

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES OF STUDY

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 102.INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY

Introduction to major problems in philosophy through texts ranging from classical to contemporary. By thinking through questions such as, “What can I know?”, “Do I have free will?” and “What is the meaning of life?” students gain basic familiarity with philosophy’s methods of inquiry, analysis, and criticism. (General Education – Humanities and Fine Arts) *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 103.INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

A course focusing on logic, reasoning, and argumentation. Emphasis is given to the identification, analysis, and evaluation of arguments. Formal and informal methods of deduction and induction are learned, as well as fallacies of reasoning to be avoided in constructing logically sound arguments. (General Education – Humanities and Fine Arts) *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 203.ETHICAL ADVOCACY

This course explores a variety of ethical foundations with an eye towards the development of a moral standpoint. The focus will be on in-class projects involving the application of critical thinking, salient information-gathering, responsible leadership, ethical advocacy, and values-oriented commitment. Project-based applications will be developed in tandem with frequent application of public speaking. *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 205.CONTEMPORARY MORAL DILEMMAS

This course is a critical survey of contemporary moral dilemmas with an applied focus on what values are, and how they differ from facts; how moral regard is shaped and maintained; how virtues differ from obligations; and how better ethical choices might be made through the exercise of due consideration and the application of habituated, moral judgment to particular cases. Topics are current and variable. Scholarly sources will be drawn from both secular and religious orientations. (General Education – Behavioral and Social Perspectives). *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 302.ETHICS

Philosophical study of morality, including analysis of basic concepts related to ethical conduct and character. Students learn theories such as virtue ethics, natural law, deontology, and utilitarianism, applying these theories to ethical problems. (General Education – Humanities and Fine Arts) *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 305.PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

This course provides philosophical examination of various aspects of religion, including topics such as the nature of religion, existence of God, rationality of religious belief, problem of evil, and the varieties of religious experience. Western and Non-western perspectives will be considered. *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 309.PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Philosophical examination of the nature of mentality, including topics such as the relationship between mind and body, the nature of consciousness, personal identity, free will, animal minds, and artificial intelligence. (General Education – Humanities and Fine Arts) *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 312.ENDURING WISDOM OF ASIAN THOUGHT

This course offers students a comparative exploration of the major philosophical traditions that have shaped and sustained Asian thought from their origins to the contemporary era. This course covers core concepts, key figures, and historical contexts of Confucianism, Taoism, Vedanta, Jainism, Buddhism, Zen, Pure Land, and Sufism. (General Education – World Cultures) *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 315.EXISTENTIALISM

The philosophy of the Existentialist movement, studied through the works of thinkers such as Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Nietzsche, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Camus. Attention may be given to Existentialist themes in other forms of media, such as literature, drama, and film. (General Education – Humanities and Fine Arts) *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 325.BIOETHICS

This important area of applied ethical study involves critical reflection upon issues arising out of the clinical setting that involve questions having to do with patient autonomy, informed consent, medical scarcity, the determination of medical futility, and end-of-life decision-making (i.e., palliative care), from both a domestic as well as international point of view. *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 341.TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY

In-depth study of a selected philosopher, philosophical movement, or subfield in philosophy. Topics may vary and may be repeated under different descriptions. Current topics and course descriptions are available on the departmental webpage. (General Education – Humanities and Fine Arts) *Three credit hours.*

PHIL 407, 408, 409 RESEARCH IN PHILOSOPHY

These courses involve students engaging in a student-directed research project on a topic of philosophical interest. These courses are offered on demand to qualified students. Students may count a maximum of three credit hours of Research in Philosophy (PHIL 407, PHIL 408, or PHIL 409) toward minor requirements. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. *One to three credit hours.*