

# Philosophy Fall 2025

Beginning Philosophy		Fulfills the Language, Philosophy, and Culture requirement	
This class will examine how we ought to live in community and how that impacts dialogue, love, and our responsibilities to each other. Texts we may read could include Plato (parts of the Republic, Gorgias, and the Symposium), Boethius (Consolation of Philosophy), Anselm (On Truth), Jesus (Sermon on the Mount), Aquinas (Treatise on Law from the Summa), and smaller articles from some other authors. The class will systematically work through how to read philosophy texts, develop your own answer to one of these questions, and then express that view in a final paper.			
PHIL 2300-001	John DePoe	Tue, Thur	9:30 - 10:50 am
PHIL 2300-002	Doug Westfall	Mon, Wed, Fri	1:00 - 1:50 pm
PHIL 2300-003	Doug Westfall	Mon, Wed, Fri	2:00 - 2:50 pm

Logic		Fulfills Core Curriculum Math requirement Counts towards Cognitive Science minor	
This is an introduction to symbolic logic via the study of sentential and predicate logic. Topics to be discussed include analyzing arguments, translating ordinary English sentences into a formal language, the methods of truth tables, truth trees, and natural deduction in sentential and predicate logic.			
PHIL 2310 - 001/701	Joe Gottlieb	Tue, Thur	9:30-10:50 am
PHIL 2310 - D01	Christopher Hom	ONLINE	ASYNCHRONOUS

Introduction to Ethics		Fulfills the Language, Philosophy, and Culture requirement	
This class will examine questions like: Can personal choices be truly right or wrong? Are there things or acts that should appropriately be referred to as good or evil? Is there a right way to live, and why should I live that way? Do I have obligations towards other people and if so, what are they? How should I think about conflicts between my self-interest and my responsibility to others? We will consider skeptical positions before turning to examine competing answers regarding these questions.			
PHIL 2320-003	Michael Schon	Mon, Wed, Fri	11:00 - 11:50 am
PHIL 2320-004	Michael Schon	Mon, Wed, Fri	10:00 - 10:50 am
PHIL 2320-H01	Jeremy Schwartz	Tue, Thur	9:30 - 10:50am
PHIL 2320-D01	James Morton	ONLINE	ASYNCHRONOUS

## Meaning and Value in the Arts

Fulfills Creative Arts Requirement

How and when did art begin, and why? Are cave paintings art? Is body ornamentation art? Are religious and other didactic plays, paintings, and songs art? Is the concept 'art' a modern Western construct? Is something art if it was made by AI? Can we define 'art'? What are aesthetic properties such as beauty, and how do they relate to the other properties of an object or event? Do we all get to experience the same aesthetic properties, or do our sensibilities vary? What is an 'aesthetic experience', and do we ever have those? When we interpret works of art, must we always defer to the artist's own interpretation if we are to be correct? How do we evaluate one work of art as better than another—are there correct criteria of evaluation? How do we evaluate arts works with morally problematic content, or whose creator is known to be morally objectionable? Why do we value art at all? We will discuss these and other questions as we consider particular art forms and art works and read philosophical works on these topics.

PHIL 2340-001	Anna Ribeiro	Tue, Thur	11:00 - 12:20 pm
PHIL 2340-002	Anna Ribeiro	Tue, Thur	2:00 - 3:20pm
PHIL 2340-D01	Francesca Di Poppa	ONLINE	ASYNCHRONOUS

## World Religions And Philosophy

Fulfills the Language, Philosophy, Culture and Multicultural Requirement

This course is a study of seven major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. We will study the doctrines and practices of each of these religions; then, for each religion, we will critically examine some element of doctrine or practice to see if it can be justified. For example, we will critically examine the doctrines of karma and reincarnation, the doctrine of monotheism, the problem of evil, and the doctrine of the incarnation.

PHIL 2350-001	Michael Schon	Mon,Wed,Fri	2:00 - 2:50 pm
PHIL 2350-D01	James Morton	ONLINE	ASYNCHRONOUS

## Selected Topics: Philosophy Of Medicine

What is the field of modern medicine and how does it work? First, we will look at fundamental concepts in medicine: What exactly is the nature of health and disease? How does medical classification work? What is death? Next, we will look at evidence in medicine: How does causal and statistical reasoning work in medicine? What counts as a good explanation? Finally, we will look at medicine in the broader social context: How do values play a role in the practice of medicine? Is race a medically relevant category? What are the appropriate roles of public health and the specialized treatment of individuals?

PHIL 3300-H01	Joel Velasco	Tue, Thur	9:30 - 10:50 am
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## Classical Greek Philosophy

Look out the window, you see trees, rocks, grass. What are those things made of? Prefiguring modern science, many ancient Greek natural philosophers, often called pre-Socratics, thought that all these separate things were made of some underlying matter. In making this claim, they substituted reason and observation for the mythological narratives of earlier thinkers. Our class will begin by considering this substitution of reasoned argumentation, or “logos,” (from which we get the word “logic” and all the “-ology” words) for myth, or “mythos,” from which we get our modern word “myth.” Next, we will turn to Plato’s texts. In those, Plato’s teacher and protagonist Socrates criticizes the materialist orientation of those earlier thinkers and offers his own controversial “logos” that focuses on ethics more than nature. Plato will not have the last word. In the final third of the class, we will further develop this conversation about the relationship between nature and living well by focusing on Plato’s most famous student, Aristotle. In the end, Aristotle offers us a compelling understanding of happiness and the good life—one that you will consider in relation to your own life. In short, throughout this class, we will consider how ancient Greek cosmology, ontology, and epistemology influence our understanding of what it means to be a person and live well. Along the way, students will become better readers—and, maybe even, better people.

PHIL 3301-001

Zara Amdur

Tue, Thur

11:00 - 12:20 pm

## Modern Political Thought

This class will introduce students to early modern writers whose ideas still influence how we think about individual rights and liberties, the role of the government, or the limits of political power. Authors include Machiavelli, Shakespeare, Spinoza, Hobbes, Locke, and Jefferson.

PHIL 3305-001

Francesca Di Poppa

Mon, Wed

11:00 - 12:20 pm

## Biomedical Ethics

This course will survey a range of topics in biomedical ethics, while also serving as an introduction to philosophical thinking and methodology. Sample questions include: Should parents be allowed to choose the genetic characteristics of their children? Should consenting adults be allowed to sell their organs? How do our obligations to fetuses weigh against the rights of pregnant persons? Is it permissible for doctors to help patients end their lives?

PHIL 3322-001

Kirsi Teppo

Mon, Wed, Fri

11:00 - 11:50 pm

PHIL 3322-002

Kirsi Teppo

Mon, Wed, Fri

12:00 - 12:50 pm

PHIL 3322-D01

Kirsi Teppo

ONLINE

ASYNCHRONOUS

## Philosophy of Religion

This is a course in philosophy of religion. Our orientation will generally be contemporary, but we will also look at historical sources as well. Our topics will include arguments for God's existence; arguments against God's existence; the nature of religious belief and faith; the relationship between God and meaning; and whether we should want God to exist, amongst other things.

**PHIL 3324-001**

**Joe Gottlieb**

**Tue, Thur**

**12:30 - 1:50 pm**

## Environmental Ethics

Should I have kids? Can I eat a burger without feeling guilty? Is my sweet minivan destroying the planet? Should I trade it in for a Prius? Given that we can't live without harming the environment in some way, what is a morally defensible approach to navigating our relationship with the planet and our obligations to future generations. In this class we will explore and refine our positions on these, and other, questions.

**PHIL 3325-001**

**Doug Westfall**

**Mon, Wed, Fri**

**10:00 - 10:50 am**

**PHIL 3325-D01**

**Doug Westfall**

**ONLINE**

**ASYNCHRONOUS**

## Philosophy Cognitive Science

**Counts towards Cognitive Science minor**

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of cognitive science. Cognitive science is the interdisciplinary study of the mind. It includes fields such as psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, computer science, anthropology, and linguistics. The topics we will cover include: mental representation, perception, consciousness, the cognition-perception border, computation, memory, and artificial intelligence (including deep learning and recent large language models).

**PHIL 3335-001**

**Cristina Ballarini**

**Tue, Thur**

**11:00 - 12:20 pm**

## Philosophy and Literature: Jane Austen and Ethics

Jane Austen, besides being an absolute delight to read, is a very subtle ethical thinker who brings to life some of the most persuasive depictions of vice and virtue that I (and many others) have encountered. On top of that, she has a powerful and thoughtful ethical worldview. However, it has also been said (by Virginia Woolf no less) "that of all great writers she [Jane Austen] is the most difficult to catch in the act of greatness." This is even more so when it comes to her philosophical greatness. Although Austen's worldview has been deeply interesting to many philosophers, it is not always easy to see why so many have taken an interest in her. In this class, we will attempt to catch Jane Austen in the act of philosophical greatness. In order to help us do this, we will be pairing the works of Jane Austen with famous passages from philosophy that I think mutually illuminate each other.

**PHIL 3341-001**

**Jeremy Schwartz**

**Tue, Thur**

**12:30 - 1:50 pm**

## Epistemology

This course is an introduction to epistemology, the study of knowledge, rationality, and evidence. In the first half of the semester, we'll explore three classic topics in epistemology: the analysis of knowledge as justified true belief, radical skepticism, and where knowledge fits into our scientific picture of the world. The second half of the semester focuses on more recent topics in epistemology, including how we should respond to higher-order evidence suggesting that we're irrational or biased, and the epistemic consequences of the echo chambers and filter bubbles that have been created by social media.

**PHIL 4330-001**

**Frank Hong**

**Tue, Thur**

**2:00 - 3:20 pm**