PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An examination of major philosophical issues such as the existence of
God, freedom and determinism, moral rights and obligations, and the
nature and limits of human knowledge.
TCCNS: PHIL 1301

PHIL 2303 Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Basic principles and techniques used in understanding, constructing, and
evaluating arguments. Topics covered may include formal methods of
analyzing arguments, informal fallacies, scientific reasoning, and moral
arguments.
TCCNS: PHIL 2303

PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course includes a study of ethical theories and principles, and
application of those theories and principles to ethical issues.
TCCNS: PHIL 2306

PHIL 3306 History of Eastern Philosophy I
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An historical and critical examination of traditional Indian philosophical
and religious systems (such as various versions of Hinduism, Jainism,
and Buddhism) and their relevance for contemporary people and
societies.

PHIL 3307 History of Eastern Philosophy II
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A historical and critical examination of some of the philosophical
and religious systems developed in China, Tibet, and Japan (such as
various schools of Mahayana Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Zen
Buddhism).

PHIL 3327 American Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An introduction to American philosophy and the influential movement
known as Pragmatism. The course focuses on the works of C.S. Peirce,
William James, John Dewey, and George Santayana. Issues addressed
include skepticism, the rejection of foundationalism, the role of belief in
inquiry, verification and meaning, and the nature of truth.

PHIL 3342 Philosophy of Love and Sex
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is a study of the ethics of human relationships. Topics
include friendship, romance, marriage, sexual orientation, adultery,
promiscuity, sexual consent, sexual harassment, rape, pornography, and
prostitution.

PHIL 3343 Philosophy of Law
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An introduction to philosophical issues concerning the law, such as
the nature of law, relations between law and morality, theories of legal
responsibility, and the role of law in society.

PHIL 3344 Social and Political Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A survey of classical and contemporary material in social and political
philosophy, covering topics such as individual liberty and government
intervention, the role of government, and social justice.

PHIL 3345 The Meaning of Life
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An exploration of a variety of views concerning the meaning of life. Three
kinds of responses to the question of life's meaning will be examined:
theistic responses; non-theistic responses focusing on the creation of
personal meaning within a natural universe; and responses that challenge
the intelligibility of the question regarding the meaning of life.

PHIL 3346 Elementary Formal Logic
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A course on technical methods and foundational issues in Philosophy,
Computer Science, and Mathematics. Topics include the Propositional
Calculus, First-Order Predicate Calculus, meta-theoretic results (such as
consistency, soundness, completeness, and decidability), and Zermelo-
Fraenkel Set Theory.

PHIL 3347 Philosophy and Science Fiction
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An exploration of issues in contemporary philosophy such as the nature
of life, personhood and self, knowledge and skepticism, time travel, and
obligations to the non-human world. The course combines the reading of
purely philosophical works with an examination of contemporary works
of science fiction (including novels, short stories, and films).

PHIL 3348 Ethics, War, and Terrorism
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Why is it wrong to kill? Is killing an innocent person ever justified? Under
what conditions can we justify war? How should we respond to terrorist
threats? The course explores ethical theories in application to these and
similar issues.

PHIL 4303 Minds and Machines
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A study of the relationship of the mental to the physical as it pertains to
the foundations of psychology, artificial intelligence, and robotics.

PHIL 4304 Metaphysics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An examination of issues in contemporary metaphysics, such as freedom
of the will and determinism, the nature of causation, the mind-body
problem, and the existence of abstract and concrete entities.

PHIL 4305 Truth, Knowledge, and Justification
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
In this course, we will discuss the following questions among
others: What is the nature of truth? Should truth be understood as
coincidence with reality? What is it to know something? Is knowledge
of the external world possible at all? Can I conclusively rule out the
possibility that I might be dreaming right now, or that I might be just
a brain in a vat? Are there any privileged beliefs that can be said to
constitute the foundation for all of our knowledge? Are the standards for
rationality and justification absolute or rather relative to cultural norms?
Can there be rational disagreement between equally intelligent people
who share the same body of evidence?

PHIL 4321 Ancient Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A survey of the ancient Western philosophical tradition, including the
Presocratics, Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenistic Philosophers.

PHIL 4322 Modern Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A study of some of the major philosophical developments of the 17th
-20th centuries, focusing on topics such as the relation between mind
and body, religious belief and the problem of evil, rationalism and
empiricism, and the limits of human knowledge.
PHIL 4323  Contemporary Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A course on important trends in contemporary philosophy beginning with the Fregean linguistic turn, and examining the major works of philosophers such as Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Quine, Davidson, Dummett, Putnam, Kripke, and Lewis.

PHIL 4330  Philosophy and History of Science and Technology
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An exploration of important issues concerning the natural and formal sciences from the standpoint of historical disputes and technological advances. Issues include the nature of science and of scientific progress, the justification of scientific theories, the possibility of objective knowledge of the world, the distinction between science and pseudoscience, and the relationship between faith and science.

PHIL 4331  Issues in Philosophy of Religion
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Standard philosophical methods will be used to explore issues such as the existence and nature of God, the problem of evil, and the relationship between morality and religion.

PHIL 4332  Moral Issues in Contemporary Medicine
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An examination of moral issues that arise in medicine, focusing on topics such as euthanasia, genetic interventions, medical research involving vulnerable subjects, and the distribution of medical resources.

PHIL 4333  Environmental Ethics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An examination of our ethical obligations with respect to animals, plants, and environmental systems, and of the foundations of environmental law and policy. Can be cross listed with ESCI 4490, BIOL 4590 or BIMS 4590.

PHIL 4335  Moral Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A study of moral theories, and of moral issues such as whether morality is subjective, whether there are moral facts, and the justification of practices such as capital punishment and abortion.

PHIL 4336  Advanced Seminar in Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
In-depth exploration of philosophical topics, designed for philosophy majors, with emphasis on student research and presentations.

PHIL 4337  Philosophy of Language
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A philosophical investigation into the nature of language. Topics include meaning, truth, theories of mediated reference, theories of direct reference, and speech acts.

PHIL 4390  Topics in Philosophy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Study of important philosophical themes and figures. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Topics may include, for example, Minds and Machines, Eastern Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy, Environmental Ethics, American Philosophy, and Moral Issues in Contemporary Medicine.

PHIL 4396  Directed Individual Study
1-3 Semester Credit Hours
See College description.