

# PHIL - Philosophy

## **PHIL 110P Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

Open only to students in the Honors College. A special honors section of PHIL 110P.

## **PHIL 127P Honors: Life, Death, and Meaning (3 Credit Hours)**

Open only to students in the Honors College. An Honors version of PHIL 150P.

## **PHIL 150P Life, Death, and Meaning (3 Credit Hours)**

What is the meaning of life, and what role might the end of life play in living meaningfully? This course provides an introduction to philosophy and religious studies through an investigation of different views on death and the meaning of life from diverse cultures and identities. (Cross-listed with REL 150P)

## **PHIL 155E Human Nature (3 Credit Hours)**

What ways of thinking, feeling, and acting are essentially human? This course focuses on some of the most influential and fascinating philosophical and religious accounts of human nature from diverse cultural perspectives. Topics may include the nature of human beings in relation to God, society, ethics, politics, knowledge, the environment, freedom, evolution, the mind, language, race, gender, and technology. (Cross-listed with REL 155E)

## **PHIL 160R Raising Moral Issues in STEM (3 Credit Hours)**

This course provides training in how to speak up in defense of moral concerns in a STEM organizational context, and how to do so in an effective and productive way.

## **PHIL 195 Study Abroad: Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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 202G Information Literacy for Cybersecurity (3 Credit Hours)**

This course provides an in-depth introduction to information literacy from library and information science, information ethics, and computer science perspectives along with applications to cybersecurity research and professional activity. This course is aligned with Old Dominion University's general education learning outcomes for information literacy.

## **PHIL 227E Honors: World Religions: Beliefs and Values (3 Credit Hours)**

Open only to students in the Honors College. A special Honors section of PHIL 250E.

## **PHIL 228E Honors: Introduction to Ethics (3 Credit Hours)**

Open only to students in the Honors College. A special Honors section of PHIL 230E.

## **PHIL 230E Introduction to Ethics (3 Credit Hours)**

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 235E Love, Sex, and Desire (3 Credit Hours)**

Is love universal or culturally bound? Is sexual desire biologically driven or learned? This course provides an introduction to Philosophy and Religious Studies through an investigation of love, sex, and desire vis-a-vis ethical values and societal norms. (Cross-listed with REL 235E)

## **PHIL 240 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (3 Credit Hours)**

A survey of philosophical problems common to the sciences, including an analysis of key concepts and an examination of science in its historical and cultural context.

## **PHIL 250E World Religions: Beliefs and Values (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

## **PHIL 270P Truth and Perception (3 Credit Hours)**

What is truth? How do we know when something is real or fake? Are you certain that other people perceive the world in the same way you do? In this course we'll try to answer questions like these and more through an exploration of the relationship between our minds, our bodies, and the world around us.

## **PHIL 290G Philosophy of Digital Culture (3 Credit Hours)**

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 295 Topics in Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

A study of selected topics designed for non-majors. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to academic advisors.

## **PHIL 300 Knowledge and Reality (3 Credit Hours)**

Metaphysics is the study of the ultimate nature of reality and epistemology is the study of what we can know about reality. This introduction to metaphysics and epistemology will engage with views of what exists and how we can know about it from a diverse collection of traditions and figures.

## **PHIL 301 Ethics and Metaethics (3 Credit Hours)**

An examination of the philosophical foundations of ethical inquiry from a diverse collection of traditions and figures, including historically marginalized voices. Various ethical systems are considered, and different views of metaethics and moral psychology may be as well.

## **PHIL 303E Business Ethics (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

## **PHIL 313 Philosophy of Religion (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

## **PHIL 324 Philosophy of Art (3 Credit Hours)**

A study of the various theories of art and human creativity in the context of historical and cultural backgrounds.

## **PHIL 330 Ancient Greek Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is a study of the thought of the classical Greek philosophers from the sixth century B.C.E. to the fifth century C.E.

## **PHIL 331 Early Modern European Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is a survey of the rise of modern philosophy in the 17th and early 18th centuries in Europe.

**PHIL 332 Medieval Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 334 Late Modern European Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is a survey of modern philosophy in the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe, addressing figures such as Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche.

**PHIL 340 Logic (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 344E Environmental Ethics (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 345E Bioethics (3 Credit Hours)**

An examination of the philosophical foundations of ethical decision making in biology, medicine, and the life sciences.

**PHIL 353 Asian Religions (3 Credit Hours)**

This course introduces students to several key religious traditions originating in Asia, such as Hindu traditions in India; Confucianism, Daoism, and popular religion in China, Buddhism and Shinto in Japan; and Buddhist traditions of China, Tibet, and Mongolia. Students will read and analyze primary sources in English translation. By examining artifacts from literature, art, and poetry, students will also learn about cultural history. Throughout the course, students will employ hermeneutical methods in the field of religious studies, such as methods of comparisons.

**PHIL 355E Cybersecurity Ethics (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 357E Ethics and Data (3 Credit Hours)**

This course explores, from a philosophical perspective, ethical questions arising from collecting, drawing inferences from, and acting on data, especially when these activities are automated and on a large scale. This course will provide students a framework for considering the ethical implications of data usage. Emphasis will be placed on discussing how historic and contemporary examples of potentially unethical practice could be altered to reduce harm and increase equity. Topics to be covered may include, but are not limited to, systematic approaches to assessing ethical issues; privacy and confidentiality; defining research and the responsibilities associated with conducting ethical research; implicit and structural biases in data collection and analysis; freedom of speech; and consent to data collection.

**PHIL 364 African-American Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is a survey introduction to major African-American philosophical thinkers and will address themes such as: What is the nature of race, and what is the nature of racism? What is the nature of the good? What does the good life look like, how should we make sense of beauty, and are those values different for each of us? And how should we make sense of social and civil life and of social and civic obligations in the context of deep and persisting injustice?

**PHIL 365 Race & Power (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will draw on historical and contemporary scholarship to explore the evolution of the concept of race in relation to different theories of power. Topics may include how to define race, how people are racialized, genocide and social death, the use of racial epithets, cultural appropriation, ally-ship, and the role of activism.

**PHIL 368 Internship (1-3 Credit Hours)**

A structured work experience using analytical, research, and communication training from philosophy in a relevant industry, such as law, tech, finance, libraries, or in the public or nonprofit sectors. May be paid or unpaid. Criteria for evaluation will be determined by work supervisor and cooperating faculty advisor. May be repeated for credit. Available for pass/fail grading only.

**PHIL 369 Practicum (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 380 Hinduism (3 Credit Hours)**

An intensive study of the basic teachings of Hinduism as manifested in its sacred writings.

**PHIL 381 Buddhist Traditions (3 Credit Hours)**

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 383T Philosophy of Technology & Innovation (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 395 Topics in Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

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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.

**PHIL 400 Philosophy and Video Games (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 402 Gender and Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 404 Existentialism and Phenomenology (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is an examination of the writings of some of the major philosophers in the Existentialist and Phenomenology movements of the 19th and 20th centuries.

**PHIL 405 American Pragmatist Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is an examination of the writings of some of the major American philosophers in the Pragmatist tradition.

**PHIL 406 Language and Thought: History of Analytic Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is a study of the history of the Analytic tradition in philosophy up through the 20th century.

**PHIL 410 Social and Political Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 411 Post-Modernism and Post-Structuralism (3 Credit Hours)**  
This course is an examination of intellectual currents in postmodernism and post-structuralism as they pertain to central questions in social and political thought.

**PHIL 412 Philosophy of Law (3 Credit Hours)**  
An examination of the nature of law and philosophical issues concerning the law.

**PHIL 417 Philosophy of Education (3 Credit Hours)**  
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.

**PHIL 423 Philosophy of Work (3 Credit Hours)**  
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.

**PHIL 425 Kant and Hume (3 Credit Hours)**  
This course is an examination of the philosophical writings of Hume and Kant and their influence.

**PHIL 430 Marx and Hegel (3 Credit Hours)**  
This course is an examination of the philosophical writings of Hegel and Marx and their influence.

**PHIL 432 Nietzsche and Life Affirmation (3 Credit Hours)**  
This course is an examination of Nietzsche's attempt to provide a life-affirming philosophy after laying waste to many traditional Western efforts to find life meaningful.

**PHIL 434 Contemporary Theory of Knowledge (3 Credit Hours)**  
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 435 Philosophy of Psychology (3 Credit Hours)**  
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 440 Philosophy of Science (3 Credit Hours)**  
A study of the concepts and philosophical problems in the sciences: scientific reasoning, confirmation, explanation, laws, meaning, theories, revolutions, progress, and values.

**PHIL 442E Studies in Applied Ethics (3 Credit Hours)**  
An intensive examination of ethical issues in a particular field or profession; an emphasis on ethical theory underlying practical decisions.

**PHIL 451 Native American Philosophies (3 Credit Hours)**  
This course will provide students with an introduction to Native American philosophies with a focus on issues of identity, genocide, personhood, gender, sovereignty, and decolonization. Topics will be approached through a consideration of Native American philosophical methodologies and Native views regarding metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. (Cross-listed with REL 451)

**PHIL 482 Chinese Religion and Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**  
A study of Chinese thought emphasizing Early and Classical Confucianism and Taoism, Chinese Buddhism, and NeoConfucianism. Modern currents of Chinese thought is also discussed.

**PHIL 485 Japanese Religion and Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**  
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.

**PHIL 491W Seminar in Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**  
Intensive examination of the thought of one major philosopher or philosophical movement. This is a writing intensive course.

**PHIL 495 Topics in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**  
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 496 Topics in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**  
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 497 Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**  
Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

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**PHIL 512 Philosophy of Law (3 Credit Hours)**  
An examination of the nature of law and philosophical issues concerning the law.

**PHIL 517 Philosophy of Education (3 Credit Hours)**  
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.

**PHIL 523 Philosophy of Work (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 525 Kant and Hume (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is an examination of the philosophical writings of Hume and Kant and their influence.

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**PHIL 532 Nietzsche and Life Affirmation (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is an examination of Nietzsche's attempt to provide a life-affirming philosophy after laying waste to many traditional Western efforts to find life meaningful.

**PHIL 534 Contemporary Theory of Knowledge (3 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

A study of the concepts and philosophical problems in the sciences: scientific reasoning, confirmation, explanation, laws, meaning, theories, revolutions, progress, and values.

**PHIL 542 Studies in Applied Ethics (3 Credit Hours)**

An intensive examination of ethical issues in a particular field or profession; an emphasis on ethical theory underlying practical decisions.

**PHIL 551 Native American Philosophies (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will provide students with an introduction to Native American philosophies with a focus on issues of identity, genocide, personhood, gender, sovereignty, and decolonization. Topics will be approached through a consideration of Native American philosophical methodologies and Native views regarding metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. (Cross-listed with REL 551)

**PHIL 582 Chinese Religion and Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 591 Seminar in Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

Intensive examination of the thought of one major philosopher or philosophical movement.

**PHIL 595 Topics in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

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 Credit Hours)**

An evaluation of the field of art in relation to the rest of human culture, emphasizing the various approaches that may be used.

**PHIL 695 Topics in Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 697 Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**

Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

**PHIL 698 Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**

Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

**PHIL 704 Technology and the Humanities (3 Credit Hours)**

A seminar providing foundations for and experience in the critical examination of technologies and their human and social impact. Topics will vary and may include AI, innovation, social media, robotics, healthcare, gaming, art, and music.

**PHIL 707 Ethics in Public Health Practice (1-3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 710 International Rights (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 795 Topics in Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

The advanced study of special topics that may not be offered regularly.

**PHIL 797 Tutorial in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**

Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

**PHIL 804 Technology and the Humanities (3 Credit Hours)**

A seminar providing foundations for and experience in the critical examination of technologies and their human and social impact. Topics will vary and may include AI, innovation, social media, robotics, healthcare, gaming, art, and music.

**PHIL 807 Ethics in Public Health Practice (1-3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 810 International Rights (3 Credit Hours)**

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.

**PHIL 895 Topics in Philosophy (3 Credit Hours)**

The advanced study of special topics that may not be offered regularly.

**PHIL 897 Tutorial in Philosophy (1-3 Credit Hours)**

Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.