Philosophy and Religious Studies

Web Site: http://www.odu.edu/philosophy

Dylan Wittkower, Chair
James R. Van Dore, Chief Departmental Advisor
Office: (757) 683-3861

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy with three concentration options: general, political and legal studies, and religious studies. The program is designed to give students a solid grounding in the historical development of philosophy and an ability to analyze arguments proposed in serious discussions of any subject. Students interested in the study of religion can minor in religious studies or choose religious studies as their major concentration.

Bachelor of Arts–Philosophy Major

Lower-Division General Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Communication *</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Literacy and Research **</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language and Culture ***</td>
<td>0-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Creativity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreting the Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature of Science</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of Technology ****</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>41-53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Grade of C or better required in ENGL 110C before declaring major.
** Can be satisfied by PHIL 290G.
*** BA students must have competence through the 202 level; competence is not met by completion of an associate degree.
**** Can be satisfied by PHIL 383T.

Major Requirements

Students must complete all core requirements plus the requirements for their selected concentration for a total of 33 credit hours in 300- and 400-level philosophy (PHIL) and religious studies (REL) courses; at least 9 hours must be at the 400 level.

Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Philosophy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 330W Ancient Philosophy (C or better required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 331 Modern Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 340 Logic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one from PHIL 491, PHIL 492, PHIL 493, or PHIL 494.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent Philosophy - Select two:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 304 Marx and the Marxists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 305 American Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 383T Technology: Its Nature and Significance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 402 Gender and Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 404 Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 406</td>
<td>Contemporary Analytic Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 411</td>
<td>Postmodernism and Political Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 431</td>
<td>Nineteenth-Century Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 434</td>
<td>Contemporary Theory of Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 435</td>
<td>Philosophy of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Topics vary; contact the department for details. With approval, students may double count a seminar to meet another requirement but will then need an additional PHIL elective. REL courses can only be counted as philosophy electives with prior departmental approval.

General Concentration

History of Philosophy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 332</td>
<td>Medieval Philosophy (or another department-approved PHIL course on 18th century or earlier philosophy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of Philosophy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Ethics and Values - Select one:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 313</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 324</td>
<td>Philosophy of Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 410</td>
<td>Social and Political Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 411</td>
<td>Postmodernism and Political Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 412</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 423</td>
<td>Philosophy of Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 441</td>
<td>Foundations of Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 442E</td>
<td>Studies in Applied Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philosophy Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three 300/400-level PHIL electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Religious Studies Concentration

The religious studies concentration is designed for students looking to understand the role of religion in human culture and to expand their cultural competency.

History of Philosophy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 332</td>
<td>Medieval Philosophy (or another department-approved PHIL course on 18th century or earlier philosophy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Religious Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 313</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Religious Traditions - Select three, at least one from each group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 311</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible/Old Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 312</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 333</td>
<td>Historical Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 350</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 351</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 352</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 400</td>
<td>Sacred Texts of Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 353</td>
<td>Asian Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 480</td>
<td>Hinduism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 481</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 482</td>
<td>Chinese Religion and Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 485</td>
<td>Japanese Religion and Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Political and Legal Studies Concentration

The political and legal studies concentration is aimed at students interested in social and political philosophy, particularly those planning to attend law school.

Political and Legal Core - Select two:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 303</td>
<td>Marx and the Marxists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 410</td>
<td>Social and Political Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 411</td>
<td>Postmodernism and Political Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 412</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 441</td>
<td>Foundations of Ethics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Political and Legal Electives - Select two:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 303E</td>
<td>Business Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 344E</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 345E</td>
<td>Bioethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 355E</td>
<td>Cybersecurity Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 442E</td>
<td>Studies in Applied Ethics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Philosophy Elective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One 300/400-level PHIL course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Elective courses will be needed to meet the minimum 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Upper-Division General Education

- Option A. Approved Minor, 12-24 hours; also second degree or second major
- Option B. Interdisciplinary Minor, 12 hours specified by the department, 3 of which may be in the major area of study
- Option C. International business and regional courses or an approved certification program, such as teaching licensure
- Option D. Two Upper-Division Courses from outside the College of Arts and Letters or from the Social Science Component within the College of Arts and Letters that are not required by the major (6 hours).

Requirements for Graduation

- Minimum grade point average of 2.00 overall and in the major
- 120 credit hours, of which 30 hours overall and 12 hours of upper-level courses in the major must be from Old Dominion University.
- Completion of ENGL 110C and ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C with a grade of C or better
- Grade of C or better in one writing intensive (W) course in the major
- Completion of Senior Assessment

Four-Year Plan - Philosophy

- BA (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/philosophyandreligiousstudies/philosophy-ba-fouryearplan)

This is a suggested curriculum plan to complete this degree program in four years. Please consult information in this Catalog, Degree Works, and your academic advisor for more specific information on course requirements for this degree.

Double Majoring in Philosophy and Political Science

The Departments of Political Science and Geography and Philosophy and Religious Studies have established an arrangement that makes it possible to complete a double major in as few as 55 hours, little more than the 45-49 hours needed for a major in one and minor in the other. Philosophy majors on the Political-Legal Studies track double majoring in political science may count any two of the following political science courses toward their philosophy major:

- POLS 310 Political Theory
- POLS 312 American Political Thought
- POLS 403 First Amendment Freedoms
- POLS 408 American Constitutional Law and Politics I
- POLS 409 American Constitutional Law and Politics II
- POLS 419 Jurisprudence

These courses will count as Political-Legal electives; students will still be required to take 6 hours of Political-Legal core courses. Students doing the linked B.A./M.A. in Philosophy and Humanities can count only one 500-level political science course as a "bridge" course. Certain political science "topics" courses may be counted as philosophy electives with prior approval from the Political Science and Religious Studies Department. Political Science will also double count select philosophy courses for double majors; for details, see the Political Science and Geography section of this catalog (http://www.odu.edu/pols-geog).

Students interested in double majoring in philosophy and a subject other than political science should consult the chief departmental advisor; there may be some opportunity for double counting at least one class.

Linked B.A. in Philosophy and M.A. in Humanities

The linked B.A. in philosophy and M.A. in Humanities makes it possible for exceptional philosophy majors to count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both an undergraduate and graduate degree. Students must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 for the undergraduate degree and 30 for the graduate degree). For more information, consult the Humanities section of this catalog (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/humanities).

Minors in Philosophy and Religious Studies

Students may choose one of the following four minor concentrations:

General

Four PHIL courses at the 300 or 400 level

Applied Ethics

PHIL 441 Foundations of Ethics

Plus three of the following:

PHIL 303E Business Ethics
PHIL 344E Environmental Ethics
PHIL 345E Bioethics
PHIL 355E Cybersecurity Ethics
PHIL 402 Gender and Philosophy
PHIL 410 Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 442E Studies in Applied Ethics

Religious Studies

Select four from the following:

REL 311 Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
REL 312 New Testament
REL 333 Historical Jesus
REL 350 Judaism
REL 351 Christianity
REL 352 Islam
REL 395 Topics in Religious Studies
REL 396 Topics in Religious Studies
REL 400 Sacred Texts of Islam
REL 495 Topics in Religious Studies
REL 496 Topics in Religious Studies
PHIL 250E. 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. 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 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.
The course provides students with a problem-oriented, critical, and
c omparative understanding of problems in contemporary epistemology.
Topics include skepticism and responses thereto, analyses of knowledge,
the externalist versus internalist debate, foundationalism and coherence,
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 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.
PHIL 492/592. 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 493/593. 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 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.
REL 311. Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. 3 Credits.
An investigation of the Hebrew Bible on the basis of Biblical criticism and
research. Attention is given to the cultural and historical background of
these writings. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in
philosophy, or permission of the instructor.
REL 312. New Testament. 3 Credits.
An investigation of New Testament literature and thought on the basis of
Biblical criticism and research. Attention is given to the religious and
cultural background of early Christianity, particularly in late Judaism.
Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or
permission of the instructor.
REL 333. Historical Jesus. 3 Credits.
This course examines the several quests to uncover the historical reality
behind Jesus of Nazareth in modern biblical-historical scholarship, including
the work of scholars like Albert Schweitzer, Rudolph Bultmann, and
the many contemporary inquirers. Students are expected to have some
familiarity with the New Testament and/or early Christianity. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in REL or PHIL.
REL 350. Judaism. 3 Credits.
This course is a basic introduction to Judaism. We will explore the
fundamental tenets of Jewish belief, examine primary expressions of
Jewish ritual and practice, discuss the historical development of Judaism,
and explore sacred texts, secular Yiddish texts, and contemporary issues
confronting Jews and Judaism. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.
REL 351. Christianity. 3 Credits.
A study of the Christian tradition, including its primary texts, historical
development, intellectual tenets, and contributions to human culture.
Specific attention will be given to Christianity as a way of life. Prerequisites:
three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.
REL 352. Islam. 3 Credits.
A study of the Islamic tradition, including its primary texts, historical
development, intellectual tenets, and contributions to human culture.
Specific attention will be given to Islam as a way of life. Prerequisites: three
semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.
REL 395. Topics in Religious Studies. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students
to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be
taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule booklet
and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic
advisors. Prerequisites: 3 hours in PHIL or permission of the instructor.
REL 396. Topics in Religious Studies. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: three hours in PHIL or REL or permission of the instructor.

REL 400/500. Sacred Texts of Islam. 3 Credits.
The course will examine the Qur'an, the scripture of Islam, as well as other sacred texts such as the Hadith literature (sayings of Muhammad) and the Sira literature (accounts of Muhammad's life). This course will explore the role of these literatures in the faith, culture, and history of Islam. Our survey will include explorations of the history and reception of various texts, their literary and stylistic features, and various themes such as mystical, legal, modern, and feminist interpretations. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

REL 495/595. Topics in Religious Studies. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: 3 hours in PHIL or REL or permission of the instructor.

REL 496/596. Topics in Religious Studies. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: three hours of PHIL or REL or permission of the instructor.

REL 497/597. Tutorial Work in Religious Studies. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

REL 498/598. Tutorial Work in Religious Studies. 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: permission of the instructor.