

PHILOSOPHY

PHL

Department of Philosophy
College of Arts and Letters

- 101 Introduction to Philosophy**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) SA: PHL 200
Theories of knowledge, values, and reality. Topics such as objectivity, relativism and cultural diversity, moral responsibility, aesthetic values, the self, existence of God, free will, minds and machines.
- 130 Logic and Reasoning**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) Not open to students with credit in PHL 330.
Deductive and inductive reasoning. Topics such as rational argumentation, fallacies, definition, meaning, truth and evidence. Techniques for critical reading and thinking.
- 210 Ancient Greek Philosophy**
Fall. 3(3-0)
Philosophical problems of existence, knowledge, and action as addressed in selected readings from the Presocratics, Plato, Aristotle, and Hellenistic philosophers.
- 211 Modern Philosophy**
Spring. 3(3-0) RB: PHL 210
Philosophy from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century, including selections from Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche, and other prominent figures.
- 212 Latin American Philosophy**
Fall of odd years, Spring of even years. 3(3-0)
A survey of historic and contemporary philosophical traditions from Latin America.
- 213 Africana Philosophy**
Fall of odd years, Spring of even years. 3(3-0)
A survey of historic and contemporary philosophical traditions from Africa and African diasporas.
- 214 Indigenous Philosophy**
Fall of even years, Spring of odd years. 3(3-0)
A survey of historic and contemporary philosophical traditions from Indigenous peoples globally.
- 220 Existentialism**
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0) SA: PHL 320
Husserl, Jaspers, Kierkegaard, Marcel, Nietzsche, Sartre, and de Beauvoir. Topics such as hope, anxiety, bad faith, subjectivity, freedom, social being, phenomenological method.
- 225 Paradoxes**
Fall. 3(3-0)
Central philosophical paradoxes and possible solutions. Topics vary and may include paradoxes about existence, infinity, space and time, knowledge, rationality, and truth. Students develop solutions to paradoxes, and work out the consequences and costs of those solutions.
- 247 Aesthetics**
Fall. 3(3-0) SA: PHL 347
Aesthetic theories, philosophies of art, the role of art and aesthetics in culture and society. Discussion of major positions within the history of aesthetics, and contemporary problems and figures such as Plato, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Gadamer, Adorno, Langer, and Danto.
- 260 Philosophy of Religion**
Fall. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Religious Studies. Administered by Religious Studies. RB: REL 101 or PHL 101
Key concepts, themes, and questions in the philosophy of religion.
- 291 Special Topics in Introductory Philosophy**
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course.
Special topics supplementing regular course offerings.
- 315 African Philosophy**
Spring. 3(3-0) RB: One philosophy course SA: PHL 351
Debates about the nature of philosophy in Africa and specific controversies about knowledge, rationality, metaphysics, morality, and politics. African philosophy in a global context.
- 330 Formal Reasoning**
Fall, Spring. 4(4-0) Not open to students with credit in PHL 432.
Formal methods in deductive reasoning. Logic of connectives and quantifiers including identity, functions, and descriptions.
- 340 Ethics**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) RB: One PHL course.
Inquiry through the writings of some important theorists, their critics and their contemporary followers. Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Mill, Sidgwick.
- 342 Environmental Ethics**
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: One course in philosophy.
Ethical perspectives on humanity's use of and relationship to nonhuman animals, the land, future humans, and the ecosystem itself.
- 344 Ethical Issues in Health Care**
Fall, Spring. 4(4-0) R: Not open to freshmen or sophomores.
Termination of treatment, truth-telling, informed consent, human experimentation, reproductive issues, allocation of scarce resources, justice and the health care system.
- 345 Business Ethics**
Fall. 4(4-0) R: Not open to freshmen or sophomores.
Ethical dimensions of the relationships between a business and employees, consumers, other businesses, society, government, and the law.
- 350 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy**
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: One PHL course.
History of social and political philosophy; problems such as obligation, power, oppression, freedom, equality, and community.
- 353 Core Themes in Peace and Justice Studies**
Fall. 3(3-0)
Core themes in peace and justice studies, including concepts of violence, conflict and reconciliation as informed by problems of inequality, power, and recognition. Institutional and practical approaches to nonviolence.
- 354 Philosophy of Law**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) RB: One PHL course or two PLS courses.
Legal concepts such as punishment, responsibility, rights and duties, and judicial decisions. Legal theories such as natural law, positivism and realism.
- 355 Philosophy of Technology (W)**
Spring. 4(4-0) Interdepartmental with Lyman Briggs. Administered by Lyman Briggs. P: (LB 133) or completion of Tier I writing requirement RB: PHL 200 R: Open to students in the Department of Philosophy or in the Lyman Briggs College or in the Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy Specialization. SA: LBS 355
Examination of the desirability of technology, its social forms, and its alternatives. Conventional production, ecological progressive, and radical humanist outlooks.
- 356 Philosophical Aspects of Feminism**
Fall, Spring. 4(4-0) Interdepartmental with Women's Studies. Administered by Philosophy. RB: One PHL course.
Conceptual and normative issues in feminist theory. Topics such as sexism, oppression, coercion, control, power, equality, personhood, respect and self-respect, rape, separatism, community, intimacy, and autonomy.
- 357 Philosophy of Karl Marx**
Spring. 3(3-0) RB: One PHL course.
Marx's philosophical thought and its bearing on science, religion, art and politics.
- 358 Philosophy, Gender, and Global Development**
Summer. 3(3-0) R: Not open to freshmen.
Gender and development in a global context from a feminist and philosophical perspective. Gender, oppression and embodiment. Diversity, the politics of difference, and women's identity. Multiculturalism, postcolonialism and transculturalism. Feminism, international development, and global justice.
- 361 Knowledge and Reality**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0)
Introduction to the main problems in epistemology and metaphysics. Topics vary and may include: defining knowledge, sources of knowledge, skepticism, disagreement, space and time, universals and particulars, causation, and free will.
- 380 Nature of Science**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) RB: One course in the biological, physical, or mathematical sciences.
Conflicting views about science and values. Such topics as scientific methodology; the objectivity and value neutrality of science; the presuppositions, goals, and limits of science; and science and decision making.
- 391 Special Topics in Intermediate Philosophy**
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course.
Special topics supplementing regular course offerings.

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- 410 Socrates and Plato Seminar**
Fall of odd years. 4(4-0) A student may earn a maximum of 8 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: PHL 210 or approval of department
A selection of themes (ontology, epistemology, method, ethics) from Plato's Socratic and constructive dialogues. Variable by term in content.
- 411 Aristotle Seminar**
Spring. 4(4-0) A student may earn a maximum of 8 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: PHL 210 or approval of department
Aristotle's major works and his major contributions to the metaphysics, psychology, ethics, the arts, and politics. Variable by term in content.
- 413 Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy**
Fall of even years. 4(4-0) A student may earn a maximum of 8 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (PHL 211) or two other philosophy courses
Topics selected from among the works of 17th and 18th century philosophers, e.g., Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, and Hume. Variable by term in content.
- 415 Kant Seminar**
Spring of odd years. 4(4-0) A student may earn a maximum of 8 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (PHL 211) or two other PHL courses
A seminar in Immanuel Kant's critical philosophy in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics, or other areas. Variable by term in content.
- 416 Hegel Seminar**
Spring of even years. 4(4-0) RB: (PHL 211 or PHL 415) or two other PHL courses.
Hegel's dialectic and its bearing on both the history of philosophy and issues about science, politics, art and religion.
- 417 Seminar in 19th Century Philosophy**
Fall of odd years. 4(4-0) A student may earn a maximum of 8 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (PHL 211) or two other PHL courses.
Selections from Post-Hegelian German philosophy, Mill and Utilitarianism, early African-American philosophy, Nietzsche and proto-existentialism, or American Pragmatism. Variable by term in content.
- 418 Seminar in 20th Century Philosophy**
Fall of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (PHL 211) or 2 other philosophy courses
Emphasis on important philosophers or movements in the analytic or continental traditions of the 20th century, extending to the present. Variable by term in content and approach.
- 419 Topics in the History of Philosophy**
On Demand. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (PHL 211) or 2 other philosophy courses
Emphasis on one of the less frequently taught themes, philosophers, and movements in the history of philosophy.
- 421 Topics in European and Continental Philosophy**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: (PHL 220) or one PHL course at the 300 level or above
Discussion of movements, issues, or figures in Continental and European Philosophy. Variable by term in content.
- 431 Topics in Philosophy of Logic and Language**
Spring of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PHL 330 and PHL 360 and LIN 437 SA: PHL 430
Investigation of logical concepts. Philosophical significance of twentieth-century results in logic. Related issues in the semantics and pragmatics of natural language.
- 432 Logic and its Metatheory**
Spring of odd years. 4(4-0) RB: PHL 130
Not open to students with credit in PHL 330.
Logical consequence, first-order predicate logic with identity, including functions and descriptions. Proof theory and model theory. Topics in metatheory such as completeness, compactness, and the Lowenheim-Skolem Theorems. The axiomatic method and Godel's Incompleteness Theorems.
- 440 Central Issues in Ethics**
Spring. 4(4-0) RB: PHL 340 or PHL 350
Twentieth-century discussions of universalization, utilitarianism, nature of a moral theory, moral language, relativism, skepticism, theory and practice, weakness of will, moral education, and justification.
- 442 Ethics and Animals**
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) R: Open to juniors or seniors or graduate students.
Moral standing for non-human animals, basis for human moral obligations to animals, animal's cognitive abilities. Ethics of using animals in specific ways: medical research, for food, in zoos, in the wild and in biotechnology.
- 444 Philosophical Issues in Biomedicine**
Fall of even years. 4(4-0) RB: PHL 344
Philosophically puzzling features of medical research, policy, and practice. Issues in theories of knowledge, personal identity, reference and meaning.
- 451 Philosophy and the Black Experience**
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) RB: PHL 340 or PHL 350 or PHL 450
Philosophical issues about race and the black experience. Nature of racism, relationship of science to race, debates about identity, public policy and race.
- 452 Ethics and Development**
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: Should have taken either two courses in philosophy or three courses in relevant social science fields.
Ethical issues such as racism, health care disparities, war, genocide, famine, agricultural intensification, economic liberalization, democratization, gender equity, globalization, and environmental degradation.
- 453 Ethical Issues in Global Public Health**
Spring. 3(3-0)
Ethical issues about public health from a global perspective. Health and illness in the context of development, poverty, technological change, resource conflicts, the distribution of power, and social violence. Values and policy issues regarding resources, environment, and the distribution and quality of health care.
- 454 Topics in Philosophy of Law**
Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: Courses in legal or political philosophy and one PHL course at the 300 level or above. R: Open to juniors or seniors in the Department of Philosophy or approval of department.
Selected topics in philosophical approaches to law such as critical race theory, constitutional theory and international law.
- 456 Topics in Feminist Philosophy**
Fall of odd years. 4(4-0) Interdepartmental with Women's Studies. Administered by Philosophy. RB: (PHL 356) or two 400-level courses in PHL.
Philosophical issues in a framework of feminist politics and critique. Standpoint theories, care/justice ethics, ontological status of genders/races, theories of power/dominance, determinism/freedom.
- 460 Epistemology**
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: One PHL course at the 300 level or above.
Theories and concepts of knowledge, belief, epistemic justification, certainty, and reason.
- 461 Metaphysics**
Spring. 3(3-0) RB: One PHL course at the 300 level or above.
Basic concepts employed in trying to understand the nature of things. Concepts include universals, particulars, things, kinds, properties, events, persons, change, causality, chance, existence, possibility, necessity, space, and time.
- 462 Philosophy of Mind**
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: One PHL course at the 300 level or above.
Modern theories of the mind, other minds, and the mind's relation to the body. Theories include dualism, behaviorism, criteriology, reductive and eliminative materialism, and functionalism.
- 463 Introduction to Cognitive Science**
Fall. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Linguistics and Psychology. Administered by Linguistics.
Cognitive processing of information by animals, humans, and computers. Relevant issues in philosophy, linguistics, psychology, neurophysiology, and artificial intelligence.
- 480 Philosophy of Science**
Fall. 4(4-0) RB: (PHL 330) or a 200 level mathematics or statistics course.
Structure of scientific theories and explanation. Causation, prediction, induction, confirmation, discovery, and scientific progress.

- 486 Biotechnology in Agriculture: Applications and Ethical Issues**
 Fall of even years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Crop and Soil Sciences and Forestry and Horticulture. Administered by Horticulture. P: BS 161 or PLB 105 RB: CSS 350 or ZOL 341 R: Not open to freshmen or sophomores.
 Current and future roles of biotechnology in agriculture: scientific basis, applications. Environmental, social, and ethical concerns.
- 490 Independent Study**
 Fall, Spring. 1 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of department.
 Supervised special projects arranged by an individual student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.
- 491 Special Topics in Philosophy**
 Fall, Spring. 3 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course.
 Special topics supplementing regular course offerings, proposed by faculty on a group study basis.
- 492 Capstone for Majors (W)**
 Spring. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: (PHL 130 or PHL 330 or PHL 432) and ((PHL 210 and PHL 211) and 20 total credits in Philosophy) R: Open to seniors in the Department of Philosophy or approval of department.
 Advanced, variable topic seminar for undergraduate majors. Presentations, substantial written work.
- 493 Philosophy Internship**
 Fall, Spring. 1 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: (Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement) and (PHL 130 or PHL 330) and (PHL 210 or PHL 211) RB: Two philosophy courses R: Open to juniors or seniors. Approval of department.
 Supervised pre-professional field experience in such philosophy-related careers as found in legal, healthcare, legislative or non-profit settings.
- 499 Senior Thesis (W)**
 Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0) P: (PHL 130 or PHL 330 or PHL 432) and completion of Tier I writing requirement RB: 20 credits in Philosophy R: Open to seniors in the Department of Philosophy. Approval of department.
 Individual research project supervised by a faculty member that demonstrates the student's ability to do independent research and submit or present a major paper.
- 800 Proseminar in Philosophy**
 Fall. 3(3-0) R: Open only to master's students in the Department of Philosophy or approval of department.
 The practice of graduate and professional work in philosophy: reading, writing, presentation, critique and revision; rigor of argument and clarity of expression; areas and methods of inquiry; cooperation and dialogue in inquiry; conferences, professional activities, and employment.
- 801 Teaching Philosophy**
 Spring. 3(3-0) R: Open only to doctoral students in the Department of Philosophy or approval of department.
 Theoretical and pedagogical issues in teaching philosophy: the nature of philosophy, designing a course and syllabus, lecturing, leading discussions, designing assignments, evaluation, classroom dynamics, using technology, teaching various areas of philosophy.
- 810 Seminar in the History of Philosophy**
 Fall. 2 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 10 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Major thinkers, themes, periods, or movements in the history of philosophy.
- 820 Seminar in Continental Philosophy**
 Fall of even years. 2 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 10 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Major figures or themes in 19th and 20th century continental philosophy.
- 821 Indigenous Peoples, Sustainability and Environmental Justice**
 Fall of even years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Community Sustainability. Administered by Community Sustainability. R: Open to graduate students.
 Indigenous peoples as major architects of environmental sustainability movements and environmental justice. Climate change adaptation, resilience, food sovereignty, and ecological restoration. Environmental movements, cooperative environmental and climate science, and coalitions for environmental advocacy. Case studies of Great Lakes and global Indigenous peoples in dialogue.
- 830 Graduate Seminar in Logic and Language**
 Spring of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.
 Graduate-level investigation of logical concepts, the philosophical significance of results in logic and the philosophy of language over the past 150 years, and related issues in the semantics and pragmatics of natural language.
- 840 Seminar in Value Theory**
 Spring. 2 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 10 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Major figures, themes, or periods in ethics or aesthetics. Topics vary.
- 850 Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy**
 Spring of even years. 2 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 10 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Major figures, themes, or periods in social and political philosophy. Topics vary.
- 860 Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology**
 Fall. 2 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 15 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Selected topics in metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of mind.
- 867 Nature and Practice of Cognitive Science**
 Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Computer Science and Engineering and Integrative Biology and Linguistics and Psychology. Administered by Psychology. RB: Undergraduate course work in behavioral biology, cognitive psychology, philosophy, linguistics, or artificial intelligence. SA: ZOL 867
 Survey of how different disciplines explore the cognitive processes underlying intelligent behavior.
- 870 Seminar in Philosophy of Health Care**
 Fall. 2 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 15 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Ethical, political, theoretical, and methodological issues in medicine and health care.
- 880 Seminar in Philosophy of Science**
 Spring. 2 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 10 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Selected topics in the philosophy of the special sciences, in the metatheory of science, and in the social studies of science.
- 890 Independent Study**
 Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 10 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 20 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of department.
 Special projects, directed reading, and research arranged by an individual graduate student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.
- 894 Practicum in Philosophy of Health Care**
 Fall, Spring. 1 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PHL 344 R: Open only to graduate students in the Philosophy major or approval of department.
 Study of ethical and policy issues in hospital and governmental agency settings.
- 897 Seminar in Feminist Theories, Epistemologies, and Pedagogy**
 Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with English and Sociology and Teacher Education and Women's Studies. Administered by Women's Studies.
 Foundational knowledge, theory, epistemology, and pedagogy in women's and gender studies from a multi-disciplinary, global perspective.

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899 Master's Thesis Research
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 12 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course.
R: Approval of department.

Directed research leading to a master's thesis in partial fulfillment of Plan A master's degree requirements.

999 Doctoral Dissertation Research
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 12 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 36 credits in all enrollments for this course.
R: Approval of department.

Doctoral dissertation research.