PHIL - Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY Courses

PHIL 110P. Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credits.
An introduction to basic concepts, methods and issues in philosophy, and a consideration of representative types of philosophical thought concerning human nature, the world, knowledge, and value.

PHIL 120P. Logic and Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of the principles of correct reasoning and the types of fallacious reasoning. Includes an examination of the philosophical and historical context of logic, and the application of logical methods to philosophical questions.

PHIL 126P. Honors: Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credits.
Open only to students in the Honors College. A special honors section of PHIL 110P.

PHIL 195. Study Abroad: Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credits.
This course is the study abroad equivalent of PHIL 110P, an introduction to basic concepts, methods and issues in philosophy, and a consideration of representative types of philosophical thought concerning human nature, the world, knowledge, and value.

PHIL 227E. Honors: World Religions: Beliefs and Values. 3 Credits.
Open only to students in the Honors College. A special Honors section of PHIL 250E.

PHIL 228E. Honors: Introduction to Ethics. 3 Credits.
Open only to students in the Honors College. A special Honors section of PHIL 230E.

PHIL 230E. Introduction to Ethics. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the study of ethics through philosophical reflection on a variety of moral issues of contemporary significance. Topics covered will vary by semester and instructor, and may include issues drawn from professional fields such as business, medicine, and information technology, plus matters of public concern like the environment, the treatment of animals, the use of military force, social justice, and civil and human rights.

PHIL 250E. World Religions: Beliefs and Values. 3 Credits.
A comparative and philosophical study of major world religions in the Eastern and Western traditions with particular attention being paid to their views about the basis of right action and the nature of good and evil. Other points of comparison include the foundations of religious knowledge and belief, the meaning of human life, divinity, and death and immortality. A student with credit for PHIL 150P cannot receive credit for PHIL 250E.

PHIL 290G. Philosophy of Digital Culture. 3 Credits.
This course provides practical training in information access, critical information assessment, and ethical information use in a theoretically-oriented research context, as well as a theoretical exploration of issues in information literacy, the ethics and politics of online informational spaces, and the philosophy of digital culture.

PHIL 303E. Business Ethics. 3 Credits.
A philosophical examination of ethical issues that arise in business and commerce. Topics discussed will vary by semester and instructor, but may include affirmative action, ethical versus unethical sales and marketing techniques, the obligations of business to society (if any), and the moral foundations of capitalism. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 304. Marx and the Marxists. 3 Credits.
Learning how to understand Marxism, yesterday and today, through readings, applications, exercises for discussion and projects. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 305. American Philosophy. 3 Credits.
An examination of the writings of some of the major American philosophers such as Peirce, James, Royce, Dewey, and Whitehead. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 313. Philosophy of Religion. 3 Credits.
An analytical and critical consideration of the philosophical foundations of religion. Such topics as the existence of God, the problem of evil, theism and atheism, prayer, and immortality are discussed. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 324. Philosophy of Art. 3 Credits.
A study of the various theories of art and human creativity in the context of historical and cultural backgrounds. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 330W. Ancient Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of the thought of the classical Greek and Roman philosophers from the sixth century B.C. to the fifth century A.D. This is a writing intensive course. Prerequisites: Junior standing, a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 331. Modern Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of the thought of the major Western philosophers through the eighteenth century, including the empirical tradition of Bacon, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume, the rationalistic tradition of Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz, and the critical philosophy of Kant. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 332. Medieval Philosophy. 3 Credits.
This course examines the significant contributions of medieval philosophers to the development of philosophy of religion as well as other fields, including philosophy of language, logic, and ethics. Students examine the writings of medieval philosophers from Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 340. Logic. 3 Credits.
A study of the basic concepts and methods of logic as they occur in ordinary language, formal logical arguments, and an elementary logical system. Traditional Logic is emphasized, but some elements of Modern Logic are also introduced. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 344E. Environmental Ethics. 3 Credits.
An examination of the nature and basis of human obligations for the welfare of the environment with special attention to the foundations of ethical decision making. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 345E. Bioethics. 3 Credits.
An examination of the philosophical foundations of ethical decision making in biology, medicine, and the life sciences. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 353. Asian Religions. 3 Credits.
A study of religious and philosophical traditions of India, China and Japan. Primary emphasis will be given to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 355E. Cybersecurity Ethics. 3 Credits.
This course examines ethical issues relevant to computing and information technology, including: privacy; freedom of speech and content control on the Internet; individual and social responsibility; cybersecurity; cybercrimes; social impact of computers and other digital technologies; and ethical obligations of IT professionals. Students will gain a broad understanding of central issues in cyberethics and the ways that fundamental ethical theories relate to these core issues. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 369. Practicum. 3 Credits.
The course offers three forms of practical experience for philosophy majors: Professional (for students anticipating careers in relevant professions, including philosophy); Classroom (for students anticipating graduate study and a teaching career); Civic/Social Affairs (for students interested in grassroots activism). Consult the department for details and certain specific prerequisites. Prerequisites: junior standing; minimum of 15 credit hours in philosophy.
PHIL 383T. Philosophy of Technology & Innovation. 3 Credits.
This course engages in a critical exploration of what technology is as a human practice and how it develops over time in ways that influence and are influenced by society, culture, and human values. Students will also learn responsible, inclusive, and creative design and development practices through an understanding of how social structures are embedded in technology. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 395. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to academic advisors. Prerequisites: Junior standing or approval of the department chair.

PHIL 396. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to academic advisors. Prerequisites: Junior standing or approval of the department chair.

PHIL 400. Philosophy and Video Games. 3 Credits.
An examination of the metaphysical, aesthetic, and ethical philosophical issues that accompany the creation, play, and critique of video games. Students will learn and analyze theories about what games are. They will think about and discuss the aesthetic qualities of video games and critically engage with attempts to fit video games into the larger art world. Students will engage with moral issues that arise from creating and consuming video games with morally problematic content. Finally, students will learn how to think critically about and interpret larger philosophical problems raised by video games and their themes. Prerequisites: Junior standing and a grade of C or better in PHIL 110P or ENMA 480, or instructor permission.

PHIL 402/502. Gender and Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A philosophical survey of approaches to understanding gender and gender differences. The course will also serve as an introduction to feminist philosophy, with a particular emphasis on feminist ethics. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 404/504. Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of influential contemporary movements in European philosophy. Emphasis will be given to the writings of Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Gadamer, Derrida, and Foucault. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 406/506. Contemporary Analytic Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of the twentieth-century analytic tradition, including such thinkers as Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Carnap, Ryle, Wisdom, and Austin. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 410/510. Social and Political Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A philosophical analysis of the relation between man, society, and the state, studying about a dozen philosophers since Plato on such topics as justice, authority, law, freedom, and civil rights. Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C, and junior standing.

PHIL 411/511. Postmodernism and Political Philosophy. 3 Credits.
An examination of intellectual currents in postmodernism as they pertain to central questions in social and political thought. The course covers the roots of modernism in the Enlightenment and various challenges to modernism in 19th and 20th century thought. Particular attention is given to the prospects for democracy in postmodern thinking. Prerequisites: Three semester hours in philosophy and junior standing or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 412/512. Philosophy of Law. 3 Credits.
An examination of the nature of law and philosophical issues concerning the law. Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C, and junior standing.

PHIL 417/517. Philosophy of Education. 3 Credits.
Considers the relationship of philosophy and education. Topics considered include: philosophy as a foundation for education, education as an institution, and educational and philosophical issues as they relate to each other. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 423/523. Philosophy of Work. 3 Credits.
An examination of philosophical issues surrounding the practice of work. Topics to be discussed may include the definition of work, alienation, exploitation, whether there is a right to work or a right not to work, religious perspectives on work, and gender issues in work. Prerequisites: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

PHIL 431/531. Nineteenth-Century Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of significant intellectual innovations and revolutions in nineteenth century European thought that helped shape the modern mind. Emphasis will be given to the writings of Kant, Schopenhauer, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 434/534. Contemporary Theory of Knowledge. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with a problem-oriented, critical, and comparative understanding of problems in contemporary epistemology. Topics include skepticism and responses thereto, analyses of knowledge, the externalist versus internalist debate, foundationalism and coherentism, and social approaches to knowledge including contextualism and feminism. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 435/535. Philosophy of Psychology. 3 Credits.
An examination of various ways in which the mind has been understood in philosophy and in psychology and of the methods that have been used in the study of the mind. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 440/540. Philosophy of Science. 3 Credits.
A study of the concepts and philosophical problems in the sciences: scientific reasoning, confirmation, explanation, laws, meaning, theories, revolutions, progress, and values. Prerequisites: junior standing, three semester hours in philosophy and eight semester hours of laboratory science.

PHIL 441/541. Foundations of Ethics. 3 Credits.
An examination of the philosophical foundations of ethical inquiry. Various ethical systems are considered, and different views of metaethics and moral psychology may be as well. Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C and junior standing.

PHIL 442E/542. Studies in Applied Ethics. 3 Credits.
An intensive examination of ethical issues in a particular field or profession; an emphasis on ethical theory underlying practical decisions. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and Junior standing.

PHIL 480/580. Hinduism. 3 Credits.
An intensive study of the basic teachings of Hinduism as manifested in its sacred writings. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 481/581. Buddhism. 3 Credits.
A study of the origin, historical development, and contemporary status of Buddhism, in terms of its religious and philosophical elements and its influence in Asian cultures. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 482/582. Chinese Religion and Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of Chinese thought emphasizing Early and Classical Confucianism and Taoism, Chinese Buddhism, and Neo-Confucianism. Modern currents of Chinese thought is also discussed. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 485/585. Japanese Religion and Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of the religious and philosophical traditions of Japan. Emphasis will be given to Shintoism, Buddhism, and Neo-Confucianism and their contemporary status and influence in Japanese culture. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 491/591. Seminar in Philosophy. 3 Credits.
Intensive examination of the thought of one major philosopher. Prerequisites: junior standing and six semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.
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PHIL 494/594. Seminar in Philosophy. 3 Credits.
Intensive examination of the thought of one major philosopher.
Prerequisites: junior standing and six semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 495/595. Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: appropriate survey course or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 496/596. Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: appropriate survey course or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 497/597. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: senior standing and approval of the department chair.

PHIL 498/598. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: senior standing and approval of the department chair.

PHIL 502. Gender and Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A philosophical survey of approaches to understanding gender and gender differences. The course will also serve as an introduction to feminism, philosophy, with a particular emphasis on feminist ethics.

PHIL 504. Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of influential continental movements in European philosophy. Emphasis will be given to the writings of Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Gadamer, Derrida, and Foucault.

PHIL 506. Contemporary Analytic Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of a twentieth-century analytic tradition, including such thinkers as Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Carnap, Ryle, Wisdom, and Austin.

PHIL 510. Social and Political Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A philosophical analysis of the relation between man, society, and the state, studying about a dozen philosophers since Plato on such topics as justice, authority, law, freedom, and civil rights.

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An examination of intellectual currents in postmodernism as they pertain to central questions in social and political thought. The course covers the roots of modernism in the Enlightenment and various challenges to modernism in 19th and 20th century thought. Particular attention is given to the prospects for democracy in postmodern thinking.

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An examination of the nature of law and philosophical issues concerning the law.

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Considers the relationship of philosophy and education. Topics considered include: philosophy as a foundation for education, education as an institution, and educational and philosophical issues as they relate to each other.

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An examination of philosophical issues surrounding the practice of work. Topics to be discussed may include the definition of work, alienation, exploitation, whether there is a right to work or a right not to work, religious perspectives on work, and gender issues in work.

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A study of significant intellectual innovations and revolutions in nineteenth century European thought that helped shape the modern mind. Emphasis will be given to the writings of Kant, Schopenhauer, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche.

PHIL 534. Contemporary Theory of Knowledge. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with a problem-oriented, critical, and comparative understanding of problems in contemporary epistemology. Topics include skepticism and responses thereto, analyses of knowledge, the externalist versus internalist debate, foundationalism and coherentism, and social approaches to knowledge including contextualism and feminism.

PHIL 535. Philosophy of Psychology. 3 Credits.
An examination of various ways in which the mind has been understood in philosophy and in psychology and of the methods that have been used in the study of the mind.

PHIL 540. Philosophy of Science. 3 Credits.
A study of the concepts and philosophical problems in the sciences: scientific reasoning, confirmation, explanation, laws, meaning, theories, revolutions, progress, and values.

PHIL 541. Foundations of Ethics. 3 Credits.
An inquiry into the philosophical foundations of ethical theory. Various ethical systems are considered, and different views of metaethics and moral psychology may be as well.

PHIL 542. Studies in Applied Ethics. 3 Credits.
An intensive examination of ethical issues in a particular field or profession; an emphasis on ethical theory underlying practical decisions.

PHIL 580. Hinduism. 3 Credits.
An intensive study of the basic teachings of Hinduism as manifested in its sacred writings.

PHIL 581. Buddhism. 3 Credits.
A study of the origin, historical development, and contemporary status of Buddhism, in terms of its religious and philosophical elements and its influence in Asian cultures.

PHIL 582. Chinese Religion and Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of Chinese thought emphasizing Early and Classical Confucianism and Taoism, Chinese Buddhism, and NeoConfucianism. Modern currents of Chinese thought are also discussed.

PHIL 585. Japanese Religion and Philosophy. 3 Credits.
A study of the religious and philosophical traditions of Japan. Emphasis will be given to Shintoism, Buddhism, and Neo-Confucianism and their contemporary status and influence in Japanese culture.

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PHIL 595. Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors.
PHIL 596. Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors.

PHIL 597. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

PHIL 598. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

PHIL 610. Studies in the Philosophy of Art. 3 Credits.
An evaluation of the field of art in relation to the rest of human culture, emphasizing the various approaches that may be used. Prerequisites: One 500-level Philosophy course with a grade of B or higher (or equivalent).

PHIL 695. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work in subjects of mutual interest that, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. Prerequisites: One 500-level Philosophy course with a grade of B or higher (or equivalent).

PHIL 697. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: approval of the department chair and one 500-level Philosophy course with a grade of “B” or higher (or equivalent).

PHIL 698. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: approval of the department chair and one 500-level Philosophy course with a grade of “B” or higher (or equivalent).

PHIL 707. Ethics in Public Health Practice. 1-3 Credits.
An investigation of ethical issues in public health policy, practice, and research. Students will develop a capacity for reasoned judgments in these matters by understanding and applying basic moral concepts, theories, and ideals. Prerequisites: open to all graduate students in relevant fields.

PHIL 710. International Rights. 3 Credits.
A philosophical study of rights applicable to the international arena. Theories from the early Modern European period to the present day will be treated. Coverage includes international law, the rights of nations, and human rights. Prerequisites: approval of instructor.

PHIL 795. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of special topics that may not be offered regularly.

PHIL 797. Tutorial in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: approval of the department chair.

PHIL 807. Ethics in Public Health Practice. 1-3 Credits.
An investigation of ethical issues in public health policy, practice, and research. Students will develop a capacity for reasoned judgments in these matters by understanding and applying basic moral concepts, theories, and ideals. Prerequisites: Open to all graduate students in relevant fields.

PHIL 810. International Rights. 3 Credits.
A philosophical study of rights applicable to the international arena. Theories from the early Modern European period to the present day will be treated. Coverage includes international law, the rights of nations, and human rights. Prerequisites: approval of instructor.

PHIL 895. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of special topics that may not be offered regularly.

PHIL 897. Tutorial in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: approval of the department chair.