

# Philosophy

Philosophy is a systematic attempt to understand and to resolve some of the most profound, far-reaching, and fundamentally important problems of human experience, such as the existence of God, the meaning of life, the problem of free will, and the nature of consciousness, truth, self, knowledge, beauty, justice, time, duty, death, and virtue. Some of its main branches are epistemology (the study of the nature and foundations of knowledge), metaphysics (the search for the ultimately real, the attempt to discern the most fundamental kinds of things which constitute self and world), logic (the study of the principles used in distinguishing between correct and incorrect reasoning), ethics (the study of moral concepts, and the moral evaluation of conduct and character), and aesthetics (the study of art, beauty, and aesthetic judgment).

The study of philosophy also includes a careful and critical examination of the basic assumptions, the central concepts, the value assertions, and the conclusions of all other disciplines. Such an examination forms the basis of such philosophic areas as the philosophy of religion, political philosophy, the philosophy of art, and the philosophy of science.

A study of philosophy not only enhances our intellectual understanding of the world and enables us to make larger sense out of our experience, but also brings about in us an awareness of the numerous ways in which views and assumptions of a philosophical sort are intimately involved in everyday living. In addition to broadening our perspectives and heightening our sensitivities, it encourages the development of a number of higher intellectual functions. It helps us to discern relationships and organize inferences, to think with clarity and explicate with precision, to critically analyze and think independently, and to probe, question, and explore.

The study of philosophy is appropriate for any career or profession that requires critical thinking and communication skills.

## Programs

- Philosophy *minor*

## Career Directions

Business  
Communications  
Government  
Higher Education  
Law  
Ministry  
Nonprofit Organizations  
Public Service  
Also: Graduate Study

## Preparation

### *Recommended High School Courses*

Critical Thinking

Humanities

Science

Debate Recommended Activity

## Philosophy *minor*

Required Credits: 18

Required GPA: 2.00

### I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 2220 Ethics (3 credits)
- PHIL 2230 Logic (3 credits)

### II REQUIRED COURSES IN THE HISTORY OF PHILISOPHY

SELECT 6 CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3360 Asian Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3390 Marxist Philosophy (3 credits)

### III REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 6 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM PHILOSOPHY COURSES

## Philosophy Courses

### PHIL 1100 Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

Introduction to a variety of philosophical issues and the philosophers, past and present, who have tried to resolve them. Selection of readings and approach vary with instructor. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

### PHIL 2220 Ethics (3 credits)

Introduction to the philosophical treatment of selected moral issues; alternative theories of ethical right and wrong, good and bad will also be addressed. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 9.

### PHIL 2230 Logic (3 credits)

Methods of distinguishing between correct and incorrect reasoning. Special emphasis on deductive reasoning and informal fallacies. Liberal Education Goal Area 4.

**PHIL 2240 Aesthetics (3 credits)**

Philosophical problems involved in judgment and experience of beauty and ugliness in nature and art of various kinds. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

**PHIL 2250 Human Nature (3 credits)**

Various views of the nature of human beings. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

**PHIL 2260 Women and Philosophy (3 credits)**

A historical survey of the views of patriarchal and feminist thinkers from Plato to the present. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

**PHIL 2290 Topics or Philosophers (3 credits)**

Study of a philosophical subject or movement or a philosopher or group of philosophers, as announced in the schedule. Might not be offered every year.

**PHIL 2310 Philosophy in Literature (3 credits)**

Exploration of a variety of literary texts with an emphasis on the philosophical issues they raise. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

**PHIL 2330 Philosophies of Non-Violence (3 credits)**

Philosophical foundations of non-violent conflict resolution as they have been articulated in a variety of historical and cultural contexts. Questions regarding moral, political, and religious values, as well as related metaphysical and epistemological issues, will be addressed. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 9.

**PHIL 2925 People and the Environment: Environmental Ethics (3 credits)**

The purpose of this section of People and the Environment is to examine our moral obligations to the environment. No matter how strong these moral obligations may be, the only way to follow through with them is in the political arena. This course is therefore largely devoted to exploring the intersection of environmental ethics and politics. The course explores a number of environmental issues, the theoretical and practical impasses of the environmental movement, and environmental philosophy, as well as the challenge of mitigating global climate change. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

**PHIL 2954 Study-Travel, Humanities and the Arts (1-6 credits)**

Study-Travel course in Philosophy for Lib Ed Goal Area 6.

**PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)**

History of European philosophy from Thales to William of Occam. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

**PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)**

Historical survey of 17th and 18th century European philosophy. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

**PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)**

History of European philosophy from Hegel to Nietzsche. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

**PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)**

This course covers the major movements in twentieth-century Western philosophy, including contemporary analytic philosophy and continental philosophy. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 7.

**PHIL 3360 Asian Philosophy (3 credits)**

Historical survey of influential philosophies and philosophers of Asia. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

**PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)**

Various philosophical views on the nature of human society and the state. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 9.

**PHIL 3390 Marxist Philosophy (3 credits)**

An in-depth introduction to the philosophical perspective of Marxism as it originally developed and as it has been subsequently interpreted and applied from the latter 19th century to the present. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

**All-University Courses**

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY  
 1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY  
 1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE  
 1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE  
 1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR  
 1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION  
 1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP  
 1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH  
 1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS