

PHILOSOPHY (PHI)

PHI 105 — Reason & Responsibility (LA) (3 credits)

This course provides an introduction to the philosophical methodology for good reasoning and applies these reasoning skills to examine general principles about what it is we should do and believe. Students will learn classic problems in philosophy, their roots in intellectual history, and their importance for modern life.

PHI 206 — Ethics (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to think critically about contemporary ethical issues, both personal and social. It constitutes a scientific investigation in order to develop a normative value system as a basis for distinguishing the good and evil in human conduct.

PHI 300 — Logic (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

Logic, the science and art of reasoning, is a necessary tool for decision making in all areas of human reasoning. This course helps the student to develop reasoning skills through the principles and method of classical logic.

PHI 301 — Philosophy of the Human Person (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

This course investigates, both historically and systematically, philosophical questions concerning the human person. Are persons identical to bodies, souls, psychologies, or some combination of these? How should we understand the idea of human nature? What does it mean for human persons to live well or flourish?

PHI 303 — Epistemology (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

At its core, epistemology attempts to explain what makes a belief a good one. Topics include the nature of knowledge, philosophical skepticism, the structure of justification for beliefs, and the sources of such justification.

PHI 304 — Social and Political Philosophy (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

A study of classical, modern, and contemporary social and political theories; the values toward which the social process is directed; the power and authority of the state; law as an agent of social control; political obligations; the idea of justice.

PHI 305 — Philosophy of Science (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

Science is an exemplary source of knowledge-but it is unclear just what science is, and in what sense it is successful. Topics include the distinction between science (astronomy, evolution) and pseudoscience (astrology, homeopathics), the nature of scientific explanations and laws, the reality of theoretical entities, and the role of values and aesthetics in scientific theorizing.

PHI 306 — Metaphysics (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

Investigates, both historically and systematically, the nature of metaphysical knowledge, the constitution and properties of being, causality, analogy, the existence and nature of Infinite Being, and allied questions.

PHI 308 — Philosophy of Mind (H) (3 credits)

Prerequisite Take PHI 105

This course is a study of some central questions about the human mind and its place in nature. Topics will include: theories of the relation between mental states and physical states, artificial intelligence, the nature of mental representation, and the place of consciousness in a physicalistic worldview.

PHI 309 — Special Topics (H) (3 credits)

Prerequisite Take PHI 105

This course offers in depth study of contemporary debates in philosophy. The course may focus on specific topics in different areas of philosophy or on debated issues in the study of the history of philosophy. May be taken up to three times with different course material.

PHI 310 — Ancient Philosophy (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite take phi*105*

A study of the main problems of philosophy in the thought of the Greeks and Romans.

PHI 311 — Medieval Philosophy (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite take phi*105*

A study of the main problems of philosophy in the thought of medieval philosophers.

PHI 312 — Modern Philosophy (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite take phi*105*

A survey covering the development of the scientific method around 1640 (Descartes, Hobbes) to the birth of idealism around 1790 (Kant). The course will examine the debate between rationalists (Spinoza, Leibniz) and empiricists (Locke, Hume) over the nature of human knowledge. It will also examine counter-enlightenment thinkers such as Pascal, Rousseau, and Vico.

PHI 314 — Phenomenology & Existentialism (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

An introduction to the historical development of phenomenology and existentialism from its origins in the problems of classical idealism as developed in the writings of Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Husserl, Scheler, Heidegger, Marcel, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty and Ricoeur.

PHI 315 — Philosophy of Language (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite take phi*105*

An examination of logical atomism, logical positivism, and contemporary British and American analytic movements through representative selections from the works of the early analysts such as Moore and Russell, logical positivists such as Ayer and Carnap, and linguistic analysts such as Wittgenstein, Ryle, Strawson, Wisdom, Quine, and Austin.

PHI 316 — Intro to Eastern Thought (H) (3 credits)

*Prerequisite PHI*105*

This course examines the distinctive worldviews presented by Asian philosophical and religious systems, including Taoism, Confucianism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Particular attention will be paid to the way in which these worldviews, with their signature emphasis on meditative focus and attention, might have something to offer our present day distracted societies in the West. This class will include in-class meditation and journaling.

PHI 318 — Philosophy of Art (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite take phi*105*

This course will lead students to respond to the question: What is art? Students will examine many philosophical topics that bear on this question including the nature of beauty (aesthetics), the metaphysical significance of art, the nature of emotional expression, the relationship of art to culture, and art as political expression.

PHI 320 — Business Ethics (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite take phi*105*

Through the application of general moral principles, this course develops the student's ability to think critically about the diverse, moral relationships that occur in the economic order. This course investigates the relationship of what is morally good and evil, to decision making in the field of business both at the corporate and individual levels.

PHI 321 — Philosophy of Religion (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite Take PHI*105*

A philosophical examination of religious beliefs and concepts. Topics to include the relationships between reason, faith, morality, and science. Arguments and evidence concerning the existence and nature of God will also be considered and evaluated, as will answers to questions such as: Should religious belief require evidence? What is to count as genuine evidence for truth about God?

PHI 322 — Biomedical Ethics (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite Take PHI*105;*

A survey of contemporary ethical issues in medicine. Possible topics of study include informed consent, advanced directives, abortion, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, reproductive technologies, the ethics of organ donation, human enhancement, the ethics of both animal and human experimentation, resource allocation, and patient autonomy.

PHI 323 — Environmental Ethics (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite Take PHI 105.*

This course will introduce students to major topics in environmental ethics. Questions to be addressed include: does nature have intrinsic value? Is there a real distinction between the "natural" and the "non-natural"? What interventions in the natural world by humans are justified? Ought nature to be preserved or conserved?

PHI 324 — Animal Ethics (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite Take PHI 105.*

Are animals conscious? Can they suffer? Do animals have rights? Is it morally acceptable to eat meat? How should we resolve conflicts between human and animal interests? This course will consider these and other selected questions in animal ethics, and will offer opportunities for both philosophical and personal reflection on our relationship to animals.

PHI 325 — Philosophy of Law (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite Take PHI 105.*

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to think critically about the philosophical basis of law. Topics include the evaluation of opposing arguments on the distinction between natural law theory versus legal positivism, the relationship between the law and morality, rights theory, notions of responsibility, and punishment theory.

PHI 326 — Philosophy of Sport (LA) (3 credits)*Prerequisite Take PHI 105. **Students in the Gen Ed prior to catalog*

This course examines contemporary debates in the philosophy of sport. How do we define sport? Why is it wrong to use performance-enhancing drugs? Is it wrong to strategically foul? Is it wrong to trash-talk? Is it wrong to run up the score? Can officials, strictly speaking, get a call wrong?

PHI 328 — Philosophy of Film (H) (3 credits)*Prerequisite Take PHI 105. **Students in the Gen Ed prior to catalog*

Film can both unveil reality and create fantasy. This opens many theoretical questions. Why should film be considered art? How do films relate to their subject matters and their audiences? Are films inherently political or psychological? Students will be introduced to these questions through readings of film theory and philosophy.

PHI 400 — Senior Seminar (WI) (3 credits)

Majors will complete an individually tailored research project commensurate with the skills of an advanced student in philosophy. The course will be conducted as an independent research project on a specific issue or problem of consequence as determined by the student and an adviser, and approved in consultation with the department.

PHI 403 — Honors Thesis I (LA) (3 credits)

Individual research of a substantive nature pursued in the student's major field of study. The research will conclude in a written thesis or an original project, and an oral defense.

PHI 404 — Honors Thesis II (LA) (3 credits)

Individual research of a substantive nature pursued in the student's major field of study. The research will conclude in a written thesis or an original project, and an oral defense.

PHI 499 — Directed Reading (LA) (3 credits)

Open to the superior junior or senior student whose project has been accepted for direction by a department faculty member and approved by the chairman.