

PHILOSOPHY

philosophy.as.miami.edu

Dept. Code: PHI

Introduction

The Philosophy Department offers a wide range of courses at the undergraduate level which cover every major area of philosophy as well as its history. Students can major or minor in the subject. In addition, the department sponsors two undergraduate philosophy organizations:

- the Philosophy Club, which is open to all UM undergraduates, and
- Phi Sigma Tau, a chapter of the National Honor Society in Philosophy.

Both groups afford students regular opportunities to meet, eat, and talk philosophy with each other and with graduate students and faculty in the department. All undergraduates who are interested in philosophy are welcome to participate in these philosophical events.

Educational Objectives

Philosophy is the study of the most basic moral, scientific, legal, aesthetic, religious, and metaphysical concepts and theories by which we understand ourselves and our universe. It is a reasoned pursuit of fundamental truths, a quest for understanding, a study of principles of conduct. It analyzes the basic assumptions and concepts of other disciplines and the norms that govern interpersonal relations and the acquisition of knowledge. It seeks to establish standards of evidence, to provide rational methods of resolving conflicts, and to create techniques for evaluating ideas and arguments. Philosophers are dedicated to developing the following abilities: reasoning clearly, distinguishing between good and bad arguments, thinking through complicated questions, and using reason in situations that are often governed by emotions. Studies have shown that philosophy majors do extremely well on standardized tests, and in careers that require analytical abilities such as the practice of law and software development. But irrespective of career choice, philosophy deepens one's sense of the meaning and varieties of human experience, and enhances self-knowledge, foresight, and sense of direction in life.

Degree Programs

The major in Philosophy leads to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. To satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences writing requirement in the discipline, students majoring in philosophy should take at least two (2) (properly approved writing and communication) philosophy courses.

Pre-Law Major and Minor Tracks

The Department offers major and minor tracks for students wishing to enhance their Pre-Law studies with relevant Philosophy coursework.

Pre-Med Major and Minor Tracks

The Department also offers major and minor tracks for students wishing to supplement their Pre-Med work with relevant Philosophy coursework.

Departmental Honors

A program of work toward graduation with Honors in Philosophy is available for qualified students. Interested students should consult the Departmental Director of Undergraduate Studies during their sophomore or junior years. Further information may be found under the section entitled HONORS PROGRAM.

Advance Writing and Communication Requirement

Philosophy degree candidates in the College of Arts and Sciences who matriculate under Bulletin 2015/2016 and forward must complete at least four writing courses, and at least one such course must have a course code starting with PHI.

Transfer students may use a maximum of two transfer courses towards the requirement. The following links to a table listing the courses that have approval as writing courses:

<http://www.as.miami.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/writing-courses/>

These courses, and only these courses, can be used to fulfill the Writing & Communication proficiency requirement. This table will be updated regularly with further courses, as they are approved.

For requirements leading to the Master of Arts and Ph.D. degree (<http://bulletin.miami.edu/graduate-academic-programs/arts-sciences/philosophy/>), see the Bulletin of the Graduate School.

PHI 101. Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

Problems concerning knowledge, mind, freedom, religion, and morality. Reading and discussion of primary sources.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

PHI 103. Introduction to Philosophy through Markets and Morals. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to philosophy in a way that emphasizes its relevance to thinking about the economy. It will familiarize you with central texts in moral and political philosophy, and it will provide you with an opportunity to apply the tools of philosophical analysis and argumentation toward questions about the role of markets in contemporary life.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 104. Introduction to Philosophy and the Nature of Scientific Knowledge. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to philosophy in a way that emphasizes its relevance to thinking about the sciences. It will familiarize you with some historically important philosophical works about knowledge and reality, and it will provide you with an opportunity to apply the tools of philosophical analysis and argumentation toward questions about the nature and possibility of scientific knowledge.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 105. Introduction to Philosophy through the Brain and Behavioral Sciences. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to philosophy in a way that emphasizes its connections to the brain and behavioral sciences. It will familiarize you with traditional questions about knowledge, freedom, the self, society, and morality; it will introduce relevant work in the brain and behavioral sciences; and it will provide an opportunity to reflect on how the scientific advances might inform our thinking about the philosophical puzzles.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 106. Introduction to Philosophy and Health Sciences. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to philosophy in a way that emphasizes its relevance to thinking about the health sciences. It will provide you with tools for thinking about both metaphysical and moral issues raised by the health sciences. The metaphysical issues include: the nature of life, death, health, and disease. The moral issues include: patient autonomy, what makes death bad, abortion, euthanasia, experimentation, and the allocation of health care resources.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 107. Introduction to Philosophy and Law. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to philosophy in a way that emphasizes its relevance to thinking about the law and legal reasoning. It will familiarize you with traditional theories of moral obligation, social justice, free will, and responsibility. And it will provide an opportunity to explore the significance these theories have for addressing questions about the nature of law, our obligation to obey the law, rights, freedom, punishment, and liberty.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 108. Sexual Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to philosophy, focused on definitional, psychological, ethical and political issues relevant to sexual ethics.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 109. The Superhuman Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind. 3 Credit Hours.

Cases of people who became geniuses by accident, human echolocation, lucid dreaming, synthetic telepathy used to move objects with the mind, and more, will be used to shed light on basic concepts in philosophy, such as the concept of mind, the concept of intelligence and the concept of human agency and human capacity.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

PHI 110. Critical Thinking. 3 Credit Hours.

Principles of sound reasoning; the construction and evaluation of arguments in everyday contexts and the assessment of evidence.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

PHI 111. Introduction to Philosophy Through Video Games. 3 Credit Hours.

Central philosophical topics through reading, playing, talking and writing about video games.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 115. Social and Ethical Issues in Computing. 3 Credit Hours.

History, social context and methods and tools of analysis. Professional and ethical responsibilities. Intellectual property. Privacy and civil liberties.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

PHI 130. Contemporary Moral Issues. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of the philosophical problems which arise in connection with such moral and social issues as abortion, war, suicide, civil disobedience, racial discrimination, the death penalty, and the right to privacy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

PHI 131. Ethical Debates. 3 Credit Hours.

Ethical theories, their applications to contemporary issues, and a debate component styled after the Ethics Bowl.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 135. Love 101. 3 Credit Hours.

Love from different ethical, psychological and neuro-scientific perspectives. Among other things we will look at what distinguishes different kinds of love from each other, how love is manifested psychologically and neuro-scientifically, what chemicals drive feelings of love and obsession and why it can be so difficult to recover from a breakup.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 210. Symbolic Logic. 3 Credit Hours.

Introduction to symbolic logic and its methods.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Summer.

PHI 215. Logic and Law. 3 Credit Hours.

Principles and techniques of logic applied to legal reasoning.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

PHI 236. Feminist Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is an introduction to issues in feminist philosophy, including its critique of Western philosophy and its contributions to major areas of philosophy such as ethics, social philosophy, theories of human nature, and theories of knowledge. Theories of oppression introduced at the beginning of the course inform analyses of sexism, heterosexism, racism, classism and ableism, and philosophizing about these "isms" is aided by sociocultural research. The emphasis is not only on what is contained in these topics, but also on how to think critically about them.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 237. Philosophy of Sport. 3 Credit Hours.

A philosophical examination of the nature and characterization of sports and of the many ethical issues they raise.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 238. Environmental Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

Theoretical and practical issues in the field of environmental ethics. It will explore the relationship between humans and the natural environment, the moral status of the natural world and the non-human entities within it, and how we should address various environmental problems and challenges. Topics to be covered include anthropocentrism vs. non-anthropocentrism, moral obligations to non-human animals, conservation vs. preservation, wilderness, over-population, agriculture and the environment, climate change, human rights and the environment, and sustainable development.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 240. Language, Power and Politics. 3 Credit Hours.

A discussion of various types of politically relevant speech, which includes terms like 'gender' and 'race', slurs, political rhetoric, feminist discourse, pornography. How do politicians use rhetoric to persuade and manipulate their targets? How do words embody an ideology? How do we use language to demean, derogate, silence and hurt other people based on their gender, ethnic origin, religious affiliation or sexual orientation? What is the meaning of slurs? And how does this meaning enable slurs to derogate? How is pornography a speech act and how does it subordinate and silence women? Should pornography be granted protection under the first amendment? What does it mean to be a 'women' and what does it mean to be a 'feminist'? What do certain gendered and racial terms mean? How might language constitute or enable violence?

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 241. History and Philosophy of Science. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the history and philosophy of science by approaching this field from historical and epistemological points of view.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 242. Self-Knowledge. 3 Credit Hours.

How we can come to know our own minds.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 244. Philosophy of Emotions. 3 Credit Hours.

The philosophy of emotions focusing on questions about what emotions are, whether emotions can be rational and whether they are socially constructed.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 245. Philosophical Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of problems in psychology that philosophical methods have traditionally been used to solve.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 246. Introduction to Cognitive Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

Cognitive studies is a deeply interdisciplinary approach to the study of the human mind and its biological basis. In this team-taught course, students will be introduced to the field of cognitive studies through a number of disciplinary perspectives, including philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, computer science, religious studies, and anthropology.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 247. Perception. 3 Credit Hours.

An overview of the nature of sensory perception.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 248. Phenomenology. 3 Credit Hours.

A historical account of the phenomenological tradition and its significance to contemporary theorizing.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 271. Ancient Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

This course will introduce students to Ancient Greek ideas by examining central philosophical themes, such as: Knowledge; Why Be Moral? Justice in the City/Justice in the Soul; Liberty and Social Engineering; Happiness; Friendship; Death. We will use primary texts (in translation) by Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and Augustine of Hippo, supplemented by some selections from the Greek historian Thucydides. Some Greek vocabulary will be assigned. The final exam will consist of a 2-week-long role playing game, The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 B.C. (Developed by the Classics department at Barnard College, and a core component of Ancient Philosophy courses at UT Austin). Students will be assigned different roles: Thrasylbulus; a radical Democrat; an Oligarch; and a supporter of Socrates.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

PHI 272. Modern Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

The Renaissance through Kant.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

PHI 295. Special Topics. 1-4 Credit Hours.

Special Topics taken at other institutions with no direct equivalents.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 304. Atheism and the Meaning of Life. 3 Credit Hours.

Whether it is something we can articulate, or something we simply feel, the sense that our lives are meaningful is often a central part of whatever contentment we experience in ourselves, our relationships with others, and our belonging in the world. Where does this meaning come from, and in what does it consist, exactly? The idea that it is derived from commitments associated with the supernatural – God, or gods, or otherwise spiritual entities – is a common theme in many longstanding traditions for answering such questions. But what if we do not make any such commitments? In that case, meaning will have to be understood differently. This course is an exploration of some alternative conceptions of the meaning of life.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 330. Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

The main ethical systems and ethical concepts, an analysis of important ethical readings, and an application of ethical concepts to the individual and to society.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

PHI 331. Social and Political Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

Relations between morality and politics, the sources and the limits of political obligation, the function of the state, the nature of law, civil disobedience and revolution.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 332. Philosophy of Law. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of basic philosophical issues concerning the nature and function of law, with particular attention to the legal system of the United States.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

PHI 333. Philosophical foundations of criminal law. 3 Credit Hours.

Philosophical examination of questions concerning the purpose, scope and limits of criminal law and the justification of punishment.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 334. Biomedical Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

Fundamental issues including: the allocation of medical resources, behavior control, definition of death, experimentation with human subjects, euthanasia, and abortion.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

PHI 335. Professional Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

Moral issues in business, engineering, law, and medicine. Development of moral principles to guide those in professional roles.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 336. Human Rights.. 3 Credit Hours.

This course offers philosophical, legal, and political perspectives on human rights. After a short introduction to international human rights, it surveys international human rights treaties and institutions. Next it turns to topics in human rights theory, covering some contemporary philosophical theories of human rights. The final section explores some human rights problems and controversies.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 337. Environmental Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

Theoretical and practical issues in the field of environmental ethics.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 338. Philosophy and Feminism. 3 Credit Hours.

Theoretical (metaphysical and epistemological) and applied issues in feminist thought.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 339. Philosophy of Love. 3 Credit Hours.

Love from different ethical, psychological and neuroscientific perspectives. Among other things we will look at what distinguishes different kinds of love from each other, how love is manifested psychologically and neuroscientifically, what chemicals drive feelings of love and obsession and why it can be so difficult to recover from a breakup

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

PHI 340. Theory of Knowledge. 3 Credit Hours.

Analysis of the nature, sources and structure of knowledge. Possible topics include perception, skepticism, reason, truth, justification, and certainty.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

PHI 341. Philosophy of Language. 3 Credit Hours.

Theories of meaning, reference, predication, nature of signs and symbols, types and functions of discourse.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 343. Philosophy of Science. 3 Credit Hours.

Scientific theories and their relation to evidence; experimentation and its logic; explanation, the rationality of science and the growth of scientific knowledge.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 344. Philosophy of Mind. 3 Credit Hours.

The nature of mind and mental acts, events, and states and their relations to physical states of the brain and body and to behavior.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

PHI 345. Metaphysics. 3 Credit Hours.

The basic structure and kinds of constituents of the world.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

PHI 346. Philosophy of Mathematics. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of key philosophical issues concerning mathematics and the understanding of mathematical practice.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 347. Philosophy of Social Science. 3 Credit Hours.

Examination of whether there are important differences between the social sciences and the natural sciences in terms of their methodology and objects of study.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 348. Introduction to Philosophy through the Brain and Behavioral Sciences. 3 Credit Hours.

Cognitive neuroscience taught on a level accessible to people in the humanities, the fine arts and the behavioral sciences.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 349. Philosophy of Space and Time. 3 Credit Hours.

Time and space are notoriously difficult to think about. We seem to have an intuitive understanding of them, but it is surprisingly hard to express that understanding. To make matters worse, modern physics challenges what little grasp we thought we had on the concepts of space and time. We are told that space can be curved, and that there can fail to be an objective fact about which of two events occurred first. So we are left without even an intuitive grasp of two of the most fundamental concepts of experience.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 350. Philosophy of Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.

Philosophical questions about psychology. Topics include: the foundations of Freudian psychology; neuro-psychoanalysis; the nature of the self; thinking animals; computers and consciousness; actions, reasons, and causes; first person authority; the unconscious; meaning and the mental; neuro-science and psychology.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 351. Philosophy of Religion. 3 Credit Hours.

The nature of and grounds for religious beliefs; traditional arguments for and against the existence of God; God's attributes; reason vs. faith.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 352. Aesthetics. 3 Credit Hours.

The philosophy of art, such as defining 'art', adjudicating among competing judgments or interpretations of works of art, and understanding the metaphysical status of art objects.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 353. Philosophy of Film. 3 Credit Hours.

Philosophical questions concerning the ontology and aesthetics of film.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring & Summer.

PHI 354. Philosophy of Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Central philosophical issues concerning literature and the evaluation of literary works.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 355. History of Philosophy of Art. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of the history of philosophical work on the arts (including literature, visual art, and music) from ancient times through the mid twentieth century.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 356. Philosophy of Education. 3 Credit Hours.

Examines the nature and aims of education. Of particular concern will be the evaluation of five possible epistemic aims of education: knowledge, truth, rationality, understanding, and intellectual virtue. Are all of these legitimate aims? How do they relate to one another? Are any more fundamental than the others? We will also consider a range of moral/political/social aims of education. A general question concerns the cultural embeddedness of all such proposed aims, so we will consider the place of considerations of diversity, multiculturalism, and their place in civic education in democratic societies in the determination of legitimate educational aims and ideals.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 357. Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is an introduction to the fields of natural language semantics and pragmatics, which study linguistic meaning and the use of language in communication. We will begin by investigating various aspects of linguistic meaning: How does language allow us to represent and encode information about the world around us? What are the meanings of expressions of different sorts, and how do they relate to each other? How does the meaning of a sentence depend on its syntactic structure? We will then go on to investigate questions that arise from the use of language in communication: How does the context of a conversation affect the meaning of a sentence? How can a sentence that means one thing be used to communicate something else? How is it that one can use a bit of language to do something like make a promise or issue a threat? What conversational phenomena arise simply because communication is a cooperative activity like many others, and what phenomena depend on specific features of language? Over the course of the semester we will study well-established results from semantic and pragmatic theory, as well as identify open questions that are the subject of current research in philosophy and linguistics.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 358. Effective Altruism: Making A Difference. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of what it means to "make a Difference," "Why does it Matter", and "How to best Achieve this Goal". Critical assessment of various candidate proposals for making the world a better place.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 359. Immersive Experience and Virtual Reality. 3 Credit Hours.

Part of living a good life is immersing yourself in new and interesting experiences. Traditionally, this meant going out into the world, not sitting in front of a computer screen. But recent technological advances are making it possible to have more and more immersive and realistic experiences in virtual reality. In this course, we explore a variety of devices used to create immersive experiences: from novels and movies, via computer games such as Second Life, to current state of the art virtual reality systems. We look at the ways these devices shape our experiences and our sense of self. We discuss some ethical and metaphysical challenges they pose. And we consider the opportunities they present for learning, problem solving and improving human interaction. We make extensive use of VR and AR devices, immersing ourselves in virtual worlds in order to think about the fundamental philosophical questions they pose.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 360. Assessing Philosophical Papers: Philosophy Conference Organization. 3 Credit Hours.

This course teaches students how to evaluate academic work outside their main specialty area and to plan and orchestrate an undergraduate philosophy conference.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 373. Nineteenth Century Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Marx, Comte, Mill, Spencer, and Nietzsche.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 374. Twentieth Century Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

Philosophy and philosophers in the twentieth century.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 381. Existentialism. 3 Credit Hours.

Existentialist philosophy as seen in the works of such authors as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, and Dostoevsky.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

PHI 391. Special Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

Study of selected problems, philosophers, or movements. May be repeated for credit.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 392. Special Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

Study of selected problems, philosophers, or movements. May be repeated for credit.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 494. Independent Study in Philosophy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Independent research conducted under the guidance of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 495. Senior Honors Thesis. 3 Credit Hours.

Directed reading and a substantial and scholarly paper.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 496. Senior Honors Thesis. 3 Credit Hours.

Directed reading and a substantial and scholarly paper.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 506. Mathematical Logic. 3 Credit Hours.

Logics, truth, proof, logical consequences, model theory, formalization, and computation. Meta-theory of first-order logic, computability theory, and Goedel's Incompleteness theorems. Related results by Church, Turing, and Tarski. Discussion of their philosophical significance.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 510. Formal Logic. 3 Credit Hours.

First and second-order quantification theory; metalogic.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

PHI 530. Ethical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.

G. E. Moore to the present.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 532. Legal Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

The philosophical foundations of legal theory and litigation in U.S. law. Topics include the philosophical underpinnings of contemporary criminal law and tort law, the problems of legal causation and intent, the concept of a reasonable person, the nature of corrective justice, the Kantian basis for human rights, and the free speech dilemma.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 533. Political Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

A survey of some central issues and developments in political philosophy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 540. Epistemology. 3 Credit Hours.

A survey of the basic topics and questions in epistemology: knowledge acquisition and justification, perception, fallibilism, and skepticism.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 541. Mind and Language. 3 Credit Hours.

Philosophical problems about signs, linguistic and mental representations, intentionality, action, and consciousness.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 543. Induction, Probability, and Scientific Method. 3 Credit Hours.

Foundations of inductive reasoning and role of experiment in science.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 544. The Philosophy of Language. 3 Credit Hours.

A central feature of human language is that it is meaningful; this is what allows us to use language to record and share information about the world, and to communicate the ideas, thoughts and emotions that make up our private mental lives. But what is linguistic meaning? One historically influential idea is that linguistic meaning is to be analyzed in terms of truth. This course will examine this idea, and consider several philosophical debates that have arisen from it, or in which it has played an important role. Along the way students will gain an understanding of some of the most central concepts and issues in contemporary philosophy of language.

Prerequisite: PHI 357 (249) or at least one of PHI 341 - 346.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 545. Metaphysics. 3 Credit Hours.

A selection of topics dealing with the main problems of metaphysics: existence, modality, universals, identity and persistence through time, causation, the self and physicalism.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 546. Evidence and Knowledge in Medicine. 3 Credit Hours.

Basic methodologies in medicine in the context of philosophical theories of evidence.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

PHI 553. Philosophy and Film. 3 Credit Hours.

Combining readings in philosophy and film theory and criticism with close analysis of selected films, this course is premised on a conviction in the potential fruitfulness, both for film studies and philosophy, of thinking philosophically about the ontology of the medium, the history and the art of film, the ways we experience movies, and their impact on our lives. A main focus will be on the writings of Stanley Cavell—the most important author in the Anglo/American philosophical tradition to make writing about film a substantial part of his philosophical project—and philosophical responses by to his work.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 555. Philosophy of Education. 3 Credit Hours.

Problems concerning the nature and aims of education.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 560. History of Logic. 3 Credit Hours.

Aristotle, the Stoics, the Scholastics, Leibniz, Boole, DeMorgan, Peirce, Frege, and Russell and Whitehead.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 562. History of Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

A selection of ethical theories from Aristotle to Rawls.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 570. Presocratics and Plato. 3 Credit Hours.

Fragments from the Presocratics and the dialogues of Plato.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 571. Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

A survey of central philosophical topics in Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophers (Epicureans, Stoics, and Skeptics).

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 572. Medieval Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

The patristic period through the scholasticism of the late middle ages.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 573. Early Modern Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of early modern philosophy from Hobbes and Descartes to Hume.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 575. Kant. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of selected issues in Kant's theoretical or practical philosophy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 581. Pragmatism. 3 Credit Hours.

Peirce, James, Dewey, and others.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 582. History of Analytic Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.

The development of analytic philosophy from its beginnings in the work of Frege and Russell through logical positivism to contemporary philosophy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 583. The Phenomenological Tradition. 3 Credit Hours.

An examination of the phenomenological movement (Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and others) and of its impact on contemporary thought.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 591. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.

A selected philosopher or philosophical problem. May be repeated for credit.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 592. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.

A selected philosopher or philosophical problem. May be repeated for credit.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 593. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.

A selected philosopher or philosophical problem. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Six credits in Philosophy and junior standing.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

PHI 594. Independent Study in Philosophy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Directed reading on a topic or philosopher. May be repeated for credit.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.