

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

Philosophy (PHIL)

1310—Critical Reasoning (3).

Study of good reasoning for use in both scholarly and everyday life. Topics will include principles of deductive and inductive reasoning and fallacies in reasoning.

1320—Football Ethics (3).

Focuses on classical and contemporary ethical issues through the lens of football in order to provide exposure to ethical theories and ethical thinking.

2300—Beginning Philosophy (3).

[TCCNS: PHIL1301] An introduction to philosophical thinkers, ideas, and methods. Fulfills core Language, Philosophy, and Culture requirement.

2310—Logic (3).

[TCCNS: PHIL2303] Development of formal methods for evaluating deductive reasoning. Additional topics may include uses of language, definition, nondeductive inference. Partially fulfills Core Mathematics requirement (in conjunction with a mathematics course).

2320—Introduction to Ethics (3).

[TCCNS: PHIL2306] Discussion of moral problems and theories of morality. Includes the application of philosophical techniques to issues of contemporary moral concern. Fulfills core Language, Philosophy, and Culture requirement.

2322—Business Ethics (3).

Discusses ethical theories as they relate to business practices. Concentrates on applications to concrete issues arising in the conduct of business.

2330—Science and Society (3).

An exploration of the nature of science and how it does and should relate to other areas like religion, ethics, and politics. Fulfills core Language, Philosophy, and Culture requirement.

2340—Meaning and Value in the Arts (3).

Introduction to philosophical questions raised across the arts, including such topics as the nature of art, ways of interpreting and evaluating works of art, and the difference between popular art and high art.

2350—World Religions and Philosophy (3).

[TCCNS: PHIL1304] Philosophical study of the doctrines and practices of the major world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Fulfills multicultural and core Language, Philosophy, and Culture requirements.

3301—Classical Greek Philosophy (3).

Study of the major philosophical ideas as originally developed in the Western world by thinkers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and others.

3302—Asian Philosophy (3).

Study of the major philosophical ideas originating in India and China, and developed generally in Asia.

3303—Modern European Philosophy (1600-1800) (3).

Study of the major philosophical ideas as they developed in Great Britain and on the European continent since the Renaissance, covering such figures as Descartes, Hume, and Kant.

3304—Existentialism and Phenomenology (3).

Consideration of the meaning of human existence through study of thinkers such as Nietzsche, Heidegger, Husserl, Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, and others.

3320—Introduction to Political Philosophy (3).

Basic issues and concepts in political philosophy, including discussion of such topics as justice, freedom, equality, authority, community, and the nature of politics and the state.

3321—Philosophy of Law (3).

Discussion, based on study of philosophical writings, of various conceptions of law and their relation to morality. Includes philosophical problems about liberty, privacy, justice, and criminal punishment.

3322—Biomedical Ethics (3).

Discussion of conceptual and moral problems surrounding such issues as abortion, euthanasia, genetic research, behavior control, allocation of medical resources, health, and disease.

3324—Philosophy of Religion (3).

An examination of general philosophical problems that arise in connection with religion. Topics may include the nature of religion, the existence of God, the problem of evil, the relation between faith and reason, and the relation between religion and morality.

3325—Environmental Ethics (3).

Discussion of conceptual and moral questions surrounding human population and consumption of resources, loss of biodiversity and wilderness areas, and human use of nonhuman animals.

3330—Philosophy of Science (3).

Inquiry into the nature of science including the examination of basic scientific concepts and the forms of scientific reasoning.

3334—Philosophy of Biology (3).

Study of the nature and scope of biological theories. Topics may include evolution and creation, natural selection and design, sociobiology, or genetic engineering.

3340—Minds, Brains, and Computers (3).

Study of the nature of mental entities and how they fit into the causal structure of the world, with particular reference to recent developments in the cognitive sciences.

3341—Philosophy and Literature (3).

Discusses philosophical questions raised by literature, including such topics as the nature of literature, theories of interpretation and evaluation of literary works, and an evaluation of whether literary works convey unique knowledge.

3342—Philosophy and Film (3).

Philosophical examination of issues raised by film, such as cinematic representation, realism, film genre, the power of cinema, and the interpretation of film. Required screenings.

4000—Philosophical Problems (VI-3).

Prerequisites: Previous philosophy coursework and instructor consent. Directed individual studies or conferences on selected advanced topics. May be repeated for a total of 9 hours.

4125—Introduction to Research Ethics (1).

Introduction to research ethics for future researchers. Frameworks of moral reasoning and their application to moral problems through a discussion of case studies.

4300—Topics in Philosophy (3).

Topic varies by semester.

4301—Seminar in Ancient Philosophy (3).

Prerequisite: Previous philosophy coursework or consent of instructor. In-depth study of one or two philosophical texts or themes from the ancient world. Topics vary.

4310—Advanced Logic (3).

Prerequisite: PHIL 2310 or consent of instructor. Full treatment of sentential logic and first-order predicate logic. May also treat topics such as identity, definite descriptions, axiomatic systems, completeness.

4320—Ethics (3).

Prerequisite: PHIL 2320 or instructor consent. Philosophical ethics investigates how we ought to live. Students will examine closely some of the most powerful thinkers on this subject.

4321—Political Philosophy (3).

Prerequisite: Previous coursework in philosophy or consent of instructor. Study of contemporary writings in political philosophy. Discussion of selected philosophical issues concerning liberalism, conservatism, communitarianism, liberal neutrality, social choice theory, and political obligation.

4322—Metaethics (3).

Prerequisite: PHIL 2320 or instructor consent. The study of the meaning and justification of moral judgments, the possibility of ethical knowledge, and the nature of moral standards.

4323—Aesthetics (3).

Prerequisite: Previous coursework in philosophy or consent of instructor. Discussion of the nature of art and the principles of aesthetic judgment. Emphasis on philosophical problems arising in interpretation and evaluation within the arts.

4330—Epistemology (3).

Prerequisite: Previous coursework in philosophy or consent of instructor. An examination of the nature and scope of knowledge, and the justification of various types of knowledge claims.

4331—Philosophy of Language (3).

Prerequisite: Previous coursework in philosophy or consent of instructor. General theory of significance, meaning, and interpretation.

4340—Metaphysics (3).

Prerequisite: Previous coursework in philosophy or consent of instructor. Consideration of the nature of what there is (ontology) or of the nature of the universe as a whole (cosmology).

4341—Great Figures in Philosophy (3).

Prerequisite: Previous coursework in philosophy or consent of instructor. In-depth study of the works of just one or two great philosophers.

Graduate Course Descriptions Philosophy (PHIL)

5125—Introduction to Research Ethics (1).

Introduces future researchers to research ethics. Presents frameworks for moral reasoning and application of those frameworks to moral problems through a discussion of case studies.

5301—Studies in Greek Philosophy (3).

Studies in the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, and Hellenistic philosophy. May be repeated as topic varies.

5302—Studies in Modern Philosophy (1600-1800) (3).

Studies in major philosophical works of the modern period drawn from such philosophers as Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. May be repeated as topic varies.

5308—Basic Issues in Contemporary Philosophy (3).

Major philosophical theories and controversies of the 20th century. Works will be drawn from such philosophers as Wittgenstein, Russell, Heidegger, Husserl, Quine, Davidson, and Kripke. May be repeated as topic varies.

5310—History of Aesthetics (3).

Major philosophical theories of art and beauty from classical Greece to the present. May be repeated as topic varies.

5311—Seminar in Epistemology (3).

A study of one or two questions about the justification of our knowledge of the external world, the mind, mathematics, or logic. May be repeated as topic varies.

5312—Seminar in Logic (3).

Graduate seminar in logic. Topics vary by semester. May be repeated for credit as topics vary.

5314—Contemporary Aesthetics (3).

Current problems in aesthetics: the nature of a work of art, of aesthetic experience and judgment; issues of interpretation and evaluation in the arts. May be repeated as topic varies.

5315—Topics in Aesthetics (3).

In-depth examination of a particular area of topic in aesthetics and the philosophy of art. May be repeated as topic varies.

5320—Seminar in Ethics (3).

Selected topics in ethical theory: relativism, moral reasons, the nature of moral value, deontological and teleological ethics. May be repeated as topic varies.

5321—Social and Political Philosophy (3).

Study of selected social or political philosophers or of selected topics such as justice, liberty, equality, liberalism, conservatism, and rights. May be repeated as topic varies.

5322—Law and Philosophy (3).

Study of works of legal philosophers on central issues in philosophy of law such as legal obligation, nature of law, interpretation, privacy, law and morality. May be repeated as topic varies.

5324—Philosophy of Religion (3).

Central issues in philosophy of religion including the nature of religion, the existence of God, the relation between faith and reason, and the problem of evil. May be repeated as topic varies.

5330—Philosophy of Science (3).

Methodological and conceptual issues in the physical and social sciences. Emphasis upon scientific investigation as a way of knowing. May be repeated as topic varies.

5331—Philosophical Psychology (3).

Central issues in philosophy of the mind, including the nature of the mental and the relation between mental and physical. Emphasis on thought and perception. May be repeated as topic varies.

5333—Seminar in Philosophy of Language (3).

Central issues in philosophy of language, including the nature of meaning, truth, reference, and context. May be repeated as topic varies.

5340—Seminar in Metaphysics (3).

An intensive study of one or two topics which include the nature of existence, cause, identity, kinds and their instances, change, and/or mind. May be repeated as topic varies.

5341—Great Figures in Philosophy (3).

In-depth study of the works of just one or two great philosophers. May be repeated as topic varies.

5350—Seminar in Teaching Philosophy (3).

Theory, practice, and problems of teaching philosophy for beginning instructors. Development of course objectives, syllabi, and teaching techniques. Practical pedagogical and associated philosophical issues. Required of all teaching assistants.

6000—Master's thesis (V1-6).

7000—Research (V1-12).

8000—Doctor's Dissertation (V1-12).