

Philosophy (PHIL)

Courses

PHIL 121 Introduction to Philosophy (3 Hours)

Students will examine the basic questions of philosophical inquiry, such as the nature of being, and the ways humans acquire knowledge and moral, social, religious and political values. Emphasis is on the application of the study of traditional problems of philosophy to the study of contemporary society. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 121H HON: Intro to Philosophy (1 Hour)

One-credit hour honors contract is available to qualified students who have an interest in a more thorough investigation of a topic related to this subject. An honors contract may incorporate research, a paper, or project and includes individual meetings with a faculty mentor. Student must be currently enrolled in the regular section of the courses or have completed it the previous semester. Contact the Honors Program Office, COM 201, for more information.

PHIL 124 Logic and Critical Thinking (3 Hours)

This course is an inquiry into techniques of persuasion and the standards for interpretation and assessment that are the basis for critical thinking. Argumentative and non-argumentative forms of persuasion are examined, including propaganda, exaggeration, stereotyping, slanted news and common fallacies. In addition, the course offers standards for evidential warrants based on samples, probabilities and causal claims. Relations between categorical propositions and Venn diagrams are examined and, finally, the course suggests strategies for fresh attacks on conceptual problems. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 124H Hon: Logic Critical Thinking (1 Hour)

One-credit hour honors contract is available to qualified students who have an interest in a more thorough investigation of a topic related to this subject. An honors contract may incorporate research, a paper, or project and includes individual meetings with a faculty mentor. Student must be currently enrolled in the regular section of the courses or have completed it the previous semester. Contact the Honors Program Office, COM 201, for more information.

PHIL 128 Environmental Ethics (3 Hours)

This course provides a survey of environmental ethics. It focuses on the emergence of environmental issues as a topic of careful philosophical study and its connection to the political and legal considerations of environmental problems. It also examines various theories and traditional approaches developed in Western and Eastern philosophy as well as major world religions to understanding the value and status of nature. Lastly, this course looks at specific controversies pertaining to the conservation, use and value of natural resources. PHIL 128 is the same course as BIOL 128; enroll in one only. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 138 Business Ethics (1 Hour)

This course applies classical and contemporary theories of morality to problems, questions and dilemmas arising in business. Using the major concepts and principles of deontological, consequentialist and perfectionist theories, it examines and analyzes cases involving such areas as employer/employee relations, corporate responsibility, truth telling in business and workplace diversity. Emphasis is on the development of moral reasoning skills that allow for meaningful analysis and evaluation of moral situations. 1 hr. lecture/wk.

PHIL 142 History of Asian Philosophy (3 Hours)

This course provides a thorough exploration of the philosophical traditions of Asia with a focus on the classical philosophies of India and China. Covered are the origins of Indian philosophy in the Vedas and Upanishads, the development of various Vedic schools of thought. The origins of Buddhism and Jainism are also explored. The development and influence of Confucianism, Daoism and Chinese Buddhism are covered as well, as is the lasting influence of Asian philosophy outside of both India and China including its increasing relevance in the West. In the process, the class provides a comprehensive understanding of the distinctive philosophical foundations of the Asian world view. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 143 Ethics (3 Hours)

This course provides a systematic and critical study of values related to human conduct. It focuses on both traditional standards of ethical conduct and qualities of personal character. What we hold to be right or wrong, the basis for believing so, and what we consider to be virtues or vices are examined with an eye to understanding our current ethical situation. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 143H HON: Ethics (1 Hour)

One-credit hour honors contract is available to qualified students who have an interest in a more thorough investigation of a topic related to this subject. An honors contract may incorporate research, a paper, or project and includes individual meetings with a faculty mentor. Student must be currently enrolled in the regular section of the courses or have completed it the previous semester. Contact the Honors Program Office, COM 201, for more information.

PHIL 154 History of Ancient Philosophy (3 Hours)

This course provides a thorough exploration of ancient Greek and Roman philosophical thought from the original efforts of the Pre-Socratics to understand the fundamental operations of the natural world to concerns about the way a person might live successfully in nature and society. Also explored are the notable Athenians of the classical period, Protagoras, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and the later schools of thought such as cynicism, skepticism, hedonism and stoicism. In the process, it provides a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical foundations of the Western world view. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 155 Introduction to Bioethics* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites: BIOL 121 or BIOL 135 or equivalent course or department approval

This course is an introductory course in ethics with an emphasis on the ethical content raised by the discipline of biology. The student will examine the major ethical theories, including deontology, act utilitarianism, rule utilitarianism, along with select others. Study of the theories will enable the analysis of case studies involving such issues as human populations problems, reproductive technologies, genetic engineering of humans and other organisms, stem cells and their use, beginning/ending of life, the human genome project, environmental impact of humans, cloning, medical and non-medical genetic interventions, and biological ethics. 3 hrs. lecture/wk. PHIL 155 and BIOL 155 are the same courses; only enroll in one.

PHIL 176 Philosophy of Religion (3 Hours)

This course is an inquiry into the nature of religion, religious thought and religious language. It addresses philosophical topics such as the nature of religious belief, the apparent need of some people for religion, the arguments offered as proof for and against the existence of God, apparent contradictions between scientific and religious teachings, special problems raised by religious language, and the changes religion and philosophy of religion have made to accommodate a modern world view. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 210 History of Modern Philosophy* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites: PHIL 121 or PHIL 143 or HIST 125 or HIST 126

This course takes a historical approach to the development of modern philosophy and covers the period from the Renaissance to the 20th-century. The course will cover the epistemological, metaphysical and relevant axiological issues of the major philosophers and philosophical movements of this period. The course will also examine the influence of modern philosophy on contemporary thought. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

PHIL 210H HON: Hist of Modern Philosophy (1 Hour)

One-credit hour honors contract is available to qualified students who have an interest in a more thorough investigation of a topic related to this subject. An honors contract may incorporate research, a paper, or project and includes individual meetings with a faculty mentor. Student must be currently enrolled in the regular section of the courses or have completed it the previous semester. Contact the Honors Program Office, COM 201, for more information.

PHIL 292 Special Topics:* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites: The student must be currently enrolled in, or have successfully completed with a grade of 'C' or higher, any of the following core PHIL courses: PHIL 121, or PHIL 143

This course periodically offers specialized or advanced discipline-specific content related to the study of philosophy not usually taught in the curriculum to interested and qualified students within the program.