
Philosophy Course Descriptions

Required courses are taught on a regular rotation. See Chair.

PHIL 195, 295, 395, 495 – Special Topics (1-12)

PHIL 198, 298, 398, 498 – Tutorial (1-3)

PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy (3 or 4) Exploration of subject matter, problems, methods and aims of philosophy. Fall and Spring. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 105 – Human Nature (3) Influential views about nature of humans. Focus on nature of world and moral responsibility. Gen Ed: PI & FC credit.

PHIL 110 – Introduction to Logic (3 or 4) Methods and principles of correct reasoning. Development of good critical thinking habits, an introduction to formal logic. Gen Ed: PI & FC credit.

PHIL 115 – Inquiry and Critical Thinking (3)

PHIL 120 – Introduction to Ethics (3) Nature of judgments or moral value and possible means of justifying them. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 210 – Introduction to Symbolic Logic (3) Techniques of modern logic, theory and practice.

PHIL 217 – Language and Symbolic Logic (3) Relation of language, logic and theory of logical analysis; axiomatic development of elementary logistic system; consistency, completeness and independence. Cross listed with CIS 217.

PHIL 314 – Contemporary Moral Issues (3 or 4) Selected moral issues confronting persons living in contemporary society and philosophical bases for alternative solutions to those problems. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 317 – Undecidability and Incompleteness (3) Rigorous proving of Godel's and Church's theorems. Requires familiarity with handling of notational system. Cross listed with CIS 317.

PHIL 319 – Science, Technology and the Human Condition (3) Consequences of science and technology in regard to values of modern human beings and quality of life in society. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 320 – Aesthetics (3) Philosophy of fine arts; meaning and nature of arts. Relationship between art and emotion. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 322 – Ancient Philosophy (3) Philosophical thought from early manifestations in ancient Greece to opening of Middle Ages. Gen Ed: PI and WC credit.

PHIL 323 – Medieval Philosophy (3) Development of Western Medieval thought beginning with Augustine. Emphasis on greatest figures, especially Augustine and Aquinas. Prerequisite: PHIL 322 or permission. Gen Ed: WC credit.

PHIL 324 – Modern Philosophy (3) Major lines of philosophical thought from Renaissance through Kant. Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or permission. Gen Ed: PI and WC credit.

PHIL 328 – Issues in Ethical Theory (3) Essentially concerned with the nature, status and justification of morality and the moral life. Prerequisite: one course in Philosophy.

PHIL 329 – Business Ethics (3) Analysis and evaluation of ethical issues in current business practices.

PHIL 330 – Environmental Ethics (3) The basic task of environmental ethics is to present and defend a comprehensive and reasoned account of the moral relations between human beings and their natural environment. This course surveys several opposing theories, examines their application to controversial issues and explores their moral and practical implications. Gen Ed: PI credit; Little's section also WI credit.

PHIL 332 – Philosophy of Law (3) Survey of Philosophy of Law from foundations in stoicism up to and including contemporary schools of thought.

Philosophy of Law is concerned with the formulation of concepts and theories to aid in the understanding of the nature of law, its sources, authority and role in society.

PHIL 333 – Philosophy of Justice (3) The philosopher's interest in punishment is mainly connected with questions of justification. It is, *prima facie*, wrong to deliberately inflict suffering or deprivation on another person, yet punishment consists in doing precisely this. What conditions, the philosopher asks, would justify it? Or, more generally, what kind of consideration would count toward a justification.

PHIL 335 – American Philosophy (3) A survey of the pragmatism of Pierce, James, and Dewey. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 346 – Existentialism and Phenomenology (3) Fundamental concepts and problems of existentialism and an examination of phenomenological method. Gen Ed: PI & WI credit.

PHIL 350 – Philosophy of Science (3) Analysis of concepts and methods of natural sciences. Prerequisites: two courses in philosophy, science major or permission. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 352 – Philosophy of the Social Sciences (3) Analysis of concepts and methods of social sciences. Prerequisites: two courses in philosophy, social sciences major or permission. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 354 – Theory of Knowledge (3) Theories about the kinds of knowledge, how knowledge is acquired and evaluation of claims to knowledge. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy or permission. Replaced by PHIL 454.

PHIL 355 – Philosophy of Language (3) Problems that arise in analysis of language, including contemporary problems in linguistics (syntax and semantics).

PHIL 358 – Philosophy and World Religions (3) Introduces the basic doctrines of the major religions of the world through a consideration of the ways in which those doctrines influence the answers that adherents of these religions give to basic philosophical questions.

PHIL 359 – Philosophy of Religion (3) Nature of religion and religious belief. Arguments for existence of God; religious experience; criticism of theism, faith, religion and science; and alternatives to theism. Either PHIL 359 or 360, but not both, may count towards the major or the minor. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 360 – Does God Exist? (3) Examines a number of the better known arguments for and against the existence of God. Either PHIL 359 or 360, but not both, may count towards the major or the minor.

PHIL 365 – Metaphysics (3) Problems of metaphysics; freedom and determinism, fate, time and becoming, and God. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy or permission. Replaced by PHIL 465.

PHIL 371 – Social and Political Philosophy (3) Concepts of social and political explanation and evaluation. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 372 – Feminism and Philosophy (3) An examination of the classical roots of several feminist theories and the major differences among feminist theories; a critical evaluation of feminist thought and its application to social and political institutions and contemporary moral issues. Prerequisite: one Philosophy course. Cross listed with POLS 353.

PHIL 373 – Metaphor (3) Discussion of a variety of issues relating to the meaning and functions of metaphor in ordinary language, philosophy and poetry. Cross listed with LITR 317.

PHIL 375 – Symbol and Myth (3) Symbols, myth and metaphor. Emphasis on ways of approaching and understanding them.

PHIL 380 – Philosophy of Mind (3) Concepts of mind and of central problems related to study of mind. Prerequisite: two courses in Philosophy.

PHIL 382 – Philosophical Ideas in Literature (3) Trends of thought in selected pieces of literature that raise significant philosophical problems, especially problems of identity, community and ethical ambiguity.

PHIL 383 – Non-Western Philosophy (3) Selected systems of non-western philosophy.

PHIL 387 – Selected Philosophers (3)

PHIL 440 – 20th Century Analytic Philosophy (3) Recent British and American philosophy that approaches philosophical problems through logical and linguistic analysis. Prerequisite: two courses in Philosophy. Replaces PHIL 340.

PHIL 454 – Theory of Knowledge (3) Theories about the kinds of knowledge, how knowledge is acquired and evaluation of claims to knowledge. Prerequisite: two courses in Philosophy. Replaces PHIL 354. Gen Ed: PI credit.

PHIL 465 – Metaphysics (3) Problems of metaphysics; freedom and determinism, fate, time and becoming, and God. Prerequisite: two courses in Philosophy. Replaces PHIL 365.

PHIL 475 – Seminar In Philosophy (3) Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing and three courses in Philosophy.

PHIL 480 – Honors Thesis Research I (2) Initiation of senior thesis research for departmental Honors student under the direction of a faculty mentor. To be taken as a second semester Junior or first semester Senior. Prerequisite: Acceptance into Departmental Honors Program and permission of instructor.

PHIL 481 – Honors Thesis Research II (1) Completion of senior thesis research culminating in the presentation of a senior thesis to the faculty of the department by mid- semester of the student's ultimate semester. Prerequisite: PHIL 480.