

PHILOSOPHY

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PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY

CONCENTRATION IN LAW, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

TEACHER LICENSURE

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR PROGRAM

The Department of Philosophy/Modern Language/Interdisciplinary Studies offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.

Through reading, discussing and writing about traditional and contemporary philosophical texts and issues, the program challenges students to bring a rigorous critical and constructive attitude to every aspect of their lives. These critical skills and habits complement any career. Students graduating with a degree in philosophy will be able and disposed to:

- Reflect on their own most basic assumptions;
- Consider a variety of perspectives on a topic;
- Become an active member of a community of learners;
- Write in a literate, clear and interesting manner;
- Read actively and fruitfully various sorts of philosophical texts;
- Understand and apply the formal structures of sound reasoning and good argumentation;
- Engage in respectful and productive conversation and collaborative thinking.

Philosophy Major Foundation Courses

PHIL 100 A First Course in Philosophy

3 cr

PHIL	200	Logic & Critical Reasoning	3 cr
PHIL	240	Ancient Philosophy	3 cr
PHIL	242	Modern Philosophy	3 cr
PHIL	300	Epistemology & Metaphysics	3 cr
PHIL	350	Contemporary Moral Issues	3 cr

Four Philosophy electives above the 200 level, planned with department advisor 12 cr

Students majoring in Philosophy must publish at least two articles in the philosophical review, *Thesis XII*, and give at least one presentation at the annual philosophy student mini-conference. Course substitutions by departmental permission.

TOTAL PHILOSOPHY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS 30 cr

CONCENTRATION IN LAW, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY

Requires students to complete the philosophy major foundation courses, plus at least seven additional courses in philosophy. To graduate in the concentration, students must complete the following requirements:

LAW, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY CONCENTRATION

Requirements

Philosophy Major Foundation Courses 18 cr

PHIL	400	Contemporary Legal Philosophy	3 cr
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Two applied ethics courses (choose from): 6 cr

PHIL	322	Business Ethics
PHIL	325	Environmental Ethics
PHIL	485	Biomedical Ethics
PHIL	485	Information Ethics

One social and political philosophy course (choose from)	3 cr
PHIL 360 Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 385 Special Topics (when appropriate)	
OR an approved equivalent	
Two Philosophy electives above 200 level in consultation with advisor	6 cr
Course substitutions by department approval only.	

TOTAL LAW, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS **36 cr**

Students pursuing the concentration must publish at least two articles in the departmental philosophical review, *Thesis XII*, and produce a senior capstone project as the basis for a presentation at the annual philosophy student mini-conference.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR PROGRAM

The philosophy minor will enable students to gain knowledge of main philosophical issues that may be fruitfully combined with subject areas in other departments, including their major program.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

Requirements

PHIL 100	A First Course in Philosophy	3 cr
PHIL 200	Logic & Critical Reasoning	3 cr
PHIL 300	Epistemology & Metaphysics	3 cr
PHIL 350	Contemporary Moral Issues	3 cr

The remaining necessary six credit hours consist of electives taken from the philosophy department curriculum. The selection should depend on the major of the student and the student's main interests. 6 cr

TOTAL PHILOSOPHY MINOR REQUIREMENTS **18 cr**

TEACHER LICENSURE

Students majoring in philosophy may choose to pursue initial teacher licensure as an early childhood teacher or elementary teacher. These students will complete the philosophy major, education major and a licensure program in education.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 100 A First Course in Philosophy 3 cr

Engages students in the critical investigation and reflective analysis of such fundamental philosophical questions as freedom and moral responsibility, the nature of being and knowledge, the existence of God and the problem of evil, and individual rights and social justice. Emphasizes the relevance that philosophy has to contemporary problems and encourages students to think, read, write, and speak critically and thoughtfully. Course attributes: CHH.

Prerequisite: None

PHIL 110 World Religions 3 cr

Examines basic texts, concepts, presuppositions, and ways of life of several major religious traditions. Drawing on both sacred texts and scholarly analyses, as well as fictional and journalistic accounts, the course aims to understand and assess the meanings of religion in human life. Course attributes: CHH, CRCU, SOCJ.

Prerequisite: None

PHIL 110H Honors: World Religions 3 cr

Examines basic texts, concepts, presuppositions and ways of life of several major religious traditions. Drawing on both sacred texts and scholarly analyses, as well as fictional and journalistic accounts, the course aims to

Prerequisite: None

PHIL 200H Honors: Logic and Critical Reasoning 3 cr

Examines and applies principles of cogent, sound or critical reasoning and writing, leading to a deeper understanding of language and of the use of logical argumentation. Considers, in the context of real-life arguments and claims (in the rhetoric of philosophy, history, and other disciplines) formal and informal principles of clear and systematic thinking and writing. Course attributes: CHH.

Prerequisite: None

PHIL 240 Ancient Philosophy 3 cr

Explores the ancient roots of western intellectual history, including contributions of non-European societies, in the context of the politics, economics, language, religion and technology of their times. Students will apply philosophical and historical tools to investigate the development of important ideas and schools of thought in the ancient world and the consequences of those ideas in the present.

Prerequisite: PHIL 100, or department approval

PHIL 242 Modern Philosophy 3 cr

Explores the roots of western intellectual history since the European Renaissance, including the politics, economics, language, religion and technology in which they arose. Students will apply philosophical and historical tools to investigate the development of important ideas and schools of thought in the modern world and their consequences in the present.

Prerequisite: PHIL 100, or department approval

PHIL 285 Special Topics in Philosophy 3 cr

Challenges students at the sophomore level to understand, construct and criticize both informal (natural language) and formal (categorical and

propositional) arguments. The course considers in detail the very notion of argument, argument structure and the criteria for constructing cogent arguments, and distinguishes arguments supported by evidence and reason from mere opinion and belief. Students will learn to apply these logical concepts in their writing, conversing and reading.

Prerequisite: PHIL 100, sophomore status, or department approval

PHIL 300 Epistemology and Metaphysics 3 cr

Considers the origins, nature and presuppositions of knowledge, as well as its relation to such concepts as belief, fact, truth, justification and reality.

Examines various accounts of the most general features of reality, using categories such as being/becoming, real/apparent, identity/difference, existence, change, time, space and causality.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course or instructor approval

PHIL 322 Business Ethics 3 cr

Examines the values of a business society and the ethical dimensions of decision-making in business, with the aim of enabling the student to develop a meaningful set of values by which to live and contribute creatively in a business society. Course attributes: LDRS, SOCJ.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 325 Environmental Ethics 3 cr

Addresses recent and historical perspective on the nature and scope of human moral obligations to the natural environment. Discusses the content and merits of competing ethical theories and their implications for both intra-human affairs and our place in nature as one of its creatures. Course attributes: ENVI, SOCJ.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 335 Philosophy of Education 3 cr

Seeing education as the principal means to full personhood raises important questions about autonomy, authority, creativity, and knowledge. This course will examine various philosophical perspectives on these questions and their implications for classroom practice.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 350 Contemporary Moral Issues 3 cr

Views such issues as war and peace, world poverty, sexual morality and spirituality from the perspectives of traditional and contemporary ethical theories. Course attributes: SOCJ.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 360 Social and Political Philosophy 3 cr

Investigates conceptual and moral questions posed by life in community with others. These include justifications of democracy, political freedom, natural rights, political obligation, social justice and the challenge of anarchism. Course attributes: SOCJ.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 375 Ethics and Animals 3 cr

Explores the potentially morally significant relationships between humans and various kinds of non-human animals, applying moral propositions that we, as a society, subscribe to, to see whether they have unacknowledged implications for non-humans.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status

PHIL 375H Honors: Ethics and Animals 3 cr

Explores the potentially morally significant relationships between humans and various kinds of non-human animals. Explores moral propositions that we, as a society, subscribe to, to see whether they have unacknowledged implications for non-humans. Course attributes: HONR.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status

PHIL 385 Special Topics in Philosophy 3 cr

Challenges students at the junior level, to understand, construct, and criticize both informal (natural language) and formal (categorical and propositional) arguments. The course considers in detail the very notion of argument, argument structure, and the criteria for constructing cogent arguments, and distinguishes arguments supported by evidence and reason from mere opinion and belief. Students will learn to apply these logical concepts in their writing, conversing, and reading.

Prerequisite: A 100-level or 200-level philosophy course, junior status, or department approval

PHIL 400 Contemporary Legal Philosophy 3 cr

Examines the nature of law, the logic and sociology of judicial processes and the relationship of law to morality, including a comparison of major legal theories: natural law, legal positivism, legal realism and Marxist legal analysis.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course, or department approval

PHIL 410 Constructing Reality 3 cr

Focusing on the increasingly popular notion that human beings, individually or corporately, actively construct, in part or in whole, the world. This notion transcends disciplinary boundaries, finding expression in such diverse fields

as biology, philosophy, psychology, physics, anthropology, sociology, mathematics, theology, literary theory, cybernetics and linguistics.

Prerequisite: A 100 or 200 level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 410H Honors: Constructing Reality 3 cr

Focusing on the increasingly popular notion that human beings, individually or corporately, actively construct, in part or in whole, the world. This notion transcends disciplinary boundaries, finding expression in such diverse fields as biology, philosophy, psychology, physics, anthropology, sociology, mathematics, theology, literary theory, cybernetics and linguistics. Course attributes: HONR.

Prerequisite: A 100 or 200 level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 485 Special Topics in Philosophy 3 cr

A philosophical topics course tailored to changing student needs and interests, each offering focuses on a period in the history of philosophy (e.g. Greek philosophy, medieval philosophy, 20th century American philosophy, etc.), the works of an individual philosopher (e.g., Plato, Hegel, Hume, Kant, Descartes, etc.), or the critical examination of a philosophically challenging concept (e.g., freedom, value, meaning, truth, relativism, rights, justice, etc.)

Prerequisite: A 100 level and 200 level philosophy course or department approval

PHIL 495 Teaching Assistantship in Philosophy 3 cr

Provides assistance to philosophy majors who intend to pursue active teaching careers in the discipline. Students will be assigned to a department member to assist in the teaching of lower-level courses.

Prerequisite: Minimum of 18 semester hours in philosophy and department approval

PHIL 500 Directed Independent Study

1 to 3 cr

Open to juniors and seniors who wish to read in a given area or to study a topic in depth. Written reports and frequent conferences with the advisor are required.

Prerequisite: A 100-level and a 200-level philosophy course, junior/senior status, department approval

PHIL 540 Philosophy Internship

3 to 9 cr

Philosophy is applicable to a wide range of professions and activities (e.g. law, business, education, public service). The philosophy internship is designed to allow advanced students with a particular focus or career goal to design and pursue such applications with faculty supervision including a significant component of writing about their experiences. Up to 9 credits per semester, three of which may apply to minimum major requirements.

Prerequisite: Senior status and department approval