

# Philosophy (PHIL)

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## Courses

### **PHIL 1003. Critical Reasoning: Discovery, Deduction, and Intellectual Self-Defense. 3 Hours.**

This is a practical, "hands-on" course in sound reasoning, critical thinking, and the careful evaluation of evidence and argument. The course will utilize a range of real-world sources (television, Internet, magazines, etc.) and will be informed in content and method by the psychology of human judgment. (Typically offered: Irregular)

### **PHIL 2003. Introduction to Philosophy (ACTS Equivalency = PHIL 1103). 3 Hours.**

An examination of such basic philosophical topics as the existence of God, the nature of the human mind, the relationship between appearance and reality, the forms and limits of human knowledge, freedom of the will, and standards of right and wrong. Includes both historical and contemporary readings. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

### **PHIL 2003C. Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

An examination of such basic philosophical topics as the existence of God, the nature of the human mind, the relationship between appearance and reality, the forms and limits of human knowledge, freedom of the will, and standards of right and wrong. Includes both historical and contemporary readings. Corequisite: Drill component. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring)

This course is equivalent to PHIL 2003.

### **PHIL 2003H. Honors Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

An examination of such basic philosophical topics as the existence of God, the nature of the human mind, the relationship between appearance and reality, the forms and limits of human knowledge, freedom of the will, and standards of right and wrong. Includes both historical and contemporary readings. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

This course is equivalent to PHIL 2003.

### **PHIL 2103. Introduction to Ethics (ACTS Equivalency = PHIL 1003). 3 Hours.**

Basic concepts of moral philosophy, including historical and contemporary literature concerned with such issues as ethical relativism vs. objectivism, duty, happiness, freedom of the will and responsibility, facts and values, individual liberty and society. Application of theories to substantive questions. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

### **PHIL 2103C. Introduction to Ethics (ACTS Equivalency = PHIL 1003). 3 Hours.**

Basic concepts of moral philosophy, including historical and contemporary literature concerned with such issues as ethical relativism vs. objectivism, duty, happiness, freedom of the will and responsibility, facts and values, individual liberty and society. Application of theories to substantive questions. Corequisite: Drill component.

(Typically offered: Irregular)

This course is equivalent to PHIL 2103.

### **PHIL 2203. Logic (ACTS Equivalency = PHIL 1003). 3 Hours.**

Traditional and modern methods of deductive and inductive inference. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

### **PHIL 2203C. Logic (ACTS Equivalency = PHIL 1003). 3 Hours.**

Traditional and modern methods of deductive and inductive inference. Corequisite: Drill Component. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring)

This course is equivalent to PHIL 2203.

### **PHIL 2303. Human Nature and the Meaning of Life. 3 Hours.**

Examination of important views on human nature, the meaning of human existence, the value and significance of different human activities and projects, and on what philosophy, religion, art, and literature have to teach us on these topics. Reading may be drawn from a variety of philosophical, literary, and religious writings.

(Typically offered: Irregular)

### **PHIL 2503. Philosophical Explorations. 3 Hours.**

Explores topics in philosophy that are not currently covered in lower-level philosophy courses. (Typically offered: Irregular)

### **PHIL 3103. Ethics and the Professions. 3 Hours.**

After a survey of the standard theories of moral obligation, justice, and rights, the course focuses on specific moral problems that arise within engineering, business, and the professions. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

### **PHIL 3113. Environmental Ethics. 3 Hours.**

The course addresses ethical questions about nature and the natural environment. Topics of discussion include anthropocentric and biocentric ethics, population control, obligations to future generations, animal rights, moral considerability, Leopold's land ethic, deep ecology, and ecofeminism. (Typically offered: Irregular)  
This course is cross-listed with ENSC 3933.

### **PHIL 3123. Bioethics. 3 Hours.**

This course examines ethical dilemmas that arise in biological research, medical research, medical practice, and healthcare policy. Topics may include such things as abortion, assisted reproduction, cloning & genetic engineering, assisted suicide & voluntary euthanasia, organ donation, research ethics, patient autonomy, and healthcare policy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

### **PHIL 3203. Philosophy and the Christian Faith. 3 Hours.**

This course will deal with philosophical issues that arise in Christian theology. Topics to be discussed may include the doctrines of the Incarnation, the Trinity, Atonement, and Hell, as well as the nature of God and the relationship between faith and reason. (Typically offered: Irregular)

### **PHIL 3443. Animal Minds. 3 Hours.**

This course explores questions about thinking, consciousness, emotion, and communication in non-human animals; about the differences between human and non-human animals; and about implications for our treatment of animals. (Typically offered: Irregular)

### **PHIL 390V. Readings. 1-6 Hour.**

Readings on topics of research interested or those not typically offered in regular classes, by arrangement with Professor. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit.

### **PHIL 3923H. Honors Colloquium. 3 Hours.**

Treats a special topic of issue offered as part of the honors program. Prerequisite: honors candidacy (not restricted to candidacy in philosophy). (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for degree credit.

### **PHIL 3943. Philosophy and Physics. 3 Hours.**

Examination of the metaphysical and epistemological implications of specific physical theories with an emphasis on twentieth-century physics. Topics covered may include the nature of space and time (particularly as described in relativity theory), the nature of the quantum mechanical world, and the temporal asymmetries found in thermodynamics and other areas of physics. (Typically offered: Irregular)

### **PHIL 399VH. Honors Course. 1-6 Hour.**

Honors thesis research and writing under the direction of a faculty member in the department. Prerequisite: Junior standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit.

### **PHIL 4003. Ancient Greek Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Fall)

### **PHIL 4033. Modern Philosophy-17th and 18th Centuries. 3 Hours.**

British and Continental philosophy, including Bacon, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. (Typically offered: Spring)

**PHIL 4093. Special Topics in Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

This course will cover subject matter not covered in regularly offered courses. Course cannot be repeated when the topic is the same as one in which the student is previously enrolled. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for degree credit.

**PHIL 4093H. Honors Special Topics in Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

This course will cover subject matter not covered in regularly offered courses. Course cannot be repeated when the topic is the same as one in which the student is previously enrolled. Prerequisite: Honors standing. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for degree credit. This course is equivalent to PHIL 4093.

**PHIL 4103. Modern Jewish Thought. 3 Hours.**

A survey of the main trends in Jewish thought from the seventeenth through the nineteenth century. (Typically offered: Irregular)  
This course is cross-listed with JWST 4003.

**PHIL 4113. Social and Political Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

Selected philosophical theories of society, the state, social justice, and their connections with individuals. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4123. Classical Ethical Theory. 3 Hours.**

Study of classical texts in the history of philosophical ethics from Plato to Nietzsche. Philosophers covered may include Plato, Aristotle, Butler, Hume, Kant, and Mill. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4133. Contemporary Ethical Theory. 3 Hours.**

A study of contemporary texts in philosophical ethics from G.E. Moore to the present. Philosophers covered may include Moore, Stevenson, Hare, Foot, and Rawls. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4143. Philosophy of Law. 3 Hours.**

A philosophical consideration of the nature of law, theory of adjudication, concepts of legal responsibility, liberty and the limits of law, and selected moral-legal issues (abortion, affirmative action, punishment, etc.). (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4193. Existentialism. 3 Hours.**

Explores texts by major existentialist philosophers including Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, and relevant literary works. Topics may include critiques of traditional views of human nature, the self, the meaning of life and existing authentically. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4203. Theory of Knowledge. 3 Hours.**

An examination of skepticism, the nature and structures of knowledge and epistemic justification, human rationality, and the justification of religious belief. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4213. Philosophy of Science. 3 Hours.**

Examination of issues related to scientific explanation, empirical foundations of science, observation and objectivity, nature of laws and theories, realism and instrumentalism, induction and confirmation, models, causation, and simplicity, beginning with historical survey set in the context of the history of science but emphasizing works from the 1930s to the current period, often including issues in recent physics. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4233. Philosophy of Language. 3 Hours.**

A survey of mainstream philosophical theories of meaning, reference, truth, and logical form. Attention given to the views of such figures as Frege, Russell, Tarski, Searle, Dummett, and the advocates of possible world's semantics. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4253. Symbolic Logic I. 3 Hours.**

Rigorous analyses of the concepts of proof, consistency, equivalence, validity, implication, and truth. Full coverage of truth-functional logic and quantification theory (predicate calculus). Discussion of the nature and limits of mechanical procedures (algorithms) for proving theorems in logic and mathematics. Informal accounts of the basic facts about infinite sets. Prerequisite: PHIL 2203 or MATH 2603. (Typically offered: Fall)

This course is cross-listed with MATH 4253.

**PHIL 4303. Philosophy of Religion. 3 Hours.**

Types of religious belief and critical examination of their possible validity, including traditional arguments and contemporary questions of meaning. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4313. Contemporary Jewish Thought. 3 Hours.**

A survey of trends in Jewish thought in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, focusing on the ways in which Jewish thinkers have responded to the events affecting Jews and the conditions of Jewish life from approximately 1900 to the present. (Typically offered: Irregular)

This course is cross-listed with JWST 4013.

**PHIL 4323. Philosophy of Race and Gender. 3 Hours.**

Examines the metaphysical, ethical, aesthetic, political, and legal dimensions of race and gender. Topics include theories of race and gender, Latinx feminism, the ethics of racist humor and removing historical monuments, misogyny and misandry, transgender and nonbinary identities, and the role of self-interpretation in sexual orientation. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4333. Feminist Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

Explores feminist contributions in traditional philosophical areas such as ethics, political philosophy, and epistemology. Topics include feminist analyses of the family, pornography, sexual harassment, violence against women, and race relations; and ways different schools of feminist thought describe women's oppression, its causes, and resistance to it. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4403. Philosophy of Art. 3 Hours.**

Varieties of truth and value in the arts and aesthetic experience, focusing on the creative process in the art and in other human activities. (Typically offered: Spring)

**PHIL 4423. Philosophy of Mind. 3 Hours.**

An examination of such topics such as the relationship between mind and body, the mentality of machines, knowledge of other minds, the nature of psychological explanation, the relationships between psychology and the other sciences, mental representation, the nature of the self, and free will and determinism. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4433. Philosophy of Psychology. 3 Hours.**

Explores philosophical issues concerning the domain, foundations and methodology of psychology, and the relation of psychological explanations to other scientific and philosophical investigations of the mind. Topics include cognitive architecture and the evolution of minds, extended or embodied cognition, perception and introspection, consciousness and attention, social cognition, thought and language. (Typically offered: Irregular)

This course is cross-listed with PSYC 4433.

**PHIL 4603. Metaphysics. 3 Hours.**

Theory and critical analysis of such basic metaphysical problems as mind and body, universals and particulars, space and time, determinism and free will, self-identity and individualism, with emphasis on contemporary perspectives. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 4983. Capstone Course for Philosophy Majors. 3 Hours.**

An undergraduate seminar to be taken in the student's final spring semester. The content will vary with the instructor. The objective is for the student to sharpen his or her philosophical skills by, e.g., writing short papers, giving class presentations, and writing a substantial final essay. Prerequisite: 21 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Spring)

**PHIL 5003. Ancient Greek Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4003 and PHIL 5003. Prerequisite: Three hours of philosophy coursework. (Typically offered: Fall)

**PHIL 5033. Modern Philosophy-17th and 18th Centuries. 3 Hours.**

British and Continental philosophy, including Bacon, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4033 and PHIL 5033. (Typically offered: Spring)

**PHIL 5093. Special Topics in Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

This course will cover subject matter not covered in regularly offered courses. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4093 and PHIL 5093. Course cannot be repeated when topic is the same as one for which the student has been previously enrolled. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for degree credit.

**PHIL 5103. Modern Jewish Thought. 3 Hours.**

A survey of the main trends in Jewish thought from the seventeenth through the nineteenth century. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4103 and PHIL 5103. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5113. Social and Political Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

Selected philosophical theories of society, the state, social justice, and their connections with individuals. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4113 and PHIL 5113. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5123. Classical Ethical Theory. 3 Hours.**

Study of classical texts in the history of philosophical ethics from Plato to Nietzsche. Philosophers covered may include Plato, Aristotle, Butler, Hume, Kant, and Mill. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4123 and PHIL 5123. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5133. Contemporary Ethical Theory. 3 Hours.**

A study of contemporary texts in philosophical ethics from G.E. Moore to the present. Philosophers covered may include Moore, Stevenson, Hare, Foot, and Rawls. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4133 and PHIL 5133. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5143. Philosophy of Law. 3 Hours.**

A philosophical consideration of the nature of law, theory of adjudication, concepts of legal responsibility, liberty and the limits of law, and selected moral-legal issues (abortion, affirmative action, punishment, etc.). Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4143 and PHIL 5143. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5193. Existentialism. 3 Hours.**

Explores texts by major existentialist philosophers including Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, and relevant literary works. Topics may include critiques of traditional views of human nature, the self, the meaning of life and existing authentically. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5203. Theory of Knowledge. 3 Hours.**

An examination of skepticism, the nature and structures of knowledge and epistemic justification, human rationality, and the justification of religious belief. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4203 and PHIL 5203. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5213. Philosophy of Science. 3 Hours.**

Examination of issues related to scientific explanation, empirical foundations of science, observation and objectivity, nature of laws and theories, realism and instrumentalism, induction and confirmation, models, causation, and simplicity, beginning with historical survey set in the context of the history of science but emphasizing works from the 1930s to the current period, often including issues in recent physics. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4213 and PHIL 5213. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5233. Philosophy of Language. 3 Hours.**

A survey of mainstream philosophical theories of meaning, reference, truth, and logical form. Attention given to the views of such figures as Frege, Russell, Tarski, Searle, Dummett, and the advocates of possible world's semantics. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4233 and PHIL 5233. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5253. Symbolic Logic I. 3 Hours.**

Rigorous analyses of the concepts of proof, consistency, equivalence, validity, implication, and truth. Full coverage of truth-functional logic and quantification theory (predicate calculus). Discussion of the nature and limits of mechanical procedures (algorithms) for proving theorems in logic and mathematics. Informal accounts of the basic facts about infinite sets. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4253 and PHIL 5253. Prerequisite: PHIL 2203 or MATH 2603. (Typically offered: Fall)

This course is cross-listed with MATH 5263.

**PHIL 5303. Philosophy of Religion. 3 Hours.**

Types of religious belief and critical examination of their possible validity, including traditional arguments and contemporary questions of meaning. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4303 and PHIL 5303. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5313. Contemporary Jewish Thought. 3 Hours.**

A survey of trends in Jewish thought in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, focusing on the ways in which Jewish thinkers have responded to the events affecting Jews and the conditions of Jewish life from approximately 1900 to the present. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4313 and PHIL 5313. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5323. Philosophy of Race and Gender. 3 Hours.**

Examines the metaphysical, ethical, aesthetic, political, and legal dimensions of race and gender. Topics include theories of race and gender, Latinx feminism, the ethics of racist humor and removing historical monuments, misogyny and misandry, transgender and nonbinary identities, and the role of self-interpretation in sexual orientation. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5333. Feminist Philosophy. 3 Hours.**

Explores feminist contributions in traditional philosophical areas such as ethics, political philosophy, and epistemology. Topics include feminist analyses of the family, pornography, sexual harassment, violence against women, and race relations; and ways different schools of feminist thought describe women's oppression, its causes, and resistance to it. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5403. Philosophy of Art. 3 Hours.**

Varieties of truth and value in the arts and aesthetic experience, focusing on the creative process in the art and in other human activities. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4403 and PHIL 5403. (Typically offered: Spring)

**PHIL 5423. Philosophy of Mind. 3 Hours.**

An examination of such topics such as the relationship between mind and body, the mentality of machines, knowledge of other minds, the nature of psychological explanation, the relationships between psychology and the other sciences, mental representation, the nature of the self, and free will and determinism. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4423 and PHIL 5423. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5433. Philosophy of Psychology. 3 Hours.**

Explores philosophical issues concerning the domain, foundations and methodology of psychology, and the relation of psychological explanations to other scientific and philosophical investigations of the mind. Topics include cognitive architecture and the evolution of minds, extended or embodied cognition, perception and introspection, consciousness and attention, social cognition, thought and language. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5603. Metaphysics. 3 Hours.**

Theory and critical analysis of such basic metaphysical problems as mind and body, universals and particulars, space and time, determinism and free will, self-identity and individualism, with emphasis on contemporary perspectives. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PHIL 4603 and PHIL 5603. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy. (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5823. Seminar: Spinoza. 3 Hours.**

Seminar: Spinoza (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5883. Seminar: Wittgenstein. 3 Hours.**

Seminar: Wittgenstein (Typically offered: Irregular)

**PHIL 5983. Philosophical Seminar. 3 Hours.**

Various topics and issues in historical and contemporary philosophy. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit.

**PHIL 600V. Master's Thesis. 1-6 Hour.**

Master's Thesis. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.

**PHIL 690V. Graduate Readings. 1-6 Hour.**

Supervised individual readings in historical and contemporary philosophy. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

**PHIL 700V. Doctoral Dissertation. 1-18 Hour.**

Doctoral Dissertation. Prerequisite: Candidacy. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.