PHILOSOPHY

College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Dean: Dr. Andrew Harris

Department of Philosophy
Humanities Building, Room 388
Phone: (415) 338-1596
Website: http://philosophy.sfsu.edu/
Chair: Dr. Justin Tiwald

Program Scope
The Department of Philosophy offers students a broad education in the history of thought, development of powerful reasoning skills, and opportunities to apply their insights and skills to areas of personal and professional interest.

An education in philosophy is beneficial in almost all parts of life. Generally speaking, philosophical education is eminently valuable for careers that call for analysis and evaluation of problems, smart solutions, critical and creative thinking and writing, and powerful advocacy of one’s beliefs and values. Our degree programs develop students’ potential for independent thought and intellectual creativity. Philosophy students score extremely well on the admission tests required by various post-baccalaureate professional schools. A double major in philosophy complements and enhances other degrees, whether in the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, or professional studies.

Students can choose a degree program that includes both general theories in the different philosophical fields and philosophy as applied in different areas of understanding (the B.A. in Philosophy), or a degree that intersects philosophy and religion with a focus on the diverse forms of spirituality (the B.A. in Philosophy and Religion), or a program that emphasizes foundations of law, public policy and rights (the B.A. in Philosophy with an Emphasis in Philosophy and Law). The department’s programs also recognize students’ diversity of interests by allowing a great deal of flexibility in choosing program content.

Students may double-major, combining the skills, perspectives, and knowledge acquired in the philosophy major with a pre-professional, social science, liberal arts, healthcare, human services, liberal studies, education, business, biological, pre-medicine, physical or computer science degree. A double major in philosophy complements and enhances other degrees, whether in the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, or professional studies.

Graduate Program
The Master of Arts in Philosophy is designed for students wishing to extend their knowledge of, and competence in, philosophy; for students seeking a teaching career where the master’s degree is required; and for students who are planning to do further study elsewhere. The program is wide-ranging and flexible, enabling students to concentrate on a number of different areas within philosophy.

Career Outlook
A principal reason for the study of philosophy and/or religion is the enrichment of one’s own life and understanding. Fortunately, the study of philosophy also is excellent preparation for a variety of post-baccalaureate professional studies and careers in law, medicine, public policy and strategic planning, the helping professions, computer-assisted enterprises, and innovative business and non-profit organizations.

The broader outlook and the ability to think critically about larger issues that are fostered by the systematic study of philosophy and religion are often highly valued by commercial firms in their management level personnel. Some students continue on to graduate work in philosophy or religious studies. SF State graduates now are teaching in colleges across the country. And opportunities to teach philosophy in K-12 have increased as educators realize the importance of enhancing children’s critical thinking skills. The philosophy and religion program is a strong foundation for the helping professions, the ministry, and advanced studies in theology. The skills that are achieved by minorng in philosophy or philosophy and religion are an excellent complement to most university major programs.

Professor
MOHAMMAD AZADPUR (2003), Professor of Philosophy; B.A. (1986), Bucknell University; M.A. (1993), University of Pittsburgh; Ph.D. (1999), University of Virginia.

DAVID LANDY (2009), Professor of Philosophy; B.A. (2001), Bard College; M.A. (2003), Ph.D. (2008), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

ÁSTAS VEINSDÓTTIR (2005), Professor of Philosophy; B.A. (1992), Brandeis University; A.M. (1997) Harvard University; Ph.D. (2004), Massachusetts Institute of Technology.


BAS VAN FRAASSEN (2008), Professor of Philosophy; B.A. (1963), University of Alberta; M.A. (1964), Ph.D. (1966), University of Pittsburgh.


Associate Professor
CARLOS MONTEMAYOR (2009), Associate Professor of Philosophy; J.D. (2001), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM); M.A. (2003), New School for Social Research; Ph.D. (2009), Rutgers University.

ISABLELL PESCHARD (2008), Associate Professor of Philosophy; B.A. (1998); M.A. (1999), Sorbonne, Paris 1; Ph.D. (2004), Sorbonne Paris 1 and Ecole Polytechnique (Centre de Recherche en Epistémologie Appliquée), Paris.

ALICE SOWAAL (2005), Associate Professor of Philosophy; B.A. (1993), University of California, Santa Barbara; M.A. (1996), University of California, Irvine; Ph.D. (2001), University of California, Irvine

Assistant Professor
AREZOO ISLAMI (2018), Assistant Professor of Philosophy; B.Sc. (2003), Ferdowsi University; M.Sc. (2006), Sharif University of Technology; M.A. (2009), Texas Tech University; Ph.D. (2016), Stanford University.

Lecturer

JAMES BLACKMON (2006), Lecturer in Philosophy; Ph.D. (2008), University of California, Davis.

JOHN KAY (1988), Lecturer in Philosophy; B.A. (1962), San Francisco State University; J.D. (1983), Golden Gate University; M.A. (1992), San Francisco State University.


MICHAEL SUDDUTH (2005), Lecturer in Philosophy; B.A. (1992), Santa Clara University; M.Phil. (1994), D. Phil. (1996), University of Oxford.

**Additional Lecturers**
Dolan, Kitchen, Lin, Moore, Smith

**Majors**
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy: Emphasis in Philosophy and Law
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religion

**Minors**
- Minor in Philosophy
- Minor in Philosophy and Religion

**Masters**
- Master of Arts in Philosophy

**Certificate**
- Graduate Certificate in Ethical Artificial Intelligence

**PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy (Units: 3)**
Reflection on basic aspects of human experience, thought, and activity inspired by the writings of philosophers.

**Course Attributes:**
- C2: Humanities
- C3 or C2: Humanities/Lit.

**PHIL 105 Introduction to Philosophy and Religion (Units: 3)**
The perennial quest for the sacred. Cosmological, psychological, and mystical teachings of the great Eastern and Western religious traditions.

**Course Attributes:**
- C2: Humanities

**PHIL 110 Introduction to Critical Thinking I (Units: 3)**
Skills involved in understanding, criticizing, and constructing arguments—and providing foundation for further work not only in philosophy but in other fields as well.
(Note: In order for this course to satisfy General Education, students must earn a C- or CR or higher grade if taken fall 2014 or later.)

**Course Attributes:**
- A3: Critical Thinking

**PHIL 111 The Art(s) of Quantitative Reasoning (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: Category I or II placement for QR/Math, or satisfactory completion of ELM requirement, or MATH 70 or ESM 70 with a grade of C or better. Students with Category III or IV placement for QR/Math or students who have not passed MATH 70 or ESM 70 with a C or better must concurrently enroll in MATH 112.

Introduction to issues in quantitative reasoning that have shaped the history of the arts. Covers the underpinning technical (i.e., mathematical) difficulties, as well as possible strategies to overcome such difficulties and the artistic, philosophical, and societal ramifications of attempting to solve such quantitative issues in the arts.
(Note: In order for this course to satisfy General Education, students must earn a C- or CR or higher grade if taken fall 2014 or later.)

**Course Attributes:**
- B4: Math/QR

**PHIL 112 Quantitative Reasoning for Civic Engagement (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: Category I or II placement for QR/Math, or satisfactory completion of ELM requirement, or MATH 70 or ESM 70 with a grade of C or better. Students with Category III or IV placement for QR/Math or students who have not passed MATH 70 or ESM 70 with a C or better must concurrently enroll in MATH 112.

Participation in civic society requires not only understanding principles of governance, but also problem-solving. Develop the mathematical concepts and skills relevant to the challenges and issues facing individuals and societies. Enables both quantitative understanding and decision-making about aspects of work, life, and civic participation. (Note: For this course to satisfy General Education, students must earn a grade of C- or CR or better.)
(Note: This course is offered as LCA 112/PHIL 112/PLSI 112/HIST 112. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

**Course Attributes:**
- B4: Math/QR

**PHIL 130 Political and Social Philosophy (Units: 3)**
Liberal democratic theories of decision making and social policy: their place in the world today, their place in the history of social and political philosophy, and in radical and conservative political criticism.

**Course Attributes:**
- D1: Social Sciences
- Am. Ethnic & Racial Minorities
- Social Justice
PHIL 150 Contemporary Moral/Political Issues (Units: 3)
Theories of the good life, ethics, rights, and justice through the
examination of contemporary moral issues including capital punishment,
affirmative action, abortion, racial and sexual equality, privacy,
pornography, and environmental protection.
(This course is offered as PHIL 150 and PLSI 150. Students may not
repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Social Justice

PHIL 160 Introduction to Philosophy of the Arts (Units: 3)
Art appreciation and criticism including the nature of beauty, artistic
genius, and art as sign or symbol.
Course Attributes:
• C1: Arts

PHIL 205 Formal Logic I (Units: 3)
Contemporary treatment of structure of arguments by means of
sentential logic and quantifiers; comparison of axiomatic, natural
deductive, and tree-method approaches.

PHIL 210 Great Thinkers: East and West (Units: 3)
Enduring philosophical questions about human nature and the cosmos
as seen through the eyes of mankind’s greatest and most influential
thinkers, Eastern and Western.
Course Attributes:
• C2: Humanities
• Global Perspectives

PHIL 301 Ancient Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Origins of Western philosophy in the Eastern Mediterranean region:
from the Presocratics to the Stoics, Epicureans and Neo-Platonists,
emphasizing Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Connections and contrasts
between philosophy, natural science, myth and religion.
Course Attributes:
• UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

PHIL 302 Medieval Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Medieval philosophy to the Renaissance - Augustine, Boethius, Aquinas,
and related authors. Individuals, universals, community; personality,
freedom and nature; theory of signs, symbols, analogical models; labor
and intellectual work; private property, law and the common good.
Course Attributes:
• UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

PHIL 303 Modern Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Modern philosophy against the background of Protestantism, capitalism,
the Enlightenment and modern science to the end of the 19th century.
Includes Descartes and continental Rationalism, British Empiricism, Kant;
may include such topics as German and British idealism, positivism and
pragmatism.
Course Attributes:
• UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

PHIL 315 Introduction to Global Peace Studies (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; one lower-division
composition course; or consent of the instructor.

The field of peace studies and the integrative questions which must be
answered to achieve a coherent perspective on world peace. National and
international issues, the environment, philosophy, literature, arts, media,
and education.
(This course is offered as GPS 315, I R 315, and PHIL 315. Students may
not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
Course Attributes:
• UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
• Environmental Sustainability
• Global Perspectives
• Social Justice

PHIL 320GW Philosophical Analysis - GWAR (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Area A2; PHIL 110 or equivalent.

Analytic, interpretive, and expressive written communication skills
essential for philosophical study. (ABC/NC grading only)
Course Attributes:
• Graduation Writing Assessment

PHIL 321 Being and Knowing (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: GE Areas A1, A2, and A3.

Introduction to some of the most important issues in metaphysics and
epistemology through their treatment by classic and contemporary
authors. E.g., mind and matter, thought, belief, perception, meaning, truth,
knowledge, appearance, reality, freedom, and identity.

PHIL 330 Political Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

The forms, purposes, and justification of political orders; theories of
human nature, value, and history. Foundations of political philosophy in
the thought of such writers as Plato, Hobbes, Mill and Marx.
Course Attributes:
• UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
• Social Justice
PHIL 335 Law and Society (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

The relation between law and society, developed through the analysis of court cases centered on topics (capital versus labor, the individual versus the state) in their historical setting. Legal research.

Course Attributes:
- UD-D: Social Sciences
- Am. Ethnic & Racial Minorities
- Social Justice

PHIL 350 Philosophy of Science (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Philosophy of science with attention to contemporary formulations.

Course Attributes:
- UD-B: Physical Life Science

PHIL 351 Philosophy of Risk (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Philosophical issues about risk assessment and risk management, with attention to their scientific and ethical dimensions. Philosophical analyses of cases such as climate change, energy consumption, water-related environmental risks in California, allocation of scarce medical resources, and genetic testing.

Course Attributes:
- UD-B: Physical Life Science
- Environmental Sustainability

PHIL 355 Politics and Ethics of the Consumer Society (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Politics and ethics of consumption-oriented society; nature of industrial society; its structures, values, and consumption practices. (This course is offered as PLSI 355 and PHIL 355. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
- UD-D: Social Sciences
- Environmental Sustainability
- Social Justice

PHIL 365 Science and Civilization (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher standing; one lower-division composition course; or consent of instructor.

Role of science in modern civilization. Ethical aspects of science, scientific conceptions, and effects of science on the quality and direction of human existence.

PHIL 369 Philosophical Issues in Sexuality (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Legal, moral, and conceptual issues concerning human sexuality. Rape, pornography, abortion, prostitution, homosexuality, marriage, promiscuity, perversion, sexual politics, sex and religion, and the language of sex. (This course is offered as PHIL 369 and SXS 369. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Social Justice

PHIL 373 The Ethics of Migration and Membership (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or above; GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; or consent of the instructor.

Examination of the ethical issues surrounding migration, citizenship, national identity, and cultural belonging. Philosophical attention to the following questions: Do states have a moral right to control migration? Or is freedom of movement a basic human right? Assuming states have a right to restrict immigration, do societies have a moral obligation to admit certain groups such as refugees fleeing war and persecution? What about so-called economic or environmental refugees? What can democratic states legitimately require of immigrants who wish to become citizens? What roles do gender and race play in the design and impact of immigration policies?

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Am. Ethnic & Racial Minorities
- Global Perspectives
- Social Justice

PHIL 375 Peace Law and Human Rights in the U.S. (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; one lower-division composition course; or consent of the instructor.

Law of peace from the local to the international level; international treaties, covenants, statutes of Congress, legislatures, and city councils, criminal indictments, court affidavits, judges opinions, jury instructions, and relevant articles. (This course is offered as GPS 375 and PHIL 375. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
- UD-D: Social Sciences
- Global Perspectives
- Social Justice

PHIL 378 Philosophy of Criminal Law (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Philosophical examination of concepts and principles that are central to our criminal law, including investigation of whether there is a role for moral rationales.

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Social Justice
PHIL 379 Philosophy of Constitutional Interpretation (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher standing; one lower-division composition course; or consent of instructor.

Study and critique the most influential attempts to devise philosophical justification of or motivation for particular theories of constitutional interpretation.

PHIL 380 Philosophy of Law (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Relationship of law and morality. The basis for legal accountability. Who should be accountable? For what? Why?

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Social Justice

PHIL 383 Ethics in Medicine (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Ethical issues in medicine and nursing: treating dying patients, the right to healthcare, nurse/physician conflicts, health and basic values, freedom under new technology, and medical bureaucracy. Use of philosophical approaches to understand and to help resolve these problems. [CSL may be available]

Course Attributes:
- E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Social Justice

PHIL 384 Philosophy of Research Ethics (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Principles, practice and philosophical foundations of research ethics, from the perspectives of researchers, subjects of research, and institutional research review board members. Includes focus on ethical research design.

Course Attributes:
- E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Social Justice

PHIL 385 Neuroethics (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 114 or equivalent.

Identify, examine, and attempt to resolve ethical, legal, social, and philosophical issues raised by developments in the neurosciences.

Course Attributes:
- UD-B: Physical Life Science

PHIL 392 Philosophy of Animals (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Examination of different methodologies and results from scientific studies of non-human animals. Analysis of one or more philosophical debates that address the differences and similarities between humans and animals. Critical analysis of the use of animals as experimental, physiological, psychological or social models.

Course Attributes:
- UD-B: Physical Life Science
- Environmental Sustainability

PHIL 395 Ethical Issues: Science and Technology (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Ethical issues arising from or intrinsic to the process of scientific research and development or from the implementation or commercialization of new technologies.

Course Attributes:
- UD-B: Physical Life Science
- Social Justice

PHIL 410 Topics in the History of Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 114 or equivalent.

Exploration and critique of one or more topics of historical significance in philosophy. Topics to be specified in the class schedule. May be repeated when topics vary.

PHIL 415 The Hebrew Bible (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

The Hebrew Bible in English translation from historical, literary, and religious points of view; culture and religion of ancient Israel and the ancient Near East. (This course is offered as JS 415 and PHIL 415. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

PHIL 425 Existentialism (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

An examination of the principal philosophical aims and theories of the Existential movement.

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

PHIL 430 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 114 or equivalent.

Study of one or more philosophical topics that currently stimulate excitement and debate in the field. Topics to be specified in the class schedule. May be repeated when topics vary.
**PHIL 432 Nietzsche and Postmodernism (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3 and B4 or consent of the instructor.
Examines the most radical implications of Nietzsche’s critique of western humanism. Close reading of major writings by Nietzsche and selected "postmodern" readings of Nietzsche.
(This course is offered as HUM 432 and PHIL 432. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

**PHIL 434 Arendt and Heidegger (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: GE Area A2 or consent of the instructor.
Hannah Arendt, a student of Heidegger, is renowned in her own right as a philosopher and political theorist. Explore the relationship of Arendt and Heidegger’s ideas and question the extent to which Arendt was disciple or critic.
(This course is offered as HUM 434, JS 414, PHIL 434, and PLSI 434. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

**PHIL 435 Human Rights in Global Perspective (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.
Law and philosophy of human rights; philosophical issues and controversies about rights, historical development, major problems in implementing rights, and the international human rights movement.
(This course is as PHIL 435 and I R 436. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Global Perspectives
- Social Justice

**PHIL 436 Islamic Political Philosophy (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: Successful completion of GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.
There is a long and rich tradition of political philosophy in the Islamic cultures of the Middle East. A comprehensive introduction to Islamic political philosophy.
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Global Perspectives
- Social Justice

**PHIL 445 Sex and Morality (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.
Ethical theory and its applications to sexual conduct, therapy, and research. Fundamentals of moral augmentation; complicated, morality-laden issues associated with sexuality.
(This course is offered as PHIL 445 and SXS 469. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
**Course Attributes:**
- E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

**PHIL 450 Ethics (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.
Major problems in ethical theory with attention to their contemporary formulations.
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Social Justice

**PHIL 451 Feminist Moral Issues (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.
Moral or ethical issues of concern to the contemporary women’s movement. These include abortion ("pro-choice" vs. "pro-life"), pornography and censorship, hetero- and homosexuality, marriage, motherhood and affirmative action ("reverse discrimination").
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Am. Ethnic & Racial Minorities
- Global Perspectives
- Social Justice

**PHIL 452 Nature of Morality (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher standing; one lower-division composition course; or consent of instructor.
Exploration of historically significant philosophical conceptions of the nature of morality.

**PHIL 455 Sex and the Law (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.
A philosophical investigation of legal issues pertaining to sexuality. Legal enforcement of morals and of specific cases and statutes regarding marriage, sex discrimination, abortion, rape, homosexuality, pornography, pedophilia, and other sex-related activities.
(This course is offered as PHIL 455 and SXS 569. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Social Justice

**PHIL 460 Philosophy of Art (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.
Problems in aesthetics; contemporary formulations.
**Course Attributes:**
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Global Perspectives
PHIL 464 Philosophy and Film (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Philosophical concepts as treated in films, and philosophical issues raised by the nature of film. Philosophical concepts in ethics, epistemology, metaphysics and aesthetics.

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Global Perspectives
  • Social Justice

PHIL 470 Environmental Ethics (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Exploration of how different philosophers, religions and cultures understand our relationships to the environment. Applying ethical paradigms to the analysis of environmental problems and proposals for solutions.

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Environmental Sustainability
  • Social Justice

PHIL 494 Philosophy and Personal Development (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

For many philosophers, East and West, philosophy’s basic task is to change our orientation to the world and, thus, how we live our lives. Study and explore different philosophical methods of personal development and enrichment.

Course Attributes:
  • E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Global Perspectives

PHIL 500 Philosophy of Religion (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

The nature and function of fundamental religious concepts and claims.

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

PHIL 501 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Beliefs, practices, social organization, and history of the three monotheistic religious traditions; the importance of these traditions for European and Middle Eastern civilizations.

(This course is offered as JS 501, PHIL 501, and HUM 501. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Global Perspectives

PHIL 502 World Religions (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Major religions of mankind, their history and teachings: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Global Perspectives

PHIL 509 The Buddhist Tradition (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

An introduction to the basic teachings of Buddhism and the major Buddhist traditions in Asia. Among the topics to be discussed are ignorance, paths to enlightenment, meditation, morality, faith and wisdom.

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities

PHIL 511 Chinese Philosophy and Religion (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Major philosophical and religious traditions of China. Topics include the I Ching, Confucianism, Taoism and Chinese Buddhism.

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Global Perspectives

PHIL 514 Kabbalah and Mysticism in the Jewish Tradition (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

The spiritual life and various ways in which Jews have sought spiritual resources from Jewish tradition. Topics include Kabbalah, Jewish renewal, feminist spirituality and grieving the Holocaust.

(This course is offered as JS 410 and PHIL 514. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Global Perspectives

PHIL 516 Islamic Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Examine three interrelated issues: the purpose of philosophy, the good life and the limits of human reason. Also examined is Islamic philosophy’s confrontation with the Islamic traditions of theology, jurisprudence and mysticism.

Course Attributes:
  • UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
  • Global Perspectives
PHIL 517 Islamic Mysticism (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

An examination of the mystical teachings of Sufism. This is not a survey course but a concentrated effort to approach some of the central Sufi ideas about humanity, God and the structure of reality.

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Global Perspectives

PHIL 520 Philosophy and Mysticism (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Examination of how "higher" or "mystical" states of consciousness have informed philosophy historically, and exploration of the implications of these views epistemology, metaphysics, ethics and personal well-being.

Course Attributes:
- E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Global Perspectives
- Social Justice

PHIL 525 The Nature of Religious Experience (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Nature of religious experience drawn from different religions and academic disciplines within the humanities and social sciences; investigation of the meaning of religious commitment in a secular world. (This course is offered as PHIL 525 and RELS 300. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
- E1 LLD Pre-Fall 2019
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Global Perspectives

PHIL 530 Selected Religious Thinkers (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 114 or equivalent.

Understanding and assessment of the views of one or more highly influential religious thinker(s). Thinker(s) to be specified in the class schedule. May be repeated when different thinkers are studied.

PHIL 540 Selected Issues in Religious Thought (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 114 or equivalent.

Study of one or more issues in religious thought that have been influential historically or currently stimulate debate. Issues to be specified in the class schedule. May be repeated when issues vary.

PHIL 552 Judaism: Religion and Text (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

The manner and process of external/internal influences that move Jewish thought; the matters with which the rabbis and particular Jewish philosophers have concerned themselves. (This course is offered as JS 425 and PHIL 552. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

Course Attributes:
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
PHIL 685 Projects in the Teaching of Philosophy (Units: 1-4)
Prerequisite: Completion of course in which the student will assist with a minimum grade of B.
Training in teaching philosophy is provided both by discussion of pedagogy with the instructor of a target course and by mentoring and other appropriate activities. (Students may earn a maximum of 4 units toward the baccalaureate degree for any course(s) numbered 685 regardless of discipline.)

PHIL 691 Reading Circle (Unit: 1)
Prerequisite: Satisfaction of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR), 12 units of upper division philosophy courses, and consent of instructor.
Close reading of an important and difficult philosophical text, with attention to issues of interpretation. (CR/NC grading only)

PHIL 694 Philosophical Logic Workshop (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: PHIL 205 or consent of instructor.
Focus on puzzles and paradoxes raised in seminal philosophical papers in the twentieth century and their impact on analytic philosophy, with reference to the history of modern logic.

PHIL 695 Advanced Logic Workshop (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Introduction to Symbolic Logic or consent of instructor.
Logic (theory and applications) beyond propositional/predicate calculus, such as set theory, topology, completeness, decidability and adequacy, incompleteness, many-valued logics, intentional logic, induction, conditionals, proof, contradiction, or validity.

PHIL 696 Directed Reading: Learning Outcomes (Unit: 1)
Prerequisite: Senior standing and consent of instructor.
An advanced study of a selected philosophical problem studied at length. Each offering will feature a different guest philosopher. May be repeated for a total of 4 units. 

PHIL 699 Independent Study (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor.
Individualized course enables students, together with the faculty, to assess their learning outcomes. Students submit early and recent essays from previous classes and reflective essay on development of their own skills and knowledge. (CR/NC grading only)

PHIL 700 Seminar in Selected Problems (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.
Articulate, explore, and assess proposed resolutions of one or more fundamental philosophical problems. Problems to be specified in the Class Schedule. May be repeated when problems vary.

PHIL 702 Philosophy of Culture, Language and Society (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Philosophical examination of culture, language, and society, drawing on both continental and analytic traditions. Ontology and ideology as explored by, for example, Kant, Hegel, Adorno, Althusser, Austin, Butler, Foucault, Habermas, Horkheimer, Searle, and others.

PHIL 704 Seminar in Philosophical Writing (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Admission to the graduate program in philosophy.
Advanced analytic, interpretive, and expressive skills essential to the writing, reading, and study of philosophy. Cannot be used to satisfy the "four-seminar" requirement.
PHIL 795 Early Modern Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Restricted to graduate Philosophy students or consent of the instructor.
Analysis of two or more early modern philosophers, ranging from the canonical (e.g. Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Hume) to the newly recovered (e.g. Astell, Reid). Attention to one or more particular themes: individuality, perception, science, faith, morality, women, and similar topics. Topics to be specified in the Class Schedule. May be repeated when topics vary.

PHIL 796 Late Modern Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Analysis of two or more Late Modern philosophers. Readings from Early Modern philosophers and post-Kantians may also be included. Attention to one or more particular themes: mental representation, individuation, perception, science, and similar topics.

PHIL 805 Seminar in Metaphysics (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
How to do metaphysics. Approach or topic to be specified in the class schedule. May be repeated when different approaches to or topics in metaphysics are studied.

PHIL 810 Seminar in the Theory of Knowledge (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Problems in epistemology.

PHIL 811 Seminar in Philosophy of Perception (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Fundamental issues in the philosophy of perception, such as nature and cognitive function of perceptual content. Investigation of mutual relevance of philosophical debates on perception and studies in the cognitive sciences.

PHIL 819 Seminar: Philosophy of Risk (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.
Philosophical investigation of the concept of risk (e.g., is it essentially related to decision making, is it a thick concept, what kind of value judgment does it involve); critical examination of the methodologies for risk management including their scientific reliability and ethical implications (in particular with respect to social justice); philosophical exploration of the concept of ethical risk; discussion of issues raised by new kinds of risks (e.g. self-driving cars: who is responsible?). Other issues to be addressed: e.g., Are all risks created equal? Is risk imposition a harm in itself?

PHIL 820 Seminar in the Philosophy of Mind (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
In-depth study of important issues in the philosophy of mind, such as intentionality, mind/body relation, consciousness, thought, and perception.

PHIL 827 Philosophy and Current Applications of Artificial Intelligence (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or the consent of the instructor.
Exploration and analysis of the philosophical implications of current and emerging developments in artificial intelligence (A.I.). Learn what A.I. is and what distinguishes it from other computational processes and capacities, what tasks it can currently accomplish, what tasks it is likely to be able to accomplish in the future, and what issues A.I. raises for moral standing, epistemology, consciousness, law, social organization, public policy, economics, and labor.

PHIL 828 Philosophical Issues in Artificial Intelligence (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.
Focus on the implications of artificial intelligence for policy, industry, and society at large. Analyze current challenges including the use of A.I. in surveillance, the military, and the police force; the socially problematic implications of using negatively biased A.I. in the health industry; the relation between A.I. companies and governments; the epistemic and moral standing of A.I. as well as the legal consequences of this alleged standing. Study issues that involve some potential harm, but which in the long term may produce good consequences, including optimized social decision-making and labor.

PHIL 830 Seminar in Philosophy of Language (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Philosophical problems associated with language and symbolism, with in-depth study of recent advances in the field.

PHIL 846 Seminar on the Philosophy of Mathematics (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.
A study of the nature, applicability, and significance of mathematics based on the philosophical investigation of its fundamental methods and concepts.

PHIL 850 Seminar in the Philosophy of Science (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Problems of philosophy of science.

PHIL 851 Feminist Ethics and Political Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Central themes, developments, and debates in feminist ethics and political philosophy and their critiques of the mainstream canon. Relationship between feminist philosophy and current issues.

PHIL 852 Twentieth Century Metaethics (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Foundation for understanding current cutting edge philosophical work on metaethics.

PHIL 855 Bioethics (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.
Ethical values and philosophical frames relating to research about and application to artificial intelligence, data acquisition and application, human nervous system and computer interfaces, genomics, human enhancement, and other areas of STEM research that bear on diagnostic and therapeutic theory and practice.
PHIL 856 Normative Ethics (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Examination of recent attempts to improve consequentialist and Kantian ethics. Consideration of the so-called anti-theory stance in ethics, according to which systematic ethical theorizing is counter-productive and should be avoided.

PHIL 857 Philosophy of Action (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
What happens when a person acts? How is action different from mere behavior? Does the difference lie in the degree to which a person exercises control or autonomy over his behavior? How is autonomy related to normative reasoning?

PHIL 858 Contemporary Political Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Investigation of salient issues in contemporary political philosophy.

PHIL 881 Advanced Philosophy Publishing (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Philosophy or consent of instructor.
Supervised experience in various components of publishing philosophy journals and books; may focus on publishing journal articles/book chapters, editing volumes/special journal issues, book review editing, or publishing translations. May be repeated for a total of 6 units. (CR/NC only)

PHIL 890 Seminar: Current Issues in Philosophy (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.
Study of one or more philosophical issues that currently stimulate excitement and debate in the field. Issues to be specified in the Class Schedule. May be repeated when issues vary.

PHIL 891 Graduate Reading Circle (Unit: 1)
Prerequisites: 6 units of graduate level Philosophy courses and consent of instructor.
Close reading of an important and difficult philosophical text, which pays attention to place of text in history of philosophy and to issues of interpretation. May be repeated for a total of 3 units. (CR/NC grading only)

PHIL 896 Directed Reading in Fundamental Philosophical Texts (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.
Directed reading in depth and detail of fundamental philosophical texts. Course culminates in a written examination after end of semester but before beginning of subsequent semester. (CR/NC, RP grading only)

PHIL 898 Master's Thesis (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy (ATC) for the Master of Arts in Philosophy. Consent of instructor and approval of Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) and Culminating Experience (CE) forms by Graduate Studies. ATC and Proposal for Culminating Experience Requirement forms must be approved by the Graduate Division before registration. (CR/NC only)

PHIL 899 Independent Study (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of the graduate major adviser and the supervising faculty member.
Study is planned, developed, and completed under the direction of a member of the faculty. Open only to graduate students who have demonstrated ability to do independent work. Enrollment by petition. May be repeated.