PHIL - Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY Courses

PHIL 110P. Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credits.
An introduction to basic concepts, methods and issues in philosophy, and a
collection 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
the nature of moral issues. Topics covered may vary by semester and instructor, and may include issues drawn from professional fields such as business, medicine, and information technology. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 234. Studies in Western Religious Thought. 3 Credits.
Various topics exploring religious, philosophical, and cultural themes in the
traditions of Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. 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 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,
Hume, and 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.
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 the major religious and philosophical traditions of India, China, and Japan.
Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 355E. Computer 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. Technology: Its Nature and Significance. 3 Credits.
A philosophical examination of technology with special attention to its relationship with and mutual dependence upon society, culture, and human values. Historical developments and specific technologies are also covered. 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 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 413/511. 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 NeoConfucianism. 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.

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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.

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A study of influential contemporary movements in European philosophy. Emphasis will be given to the writings of Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Gadamer, Derrida, and Foucault.

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A study of the twentieth-century analytic tradition, including such thinkers as Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Carnap, Ryle, Wisdom, and Austin.

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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.

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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.

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A study of Chinese thought emphasizing Early and Classical Confucianism and Taoism, Chinese Buddhism, and NeoConfucianism. Modern currents of Chinese thought are also discussed.

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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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