

PHILOSOPHY, MINOR

Program Requirements

The philosophy minor requires a minimum of 21 semester hours of philosophy course work. At least 12 of those hours must be at the upper-division level.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
<i>Basic Philosophy</i>		
PHIL 1301	Introduction to Philosophy ¹	3
PHIL 2303	Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking ¹	3
PHIL 2306	Introduction to Ethics	3
<i>History of Philosophy or Metaphysics and Epistemology</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 3306	History of Eastern Philosophy I	
PHIL 3307	History of Eastern Philosophy II	
PHIL 3327	American Philosophy	
PHIL 4303	Minds and Machines	
PHIL 4304	Metaphysics	
PHIL 4305	Truth, Knowledge, and Justification	
PHIL 4321	Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL 4322	Modern Philosophy	
PHIL 4323	Contemporary Philosophy	
PHIL 4330	Philosophy and History of Science and Technology	
PHIL 4331	Issues in Philosophy of Religion	
<i>Values and Society</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 3342	Philosophy of Love and Sex	
PHIL 3343	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 3344	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 3345	The Meaning of Life	
PHIL 3348	Ethics, War, and Terrorism	
PHIL 4332	Moral Issues in Contemporary Medicine	
PHIL 4333	Environmental Ethics	
PHIL 4335	Moral Philosophy	
Prescribed Electives		
Select two of the following:		6
Any other upper level philosophy courses that are not being used to satisfy any of the requirements above		
PHIL 3346	Elementary Formal Logic	
PHIL 3347	Philosophy and Science Fiction	
PHIL 4336	Advanced Seminar in Philosophy	
PHIL 4337	Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 4390	Topics in Philosophy	
PHIL 4396	Directed Individual Study	
Total Hours		21

¹ Students are encouraged to take PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy (3 sch) and PHIL 2303 Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking (3 sch) as early as possible in their pursuit of the minor.

Courses

PHIL 0099 Non-Course Based Support for Logic

0 Semester Credit Hours

PHIL 0099 is a co-requisite course which provides support for PHIL 2303 (Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking). PHIL 0099 is designed to help students attain "college readiness" in mathematics in accordance with the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and to promote student success in the credit course PHIL 2303.

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 correspondence 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 pseudo-science, 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.

PHIL 4399 Philosophy Internship**3 Semester Credit Hours**

Practical experience is acquired through placement in a Philosophy internship position. Positions may be with law firms, organizations with an applied ethics focus (e.g., environmental or medical ethics), or other organizations in which philosophical skills and abilities play a significant role. Students are eligible to apply for a Philosophy internship if they meet the following criteria: have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a minimum GPA of 3.25 in Philosophy coursework; have at least junior standing at the university; be a Philosophy major or minor; and have completed at least 12 hours of coursework in the major or minor. If a student does not meet the eligibility criteria, they must solicit a recommendation from a Philosophy program faculty member in order to be considered for an internship. This course is graded Credit/No Credit.