

PHILOSOPHY (PHL)

PHL 151 The Examined Life

This course will critically examine three of the most important questions we can ask about human existence: Who am I? What can I know? What can I hope for?

PHL 152 Ethics & The Good Life

This course is a study of classic and contemporary ethical theories that respond to the fundamental question, "How should I live my life?" Philosophical accounts of virtue and happiness, conditions of moral development, the role of reason in moral judgment, and the nature of moral obligation will be examined and applied to concrete ethical issues that arise in individual, interpersonal, and/or political life.

PHL 153 Beauty and the Soul

The relationship between the human soul and beauty is explored through the critical study and evaluation of classical texts and works in the visual and performing arts.

PHL 154 God: Beliefs, Proofs, & Doubts

This course is a study of philosophical positions about the existence and nature of God. Themes discussed include various concepts of God; the possibility of proof for the existence of God; and the philosophical dimensions of the religious experience.

PHL 155 The Quest for Meaning: An Inside-Out Course

What is the meaning of life? This question has been central to the work of philosophers, scientists, and artists throughout human history. Is life inherently meaningful? Is meaning bestowed by a divine creator? Is life absurd and devoid of meaning at all? Is meaning something that we must create for ourselves? And perhaps most importantly, how should I live my life, based on my answers to these questions? This course will survey a wide variety of responses to these questions, using the texts of philosophers as our guide.

PHL 175 Themes in Philosophy

PHL 206 Social and Political Philosophy

This course is a critical examination of the nature of society through the reading and discussion of primary philosophical texts. Themes include: person and society, the foundation of the political order, human rights and law, justice and society, and the natural and the social sciences.

PHL 212 Current Ethical Issues

This course presents an application of ethical principles to present-day moral problems and controversies.

PHL 213 Phil Of Sports

PHL 222 Love and Human Sexuality

This course offers a philosophical exploration of human love and sexuality. Classical and contemporary writings will be used.

PHL 223 Perspectives on Death

This course is a study of various philosophical strategies for coming to terms with human death. Philosophical views on death applied to problems such as aging and dying, suicide and euthanasia, the medical conquest of death, and definitions of death are topics to be addressed. This course is of particular value for students choosing careers in the health professions.

PHL 260 Philosophy Explores Photography

This course analyzes the aesthetic character and philosophical significance of photographs through texts that explore their distinctive nature, metaphysical qualities, and reflective power. Students learn to describe creative and artistic techniques of photographic expression and relate them to notions of time, personhood, and transcendence.

PHL 261 Reason & Reality

PHL 264 Critical Thinking

This course aims at developing the skill of analyzing, interpreting, and criticizing arguments from a variety of disciplines. Topics include: clarification of concepts, distinguishing between conclusions and reasons for conclusions, evaluation of arguments, and the recognition of fallacies.

PHL 265 What Is Art?

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of art with emphasis on the metaphysics of beauty and on art's role in politics and society. Prerequisite(s): Any PHL core course, HON 131-132 or permission of the departmental chair

PHL 266 Philosophy Looks at Film

This course is an application of philosophical perspectives to the study of film, with special attention to international cinema. The course will approach film either as a unique form of art or as a unique medium for engaging traditional philosophical questions.

PHL 267 Philosophical Approaches to God

This course is a study of philosophical positions about the existence and nature of God. Themes discussed include various concepts of God; the possibility of proof for the existence of God; and the philosophical dimensions of the religious experience.

PHL 268 Topics in Eastern Philosophy

This course will study the major philosophers and philosophies of the East through a focus on one or more of the following philosophical traditions: Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Buddhist, or Islamic.

PHL 269 Work & Culture

PHL 270 Special Topics

Some recent topics have included the following: Harry Potter and Philosophy; Tao and Zen; Art and Fascism.

PHL 271 Special Topics

PHL 272 Special Topics

PHL 273 Special Topics

PHL 274 Special Topics

PHL 275 Special Topics

PHL 276 Special Topics

PHL 303 American Philosophy

This course presents a critical history of thought in North America, tracing its gradual transformation from 17th-century Puritanism to current movements.

PHL 306 Environmental Philosophy

The course is designed to provide the student with an introduction to a wide range of philosophical issues and problems that are attached to the attribution of moral concern for the environment. Topics may include deep ecology, ecofeminism, social ecology, social action, and the moral standing of animals as well as other living beings.

PHL 308 The Philosophy of History

This course is a study of some of the principal viewpoints about historical knowledge and historical development. Problems discussed include: subjectivity and objectivity, causality and explanation, and perspective and relativity in history. The great schemes of historical interpretation are also considered. Prerequisite(s): Any PHL core course, HON 131-132 or permission of the departmental chair

PHL 309 God, Reality, Heaven & Hell: Thomas Aquinas

This course is a critical study of the philosophical writing and intellectual world of Thomas Aquinas. Texts principally from the "Summa Theologiae".

PHL 310 Existentialism

This course is a critical study of existentialist thinkers and themes from the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics may include absurdity, nihilism, subjectivity, freedom, authenticity, and the Other.

PHL 311 Problems of Knowledge

This course offers a systematic investigation into the sources, limits, and nature of knowledge. Topics include: meaning and its relation to truth of statements; nature and criteria of truth; and the role of observation, perspective, and conceptualization in the justification of knowledge claims.

PHL 313 Metaphysics

This course is a study of the ways in which major philosophers have answered questions about the basic nature of reality.

PHL 323 Philosophy of Science

The course looks at the practice of science, its aims, its methods, and its relation to society. Possible topics include the justification of scientific findings, the nature of scientific progress, the various branches of science, morally responsible scientific practice, and science and religion.

PHL 325 Symbolic Logic

This course provides an introduction to formal logic, including truth-functional and quantificational logic.

PHL 326 The Dawn of Reason: Ancient Greek Philosophy

This course focuses on the beginnings of rational thought in ancient Greece. We will read philosophers from the pre-Socratics through Plato and Aristotle to Plotinus.

PHL 327 Angels & Demons: The Romance of Medieval Philosophy

This course examines key questions in medieval philosophy such as: Is religious faith rational? What is the nature of the human soul and other spiritual beings (if they exist)? Why is there something rather than nothing (the creation of the world)?

PHL 328 (Early) Modern Philosophy

This course examines 17th- and 18th-century philosophy is studied with a concentration on the rationalists, the empiricists, and Kant. Prerequisites:

PHL 329 Contemporary Philosophy

This course is a comparative study of trends in twentieth- and twenty-first-century philosophy. These may include pragmatism, phenomenology, existentialism, deconstruction, feminist theory, and critical theory.

PHL 330 The Great Philosophers

This course is an in-depth study of a single major thinker from the philosophical tradition. Emphasis is on the critical reading of texts, although attention will be given to the historical setting of the thinker's work. Previous thinkers have included St. Augustine, Karl Marx, Simone de Beauvoir, Martin Heidegger, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Hannah Arendt, and Michel Foucault.

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PHL 339 Gender, Body, And Culture

(Patterns 2 or Concentration Option) This course provides a philosophical analysis of social and cultural practices that construct gender identity. Strategies of resistance to dominant modes of embodiment and concepts of sexual difference will also be explored.

PHL 341 Minds, Brains, And Zombies

This course examines human consciousness. Topics include the relation between the mind and the brain, the possibility of building conscious machines, the mental life of animals, and conceptual puzzles posed by zombies.

PHL 350 Business Ethics

Business practices evaluated in the light of ethical principles. Special concern is given to moral dimensions of management decision making and to the ethical problems of consumerism and government control.

PHL 370 Special Topics

Recent topics have included: Revolution to Romanticism; Philosophy of Islam; Memory, Identity, and the Self; Evolution and Creation; J.R.R. Tolkien as Philosopher; Harry Potter and Philosophy. Prerequisite(s): Any PHL core course, HON 131-132 or permission of the departmental chair

PHL 371 Special Topics

PHL 372 Special Topics

PHL 373 Special Topics

PHL 374 Special Topics

PHL 375 Special Topics

PHL 377 Special Topics

PHL 379 Special Topics

PHL 444 Research in PHL I

This course provides the student with an opportunity to do research with a faculty member. The student and the faculty member agree on the research project before the student registers for the course.

PHL 445 Research in PHL II

This course is a continuation of the 444 research course. It provides the student with an opportunity to continue to conduct research with a faculty member.

PHL 470 Special Topics

PHL 480 Seminar

This course is an investigation of a philosophical theme chosen each year by the department. Students will write a paper on the theme and present their work to the seminar. The seminar has for its purpose the integration of previous philosophical study. Restriction(s): Required of philosophy majors; open to others with approval of the Department Chair.