

PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

Courses primarily for undergraduates:

PHIL 2010: Introduction to Philosophy

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

It has been rumored that the unexamined life is not worth living. Philosophy is an attempt to begin examining life by considering such questions as: What makes us human? What is the world ultimately like? How should we relate to other people? Is there a god? How can we know anything about these questions? Understanding questions of this kind and proposed answers to them is what this course is all about. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

PHIL 2060: Introduction to Logic and Scientific Reasoning

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Basic principles of critical reasoning and argument evaluation. A consideration of basic forms of argumentation in science and everyday life. Application to contemporary issues and controversies. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 2070: Introduction to Symbolic Logic

(Cross-listed with LING 2070).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Introduction to fundamental logical concepts and logical symbolism. Development of natural deduction through first order predicate logic with identity. Applications to arguments in ordinary English and to philosophical issues. Linguistics majors should take LING/PHIL 2070 as early as possible. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring)

PHIL 2300: Moral Theory and Practice

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Investigation of moral issues in the context of major ethical theories of value and obligation; e.g., punishment, abortion, economic justice, job discrimination, world hunger, and sexual morality. Emphasis on critical reasoning and argument analysis. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer)

PHIL 2350: Ethical Issues in a Diverse Society

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

This course will examine a range of arguments on diversity issues. Topics will include: the social status of women, the moral status of sexuality and homosexuality, the nature and role of racism in contemporary society, the relationship between biology, gender roles and social status, and various proposals for change from a variety of political perspectives. Meets U.S. Cultures and Communities (formerly U.S. Diversity) Requirement. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring)

PHIL 3100: Ancient Philosophy

(Cross-listed with CLST 3100).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

Survey of ancient Greek philosophy, focusing on the pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle. Questions concerning being, knowledge, language, and the good life are treated in depth. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3140: 17th Century Philosophy

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Readings from philosophers such as Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, and Locke. Changing conceptions of knowledge, self, and deities in response to Galileo's new science and post-reformation challenge to ecclesiastical authority. Offered even-numbered years. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 3150: 18th Century Philosophy

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Readings from philosophers such as Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Development of Enlightenment thought. Issues include idealism, causation, freedom, and knowledge regarding science, ethics, and deities. Offered odd-numbered years. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 3160: 19th Century Continental Philosophy

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

The thought of Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and their contemporaries. Various perspectives on the philosophy of history, the nature of reason and subjectivity, the contrast between dialectical and nondialectical philosophy, and the relationship between philosophy and society. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3180: History of Analytic Philosophy

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL

Major movements in recent and contemporary philosophy such as realism, logical positivism, ordinary language philosophy, and naturalism. Russell, Wittgenstein, Quine and other leading figures. Topics include knowledge of the material world, mind, language, values, and philosophical method. PHIL 2010 recommended. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 3200: Existentialism

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

History, development and forms of existential thought. Consciousness, free will, authenticity and bad faith. Readings of major figures in existentialism, such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Heidegger, Sartre, and de Beauvoir. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3300: Ethical Theory

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

Study of major theories of morality and the good life. Includes such topics as moral psychology, practical reasoning, and virtue theory. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3310: Moral Problems in Medicine

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

In-depth study of some of the central moral problems arising in medicine, e.g., abortion, euthanasia, patients' rights, health care professionals' duties and responsibilities, allocation of medical resources. Major moral theories will be examined and applied. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 3320: Philosophy of Law

(Cross-listed with CJ 3320).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

Extent of our obligation to obey the law; what constitutes just punishment; how much of the immoral should be made illegal? Relation of these questions to major theories of law and the state. Discussion of such concepts as coercion, equality, and responsibility. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring)

PHIL 3340: Environmental Ethics

(Cross-listed with ENVS 3340).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

Thorough study of some of the central moral issues arising in connection with human impact on the environment, e.g., human overpopulation, species extinction, forest and wilderness management, pollution. Several world views of the proper relationship between human beings and nature will be explored. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3350: Social and Political Philosophy

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

Foundational moral issues of social and political life. Topics include justice, political economy, liberty and equality, and democracy, rights, and authority. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3360: Bioethics and Biotechnology

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

In-depth study of some central moral issues in the life sciences, e.g., genetic screening and testing, genetically engineered plants and animals, risk analysis, biotechnology patents, research ethics, biodiversity, the impact of biotechnology on society and the environment. Major moral theories will be discussed and applied.

PHIL 3380: Feminist Philosophy

(Cross-listed with WGS 3380).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

A critical, theoretical examination of the philosophical and intellectual commitments that underlie feminist projects. Questions of identity, knowledge, and ethics will be considered from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Topics will include sex and gender, self and other, nature and nurture, masculinity and femininity, equity and justice, patriarchy, oppression, and intersectionality. 3 credits in PHIL or WGS recommended. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3390: Liberty and Law in America

(Cross-listed with CJ 3390/ POLS 3390).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Competing conceptions of liberty in American political thought. Debates about how liberty should be protected by the law, in fields such as health care, drugs, property, speech, religion, and sex. Meets U.S. Cultures and Communities (formerly U.S. Diversity) Requirement. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring)

PHIL 3400: Aesthetics

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Aesthetic theory and applies it to everyday life. Theoretical topics include the nature of aesthetic experience, criticism, and expression. Aesthetic experience of such forms of art as poetry and painting, as well as interactions with nature, sports, architecture, and campus sculpture. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3430: Philosophy of Technology

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Moral and other philosophical problems related to developments in technology. Topics may include conditions under which technological innovations contribute to human emancipation, relationship of technology and democracy, utility and limits of technical rationality, and problems of ensuring that benefits of technological advance are communally shared. Topics discussed with reference to such issues as contemporary developments in microelectronics, technology transfer to the Third World, etc. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring)

PHIL 3500: Philosophy of Religion

(Cross-listed with RELIG 3500).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or permission of instructor

The value and truth of religious life and belief. Mystical experience; religious faith and language; arguments for God's existence; the problem of evil; miracles; and religion and morality. Historical and contemporary readings. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3630: Metaphysics in Science Fiction and Popular Culture

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

Examination of metaphysical issues that commonly arise in science fiction and related areas of popular culture, such as the relationship between mind and reality, metaphysical personhood, time, and causation.

PHIL 3640: Metaphysics: God, Minds, and Matter

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or permission of instructor

A survey of classical and contemporary views on some basic metaphysical issues. Issues discussed include: Does God exist? Do you have a mind and, if so, how does it relate to your body? What is the nature of cause and effect? Do objects have any essential properties? How can we account for properties objects have in common?. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 3660: Truth, Belief, and Reason

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or permission of instructor

This course focuses on significant topics in theory of knowledge, including the value of true beliefs, the role of sense experience in supporting our theoretical views, and the place of reason in human nature. Historical and contemporary views will be considered. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3800: Philosophy of Science

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or permission of instructor

Introduction to the philosophy of science. A variety of basic problems common to the natural and social sciences: the nature of explanation, the structure of theories, the unity of science, and the distinction between science and nonscience. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 3820: History and Philosophy of the Scientific Revolution

(Cross-listed with HIST 3820).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

The emergence of empirical science as the authoritative methodology for production of knowledge about the natural world in the period between Copernicus and Kant. Scientific progress achieved during the period, including the work of Galileo, Descartes, and Newton. The re-shaping of epistemology in the Western intellectual tradition. Implications for philosophy and historiography. Offered odd-numbered years. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 3890: Philosophy of Psychology and Psychiatry

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or PSYCH, or Permission of Instructor

Philosophical foundations of 20th century psychology and psychiatry. Introduction to competing schools of thought in psychology and their philosophical assumptions. Examination of philosophical assumptions in the study of psychopathology/abnormal psychology. Offered odd-numbered years. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 4100: Soul, Mind, and World in Ancient Greek Philosophy

(Cross-listed with CLST 4100).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or CLST, or Permission of Instructor

Prominent theories of soul and mind developed by Greek philosophers in the classical period, roughly 500 BCE-200 CE, and how the philosophers located these theories within their general metaphysical views. Relationship between mind and body and the roles of reason, desire, and emotion. Philosophers to be studied include Plato, Aristotle, and selected others. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 4300: Value Theory

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 3 credits in PHIL or Permission of Instructor

Theoretical and normative topics in ethics or political philosophy. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 4350: Contemporary Political Philosophy

(Dual-listed with PHIL 5350/ POLS 5350). (Cross-listed with POLS 4350).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or POLS, or Permission of Instructor

Examination of theories of justice proposed by contemporary political philosophers. Analysis of the philosophical foundations of perspectives such as liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, socialism, feminism. Normative assessments of socio-political institutions. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 4500: Agency and Free Will

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Personal identity, agency, free will, moral responsibility, causation, future contingents, and time will be discussed. What makes a person the same person over time? Do humans have free will? Are we not morally responsible if our actions are inevitable consequences of the past and the laws of nature? What distinguishes causes from non-causes? Are there facts about the future? PHIL 2070 strongly encouraged. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 4650: Brains, Minds, and Computers

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Examination of concepts such as computability, intelligence, programming, and free will; and of arguments about whether any human capacity is forever beyond realization in a machine. 3 credits in PHIL recommended. (Typically Offered: Fall)

PHIL 4660: Topics in Epistemology

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or permission of instructor

Topics in epistemology. Possible topics include skepticism about the external world, the extent of a priori knowledge, rival accounts of moral knowledge, feminist perspectives on the theory of knowledge, and the value of true belief. Topics vary each time offered. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 4850: Philosophy of Physics

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Conceptual and philosophical issues relating to the interpretation of theories in classical and modern physics. May include one or more of the following topics: the relationship between mathematics and the physical world; Newtonian physics (determinism and predictability); thermodynamics and statistical physics (the nature of probability; entropy and the direction of time); relativistic physics (indeterminism; realism and nonlocality; consciousness and the role of the observer). Offered even-numbered years. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 4900: Independent Study

Credits: 1-4. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL; Permission of Instructor

Guided reading and research on special topics selected to meet needs of advanced students. Graduation Restriction: No more than 9 credits of PHIL 4900 may be counted toward graduation.

PHIL 4900H: Independent Study: Honors

Credits: 1-4. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.

Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL; Permission of Instructor

Guided reading and research on special topics selected to meet needs of advanced students. Graduation Restriction: No more than 9 credits of PHIL 4900 may be counted toward graduation.

PHIL 4920: Graduating Senior Survey

Credits: Required. Contact Hours: Lecture 1.

Prereq: Senior classification

Final presentation for graduation and the future. Outcomes assessment activities. (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring)

Courses primarily for graduate students, open to qualified undergraduates:

PHIL 5350: Contemporary Political Philosophy

(Dual-listed with PHIL 4350/ POLS 4350). (Cross-listed with POLS 5350).

Credits: 3. Contact Hours: Lecture 3.

Examination of theories of justice proposed by contemporary political philosophers. Analysis of the philosophical foundations of perspectives such as egalitarianism, libertarianism, and socialism. Normative assessment of social and political institutions. (Typically Offered: Spring)

PHIL 5900A: Special Topics in Philosophy: History of Philosophy

Credits: 2-4. Repeatable.

PHIL 5900B: Special Topics in Philosophy: Epistemology and Metaphysics

Credits: 2-4. Repeatable.

PHIL 5900C: Special Topics in Philosophy: Value Theory

Credits: 2-4. Repeatable.

PHIL 5900D: Special Topics in Philosophy: Logic and Philosophy of Science

Credits: 2-4. Repeatable.

PHIL 5930: Summer Bioethics Workshop for Teachers

Credits: 2. Contact Hours: Lecture 2.

Topics include moral theory, pedagogical issues in teaching bioethics, and substantive current issues in bioethics. (Typically Offered: Summer)