

Philosophy (PHIL)

Courses

PHIL 1000. Intro to Philosophy. 3 Hours.

Fulfills a General Education Humanities requirement. Covers the general nature of philosophy, its origins, and its influences on human experience. Offers an introduction to philosophical theories of knowledge, truth, reality, being, science, politics, aesthetics, ethics, values, and religion. Includes examinations requiring essay and objective responses, quizzes, formal essays and informal written responses, participation in class discussions, and group presentations. FA.

PHIL 1120. Social Ethics. 3 Hours.

Fulfills a General Education Humanities requirement. For all students interested in philosophy, moral values, and the application of ethics to social issues. Covers the historical development of Western value systems, including the contribution of classical and Hebraic traditions to current personal and political values. Students are also asked to apply ethical theories such as utilitarianism and Kantian formalism to social issues of our day, such as genetic engineering, business practices, world hunger, euthanasia, and war. SP.

PHIL 1250. Reasoning and Rational Decision-Making. 3 Hours.

Fulfills a General Education Humanities requirement. Strengthens critical thinking skills through analyzing and evaluating arguments, a basic logical framework, Aristotelian logic, the principles of Charity and Socratic Humility, beginning logic of sentences, fallacies, probability, statistical reasoning, and other forms of inductive argument in order to train students to recognize, evaluate, and construct arguments.

PHIL 2600. World Religions: Topics. 3 Hours.

An approved Global and Cultural Perspectives course. Comparative study of the tenets of the world's major living religions. Introductory course that will survey the beliefs and practices of at least three of the following traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Daoism, Shinto, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each semester will focus on different traditions, with a three semester 'rotation' between topics. The focus will be on developing an understanding and appreciation of the beliefs and practices of each tradition. Course topics will vary according to instructor emphasis. Repeatable up to 9 credits subject to graduation restrictions.

PHIL 2700. Chinese Political Philosophy. 3 Hours.

Introduction to Chinese thought and politics that examines trends in Chinese politics, specifically developments in Chinese political thought through consideration of important movements in the formation of contemporary China: Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Communism, etc. Dual listed with PHIL 2705; students may take only one course for credit. SU.

PHIL 2705. Travel Study: Chinese Political Philosophy. 3 Hours.

Travel study course providing an introduction to Chinese thought and politics that examines trends in Chinese politics, specifically developments in Chinese political thought through consideration of important movements in the formation of contemporary China: Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Communism, etc. Students will travel to Beijing, Qufu, and Xian. Course fee required. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. SU.

PHIL 2900. Symbolic Logic: The Study of Formal Reasoning. 3 Hours.

An introduction to the study of formal reasoning, with an emphasis placed on discussions of validity and deductive arguments. Besides preparing students for advanced studies (like law school) the study of argument construction also improves critical thinking, research, and writing skills. The study of logic aids in both qualitative and quantitative thought, which can prove an aid for the college experience. SP.

PHIL 3100. Aesthetics: Art and the Beautiful. 3 Hours.

A survey of the major historical sources in aesthetics. Questions surrounding the definition of art and beauty, the interpretation of art, art criticism, the nature of metaphor, and the connection between art and knowledge will be addressed. Through this course students will come to understand the complexity surrounding issues of art and beauty, and gain skill necessary to apply theoretical concepts to personal evaluation of art.

PHIL 3200. Philosophy in Literature: Historical Perspectives. 3 Hours.

A critical study of philosophical material found in works of literature. Or, to put it another way, philosophy presented through the medium of novels, poems, plays, and graphic novels. Authors likely to be studied include Plato, Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky, Sartre, Iris Murdoch, and Voltaire, as well as other contemporary authors.

PHIL 3510. Professional Ethics. 3 Hours.

Designed for business and other pre-professional students. Examination of selected ethical issues in business and technology, e.g., justice, corporate responsibility, preferential treatment, advertising practices, environmental responsibility, confidentiality and privacy, and government regulation. Prerequisite: Advanced Standing. Offered based on sufficient student need.

PHIL 3900. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Hours.

Explores advanced topics in the field of philosophy. Examples include Epistemology, Metaphysics, Empiricism, Free Will, Philosophy of Mind, Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of War, or the work of a specific philosopher.

PHIL 4800R. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.

Designed to meet the individual needs of advanced students in the Humanities/Philosophy Program who wish to pursue a specific focus of special interest not available in the existing scheduled offerings. Students work under close supervision by appropriate faculty in the design and successful completion of the course. Students are expected to meet with the faculty mentor each week and to provide the faculty member with progress reports and assignment development for feedback and grading purposes on an ongoing basis. Repeatable up to 6 credits subject to graduation restrictions. Offered by arrangement.