

Philosophy Courses

Fall 2011

All philosophy courses satisfy the Humanities requirement -- except 120, which counts as one of the two required courses in Math/Logic. Many philosophy courses (e.g., Business Ethics, Philosophy of Law) complement other major programs. For those with a sustained interest in philosophy there are both a *major* and a *minor* in philosophy.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 33 semester hours in philosophy which must include 120; 201; 202; and 450. Of the remaining 21 hours of electives in philosophy, at least 12 hours must be taken in courses at or above the 200 level, with at least nine of these at or above the 300 level. *Note: A maximum of six hours of PHIL 398, 399, or 499 may be taken to satisfy the requirement of nine elective hours at or above the 300-level*

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY: 18 semester hours in philosophy which must include: Philosophy 101; Philosophy 120; a course in the history of philosophy (201, 202, 304, 305, 306, 307, or 310); and three additional courses in Philosophy, two of which must be at or above the 200-level.

CRN 11664	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBD	TR	1:40 - 2:55
CRN 11665	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBD	MW	2:00 - 3:15
CRN 11666	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	TBD	MW	3:20 - 4:35
CRN 13856	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Leses	MWF	9:00 - 9:50
CRN 13857	PHIL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	Leses	MWF	10:00 - 10:50
CRN 11669	PHIL 115 - CRITICAL THINKING	Williams	TR	12:15 - 1:30
CRN 13859	PHIL 120 - SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Schonbein	MWF	9:00 - 9:50
CRN 13861	PHIL 120 - SYMBOLIC LOGIC	Schonbein	MWF	10:00 - 10:50
CRN 11670	PHIL 150 - NATURE, TECHNOLOGY, & SOCIETY	Grantham	MWF	1:00 - 1:50
CRN 12219	PHIL 165 - PHILOSOPHY & FEMINISM	Boyle	MWF	11:00 - 11:50
CRN 12220	PHIL 165 - PHILOSOPHY & FEMINISM	Boyle	MWF	12:00 - 12:50
CRN 11671	PHIL 201 - HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY	Leses	MW	2:00 - 3:15
CRN 13863	PHIL 207 - ETHICS	Williams	MWF	12:00 - 12:50
CRN 13854	PHIL 245 - ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY	Hettinger	TR	10:50 - 12:05
CRN 11676	PHIL 255 - PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION	Perlmutter	TR	10:50 - 12:05
CRN 13858	PHIL 270 - PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	Nunan	MW	3:20 - 4:35
CRN 11678	PHIL 280 - AESTHETICS	TBD	TR	9:25 - 10:40
CRN 13862	PHIL 290 - PHILOSOPHY & COGNITIVE SCIENCE	Schonbein	MWF	1:00 - 1:50
CRN 13855	PHIL 301 - TOPICS: ETHICS, AESTHETICS, & ANIMALS	Hettinger	TR	1:40 - 2:55
CRN 13853	PHIL 310 - AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY	Grantham	MWF	11:00 - 11:50
CRN 13852	PHIL 450 - SENIOR SEMINAR: HUME	Boyle	TR	12:15 - 1:30

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

TBD

CRN 11664 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to issues in central areas of philosophy, including the nature of reality, knowledge, and morality.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

TBD

CRN 11665 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to issues in central areas of philosophy, including the nature of reality, knowledge, and morality.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

TBD

CRN 11666 (MW 3:20 – 4:35)

NO PREREQUISITE

An introduction to issues in central areas of philosophy, including the nature of reality, knowledge, and morality.

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Prof. Lesses

CRN 13856 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

CRN 13857 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

We often have perplexing questions about how we should lead our lives, the nature and extent of our knowledge, and the composition of the world and of ourselves. In this course, we will consider several of these fundamental and enduring issues, including: (i) whether knowledge is possible and, if so, what its basis is, (ii) whether we ever can act freely, (iii) what reasons, if any, we have for accepting the existence of God and, assuming that God exists, whether we can explain the existence of evil in the world, and (iv) whether it is possible to justify our basic moral beliefs. This course aims to help you gain an understanding of some influential classical and contemporary philosophical discussions of these questions and, just as importantly, to develop your own facility for engaging in critical reflection.

PHIL 115: Critical Thinking

Prof. Williams

CRN 11669 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

NO PREREQUISITE

Philosophy is more than mental gymnastics; it is a practice that teaches the art and skill of critical thinking. Imagine if you were charged for a crime that you didn't commit. Wouldn't you hope that each member of the jury that decides your fate possesses the requisite ability to recognize the relevant questions, to identify and analyze the quality of arguments, and to make correct inferences? These are skills all of us need in order to be good citizens but also to make informed decisions in other areas of life. This class will explore the rules and principles of critical reasoning and logic. We will learn to examine and evaluate ideas, develop arguments, and recognize fallacies in order to cultivate the skills necessary for developing sound beliefs.

PHIL 120: Symbolic Logic

Prof. Schonbein

CRN 13859 (MWF 9:00 – 9:50)

CRN 13861 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course is an introduction to the formal methods of deductive logic. We explore the formal structure of language, and develop a system of logic to capture that structure. We use this system to distinguish between effective and problematic deductive reasoning, and to formally demonstrate how conclusions follow from premises. Additionally, we will investigate the properties of the logical system we have developed, for example, by identifying its limits.

PHIL 150: Nature, Technology, & Society

Prof. Grantham

CRN 11670

NO PREREQUISITE

This course examines the nature of technology and how technological developments affect society and the environment. We will explore several questions: What is technology? How are technology and science related? To what extent can we (as individuals and as a society) control the development and/or implementation of new technologies? How have technological developments affected our conception of nature - and ourselves? We will study one or two topics (such as genetic engineering, the internet, or alternative fuels) in greater detail.

PHIL 165: Philosophy & Feminism

Prof. Boyle

CRN 12219 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

CRN 12220 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course we will examine and critically evaluate diverse forms of thinking (both feminist and non-feminist) about the subordinate status of women. One aim of this course is to show that there is no single theory called "feminism"; different feminist thinkers explain the subordinate status of women in different ways, and have different views on contemporary gender issues.

We will look at both theory and applications. Theories we will study may include sociobiology, Marxist feminism, liberal feminism, radical feminism, and multicultural feminism. We will also consider contemporary debates; topics may include pregnancy rights, surrogate motherhood, pornography, or the decriminalization of prostitution.

PHIL 201: History of Ancient Philosophy

Prof. Lesses

CRN 11671 (MW 2:00 – 3:15)

PREREQUISITE: 3 semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

All of Western thought owes an incalculable debt to ancient Greek philosophy. What fascinated Greek philosophical thinkers accordingly constitutes a major part of the Western intellectual inheritance. This course examines the development of the philosophical views of (i) several early Greek thinkers, (ii) Socrates, (iii) Plato, and (iv) Aristotle. As much as possible, these philosophers will be read in the original sources in translation.

PHIL 207: Ethics

Prof. Williams

CRN 13863 (MWF 12:00 – 12:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course will investigate issues related to the foundations of ethics through an exploration of classical texts from Plato and Mencius to Darwin and Nietzsche. We will consider themes such as kinship, reciprocity, and sexual morality. The course will cover systematic approaches to ethical theory, such as consequentialism, deontological theory, and social contract theory. Various challenges to systematic ethics, such as relativism, egoism, skepticism, and nihilism will be considered.

PHIL 245: Environmental Philosophy

Prof. Hettinger

CRN 13854 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

This course examines several central and emerging subjects in environmental philosophy. They include: Climate ethics (e.g., Should we geoengineer the climate?), environmental virtue ethics (e.g., Is our environmental predicament due to the fact that we are bad people, that is, greedy, self-indulgent and short-sighted?), and environmental aesthetics (e.g., Can the beauty of nature justify environmental protection?). This course is not an introductory survey of the field of environmental ethics (such an introduction is provided by Philosophy 155: Environmental Ethics).

PHIL 255: Philosophy of Religion

Prof. Perlmutter

CRN 11676 (TR 10:50 – 12:05)

NO PREREQUISITE

The course will begin with some Biblical texts, both to see the philosophical commitments of the texts and to examine ways of studying the Bible. We will consider some statements of creed and discuss their centrality to religious traditions. David Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* will be examined next. The course will then become more thematic, reflecting on various issues in philosophy of religion, such as Pascal's Wager, contemporary critiques of religion, such as Freud and Camus, and the relation between faith and reason.

Note: This course may not be taken for credit if credit has been received for RELS 255.

PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law

Prof. Nunan

CRN 13858 (MW 3:20 – 4:35)

NO PREREQUISITE

Instead of learning about the actual content of the laws of a given legal system and how that system works to express and enforce those laws, in philosophy of law one worries instead about questions like: What is a legal system? What makes a law a law? Are there such things as good laws and bad laws? How can we tell? Why and when do we have a moral obligation to obey a law? How much latitude should judges have to interpret law? On what grounds? What makes a crime count as a crime? When and why ought crimes be punished or excused? What is the relationship between causation and legal responsibility? In this course we will investigate a number of these questions through both academic writings in legal theory and some court decisions.

PHIL 280: Aesthetics

TBD

CRN 11678 (TR 9:25 – 10:40)

NO PREREQUISITE

A philosophical study of beauty and of the creation, appreciation and criticism of works of art.

PHIL 290: Philosophy & Cognitive Science

Prof. Schonbein

CRN 13862 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50)

NO PREREQUISITE

In this course we sample contemporary issues at the intersection of philosophy of mind and the cognitive sciences, focusing on the actual or potential impact the cognitive sciences have on longstanding philosophical debates (and vice versa). Possible topics include but are not limited to: consciousness, mental representation, artificial intelligence, the nature of concepts, experimental philosophy, neural aesthetics, moral theory, emotion, and innate knowledge.

PHIL 301: Topics: Ethics, Aesthetics, & Animals

Prof. Hettinger

CRN 13855 (TR 1:40 – 2:55)

PREREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215, 216, or 120) or permission of the instructor.*

This course will examine the relationship between ethics and aesthetics and between ethics and animals. We will consider whether moral value can affect aesthetic value (e.g., Can evil things be beautiful?) and whether aesthetic value can influence (or perhaps trump) moral value (e.g., Might one sacrifice the interests of one's family for the sake of aesthetic excellence?). We will also ask if these two types of value have a common source or justification. Concerning ethics and animals, we will examine to what extent animals have moral significance. Questions here include: What might it mean to extend equality to animals? What sorts of rights (if any) do animals possess and what sorts of duties result (e.g., Do we have duties to assist wild animals in danger?)? How might virtue ethics help us understand our moral relations with animals?

PHIL 310: American Philosophy

Prof. Grantham

CRN 13853 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

PREREQUISITE: *Either six semester hours in philosophy (other than 215, 216, or 120) or permission of the instructor.*

This course will offer an historical survey of American philosophy, focusing particularly on the three philosophical movements that can most plausibly be called “distinctively American”: the political philosophy of the “founding fathers”, transcendental idealism, and the pragmatism of Dewey and James. Key themes will include the roles of religion and education in a democratic society and the nature of human knowledge.

PHIL 450: Senior Seminar: Hume

Prof. Boyle

CRN 13852 (TR 12:15 – 1:30)

PREREQUISITE: Junior or senior philosophy major with at least nine previous semester hours in philosophy (other than 215, 216, or 120), one of which must be a 300-level course, or permission of the instructor. *While not required, successful prior completion of PHIL 202 (History of Modern Philosophy) is strongly suggested.*

In this seminar, we will work our way carefully through David Hume Treatise of Human Nature (1739–40). Book I of the Treatise addresses topics in metaphysics and epistemology, such as inductive and deductive reasoning, skepticism, personal identity, and our ideas of causation, space, and time. Book II tackles another aspect of human nature, the “passions” (emotions), and contains Hume’s account of human freedom. Book III examines the foundations of morality and sets out Hume’s account of the virtues. While the emphasis throughout the course will be on a close reading of Hume’s work, we will also look at various articles from the secondary literature in order to best interpret and assess Hume’s views. This course is an intensive upper-level capstone seminar in which the class members will be individually responsible for presenting material and leading class discussion.