

PHI

Philosophy

Note: Prior to the priority registration period each semester, the Department of Philosophy publishes information on courses (200 level and above) to be offered for the next semester. This information includes details on course topics and materials to be used in each course. Students are encouraged to obtain the information to assist them in course selection.

PHI 100 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY. (3)

An introduction to philosophical studies with emphasis on issues of knowing, reality, and meaning related to human existence.

***PHI 120 THE ART OF THINKING: AN INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC. (3)**

A course which treats argumentation, syllogistic, and sentential logic. The focus will be on the use of formal methods in the construction and criticism of actual arguments, the aim being to inculcate standards of good reasoning, e.g., clarity, consistency and validity. Credit is not given to students who already have credit for PHI 320.

PHI 130 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY: MORALITY AND SOCIETY. (3)

An introduction to philosophical studies with emphasis on a critical study of principles of moral action and social and political values.

PHI 205 FOOD ETHICS. (3)

An examination of philosophical issues about food, including whether taste is subjective or objective, why different foods are acceptable to eat in some cultures but not in others, the moral permissibility of eating animals and animal products, and the impact of food production on the environment.

PHI 245 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. (3)

An introduction to the philosophical study of religion, with attention to issues such as the nature of religious language, religious experience, concepts of God, science and religion, religious pluralism, miracles and revelation, death and the afterlife, and the problem of evil.

PHI 260 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I: FROM GREEK BEGINNINGS TO THE MIDDLE AGES. (3)

Western philosophy from ancient through late medieval times including systematic work in logic, metaphysics, epistemology and ethics by such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas.

PHI 270 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II: FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT ERA. (3)

An introductory study of the development of Western philosophy from early modern to recent times including systematic work in logic, metaphysics, epistemology and ethics by such philosophers as Occam, Descartes, Hume and Kant.

PHI 300 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY (Subtitle required). (1-3)

Topics that cross traditional systematic or historical lines in philosophy or that relate philosophy to topics or periods in other disciplines. May be repeated under a different subtitle to a maximum of seven credits. Prereq: Determined by instructor.

PHI 305 HEALTH CARE ETHICS. (3)

A consideration of the ethical issues and difficult choices generated or made acute by advances in biology, technology, and medicine. Typical issues include: informed consent, healer-patient relationships, truth telling, confidentiality, problem of birth defects, abortion, placebos and health, allocation of scarce medical resources, genetic research and experimentation, cost containment in health care, accountability of health care professionals, care of the dying, and death.

PHI 310 PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE. (3)

An introductory philosophy course for upper division students that analyzes various ways that philosophers have attempted to define the human individual. It pursues diverse methods of inquiry into questions such as these: Do human beings have a fixed and definable human nature? What differentiates the properly human from the nonhuman? Are human actions free or determined? How are human beings essentially related to history, culture, society and the natural environment?

PHI 315 PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE FICTION. (3)

An examination of fundamental questions in metaphysics and epistemology through a comparison of works of philosophy and science fiction. Questions will be discussed such as: Can there be time travel? Can computers think? Can there be non-human persons, and if so how would we identify them? Can there be ways of knowing that are radically different from our own, and what might they be like? How much can a person change while remaining the same person?

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PHI 317 EXISTENTIALIST THOUGHT AND LITERATURE.

(3)

A survey of existentialism as a literary movement as well as a philosophical one, with emphasis upon their intersection and interaction. The course will trace the emergence of existentialist themes in modern thought and culture, and will analyze and assess the movements' continuing significance.

PHI 320 SYMBOLIC LOGIC I.

(3)

A systematic study of sentential logic, elementary quantification, and the logic of identity. The student will acquire specific skills in symbolic methods of analysis which are necessary for further study in logic as well as useful for addressing complex issues in philosophy and other areas.

PHI 330 ETHICS.

(3)

An examination of fundamental issues in ethics, such as duty, character, virtue and vice, evil, moral responsibility, free will, the good life, the emotions, skepticism, and rationality.

PHI 332 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS.

(3)

A study of ethical issues related to professional roles, especially those of physicians and lawyers. Among the topics to be considered are the nature and justification of professional responsibilities and duties; obligations of professions to society; the professional-client relationship and its rights and obligations; enforcement of codes of ethics.

PHI 334 BUSINESS ETHICS.

(3)

An introduction to moral problems that arise in contemporary business practice and the ethical frameworks proposed to resolve them. Topics will include areas such as truth-telling and integrity; social responsibility; property rights and their limitations; and justice in personnel and labor practices.

PHI 335 THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY.

(3)

An examination of several incompatible views concerning the relation between the individual and society, including radical individualism and collectivism, as well as more moderate theories. Attention will be given to contemporary as well as classical spokesmen for these views and emphasis will be placed upon relating these theories to contemporary social, cultural, and political issues.

PHI 336 ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS.

(3)

An introduction to moral problems that arise in human interaction with the natural environment. Topics to be addressed include questions such as: what is man's place in nature? Do nonhuman animals or ecosystems have intrinsic moral worth, and if so, how can it be respected? What problems and ambiguities arise in attempting to live in an environmentally responsible fashion? How can we adjudicate conflicts between social and environmental values?

PHI 337 INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL PHILOSOPHY.

(3)

A general introduction to basic concepts, institutions, and mechanisms of law. Understanding of the legal system and its methods is promoted through discussion of topics which include: basic legal reasoning, the function of the legal process, fundamental legal concepts and categories (such as property, crime, and contract).

PHI 340 INTRODUCTION TO FEMINISM AND PHILOSOPHY.

(3)

Introduction to basic feminist thought from a philosophical perspective explored through topics such as gender roles, images of women in society, violence against women, and male socialization. Emphasis on causes of and solutions to the oppression of women. This course fulfills the UK Core Requirement: Community, Culture, and Citizenship in the USA.

PHI 343 ASIAN PHILOSOPHY.

(3)

An introduction to the main concepts, assumptions, problems and texts of one or more Asian philosophical traditions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism.

PHI 350 METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY.

(3)

An examination of fundamental issues in metaphysics and epistemology, such as causation, the nature of space and time, personal identity, free will, the existence of God, the nature and types of knowledge, the character of human existence, skepticism, and rationality. This course is a Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) course in certain programs, and hence is not likely to be eligible for automatic transfer credit to UK.

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***PHI 361 BIOLOGY AND SOCIETY (Subtitle required). (3)**

Humans, although undeniably unique, are as much a part of the natural world as any other species. This course surveys historical and contemporary approaches to the study of humans from a biological point of view. Against this backdrop, we examine a range of issues that loom large in modern society, for example, whether race and gender have a firm basis in biological science. This course is repeatable up to a total of 6 credit hours under different subtitles.

PHI 380 DEATH, DYING AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE. (3)

A philosophical and interdisciplinary investigation of a cluster of prominent issues about the meaning of life and death, caring for dying persons, and the quality of life of the terminally ill. Among topics included are: death definitions and criteria; allowing to die vs. killing; euthanasia and suicide; life prolongation, ethics of care of the terminally ill; and rights of the dying.

PHI 393 PHILOSOPHY OF FILM. (3)

An examination of the aesthetics of film from the early 20th Century to the present, with a focus on how the experience of film as a medium changes our relation to the world of objects as well as our relation to other people, and how changes in the medium of film itself have altered aesthetic theories.

PHI 395 INDEPENDENT WORK. (3)

Open only to students who have distinguished themselves in philosophy or in allied subjects. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credits. Prereq: Major and standing of 3.0 in department.

PHI 399 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING. (1-6)

To provide the opportunity for students to earn credit for work-study experience. The student must work with a faculty member to describe the nature of the experience, the work to be performed, the accompanying philosophical reflection and study, appropriate course credit for the work, and criteria by which the work may be evaluated. This information must be written and filed in the Philosophy Department and the Office for Experiential Education prior to the student's registration for the course. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credits. Pass-fail only. Prereq: Consent of instructor and department chairperson; completion of a departmental learning agreement.

PHI 500 TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY (Subtitle required). (1-3)

Topics that cross traditional systematic or historical lines in philosophy or that relate philosophy to topics or periods in other disciplines. May be repeated to a maximum of seven credits.

PHI 520 SYMBOLIC LOGIC II. (3)

An intermediate course in symbolic logic which reviews sentential logic, develops further the logic of quantification, and introduces metalogical issues such as the construction, consistency, and completeness of deductive systems. Prereq: PHI 320 or consent of instructor.

GROUP A

PHI 503 TOPICS IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY. (3)

A study of representative texts and issues in Ancient Philosophy with special attention to historical continuity and the interrelations of thinkers and problems. Possible Topics: Pre-Socratic Philosophers, Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism, Epicureanism, Scepticism. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: PHI 260 or consent of the instructor.

PHI 504 ISLAMIC AND JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND THE CLASSICAL TRADITION. (3)

A study of representative texts and issues in Islamic and Jewish philosophy with special attention to the historical continuity with the Greek philosophical tradition and the interrelations of thinkers and problems. Possible topics: the commensurability of philosophy and (revealed) law, the creation or eternity of the world, the nature of prophecy, the human good, the nature of God and divine language. Prereq: PHI 260 or consent of instructor.

PHI 506 TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY. (3)

An investigation of issues in Medieval Philosophy. Topics will be chosen which illustrate continuity both with Ancient Greek Sources and with problems in Modern Philosophy. Possible Topics: Neo-Platonism, Faith and Reason, Freedom and Determinism, Universals, the Existence of God, Renaissance reactions. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: PHI 260 or the consent of the instructor.

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PHI 509 TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY.

(3)

A selective study of representative issues and texts in modern philosophy, with special emphasis upon historical continuity and interrelation of thinkers and problems. Possible topics: British empiricism; Leibniz and Locke; Descartes and his critics; Hobbes and Rousseau; Hume and Kant; philosophy and the rise of modern science. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: PHI 270 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 513 NINETEENTH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY.

(3)

An examination of the major topics and trends in 19th century philosophy. Prereq: PHI 270 or consent of instructor.

PHI 514 AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY.

(3)

A study of the development of philosophy in America from colonial to recent times with attention to religious, political, literary and scientific influences on American thought. The focus will be on the pragmatic spirit that was the moving force from 19th century idealism to 20th century naturalism, with emphasis on the works of such thinkers as Royce, Peirce, James and Dewey.

PHI 515 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY: THE ANALYTIC TURN.

(3)

A survey of several 20th century philosophical movements, such as logical positivism and ordinary language philosophy, whose members agree that careful attention to language is one of the keys to the resolution of philosophical problems. The works of representative thinkers such as Moore, Russell, the Vienna Circle, Wittgenstein and Austin will be studied. Prereq: PHI 320 or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 516 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY: PHENOMENOLOGICAL DIRECTIONS.

(3)

A study of 20th century philosophies represented by the works of thinkers such as Husserl and Heidegger, Gadamer and Ricoeur, Habermas and Apel. Generally based in a reflection on human experience, these philosophies undertake a radical criticism of common conceptions of human nature while variously emphasizing rationality, ontology, language, or social and historical context. Prereq: PHI 270 or consent of instructor.

PHI 517 EXISTENTIALISM.

(3)

A systematic study of the fundamental concepts and problems of existentialism. Readings selected from such philosophers as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Marcel, Heidegger, and Jaspers. Prereq: PHI 270 or the consent of the instructor.

GROUP B

PHI 519 CRITICAL SOCIAL THOUGHT.

(3)

This course provides a pluralistic introduction to major 20th-century paradigms of critical social thought. Critical social thought in philosophy comprises those authors and schools that focus philosophical methods and questions on the analysis of social conditions and/or focus sociocultural methods and questions on the study of philosophy. These include feminist philosophy, Marxist-influenced social theory, poststructuralism, critical race theory, and post-analytic philosophy. Prereq: For undergraduates, PHI 270, 335, or 340 or consent of instructor. For graduate students outside the philosophy department, permission of the instructor.

PHI 530 ETHICAL THEORY.

(3)

A study of ethical theories by detailed examination of a few selected works. Theories considered may include naturalism, intuitionism, noncognitivism, utilitarianism, universalizability, and natural law. Prereq: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 531 ADVANCED TOPICS IN ETHICS (Subtitle required).

(3)

A topical study in ethics, emphasizing, but not restricted to, contemporary issues. Topics may include the nature of practical reason, justification of moral theories, moral luck, amorality and immorality, moral language, and weakness of will. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different subtitles. Prereq: One of the following: PHI 130, 305, 330, or 530; or graduate standing.

PHI 535 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

(3)

A critical examination of some philosophical problems concerning the nature and evaluation of social and political organizations. For example, questions concerning the nature, justification, and limits of political power may be explored in connection with a study of important classical positions. Prereq: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 537 PHILOSOPHY OF LAW.

(3)

Concept of law; relations between law and morals; nature of legal reasoning; analysis of legal concepts; justification of punishment. Pass/fail basis only for law students. Prereq: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor.

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PHI 540 FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY. (3)

An introduction to feminist philosophical theory, including feminist treatments of various questions in metaphysics, epistemology, logic, and value theory, such as: the nature (if any) of the self; the role of perspectives in knowledge; the nature of reason and the criteria for justification in argumentation; feminist theories of morality and feminist theories of social justice.

PHI 545 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. (3)

An analysis of the philosophical issues raised by religion, such as the problem of religious knowledge, the nature of religious language, science and religion, concepts of God, death, and evil. Prereq: PHI 100, 260, or 270 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 592 AESTHETICS. (3)

Problems of method in aesthetics; major types of aesthetic theory. Aesthetic materials of the arts in literature, music, and the space arts. Form and types of form. Meaning in the arts. Interrelations of the arts. Lectures, discussions, reports. (Same as A-H 592.)

GROUP C

PHI 550 PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS IN KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY. (3)

Critical examination of issues regarding the foundations of knowledge, the nature of reality and the relation between the two. Evidence, belief, certainty, perception and justification will be among problems considered. Understandings of truth, existence, causality, freedom, time, space and matter will also be attended to. Prereq: PHI 100, 260, 270, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 560 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENTIFIC METHOD. (3)

An examination of the logical and epistemological foundations of empirical science, including fundamentals of concept formation, criteria of cognitive significance, issues of explanation, interpretation, and prediction, and testing and confirmation of theories and laws. Prereq: PHI 100, 120, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 561 PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES (Subtitle required). (3)

A systematic examination of selected conceptual and/or metaphysical problems in the natural sciences. Possible topics include: reductionism, teleology, causality and determinism, the structure of space-time, and the "anthropic principle" in cosmology. Prereq: PHI 100, 120, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 562 PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS IN THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES. (3)

An examination of various methodological issues and broader philosophical questions of special concern in the social sciences. Among the topics to be studied: the structure of theories and the roles of mathematics and experimentation in the social sciences, the possibility of an objective or value free social science, and the conceptions of human nature presupposed by different schools of social science. Prereq: PHI 100, 120, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 565 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE. (3)

An investigation of problems current in the philosophy of language such as meaning and reference, the nature of analysis, linguistic relativity and the relation of linguistics to philosophy. Prereq: PHI 320 or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 570 PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY. (3)

An examination of the theories and methods utilized by historians with special attention to the problems of laws and explanations in history, the nature of historical knowledge and narrative, and the roles of causal judgments and historical understanding. Attention will also be given to theoretical interpretations of history as offered by Marx, Hegel, Toynbee and others. Prereq: PHI 100, 260, or 270 or the consent of the instructor.

PHI 575 PHILOSOPHY OF MIND. (3)

An examination of problems current in the philosophy of mind, such as the concept of person, the relation of mind and body, the relation of minds and machines, knowledge of other minds, and the roles of dispositions and volitions in human action. Attention will be given to the philosophical analysis of such psychological categories as consciousness, feeling, emotion, perception, imagination, thinking and will. Prereq: PHI 100 or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

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GRADUATE SEMINARS

***PHI 630 SEMINAR IN VALUE THEORY. (3)**

A specialized graduate course in value theory that treats the history of value theoretic issues and doctrines, or emphasizes contemporary methodological discussions, or examines the concrete societal implications of major theories, or combines these approaches. May be repeated to a maximum of fifteen credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

***PHI 650 SEMINAR IN METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY (Subtitle required). (3)**

A specialized advanced study of topics in traditional areas of metaphysics and epistemology or of more contemporary topics, some of which may cut across or even challenge the framework of those traditional domains. Topics may include such issues as the nature of human action, problems of reference and modality, conceptions of time and space, and the sociology of knowledge. May be repeated to a maximum of fifteen credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Graduate standing in PHI or consent of instructor.

***PHI 680 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY (Subtitle required). (3)**

Studies in philosophical problems which either cut across or lie outside the standard areas of philosophical inquiry. May be repeated to a maximum of fifteen credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Graduate standing in PHI or consent of instructor.

***PHI 700 SEMINAR IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY (Subtitle required). (3)**

Intensive study of original works of such major classical philosophers as Plato and Aristotle. May be repeated to a maximum of fifteen credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Graduate standing in PHI or consent of instructor.

PHI 705 SEMINAR IN MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY. (3)

An intensive study of the issues treated by one or more medieval philosophers, e.g., Augustine, Aquinas, Scotus or Ockham. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: PHI 506.

***PHI 710 SEMINAR IN MODERN PHILOSOPHY (Subtitle required). (3)**

Intensive study in the major works of such prominent philosophers of modern times as Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, and Hegel. May be repeated to a maximum of fifteen credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Graduate standing in PHI or consent of instructor.

***PHI 715 SEMINAR IN RECENT PHILOSOPHY (Subtitle required). (3)**

Intensive study of major philosophers or philosophical topics of the 20th-21st centuries. May be repeated to a maximum of fifteen credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Graduate standing in PHI or consent of instructor.

PHI 740 PROSEMINAR ON TEACHING METHODS. (1)

An introduction to teaching methods for graduate students.

PHI 749 DISSERTATION RESEARCH. (0)

Half-time to full-time work on dissertation. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: Registration for two full-time semesters of 769 residence credit following the successful completion of the qualifying exams.

PHI 755 TUTORIAL IN INTERDISCIPLINARY ISSUES. (1-6)

As a tutorial, this course is structured individually to a student's research and study projects. Topics and issues are to be chosen and pursued in work that integrates philosophical methods and ideas within other disciplinary areas. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prereq: Approval of the Student's Advisory Committee.

PHI 767 DISSERTATION RESIDENCY CREDIT. (2)

Residency credit for dissertation research after the qualifying examination. Students may register for this course in the semester of the qualifying examination. A minimum of two semesters are required as well as continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) until the dissertation is completed and defended.

PHI 768 RESIDENCE CREDIT FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE. (1-6)

May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours.

PHI 769 RESIDENCE CREDIT FOR THE DOCTOR'S DEGREE. (0-12)

May be repeated indefinitely.

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***PHI 790 RESEARCH IN PHILOSOPHY.**

(3)

This course is primarily intended for advanced students who desire and are prepared to do research in philosophy. May be repeated to a maximum of 15 credits.