PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 0026  EASTERN THOUGHT  3 cr.
This course introduces students to various schools of Eastern thought such as Hinduism (including Yoga), Buddhism (with an eye to its Indian, Chinese, and Japanese forms), Confucianism, and Daoism. Readings will include both primary texts in translation and Western applications.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0080  INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS  3 cr.
An introduction to some classical problems of philosophy. Topics vary, but might include skepticism, free will, the existence of god, and the justification of ethical beliefs.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0200  HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY  3 cr.
Introduces students to some of the main achievements and leading ideas of ancient Greek philosophy up to classical times. Emphasis will be on understanding and evaluating the arguments and ideas of the Greek philosophical tradition.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0210  HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY  3 cr.
An introduction to the philosophical period from Descartes through Kant. Special attention is given to at least one rationalist, one empiricist, and Kant.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0220  INTRODUCTION TO EXISTENTIALISM  3 cr.
Explores the central existentialism question of how to be a genuine individual or self through reading of several major authors, such as Pascal, Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky, Nietzsche, and Sartre.

Prerequisite: None.
PHIL 0300  INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS  3 cr.

Considers the question of one fundamental moral principle - right and wrong. The results are applied to moral problems of serious interest today.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0310  ETHICAL ISSUES IN SCIENCE  3 cr.

This course examines the ethical implications of developments in science and technology--such as those involving gene cloning and splicing, prolonging life, prenatal testing, radiation and ozone depletion, purported climate change, environmental hazards and safety, and agricultural practices. Attention will be given to frameworks and perspectives for ethical analysis as well as methods for analyzing risk-benefit trade-offs.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0320  SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY  3 cr.

An introduction to some traditional philosophical perspectives on the nature of society. Philosophers studied might include Plato, Hobbes, Marx, and twentieth-century social theorists.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0365  MORAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE LAW  3 cr.

An exploration of moral perspectives on the law via an examination of such questions as the following: does law have a moral basis or justification? Is there a moral duty to obey the law? Are there objective standards of conduct that are morally binding on everyone? Is it morally proper to use the law in an attempt to coerce moral behavior?

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0470  PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION  3 cr.

A critical examination of the rationality of faith in the existence of god. Traditional arguments both for and against the existence of god are considered, along with pragmatic justifications of faith based upon its beneficial consequences.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 0500  INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC  3 cr.

An introduction to the concepts and methods of modern deductive logic. Propositional logic is emphasized, but quantificational logic is touched upon.

Prerequisite: None.
PHIL 0790  PHILOSOPHY OF ART  3 cr.

This course examines basic questions of aesthetics as they have been developed in the philosophical tradition. Questions include: What are art, beauty, and taste? How do we determine whether something is a work of art? How do we judge it? How much does the institutionalized world of art affect all of these issues? What is the value of art for society?

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 1120  PHILOSOPHY OF FILM & FILM THEORY  3 cr.

Investigates the aesthetic aspects of film and survey important developments in the history of film theory. Topics include film as art, film narrative, the role of the spectator, auteur theory, realism, feminist critique, and film as philosophy. We will also consider how particular films yield insights into philosophical problems.

Prerequisite: One PHIL course.

PHIL 1245  AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY  3 cr.

Surveys major themes in American philosophy, with a concentration on pragmatism. Begins with a study of early thinkers like Thoreau and Emerson, though the majority of the course will be dedicated to the pragmatists: Pierce, Meade, James, and Dewey. Concludes with a look at one or more contemporary pragmatists, like Rorty.

Prerequisite: None.

PHIL 1340  FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY  3 cr.

Advanced undergraduate course concentrates on a few selected philosophical problems concerning the nature of society; the selection will vary from one offering of the course to another. The course may be historical or topical in approach.

Prerequisite: One PHIL course or permission of instructor.

PHIL 1380  BUSINESS ETHICS  3 cr.

This advanced undergraduate course considers a selection of ethical issues that arise in connection with business needs and practices, such as employer-employee relations, truth in advertising, responsibilities to consumers, fair and unfair competitive practices, environmental effects, contractual obligations, liability for damages, and governmental regulation.

Prerequisite: None.
PHIL 1460  THEOREY OF KNOWLEDGE  3 cr.

This is an advanced undergraduate course in recent and contemporary epistemology. Topics vary somewhat, but generally include many of the following: skepticism, sense data and the myth of the given, induction and confirmation, definition of "knowing-that-p", holism and coherence, the status of common sense, and so on.

Prerequisite: One PHIL course.

PHIL 1640  PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY  3 cr.

This advanced undergraduate course covers such topics as mind-body reductionism, behaviorism, functionalism, cognitivism, and the relation of artificial intelligence research to psychological theory.

Prerequisite: One PHIL or PSY course.

PHIL 1890  ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY (VARIOUS)  3 cr.

This intensive, advanced-level seminar is reserved for special philosophical topics that do not fit standard course-catalog categories. Issues discussed vary from year to year, but tend to be narrowly focused and specialized.

Prerequisite: Junior; (one PHIL course or ENCMP 0020).

PHIL 1901  INDEPENDENT STUDY  1-3 cr.

PHIL 1969  SPECIAL TOPICS – STUDY ABROAD  1 cr.

The study of special topics related to a study abroad experience.