

## Undergraduate Philosophy Classes – Fall 2019

\*Note: All PHIL classes listed here satisfy the new A&S GenEd Arts & Humanities Requirement. Those that may also be used to fulfill other A&S GenEd requirements are indicated following the course descriptions.

### PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy

Introduces students to the most fundamental questions of human existence, either topically or through various major figures in philosophy. Topics may include free will, the mind-body problem, the nature of the self, the existence of God, knowledge of the external world, the nature of morality, the meaning of life.

*MWF 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50, 12:00-12:50, 1:00-1:50, 2:00-2:50, 3:00-3:50; MW 11:00-11:50 (+ recitation)*

### PHIL 1010: Introduction to Western Philosophy: Ancient

Develops three related themes: the emergence in antiquity of a peculiarly scientific mode of thinking; the place of religious belief within this developing scientific world view; and the force of ethical speculation within the culture and political climates of ancient Greece and Rome.

*MWF 12:00-12:50, 1:00-1:50*

### PHIL 1020: Introduction to Western Philosophy: Modern

Introduces several philosophical texts and doctrines of 17th and 18th century Europe. Gives special attention to the connection between philosophical ideas and the wider historical milieu: social, political and literary.

*MWF 9:00-9:50, 12:00-12:50, 1:00-1:50*

### PHIL 1030: Introduction to Global Philosophy

Examines and compares different approaches to philosophy from across the globe, including Indian, Chinese, African, Islamic, Judaic, and European traditions. Topics may include: the nature of the self and reality, the foundations and limits of human knowledge, the role of the individual in the political community, the basic principles of ethics, and the meaning of life as a whole.

*MWF 1:00-1:50, 2:00-2:50*

### PHIL 1100: Ethics

Introductory study of major philosophies on the nature of the good for humanity, principles of evaluation, and moral choice as they apply to contemporary moral problems.

*MW 3:00-4:15, 4:30-5:45; MWF 11:00-11:50, 12:00-12:50, 2:00-2:50, 3:00-3:50; TR 11:00-11:50 (+ recitation), 12:30-1:45*

### PHIL 1160: Introduction to Medical Ethics

Introduces students to moral dilemmas in medical practice, biomedical research, and health policy, placing them in the context of comprehensive ethical theories and core principles of bioethics. Topics may include: euthanasia; abortion; organ procurement; moral status; research on nonhuman animals; navigating cultural differences between patients and health professionals; and the fair distribution of healthcare resources; as well as the bioethical issues arising from technological advances in medicine, including genetic modification and assistive reproductive technologies.

*MWF 2:00-2:50, 3:00-3:50*

### PHIL 1200: Contemporary Social Problems

Examines competing positions in debates over a wide variety of controversial moral, social and political issues. Topics may include: abortion, world poverty, animal rights, immigration, physician-assisted suicide, freedom of religion, hate speech, cloning, income inequality, pornography, gun rights, racial profiling, capital punishment, overpopulation, prostitution, drug legalization, torture.

*MW 9:00-9:50 (+ recitation), 3:00-4:15, 4:30-5:45; MWF 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50, 2:00-2:50, 3:00-3:50; TR 3:30-4:45, 5:00-6:15*

### PHIL 1250: Poverty, Power, and Patriotism: Issues of Global Justice

Explores justice (and injustice) in global and local contexts, introducing students to major traditions in political philosophy and core concepts like equality, liberty, reciprocity, and distributive justice. Specific topics may include: racism; sexism; reparations; colonialism; famine; immigration; patriotism; exploitation; labor justice; climate change; terrorism; and war. Relates political topics in U.S. society to their global context, challenging students to consider marginalization along axes of race, gender, and class across cultural boundaries.

*MWF 12:00-12:50, 2:00-2:50*

### PHIL 1400: Philosophy and the Sciences

Considers philosophical topics and concepts related to the natural sciences, such as the following: science and pseudo-science; scientific method; the nature of explanation, theory, confirmation, and falsification; the effect of science on basic concepts like mind, freedom, time, and causality; ethics of experimentation; and the relation of science to society. **A&S GenEd: Natural Science**

*MW 3:00-3:50 (+ recitation), 4:00-5:15*

### PHIL 1440: Critical Thinking

Develops students' skills in evaluating arguments and other aspects of critical thinking, focusing on the ways people reason and attempt to justify their beliefs. Activities may include modelling arguments, detecting common fallacies, examining the use (and misuse) of scientific evidence, and learning the basics of symbolic logic.

*MW 3:00-4:15, 4:30-5:45; MWF 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50; TR 12:30-1:20 (+ recitation)*

## **PHIL 1500: Reading, Writing and Reasoning**

Teaches students how to write argumentative papers. Each seminar will focus narrowly on some controversial topic. For example, one seminar might focus on the existence of God, whereas another might question whether we have free will. In all cases, a significant portion of the course will be devoted to learning how to write cogent argumentative papers about controversial topics. **A&S GenEd: Written Communication**

*MWF 10:00-10:50, 1:00-1:50; TR 3:30-4:45, 5:00-6:15*

## **PHIL 1600: Philosophy and Religion**

Philosophical introduction to some of the central concepts and beliefs of religious traditions, focusing particularly on the question of the existence of God and on the relation between religious beliefs and moral beliefs.

*MW 2:00-2:50 (+ recitation)*

## **PHIL 1700: Philosophy and the Arts**

Considers philosophic questions involved in the analysis and assessment of artistic experiences and of the objects with which the arts, including the literary arts, are concerned.

*MWF 11:00-11:50*

## **PHIL 2140: Environmental Justice**

Traditional and contemporary theories of justice are employed in order to critically analyze social and political issues that have important environmental dimensions. Assesses the relationship of justice and equity to the presuppositions of national and global environmental issues and policies.

*MW 4:00-5:15*

## **PHIL 2160: Ethics and Information Technology**

Examines contemporary ethical debates about the use, misuse, and development of information technology. Topics include ethical issues surrounding privacy, security, identity, hacking and cyber crime, automation technologies such as drones and self-driving cars, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality.

*MWF 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50*

## **PHIL 2170: Ethics and Economics**

Examines a variety of perspectives on problems at the intersection of ethics and economics, using both empirical data and moral reasoning to evaluate arguments concerning topics such as: government regulation of private industry, protectionist economic policies, fair work compensation, retirement benefits, and access to health care.

*TR 12:30-1:45*

## **PHIL 2200: Major Social Theories**

Introductory study of major philosophies of the past in relation to political, economic, and social issues.

*TR 3:30-4:45*

## **PHIL 2220: Philosophy and Law**

Considers philosophical issues related to law in general and the U.S. system in particular. Topics to be covered may address such questions as the following: What is the nature of law? What kinds of acts should the law prohibit (e.g., abortion, drug use, pornography, cloning)? Is there a moral obligation to obey the law? Can civil disobedience be justified? Is there a justification for punishing people for breaking the law? Is capital punishment, in particular, morally justified?

*MWF 2:00-2:50, 3:00-3:50*

## **PHIL 2240: Philosophy and Sports**

Introduces students to philosophical issues surrounding sport. Topics may include: paying college athletes, sex testing in sports, the use of performance enhancing drugs, sports and gambling, the nature and value of sports and sportsmanship, gender equity and sports, the ethics of strategic fouling, sports fandom, the coach-athlete relationship, athletes as role models, and the risk of extreme bodily harm. **A&S GenEd: Social Science**

*MWF 12:00-12:50*

## **PHIL 2270: Philosophy and Race**

Explores the historical relationship between western philosophy and race and investigates the ways in which philosophy can be used to address contemporary racial issues. **A&S GenEd: U.S. Diversity, Global Diversity**

*MW 4:30-5:45; MWF 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50*

## **PHIL 2290: Philosophy and Gender**

Analyzes critically the concepts of sex, gender, and their intersection with other aspects of identity, exploring how these impact the extent to which people face injustice because of their gender. **A&S GenEd: U.S. Diversity, Global Diversity**

*MWF 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50; TR 8:00-9:15*

## **PHIL 2440: Symbolic Logic**

Introduces students to sentential logic, the logic of quantification and some of the basic concepts and results of metalogic (interpretations, validity and soundness).

*TR 2:00-3:15, 3:30-4:45*

## **PHIL 3000: History of Ancient Philosophy**

Survey of selected figures in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy and in medieval philosophy. Philosophers studied may include the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, the Hellenistic philosophers and such figures as Aquinas and Occam. Explores the larger cultural context that influenced these philosophers and were, in turn, influenced by them. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

*MW 3:00-4:15, 4:30-5:45*

## **PHIL 3010: History of Modern Philosophy**

Introduces modern philosophy, focusing on the period from Descartes through Kant. In addition to careful analysis of philosophical arguments, attention is paid to the ways in which philosophers responded to and participated in major developments in the 17th and 18th century, such as the scientific revolution. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

*MWF 9:00-9:50; TR 3:30-4:45*

## **PHIL 3030: Asian Philosophies \*Buddhism as Philosophy\***

In this course we'll examine some core philosophical concepts and theses associated with Buddhist thought across both Theravada and Mahayana traditions. We'll focus on three major themes: (i) metaphysical underpinnings of the doctrine of No-Self as the basis for enlightenment, (ii) the nature of enlightenment itself, and (iii) the role of meditation and contemplative practices in enlightenment. Specific topics include: impermanence, dependent co-arising, emptiness, nirvana, mindfulness, and compassion. The approach will be purely philosophical (rather than, say, theological or philological) and mostly issue-driven (rather than, say, historical). Students are strongly advised to have taken at least one 3000+ level course in philosophy and have some familiarity with elementary logic (the material normally covered in PHIL 2440). *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 2:00-3:15

## **PHIL 3100: Ethical Theory**

Examines important doctrines and arguments in various areas of theoretical ethics, such as the normative ethics of behavior, axiology, virtue theory and metaethics. *Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

MW 3:00-4:15, 4:30-5:45

## **PHIL 3140: Environmental Ethics**

Examines major traditions in moral philosophy to see what light they shed on value issues in environmental policy and the value presuppositions of the economic, ecological, and juridical approaches to the environment. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

MWF 9:00-9:50, 1:00-1:50, 2:00-2:50

## **PHIL 3160: Bioethics**

Analysis of ethical problems involved in such issues as abortion, euthanasia, organ transplants, eugenics, treatment of the patient as a person and the institutional nature of the health care delivery system. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 3:30-4:45, 5:00-6:15

## **PHIL 3190: War and Morality**

Focuses on moral issues raised by war. When, if ever, can war be morally justified? Are rules of war globally applicable, or are they affected by local religious and cultural frameworks? Are colonized nations bound by the same rules of war as their colonizer states? Are states ever obligated to intervene to stop massacres or genocides in other states? *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

MWF 2:00-2:50, 3:00-3:50

## **PHIL 3200: Social and Political Philosophy**

Systematic discussion and analysis of such philosophic ideas as community, freedom, political power, and violence. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

MW 3:00-4:15

## **PHIL 3260: Philosophy and the International Order**

Considers philosophical topics concerning the international economic, political and legal systems. Topics that may be considered include the nature of international law, war and peace, humanitarian intervention, international justice, world hunger and human rights. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*; **A&S**

**GenEd: Global Diversity**

MWF 2:00-2:50

## **PHIL 3410: History of Science: Ancients to Newton**

Surveys the history of science up to Newton, including the emergence of scientific modes of thinking from religious and philosophical roots in the Near East and Greece to the development of these modes in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Culminates with Isaac Newton and the 17th century scientific revolution. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*; **A&S GenEd: Natural Science**

MWF 11:00-11:50

## **PHIL 3430: History of Science: Newton to Einstein**

History of physical and biological science, from the epoch-making achievements of Charles Darwin in biology to the dawn of the 20th century revolutions in physics, chemistry and genetics. Deals with the success of the mechanical philosophy of nature and its problems. Department enforced prerequisite: 6 hours of philosophy course work. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*; **A&S GenEd: Natural Science**

TR 3:30-4:45

## **PHIL 3480: Critical Thinking/Writing in Philosophy**

Focuses upon the fundamental skills, methods, concepts and distinctions that are essential for the study of philosophy. Basic skills covered include the writing of philosophy papers, the reading of articles and the extraction and evaluation of arguments. *Only PHIL majors*; *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*; **A&S Core: Written Communication**

TR 11:00-12:15; 12:30-1:45

## **PHIL 3600: Philosophy of Religion**

Philosophical discussion of fundamental issues in religion, such as existence of God, religious experience, faith and reason, evil, immortality and religious language. *Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 3:30-4:45

## **PHIL 3700: Aesthetic Theory**

Introduces major theories of aesthetics and contemporary discussions of problems, such as the nature of art and the problem of evaluations in art. *Sophomore Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 9:30-10:45

## **PHIL 4020: Topics in the History of Philosophy \*Early Modern Metaphysics\***

Examines a specific philosophical problem over an extended historical period. *Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 2:00-3:15

## **PHIL 4070: Existentialist Philosophy**

Examines central figures and texts in the existential tradition, from Kierkegaard and Nietzsche to Heidegger and Sartre. *Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

MWF 10:00-10:50

## **PHIL 4110: Contemporary Moral Theory**

Provides an in-depth look at some recent work in moral theory, usually organized around a single topic. Topics vary from year to year. Previous topics include: consequentialism and its critics, virtue theory, deontological ethics, moral psychology, well-being, and metaethics. *Only PHIL majors or minors; requires PHIL 3100 as pre- or co-requisite; Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 3:30-4:45

## **PHIL 4120: Philosophy and Animals**

Examines the moral status of nonhuman animals, and its implications for the common use of animals as food and experimental subjects for humans. *Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 11:00-12:15

## **PHIL 4260: Philosophy of Law**

Considers philosophical topics concerning law and the U.S. legal system. Topics that may be considered include the nature of law, relations between law and morality, justifications of punishment, the moral duty to obey the law, and law and liberty. *Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 3:30-4:45

## **PHIL 4340: Epistemology**

Studies some of the main topics of theory of knowledge, such as evidence, justification, prediction, explanation, skepticism, and concept acquisition. *Only PHIL majors; Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

MW 3:00-4:15

## **PHIL 4360: Metaphysics**

Traditional and contemporary theories of the basic categories of reality and the human relationship to it, including universals, substance, identity, change, mind and body, free will and modality. *Only PHIL majors; requires PHIL 2440, PHIL 3010, and PHIL 3480; Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 9:30-10:45

## **PHIL 4460: Modal Logic**

Introduces the most philosophically relevant kind of logic that builds on PHIL 2440. Modal logic is the logic of the concepts of necessity, possibility and contingency. A variety of systems of sentential modal logic will be covered, along with the standard system of first-order modal logic. *Junior Standing or higher to enroll*

TR 12:30-1:45

## **PHIL 4470: Probability and Rational Choice**

Examines issues in four related areas: probability theory (e.g. the interpretation of probability, the raven paradox, and the principle of indifference), decision theory (e.g., the Newcomb problem, the toxin puzzle, and Pascal's wager), game theory (e.g., Prisoner's dilemma, tragedy of the commons, and Schelling points), and social choice theory (e.g., Arrow's theorem). Familiarity with symbolic logic is strongly recommended.

TR 11:00-12:15