
Philosophy

Faculty and Fields of Interest

Philosophy is the cornerstone of the humanities. A major in philosophy cultivates the development of analytical skills and clarity of thought that are invaluable, not only in pursuing a college degree, but later in developing a rewarding career and a meaningful life. Training in philosophy is highly regarded in professional fields such as law, medicine, artificial intelligence, and government.

The faculty in the department have a diversity of backgrounds and areas of specialization. This makes possible a solid grounding in the history of philosophy and in the various sub-areas of philosophy, areas such as ethics, logic, metaphysics, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, and philosophy of language. The approach of the department is pluralistic.

Diane Barense philosophy of logic, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of feminism

Philip Cox (chairperson) ethics, medical ethics, philosophy of law, social theory

Catherine Villanueva Gardner ethics, feminist philosophy

James Gordon Place history of philosophy, contemporary European philosophy, aesthetics

Philosophy Major

BA degree

Requirements

		Credits	General Education Departmental Requirements	
PHL 110	Logic (PHL 108 Critical Thinking or PHL 235 Symbolic Logic may be substituted)	3	Students majoring in Philosophy will meet their departmentally-controlled General Education requirements as follows:	
PHL 221	History of Western Philosophy: Ancient (PHL 223 History of Western Philosophy: Medieval may be substituted)	3		
PHL 222	History of Western Philosophy: Modern	3		
Two courses in contemporary philosophy selected from:			Area E: Satisfied by coursework required of all philosophy majors	
PHL 361	Contemporary Continental Philosophy	6		
PHL 371	Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy			
PHL 382	Contemporary American Philosophy			
One seminar course:			Area I, Tier II: Satisfied by a 200 or 300 level course carrying a W designation. Students are required to submit a sample paper from this course, demonstrating advanced word-processing skills and web-based research, to the Chair of the Philosophy Department during the semester preceding graduation	
PHL 409	Seminar	3		
At least three courses in systematic philosophy selected from courses numbered 300-349			Area W, Tier II: Satisfied by a 300 level philosophy course that carries a W designation	
PHL 300	Special Topics	9		
PHL 301	Theory of Knowledge			
PHL 303	Metaphysics			
PHL 311	Philosophy of Language			
PHL 315	Ethics II			
PHL 316	Political Philosophy			
PHL 318	Bioethics			
PHL 320	Philosophy of Science			
PHL 323	Philosophy of Art			
PHL 324	Philosophy of History			
PHL 325	Philosophy of Religion			
PHL 326	Philosophy of Law			
PHL 332	Philosophy of Human Nature			
Two courses selected from the following list:			Area O: Satisfied by a course from the approved list of O designated courses	
PHL 101	Introduction to Philosophy			6
PHL 102	Philosophical Aspects of Feminism			
PHL 105	Special Topics			
PHL 108	Critical Thinking (if not taken above)			
PHL 200	Special Topics in Philosophy			
PHL 207	Introduction to Aesthetics			
PHL 210	Socrates			
PHL 215	Ethics I			
PHL 222	History of Western Philosophy: Modern (if not taken above)			
PHL 223	History of Western Philosophy: Medieval (if not taken above)			
PHL 224	Nineteenth Century Philosophic Thought			
PHL 226	Marx			
PHL 227	Nietzsche			
PHL 232	Inductive Inference			
PHL 235	Symbolic Logic (if not taken above)			
Total		33		

Philosophy Minor

Requirements

		Credits
One course in the history of philosophy		
PHL 221	History of Western Philosophy: Ancient OR	3
PHL 222	History of Western Philosophy: Modern OR	
PHL 223	History of Western Philosophy: Medieval	
Four courses selected from the following list, with the understanding that two of the courses must be upper division (numbered between 300 to 391):		
PHL 101	Introduction to Philosophy	12
PHL 102	Philosophical Aspects of Feminism	
PHL 105	Special Topics	
PHL 110	Logic	
PHL 200	Special Topics	
PHL 207	Introduction to Aesthetics	
PHL 210	Socrates	
PHL 215	Ethics I	
PHL 221	History of Western Philosophy: Ancient (if not taken above)	
PHL 222	History of Western Philosophy: Modern (if not taken above)	
PHL 223	History of Western Philosophy: Medieval (if not taken above)	
PHL 224	Nineteenth Century Philosophic Thought	
PHL 226	Marx	
PHL 227	Nietzsche	
PHL 232	Inductive Inference	
PHL 235	Symbolic Logic	
PHL 300	Special Topics	
PHL 301	Theory of Knowledge	
PHL 303	Metaphysics	
PHL 311	Philosophy of Language	
PHL 315	Ethics II	
PHL 316	Political Philosophy	
PHL 318	Bioethics	
PHL 320	Philosophy of Science	
PHL 323	Philosophy of Art	
PHL 324	Philosophy of History	
PHL 325	Philosophy of Religion	
PHL 326	Philosophy of Law	
PHL 332	Philosophy of Human Nature	
PHL 361	Contemporary Continental Philosophy	
PHL 371	Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy	
PHL 382	Contemporary American Philosophy	
PHL 409	Seminar	3
Total		18

Selection of philosophy as a minor requires that the grade point average in one's major be at least 2.5.

Philosophy Courses

PHL 101 three credits **C, E**
Introduction to Philosophy
 An introduction to philosophy as the persistent and methodical attempt to think clearly about universal problems of human life, such as ways of knowing and studies in value.

PHL 102 three credits **C, W**
Philosophical Aspects of Feminism
 An introduction to philosophical reasoning, analysis of arguments and developing of critical skills, through a consideration of various topics relevant to feminism. Topics may include: presuppositions about woman's nature, abortion, sex equality, affirmative action. Cross-listed as WMS 102.

PHL 105 three credits **C**
Special Topics in Philosophy
 Offered as needed to present current topics in the field or other material of interest. The specific topic is stated when the course is scheduled. May be repeated with change of content.

PHL 108 three credits **C**
Critical Thinking
 A course in informal logic concentrating on the evaluation of reasoning in "real life" contexts. The material for analysis will be drawn from newspaper editorials, political speeches, media articles, textbooks, advertisements, etc.; we will concentrate on arguments about issues of current public interest. The following topics will be emphasized: the identification of arguments; techniques for portraying argument structure; the evaluation and criticism of arguments; informal fallacies; the influence of language on clear thinking. This course is designed for students with no previous background in philosophy. (Students who complete this course should not enroll in PHL 110).

PHL 110 three credits **C**
Logic
 An introduction to the methods and principles used to distinguish correct from incorrect reasoning. The course aims at imparting skill in identifying fallacies in reasoning and in using elementary formal techniques to analyze natural language arguments. In addition, such topics as the nature of meaning, the various uses of language, and the logic of science are discussed. (Students who complete this course should not enroll in PHL 108).

Gen Ed Key

All Philosophy courses satisfy Cultural/Artistic Literacy; lower division courses are marked **C**, but advanced courses are eligible as well. Other courses satisfy other requirements as noted.

PHL 200 three credits **C**

Special Topics in Philosophy

Offered as needed to present current topics in the field or other material of interest. The specific topic is stated when the course is scheduled. May be repeated with change of content.

PHL 207 three credits **C**

Introduction to Aesthetics

An introduction to philosophy through examination of paintings, photographs, poems, novels, and music in order to discover the styles of individual commitment through which people have tried to bring meaning into their lives. While attempting to grasp the aesthetic significance of each work of art, we will continually push toward an understanding of the philosophical dimension of human life as expressed in each work.

PHL 210 three credits **C, W**

Socrates

A study of Socrates through an examination of two sorts of problems—the first (the so-called ‘Socratic Problem’) is the problem of evaluating the evidence which we possess about Socrates. This will proceed by reading an analysis of Aristophanes’ *Clouds*, Xenophon’s *Memorabilia* and *Apology*, some passages from Aristotle and the following ‘early’ dialogues of Plato: *Apology*, *Crito*, *Euthyphro*, the *Charmides*, *Laches* and *Protagoras*. The second problem to be dealt with is the extraction and evaluation of the main tenets of Socrates’ philosophy, such as the claims that virtue is knowledge and that no one ever does wrong willingly.

PHL 215 three credits **C, E, W**

Ethics I

A critical examination of normative theories of obligation and value. A philosophical examination of some moral problems: abortion, euthanasia, death penalty, sexual equality, reverse discrimination, pornography and censorship, violence, and economic injustice.

PHL 221 three credits **C, W**

History of Western Philosophy: Ancient

A study of philosophy from its origin with the pre-Socratics to the middle ages. The major portion of the course will be devoted to the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle.

PHL 222 three credits **C**

History of Western Philosophy: Modern

A study of the major philosophical movements (rationalism, empiricism and

critical philosophy) in the 17th and 18th centuries. Philosophers studied include Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant. In addition to these major philosophers, consideration will also be given to the work of Rousseau, Pascal, Malebranche, the French Enlightenment.

PHL 223 three credits **C**

History of Western Philosophy: Medieval

A study of the philosophical views developed from the 4th to the 14th centuries. The following Christian, Jewish and Islamic philosophers are studied: Augustine, Boethius, Scotus Erigena, Anselm, Abelard, John of Salisbury, Alfarabi, Avicenna, Averroes, Maimonides, Bonaventure, Bacon, Aquinas, Scotus, William of Ockham, Nicholas of Autrecourt, Marsilius of Padua.

PHL 224 three credits **C**

Nineteenth Century Philosophic Thought

Writings selected from a century of great philosophical vitality and versatility. The culminating achievements of the western philosophical tradition and the first powerful stirring of major contemporary trends are fed by such currents as evolutionism, empiricism, idealism, positivism, existentialism, and dialectical materialism. Philosophers studied include Hegel, Fichte, Bradley, Schopenhauer, Comte, Mill, Spencer, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche.

PHL 226 three credits **C**

Marx

Designed as an introduction to the work of Karl Marx for those students who do not necessarily have philosophical backgrounds. The thoughts of Marx will be presented in two parts. At first, the more philosophical thought of the young Marx will be examined in its relation to Hegel and his followers up to Marx’s “settling of accounts” with German philosophy. The second part will deal with the more scientific phase of Marx’s thought expressed in *Das Capital*. Marx’s own works will form the reading in the course. Cross-listed as LST 226.

PHL 227 three credits **C, W**

Nietzsche

A critical analysis of the major philosophical themes in Nietzsche’s thought. Emphasis is placed on Nietzsche’s roots in the classical tradition. Readings include most of Nietzsche’s major works as well as secondary criticism.

PHL 232 three credits **C**

Inductive Inference

Prerequisites: PHL 110, 235; or consent of instructor

A critical examination of theories about the structure and justification of inductive reasoning. Included will be a study of theories of probability and of the nature of causation.

PHL 235 three credits **C**

Symbolic Logic

Prerequisite: PHL 110 or consent of instructor

A study of the formal techniques of sentential and predicate logic. The course aims at imparting skill in applying logic to natural language arguments and in recognizing and constructing correct deductions and refutations. Philosophical issues pertaining to the application of logic to natural language as well as elementary results of metalogic are discussed.

PHL 298 one to six credits

Experiential Learning

Prerequisites: At least sophomore standing; permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean

Work experience at an elective level supervised for academic credit by a faculty member in an appropriate academic field. Conditions and hours to be arranged. Graded CR/NC. For specific procedures and regulations, see section of catalogue on Other Learning Experiences.

PHL 300 three credits

Special Topics in Philosophy

Offered as needed to present current topics in the field or other material of interest. The specific topic is stated when the course is scheduled. May be repeated with change of content.

PHL 301 three credits **W**

Theory of Knowledge

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

An analysis of the scope and structure of knowledge and its relation to other human activities.

PHL 303 three credits

Metaphysics

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

A study of some representative philosophical views on the general structure and ultimate explanation of reality. Some topics considered will be causality, chance and necessity, the problem of first cause.

Consideration will also be given to some objections to metaphysics as a philosophical undertaking.

PHL 311 three credits **W**
Philosophy of Language

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

An examination of how language relates to the world and to thought. Topics will include the nature of meaning, truth, metaphor, and linguistic competence; speech act theory; and the relation of logic to syntax and semantics. Readings will be from contemporary linguistics as well as from philosophy.

PHL 315 three credits
Ethics II

Prerequisite: PHL 215

Concentrates on the meaning of ethical terms, the objectivity of moral judgments and the justification of these moral judgments. The Is-Ought Question is studied at some length, as well as the possibility of an ontology of morals proposed by contemporary metaphysicians.

PHL 316 three credits
Political Philosophy

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

A study of some of the major themes and problems traditionally considered by political philosophers. A consideration of what constitutes a political problem and a discussion of the role of philosophy with regard to such problems. The course thus combines an analytical and an historical approach in the effort to relate traditional political thought to contemporary problems.

PHL 317 three credits **E**
Ethics and Health Care Professionals

Prerequisite: Junior standing in Medical Laboratory Science, Nursing, Psychology, or Sociology

An examination of the ethical aspects of the health care professions, and the impact of the ethical issues on the professional's life. Topics include: responsibility, conscience, professional codes of ethics, privacy, informed consent, access to health care, loss, and death. Cross-listed as GRT 317.

PHL 318 three credits
Bioethics

Prerequisite: PHL 215 or its equivalent; or consent of instructor

A study of the ethical issues related to death and dying, behavior control, genetic counseling and genetic engineering, and

population limitation. The work of specific research projects and institutes will be studied.

PHL 320 three credits **W**
Philosophy of Science

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor, or third year in Mathematics or a science major.

A critical analysis of science and its methods, a study of the justification and the range of scientific knowledge.

PHL 323 three credits
Philosophy of Art

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

Continues on a more advanced level the development of a theory of art already begun in the introduction to aesthetics. Themes to be discussed include the nature of form and expression in art, the nondiscussive character of art, the similarities and differences between the artist's relation to the work of art and the spectators', the relation between art and subjectivity, the difference between the linguistic and visual arts, the social function of art. The works of a few major philosophers will be compared to give students alternative points of view.

PHL 324 three credits
Philosophy of History

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

This course will consider various theories that have been proposed for interpreting history, as well as recurrent problems about the structure of historical explanation, the possibility of objectivity in history, and the relationship between history and the social sciences.

PHL 325 three credits
Philosophy of Religion

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

Analytical and constructive study of central concepts and essential manifestations of religion. Both historical and contemporary readings are required.

PHL 326 three credits
Philosophy of Law

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

Approaches to the philosophy of law. The course addresses questions like, What gives meaning to law? How is the law interpreted, or how are judicial interpretations justified? What is the relationship between law and

morality, or law and culture or custom? The course examines a number of state and Supreme Court opinions (on issues like free speech and expressive liberties, reproductive issues, obscenity, legal ethics, jury nullification, and hate crime legislation) with a critical eye toward their philosophical or juridical soundness. This course is valuable for those considering careers in law, public affairs or politics.

PHL 332 three credits
Philosophy of Human Nature

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

An examination of the major views on the nature of human beings. The mind-body problem and the problem of freedom will be discussed.

PHL 361 three credits
Contemporary Continental Philosophy

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

A study of the various currents of continental European thought in this century with special concentration on existentialism, structuralism, and post-structuralism. Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Saussure, Levi-Strauss, Lacan, Kristeva, Foucault, Derrida and others will be discussed.

PHL 371 three credits **W**
Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

An examination and critique of 20th century analytic philosophy, whose dominant theme has been that philosophical problems are best understood as problems regarding the use of language. Among the writers we will discuss are Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Carnap, Hempel, Ryle, Austin, Quine, Davidson, Searle, Dennett, Kripke, Putnam, and Rorty.

PHL 382 three credits
Contemporary American Philosophy

Prerequisite: Semester course in Philosophy or consent of instructor

The major positions since the late 19th century (pragmatism, idealism naturalism and process philosophy) will be studied through selected texts from Peirce, James, Royce, Dewey, Santayana and Whitehead.

PHL 409 three credits
Seminar

Prerequisite: Major or Minor in Philosophy or

consent of instructor

Intensive study of (1) major philosophers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Quine, and Wittgenstein, or (2) philosophers related by a common theme in development, such as Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham, or Locke, Berkeley, Hume, or Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz, or (3) current philosophical work. May be repeated with change of content.

PHL 420 three credits

Directed Honors Thesis

Prerequisite: Major in Philosophy and 3.0 average in philosophy courses
Departmental guidance for a thesis developing out of the primary and continuing interest of the student.

PHL 495 three credits

Independent Study

Prerequisites: Philosophy major; Upper-division standing; permission of instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area not otherwise part of the discipline's course offerings. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

PHL 196, 296, 396, 496 three credits

Directed Study

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area covered in a regular course not currently being offered. Conditions and hours to be arranged.