

Philosophy (PHL)

PHL 301 Introduction to Philosophy 3 Hours

A survey of principal topics and problems in areas such as ethics, theory of knowledge, and philosophy of religion.

PHL 301K Ancient Philosophy 3 Hours

An introduction to the philosophical achievements of the ancient world, concentrating on Plato and Aristotle.

PHL 301L Early Modern Philosophy 3 Hours

An introduction to the philosophical achievements of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, concentrating on such figures as Descartes, Hume, and Kant.

PHL 302 World Philosophy 3 Hours

Basic issues of philosophy in Western and non-Western traditions, such as the nature of philosophy, its relation to religion and science, the self, knowledge, and virtue.

PHL 302C Ethics and Enlightenment 3 Hours

A study of non-Western ethics, especially in Hindu and Buddhist traditions.

PHL 303 Human Nature 3 Hours

Theories of human nature, such as those of Plato, Christianity, Marxism, and existentialism. Modern psychological and biological theories are included, as the interplay of nature and nurture in determining human conduct is explored.

PHL 303M Mind and Body 3 Hours

Introduction to philosophical issues about the nature of mind and its relation to body: What is mind? Do people have free will? How does psychology relate to neuroscience?

PHL 304 Contemporary Moral Problems 3 Hours

Philosophical examination of selected moral problems arising out of contemporary society and culture.

PHL 304T Introduction to Technology Ethics 3 Hours

Examine ethical challenges that have been introduced or exacerbated by recent technological advancements.

PHL 305 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion 3 Hours

A critical examination of various conceptions of God and of the relationship of the human and the divine.

PHL 306 Topics in Philosophical Thinkers 3 Hours

An introduction to major areas of philosophy through the study of selected philosophical thinkers.

PHL 306D Descartes 3 Hours

Examine the philosophy of Rene Descartes.

PHL 306L Mind, Matter, and Persons 3 Hours

Examines the philosophy of John Locke.

PHL 310 Knowledge and Reality 3 Hours

An introduction to basic issues in epistemology and metaphysics.

PHL 610Q Problems of Knowledge and Valuation 6 Hours

Methods and aims of selected sciences, arts, and philosophy in the attainment of knowledge and in providing the basis for valuation.

PHL 311 Argument 3 Hours

Argument as a kind of discourse: deductive and inductive arguments; principles of reasoning; fallacies; practical applications.

PHL 311K Games and Decisions 3 Hours

Introduction to the theories of games and rational decision, with applications to ethical, social, and political issues.

PHL 312 Introduction to Logic 3 Hours

Logical structure of sentences and arguments; elementary symbolic methods; applications.

PHL 313 Introductory Symbolic Logic 3 Hours

Introduction to symbolic logic (through first-order predicate logic); interpretations; formal proofs, consistency; some practical applications.

PHL 313K Logic, Sets, and Functions 3 Hours

Sets, relations, functions, sentential and predicate logic, proof techniques, algorithms, and elementary metatheory. Mathematically oriented.

PHL 313Q Logic and Scientific Reasoning 3 Hours

Introduction to formal proofs, semantics, quantifiers, inductive methods, decision theory, and scientific reasoning.

PHL 315F Philosophy and Film 3 Hours

Formulation, analysis, and criticism of philosophical ideas in selected films.

PHL 315L Philosophy and Literature 3 Hours

Formulation, analysis, and criticism of philosophical ideas in selected works of literature.

PHL 316K Science and Philosophy 3 Hours

Introduction to scientific method, including discussion of the nature and goals of science.

PHL 317K Introduction to the Philosophy of the Arts 3 Hours

Classic issues in the philosophy of art and beauty, illustrated from the fine arts and contemporary media: literature, drama, music, painting, film, and television.

PHL 318 Introduction to Ethics 3 Hours

Study of basic principles of the moral life, with critical examination of traditional and contemporary theories of the nature of goodness, happiness, duty, and freedom.

PHL 318K Introduction to Political Philosophy 3 Hours

Views of major political philosophers on humanity, nature, and society; discussions of contemporary political ideologies.

PHL 119S, 219S, 319S, 419S, 519S, 619S, 719S, 819S, 919S Topics in Philosophy 1-9 Hours

This course is used to record credit the student earns while enrolled at another institution in a program administered by the University's Study Abroad Office. Credit is recorded as assigned by the study abroad adviser in the Department of Philosophy. University credit is awarded for work in an exchange program; it may be counted as coursework taken in residence. Transfer credit is awarded for work in an affiliated studies program.

PHL 321K Theory of Knowledge 3 Hours

Systematic and detailed study of major issues in the theory of knowledge, such as the distinction between knowledge and belief, the criteria of knowledge, the justification of knowledge-claims, and perception.

PHL 322 Science and the Modern World 3 Hours

The historical development and impact of scientific ideas through the modern period to the present.

PHL 322K History of Ethics 3 Hours

Survey of ethical theories from ancient times through the nineteenth century.

PHL 323K Metaphysics 3 Hours

Problems of substance, change, categories of being, mind, body, space and time, approached either systematically or historically.

PHL 323M Philosophy of Mind 3 Hours

Problems concerning the nature of mind and mental phenomena: the relation between mind and body, knowledge of other minds, the computational model of mind, mental causation, intentionality, and consciousness.

PHL 323S Philosophy of Science 3 Hours

Examine philosophical issues pertaining to science, with an emphasis on the metaphysics and epistemology of science.

PHL 325D Environmental Ethics and Philosophy 3 Hours

Examine moral issues concerning the relation of human beings to the environment, including biodiversity, resource depletion, and animal rights.

PHL 325E Biomedical Ethics 3 Hours

Apply ethics to problems of medical practice and theory including abortion, euthanasia, sterilization, psychosurgery, genetic engineering, and concepts of health, cure, insanity, and death.

PHL 325J Health and Justice 3 Hours

Examines ethical, political, and legal issues surrounding medicine, society, and healthcare.

PHL 325K Ethical Theories 3 Hours

Major traditional and contemporary ethical theories discussed and critically examined.

PHL 325L Business, Ethics, and Public Policy 3 Hours

Issues in ethics and politics that are relevant to the organization of business and industry and the distribution of power in society; topics include the role of industry; concepts of profit, property, and moral responsibility.

PHL 325M Medicine, Ethics, and Society 3 Hours

Examine moral, legal, and socio-political implications of developments in the biomedical sciences. Explore health and disease, function and normalcy, evidence-based practice, gene editing and cloning, genetic testing, screening, and counseling, public health and compulsory vaccination.

PHL 325N Organizational Ethics 3 Hours

Examine the practical and theoretical aspects of ethical issues in organizations, including philosophical, psychological, anthropological, and strategic approaches.

PHL 328 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy 3 Hours

Major figures in nineteenth-century European philosophy, including Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Mill.

PHL 329C Plato and His Philosophy 3 Hours

Intensive study of selected works by Plato.

PHL 329D Spinoza's Philosophical System 3 Hours

Examine the significance of Benedict de Spinoza's philosophical system.

PHL 329E Aristotle 3 Hours

Study the philosophy of Aristotle through the examination of key texts.

PHL 329F Squaring the Vienna Circle 3 Hours

Traces the origin of the Vienna Circle of Logical Empiricism in nineteenth-century Europe, and introduces central texts and problems of intellectual history and historical epistemology at the roots of today's analytic philosophy.

PHL 329K History of Ancient Philosophy 3 Hours

Development of Western philosophy from the pre-Socratics to the early Christian era; emphasis on Plato and Aristotle.

PHL 329L Early Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant 3 Hours

PHL 329P Kant's Critique of Pure Reason 3 Hours

An intensive study of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, focusing especially on his "Copernican Revolution," his theories of categories and concepts, and his rejection of metaphysics.

PHL 129S, 229S, 329S, 429S, 529S, 629S, 729S, 829S, 929S Topics in Philosophy 1-9 Hours

This course is used to record credit the student earns while enrolled at another institution in a program administered by the University's Study Abroad Office. Credit is recorded as assigned by the study abroad adviser in the Department of Philosophy. University credit is awarded for work in an exchange program; it may be counted as coursework taken in residence. Transfer credit is awarded for work in an affiliated studies program.

PHL 329T Thomas Aquinas and His Philosophy 3 Hours

Study the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas through the examination of key selected texts.

PHL 329U Perspectives on Science and Mathematics 3 Hours

An examination of five notable episodes in the history of science: Galileo's conflict with the Catholic Church, Isaac Newton's formulation of the laws of motion, Charles Darwin's proposal of the theory of evolution by natural selection, the development of the atomic bomb, and the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA.

PHL 332 Philosophy of Language 3 Hours

Contemporary theories of meaning and linguistic structure, and their relationships to epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics.

PHL 332M Interpretation and Meaning 3 Hours

Examine issues concerning the nature of communication, interpretation, and meaning.

PHL 334F Forensic Files: Philosophy Crimes 3 Hours

Explore political philosophies from the continental tradition (Heidegger/Arendt, Nietzsche, Adorno/Horkheimer, and Agamben/Schmitt) implicated in radical politics and answering to political turning points, with a focus on research and reading in historical contexts.

PHL 334G Hegel and His Heirs: Philosophy That Remade the West 3 Hours

Explore how Hegel's philosophy contributed to the founding of the modern social sciences and led to innovations in the study of religion, psychology, education, social organizations, and social reform.

PHL 334M Martin Heidegger 3 Hours

Examine the work of Martin Heidegger, focusing especially on his views concerning truth, art, history, humanism, and technology.

PHL 334Q German Scholars: US Exile 3 Hours

Examine the migration of established European intellectuals into the US, due to the Second World War. Explore how they worked against their persecutors for their own cultural heritage and to influence US intellectual life. Investigate the ethical dilemmas faced in transplanting their lives and projects into new contexts.

PHL 342 Topics in Political Philosophy 3 Hours

Critical examination of leading theories of the state, including analysis of such concepts as sovereignty, obligation, rights, and freedom.

PHL 342.1 Natural Law Theory 3 Hours

Study of the fundamental moral principles that are built into the design of human nature and lie at the roots of conscience.

PHL 342C Philosophy of Citizenship 3 Hours

Explore central philosophical and ethical questions about citizenship.

PHL 342L Origins of Liberalism 3 Hours

Examine the theory of liberal democracy through a study of its development in historical, religious, and political contexts.

PHL 342M Marx and Marxist Theory 3 Hours

Introduction to the writings of Karl Marx as well as to those of his intellectual successors in Europe and around the globe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

PHL 342P Four Modern Political Theories 3 Hours
Examine four modern political theories (classical liberalism, Marxism, social democracy, and traditional conservatism), with close reading and analysis of central texts.

PHL 342R Philosophy of Race and Gender 3 Hours
Examine philosophical issues pertaining to race and gender.

PHL 342T Advanced Political Philosophy 3 Hours
Examine one or more of the central subjects in political philosophy including liberty, justice, equality, democracy, and constitutionalism.

PHL 344K Intermediate Symbolic Logic 3 Hours
A second-semester course in symbolic logic: formal syntax and semantics, basic metatheory (soundness, completeness, compactness, and Loewenheim-Skolem theorems), and further topics in logic.

PHL 344M Philosophy of Mathematics 3 Hours
Philosophical issues concerning mathematics and its foundations, such as the correlation of mathematics to logic, mathematical truth, and mathematical knowledge.

PHL 346K Aesthetics 3 Hours
The nature and purpose of art and the aesthetic experience.

PHL 347 Philosophy of Law 3 Hours
The significance and function of law in political and ethical contexts; comparison of common and statutory to scientific and moral law; readings from among Plato, Kant, Hegel, Bentham, Austin, Hart, Dworkin, Feinberg, and others.

PHL 348C Classical Chinese Philosophy 3 Hours
Introduction (in translation) to thinkers, texts, and ideas from the golden age of Classical Chinese philosophy (circa sixth-second centuries BCE), including how to apply their teachings to current sociopolitical issues.

PHL 348D Chinese Ethics and Political Philosophy 3 Hours
Examine Chinese ethical and political philosophy, with an emphasis on the Confucian tradition, through close reading of major works. Analyze ideas from the course both philosophically and historically.

PHL 348G The Bhagavad Gita: Interpretation and Ethics 3 Hours
Explore one of the most influential books in Indian and global contexts, the Bhagavad Gita, through interpretations, commentaries, and scholarly materials. Navigate ethical dilemmas in the Bhagavad Gita and real-life situations.

PHL 348P Indian Philosophies 3 Hours
Investigate the theories and arguments of major Indian philosophers, considering both their historical positioning and contemporary relevance.

PHL 349 History of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy 3 Hours
Philosophical thought from Augustine through Cusanus and Vico, with emphasis on its cultural bearing.

PHL 356C Contemporary Christian Philosophy 3 Hours
Study of recent work in philosophy written from a Christian point of view or that examines philosophical questions that arise within the framework of the Christian faith.

PHL 356D History of Christian Philosophy 3 Hours
Examines the history of Christian philosophy through classic Christian thought, concerning what can be known and how people should live.

PHL 356E Buddhist Thought and Practice 3 Hours
Explore important themes in Buddhist thought, various ways in which Buddhists practice their religion, and the relationships between religious concepts and practices.

PHL 358 Philosophical Logic 3 Hours
Issues in philosophical logic and its applications, such as theories of meaning, logical paradoxes, epistemic logic, deontic logic, modal logic, existence, and identity.

PHL 361K Philosophy in Literature 3 Hours
Formulation, analysis, and criticism of philosophical ideas in selected literary works.

PHL 363 Scientific Method 3 Hours
History, exposition, and analysis of such fundamental concepts in the natural and social sciences as explanation, prediction, discovery, confirmation, laws, hypotheses, theories.

PHL 363L Topics in Philosophy of Science 3 Hours

PHL 363L.1 The Philosophy of Biology 3 Hours

PHL 363L.2 The Outer Limits of Reason 3 Hours
Examines fundamental questions that appear to transcend the capacities of reason such as semantic paradoxes, theseus' ship, vagueness, infinities, computational intractability, quantum mechanics, fine-tuning arguments, and why mathematics applies to the physical world.

PHL 363L.3 Science and Metaphysics 3 Hours
Examine questions about the nature of reality informed by science and metaphysics, such as the nature of time, space, minds, meanings, identity, infinity, abstract vs concrete objects.

PHL 363L.5 Biology and Society 3 Hours
Explore how biological theorizing has influenced and, in turn, been modulated by social ideology from the early twentieth century to the present day.

PHL 363L.6 Philosophy and Computation 3 Hours
Analyze fundamental results from the early theory of computation such as the unsolvability of the halting problem, uncomputability, computational complexity, and intractability. Question central notions such as 'implementation' of a program, what a program is, what an algorithm is, 'software' versus 'hardware' distinction, and other distinctions. Discuss issues surrounding the relation between computation, thought, and experience. Consider questions such as what artificial intelligence is, whether there is a relevant distinction between 'simulation' of a phenomenon such as intelligence versus the production of genuine intelligence, the ethics of AI, and the status of various 'virtual' entities, such as internet sites, the metaverse, and bitcoin.

PHL 365 Topics in Selected Problems in Philosophy 3 Hours

PHL 365.2 Introduction to Cognitive Science 3 Hours

PHL 365.6 Process Philosophy and Pragmatism 3 Hours

PHL 365M The Meaning of Life 3 Hours
Investigate the meaning of life, exploring pre-modern perspectives, modern views including those of the nineteenth through twenty-first centuries, and contemporary problems such as whether AI poses new threats to meaning in life.

PHL 365N The Nature of Visual Consciousness 3 Hours

PHL 365P The Pursuit of Happiness 3 Hours
Investigate happiness and how it is attained. Examine contrasting perspectives on happiness or human flourishing offered by major thinkers, both religious and secular, representing different epochs, cultures, and theoretical approaches.

PHL 366K Existentialism 3 Hours
Existentialism and its relationship to literature, psychoanalysis, and Marxism.

PHL 375M Topics in Major Seminar 3 Hours

PHL 375M.1 Philosophy and Feminism 3 Hours

PHL 375M.10 Philosophy of Action 3 Hours
Study contemporary philosophy of action through a survey of some of its central questions and influential authors.

PHL 375M.11 Constitutional Law and Theory 3 Hours
Explore issues surrounding constitutional theories and interpretations as they relate to the rule of law and the function of a constitution.

PHL 375M.2 Philosophy of David Hume 3 Hours
Examine David Hume's contributions to Philosophy holistically: metaphysics, knowledge, morality and religion. Explore the systematic nature of his thought, as applied to specific problems including causation, induction, moral belief, and the existence of God.

PHL 375M.3 Wittgenstein 3 Hours
Examine the later philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein in the context of the development of analytic philosophy in the early twentieth century.

PHL 375M.4 Philosophy of the First Amendment 3 Hours
Examine the philosophical principles beneath the several freedoms protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as the applications of those freedoms (speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition) to concrete legal disputes.

PHL 375M.5 Major Ethical Theories 3 Hours
Examine selected major works in ethical theory from ancient and modern philosophy. Explicate the argumentative structure of the texts, situate them in their historical contexts, and consider their significance for contemporary moral thought.

PHL 375M.6 Studies in Epistemology 3 Hours
Examine one or more of the philosophical approaches to the study of knowledge and rational belief.

PHL 375M.7 Foundational Issues In Metaphysics 3 Hours
Examine foundational questions in metaphysics, including being and existence, essence, real definition, grounding, ontological dependency, form and matter, explanation, causation, and parts and wholes.

PHL 375M.8 History of Metaphysics 3 Hours
Examine selected major works of metaphysical inquiry from an earlier period, from the ancient Greeks to the twentieth century.

PHL 375M.9 The Philosophy of Privacy 3 Hours
Explore the legal, political, and personal dimensions of privacy. Examine the nature of privacy and the value of privacy.

PHL 679H Honors Tutorial Course 6 Hours
Supervised individual reading for one semester, followed by research and writing to produce a substantial paper on a special topic in philosophy, to be completed during the second semester.

PHL 379K Conference Course 3 Hours
Intensive tutorial study of selected problems in philosophy.

PHL 380 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy 3 Hours
Past topics include pragmatism; postmodernism; contemporary Marxism; critical theory.

PHL 380N French-German Philosophy and Theory 3 Hours
Explore core philosophical texts from the nineteenth and twentieth century that ground post-World War II French post-structuralism.

PHL 381 Topics in History of Philosophy 3 Hours
Past topics include major figures and movements in ancient, medieval, early modern, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century philosophy.

PHL 382 Topics in Metaphysics 3 Hours
Past topics include basic issues in metaphysics; particulars and universals; identity and individuation; realism and antirealism; mind-body issues.

PHL 383 Topics in Theory of Knowledge 3 Hours
Past topics include basic issues in epistemology; theories of belief and rationality; justification and truth.

PHL 383C Introduction to Cognitive Science 3 Hours

PHL 384F First-Year Seminar 3 Hours
Central problems in philosophy.

PHL 384K The Analytic Tradition 3 Hours
A selective examination of works by major figures such as Frege, Moore, Russell, and Wittgenstein.

PHL 385 Topics in Theory of Value 3 Hours
Past topics include basic issues in value theory; the objectivity of value; literature and philosophy; philosophy of art; literary criticism.

PHL 386 Topics in Philosophy of Science 3 Hours
Past topics include basic issues in the philosophy of science; theories and explanations; philosophy of quantum mechanics; philosophy of the social sciences.

PHL 387 Topics in Ethical, Political, and Legal Philosophy 3 Hours
Past topics include contemporary ethical theory; theories of justice; philosophy of law; social contract theories; political philosophy.

PHL 387C Intersectionality: Identity and Politics 3 Hours
Examine current theories of identity and identity politics from the US and Europe, deriving from theories of economic and class-based origins of identity.

PHL 188, 388 Conference Course 1,3 Hours
Mainly a reading course in the works of classical and modern philosophers.

PHL 388C Prospectus Course 3 Hours
Mainly a reading course for development of a dissertation prospectus.

PHL 389 Topics in Logic 3 Hours
Rigorous definitions of syntax and semantics. Proofs of soundness and completeness of sentential and predicate logics; other topics in metatheory. May include extensions of and alternatives to classical logic. Philosophical significance of logic and metalogical results.

PHL 391 Topics in Logic and Philosophy 3 Hours
Past topics include identity and substitutivity; philosophy of logic; discourse representation.

PHL 394K Philosophy of Language 3 Hours

PHL 396M Job Market 3 Hours

PHL 396W Dissertation Seminar 3 Hours
Intensive examination of selected dissertation topics: attention to research methods, presentation, structure, and argument. Student reports on current research.

PHL 698 Thesis 6 Hours

PHL 398R Master's Report 3 Hours
Preparation of a report to fulfill the requirement for the master's degree under the report option.

PHL 398T Supervised Teaching in Philosophy 3 Hours
Teaching experience developed through an apprentice relationship between student and faculty member.

PHL 399W, 699W, 999W Dissertation 3,6,9 Hours