bruno, Leonardo, More, Machiavelli, and Montaigne.

PHIL 470 | STUDIES IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
An in-depth study of selected ancient philosophers, that is, Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics, or topics such as the nature of good, knowledge and skepticism, the problem of Being, and change.
PHIL 471 | STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3
An in-depth study of selected medieval philosophers, that is, St. Augustine, St. Anselm, Abelard, St. Thomas, Duns Scotus, and William of Occam, or topics such as the problem of universals, the existence of God, the soul and immortality, and the problem of evil.

PHIL 472 | STUDIES IN MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
An intensive examination of one or more major figures in 17th- to 19th-century European thought, for example, Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Rousseau, and Marx; or, alternately, a discussion of one or more central problems in this era, such as the relation between science and religion, the justification of causal inference, the respective roles of reason and experience in obtaining reliable knowledge of the world, the concept of selfhood, etc.

PHIL 473 | CONTEMPORARY ANGLO-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
An intensive examination of either major figures (such as Chisholm, Kripke, Quine), movements (logical positivism, ordinary language analysis, logical analysis), or selected problems (epistemic foundationalism, modality and essentialism, identity and individuation) in contemporary analytic philosophy.

PHIL 474 | STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
An intensive examination of major formative or current figures (such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Husserl, Merleau-Ponty, Habermas, Foucault, Derrida), movements (phenomenology, existentialism, critical theory, deconstructionism), or problems (the nature of representation, the relation of emotion and thought, the problem of technology) in contemporary continental philosophy.

PHIL 475 | STUDIES IN PROCESS PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3
Process Philosophy is a generic term designating the group of philosophers who view reality as a changing and developing process. Included in this group are Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Henri Bergson, and Alfred North Whitehead. The course will focus, in successive years, on one of these thinkers.

PHIL 476 | STUDIES IN ASIAN PHILOSOPHY
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
A detailed examination of one or more classic works from the Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist traditions, such as the Bhagavad-Gita or the Analects, pitfalls of interpretation; relations between text and use. Parallels and contrasts with Western thought and institutions. May be repeated for credit with different course content.

PHIL 480 | PHILOSOPHY OF ART
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
An examination of some major theories of art and beauty, with special attention to such issues as: the definition of beauty, the criteria for excellence in artistic productions, the differences between art and science, and the relation between art and culture. Readings may include Aristotelian Poetics, Kant’s Critique of Judgement, Dewey’s Art as Experience, or more recent philosophers, that is, Beardsley, Dickie, Goodman, Weitz, etc.

PHIL 481 | PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION
Units: 3
An examination of some major theories of the meaning and function of education and of its role in reshaping society. Readings may include Plato’s Meno and Republic, Aristotle’s Politics, Rousseau’s Emile, Dewey’s The School and Society and The Child and the Curriculum, and various works by Piaget.

PHIL 482 | PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE
Units: 3
What is love? Does it even exist, or is it a myth? Is it attainable, or an impossible ideal? Is it rooted in the divine; in the human, or even in the biologic or animal? Is it an emotion, a form of relationship, or even a cosmic principle? Can it be equal and shared, or must it be hierarchic and coercive? This course considers a variety of philosophical perspectives on questions such as these. Readings typically include such classic and contemporary thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Kierkegaard, Freud, Sartre, DeBeauvoir, and Tillich.

PHIL 483 | PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Units: 3
A study of the fundamental concepts, methods, and goals of the social sciences, including a consideration of such topics as: the nature of the human action, the possibility of a science of human nature, the relationship between the natural and social sciences, explanation and understanding, laws and theories, objectivity and value judgments, and freedom and determinism.

PHIL 484 | PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY
Units: 3
What is history? Why do human beings record their history? Is history moving toward a goal? Is history a science or an art? Are historical events objective occurrences? Can we verify casual claims about unrepeatable episodes? Is the historian entitled (or obliged) to make value-judgments? How should we rank the contributions of individual historians? Readings include philosophers and historians, classical and contemporary sources.

PHIL 490 | PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
What is love? Does it even exist, or is it a myth? Is it attainable, or an impossible ideal? Is it rooted in the divine; in the human, or even in the biologic or animal? Is it an emotion, a form of relationship, or even a cosmic principle? Can it be equal and shared, or must it be hierarchic and coercive? This course considers a variety of philosophical perspectives on questions such as these. Readings typically include such classic and contemporary thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Kierkegaard, Freud, Sartre, DeBeauvoir, and Tillich.

PHIL 494 | CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
An intensive examination of one or more contemporary philosophical problems such as: the is-ought debate, the mind-body problems, relativism and the possibility of objective knowledge, etc. Topic may vary. The course may be repeated for credit, provided the content of the course has changed.

PHIL 499 | INDEPENDENT STUDY
Units: 1-3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
Individual study and written research working in close collaboration with a faculty advisor. Consent of instructor and of the department chair are required for registration.