

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.

PHIL 124 Logic and Critical Thinking (3 Hours) ▶

This course examines the basic elements of formal and informal reasoning. Topics include the elements of argumentative discourse, informal fallacies, inductive and deductive arguments, and propositional logic. The class also focuses on the analysis and evaluation of argumentative discourse in a variety of everyday and academic contexts.

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 130 Food Ethics (3 Hours)

This course provides a survey of food ethics. It focuses on the emergence of food ethics as a topic of careful philosophical study and its connection to environmental ethics and other issues in moral and political philosophy. This course contextualizes food ethics within the broader framework of moral philosophy, examining various theoretical approaches and perspectives developed in Western and Eastern philosophy. Lastly, this course looks at specific controversies pertaining to the production, marketing, distribution, and consumption of food resources.

PHIL 140 Business Ethics (3 Hours)

Business Ethics is a branch of applied ethics that attempts to understand, evaluate and critique business practices in the light of moral principles and values. This course introduces students to important elements of moral theory as well as main topics in Business Ethics, including the fiduciary duty of managers, outsourcing, corporate responsibility, whistleblowing, income smoothing, insider trading, sole-source procurements and kickbacks, conflicts of interest, legitimate vs. illegitimate write-offs, deception in advertising and marketing, responsibility to the environment, pay for corporate personnel, and interpersonal relationships in the workplace, among others. 3 hrs. 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.

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. This course may offer Honors sections; check the current credit class schedule for details.

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.

PHIL 155 Bioethics* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites : BIOL 121 or Department approval.

This course introduces students to the scientific, ethical and legal issues relevant to the discipline of biology and those raised by the rapid development of new biological technologies. Students will examine the major theories of ethics, including deontology, utilitarianism, and select others. Topics include: beginning of life issues such as contraception, abortion, and nontraditional methods of human reproduction; end of life issues such as advance healthcare directives and physician-assisted suicide; and other issues such as experimentation on human and animal subjects and human environmental impacts. EVRN 155 and PHIL 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.

PHIL 177 Feminist Theory (3 Hours)

This course is an introduction to feminist thought through some of its major theories, figures, and issues. We will address various questions regarding gender relations and inequalities, what feminism is, and how feminist concerns intersect with issues related to class, race, ethnicity, and the environment. We will consider feminist perspectives regarding contemporary ethical and political issues as well. Throughout the course, we will critically examine a range of perspectives and their applications in order to develop a deeper understanding of feminist thought in theory and practice.

PHIL 210 History of Modern Philosophy (3 Hours)

This course takes a historical approach to the development of modern philosophy and covers the period from the Renaissance to the end of the 18th century. The course covers 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.

PHIL 292 Special Topics:* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites or corequisites: PHIL 121 with a grade of "C" or higher or PHIL 143 with a grade of "C" or higher.

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. This is a repeatable course and may be taken more than once for credit.