

**Philosophy Course Offerings
200-level and above
Fall 2022**

Courses are offered face-to-face unless otherwise noted.

Philosophy 212: Philosophy of Art
Professor Brian Bruya
MW 2:00– 3:15

What is art and what is its role in society? What makes an artist? Is there something that distinguishes artistic process from other kinds of activities? Who determines a "good" piece of art and what are the criteria? When we view and contemplate art, how is that distinct from how we view and contemplate other things in life? What is the difference between an art and a craft? Is there a difference between high art and low art? Is it possible for non-human animals or artificial intelligence to create art? What is the relationship between art and the artificial? Is there such a thing as natural art? Is there a spirituality to art?

In this course, we will explore some of these questions through classic and contemporary writings on art from both Western and non-Western traditions.

PHIL 212 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 212 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program.

Philosophy 215: Philosophy of Religion
Instructor TBA
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

A philosophical study of the nature, goals, and proper function of religion. Some possible topics are traditional arguments for the existence of God, grounds for disbelief in God, immortality, religious experience the nature of religious language, the relation of science to religion, the role of faith and revelation, the connection between religion and ethics.

PHIL 215 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 215 fulfills the Knowledge and Reality requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 220: Ethics
Professor Brian Coffey
Sections offered:
MW 11:00 – 12:15
Online Asynchronous

This course will introduce students to the philosophical study of Ethics by exploring the tools and techniques of philosophical inquiry, and utilizing those tools to evaluate several important moral theories. Topics for discussion might include: Is anything really right or wrong, or is it all ‘subjective’? What is the relation of ethics to law? What is its relation to religion, or society? What, if anything, is truly valuable? Which features matter most when judging the ethics of a situation? Is there one best moral theory or do several theories reveal important insights into what we ought to do? etc. We will carefully and critically read both classical and contemporary writings in ethics with the goal of not only understanding what others have written before us, but also how we can use their insights to help us deliberate about ethical choices in our own lives. We will not be passively learning about ethics—we will be *putting our ethical expertise into practice*.

PHIL 220 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 220 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program.

Philosophy 221: Business Ethics
Instructors TBA
Sections offered:
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45
Online Asynchronous

A consideration of ethical questions regarding business practices in a global environment. Students will be introduced to ethical theory and critical reasoning. They will use these tools to critically examine the market system itself, as well as practices of multinational business. Students will explore the ethical responsibilities of corporations with regard to employees, consumers, and other stakeholders.

PHIL 221 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 221 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 223: Medical Ethics
Professor Brian Coffey
Sections offered:
MW 3:30 – 4:45
Online Asynchronous

We trust doctors, nurses, medical scientists, and other healthcare providers to give us the best care possible when we are sick; in many cases we literally put our lives in their hands. Those working in healthcare thus need to be particularly aware and careful of the various ways they may treat their patients unethically. In this course, students will learn about the philosophical study of ethics, and how to use the tools and methods of philosophy to think critically about contentious moral issues. We will discuss various moral issues raised within the context of the practice of medicine, and rigorously evaluate the reasoning that people have given for the stances they have taken on these issues. Topics for discussion might include: abortion, euthanasia, cloning, stem cell research, genetic selection / eugenics, healthcare allocation when resources are scarce, research involving animal and/or human testing.

PHIL 223 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 223 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 223: Medical Ethics

Professor John Ouko

Sections offered:

T/Th 9:30 – 10:45

T/Th 2:00 – 3:15

This course examines the relationships between contemporary values in the medical profession and traditional ethical values. Students will investigate various ethical theories and critically examine controversial issues in medicine such as whether physicians should participate in state-ordered executions, physician assisted suicide, prenatal testing and selective abortion, using preimplantation genetic diagnosis to save a sibling, whether dying babies should be used in experimental medicine (even to help other babies), ethical issues in first-time organ surgeries, et cetera.

PHIL 223 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 223 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

Additional sections of PHIL 223 offered MW 12:30 – 1:45 and online asynchronous; instructors TBA

PHIL 224: Ethics and Food

Professor Jill Dieterle

T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

Issues related to food, its production and its distribution have garnered international attention in the last decade. This course is devoted to examining those issues from a philosophical/ethical perspective. We will discuss the industrialization of food production, the effect of agriculture on the environment, alternative food movements, food deserts, and the global problem of food insecurity. We will also examine and critique the idea of “responsible consumption” and whether ethical consumers have the power to transform the food system. Finally, we’ll discuss body image and food.

PHIL 224 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 224 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 224 counts as an elective in the Environmental Science and Society program.

PHIL 226: Feminist Theory
Professor Kate Mehuron
Online Asynchronous

This course critically evaluates feminist critiques of society and feminist visions of the ideal egalitarian society. Questions examined in this course include: What is a just society? What constitutes equal treatment? What is oppression? How does oppression relate to social equality? How do ethnicity, race, and sexual identities intersect with gender to affect social equality? Are women and men essentially different, or are such differences the result of socialization? What are the major theories, and conceptual differences that inform feminist social change movements? The course will use a variety of feminist philosophical sources to explore these questions.

PHIL 226 fulfills the General Education requirement for either Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities or Global Awareness.

PHIL 226 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 226 also offered MW 11:00 – 12:15; MW 3:30 – 4:45; and
T/Th 3:30 – 4:45; instructors TBA

PHIL 228: Global Ethics
Instructor TBA
MW 12:30 – 1:45

An exploration of major ethical traditions from around the world in their application to particular moral issues such as reproduction, the environment, war, punishment, human rights, development, biomedical issues, and euthanasia.

*PHIL 228 fulfills the General Education requirement for either Area IV:
Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities or Global Awareness.*

PHIL 228 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 229: Environmental Ethics
Prof. J. Michael Scoville
T/Th 11:00-12:15

Environmental ethics explores the ethical aspects of the human relationship to nature and the environment. Any plausible environmental ethic needs to answer two basic questions: What nature and environments matter, and why? Answering these questions is challenging. This is partly because the nature and environments that matter are multiple and contested. Further, addressing the why question requires us to delve into philosophical debates about what is good/bad, right/wrong, and valuable/disvaluable. How these notions inform practical deliberation is complex. One of our basic tasks, then, is to study a number of normative philosophical views that help us think clearly about these questions and possible answers to them. The larger project of the class is to articulate an environmental ethic that can guide action and policy, while being sensitive to human motivation, contextual complexities, and the range of normative reasons to care about nature and the environment.

PHIL 229 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 229 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 229 also fulfills a core course requirement in the Environmental Science and Society (ENVI) Program.

PHIL 229: Environmental Ethics
Professor John Ouko
Online Asynchronous

This course addresses ethical and other philosophical issues concerning the environment. The course introduces philosophical perspectives on the environment from a variety of traditions and perspectives, and applies these perspectives to such issues as climate change, environmental justice, animal rights, preservation, pollution, sustainability, energy, and future generations.

PHIL 229 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 229 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 229 also fulfills a core course requirement in the Environmental Science and Society (ENVI) Program.

PHIL 280: Philosophy and the Fundamentals of Scientific Reasoning
Professor Amy Johnson
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 8:10: In-person or Online Synchronous

This course will focus on philosophical issues relevant to one or more of the following topic areas: science as falsification, scientific knowledge, the contrast between traditional (or everyday) knowledge and scientific knowledge, skepticism with respect to science, statistical inference, Occam's Razzor, probabilistic inference, causation, values in science, and the nature of

evidence. Students will learn to employ deductive logic, inductive logic, and basic probability logic in order to address these topics in a robust way.

PHIL 280 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 280 fulfills the Logic and Reasoning requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 292: Philosophy of Buddhism
Professor Brian Bruya
T/Th 11 – 12:15

Buddhism is one of the fastest growing ideologies in the West today, and yet many misconceptions remain. What is suffering? What does it mean to not have a self? What is the point of meditation? These are some of the foundational questions of Buddhism addressed in the earliest texts of the Indian tradition. Since then, philosophers in India, Tibet, China, Japan, and now in the West have debated the answers and their relevance to life and society. We will explore some of those answers, including how Buddhism is relevant to issues of social justice today.

PHIL 292 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 292 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 292 counts as a restricted elective in the Religious Studies program and the Asian Studies minor.

PHIL 332W: 19th Century Philosophy
Professor Jeremy Proulx
MW 2:00 – 3:15

The nineteenth century was arguably one of the most intellectually active and fertile centuries in the history of philosophy. Not only does it follow in the immediate wake of the Enlightenment, it is dealing with the impact of Kant, German idealism, not to mention the French revolution. This is the century that gave us Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Marx, Darwin, James, Emerson

and Thoreau. It is probably impossible to find a single unifying theme that unites all of the intellectual movements of the nineteenth century into a single, cohesive program that could be called 'nineteenth-century philosophy', but in general the rise of historicism, the critique of universalism and essentialism, the priority of the singular, and the celebration of the material all mark this fascinating century. In this course, we will do our best to understand all of these figures, movements, and themes, both within their historical context and in the context of what they offer for us today.

The course will consist largely in student-lead discussion. There will also be regular lectures. Assignments will be designed in such a way as to allow students the freedom to explore their own interests in the context of course material.

PHIL 332W fulfills the History of Western Philosophy requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 332W counts as a Writing Intensive course.

PHIL 355W: Philosophy of Law
Professor Brian Coffey
MW 12:30 – 1:45

This course will examine a variety of philosophical issues related to law and the practice of law. For instance, some of the questions we will be discussing are: What is the nature of law? How does law relate to morality? Are we morally obligated to obey the law? Under what conditions can the state legitimately use the coercive power of law to restrict the behavior of its citizens? We will look at both philosophical essays and actual legal cases in an attempt to understand the complexity of legal reasoning and to understand how legal theory plays out in practice. We will end the course discussing issues in current events that highlight our philosophical discussions.

PHIL 355W fulfills the Social Justice requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 355W counts as a Writing Intensive course.

PHIL 443/543: Philosophical Approaches to Moral Psychology
Professor Michael Scoville
T/Th 2:00 – 3:15

This course examines the roles of cognition, judgment, perception, and emotion in relation to our capacities for acting responsibly. Topics may include theories of the emotions and reactive attitudes; the relationship between feeling and knowing; and virtuous and vicious motivational states in contexts of social injustice.

PHIL 443 fulfills the Knowledge and Reality requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 480W/580: Philosophy of Science
Professor John Koolage
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

In this iteration of Philosophy of Science, we will focus on (1) Evidence and (2) Scientific Inference (and its abuse). These concepts tend to be central components of any theory of “The” Scientific Method, and as a result are a bit of a hot topic at the moment. Our study of evidence will zero in on work by Alison Wylie, Elliott Sober, Adrian Currie, and Carroll Cleeland. I expect to read most of Wylie’s book, *Material Evidence*. Our study of Scientific Inference will be equally wide ranging, looking at work by Karl Popper (Falsification), Imre Lakatos (Novel Prediction), Charles Peirce (Abduction), Helen Longino (Objectivity), Bill Wimsatt (Consilience), Malcolm Forster (Agreement of Independent Measurements), Richard Royall (Likelihood), Deborah Mayo (Crucial Testing), and Angela Potochnik (Idealization). I am hoping also to read most of *Abusing Science*, by Philip Kitcher, to round out this section.

PHIL 480W fulfills the Knowledge and Reality requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 480W counts as a Writing Intensive course.

PHIL 494: Topics in Chinese Philosophy: Daoism
Professor Brian Bruya
MW 11:00 – 12:15

Daoism is known as one of the three main streams of the long and complex Chinese philosophical tradition. In this course, we will focus on the two core texts of Daoism, the *Laozi* and the *Zhuangzi*.

There will be two main emphases in the course. The first will be to understand the core ideas of Daoism and how they were a challenge to mainstream philosophical ideas of early China. The second emphasis will be to bring some of these ideas into the present and understand how they can enrich the philosophical projects of today. Demystifying terminology and making sense of vague, indirect language by understanding ideas in their textual and intellectual historical context will constitute our main underlying methodology.

Philosophical topics in Daoism are especially intriguing for crossing over traditional philosophical boundaries of metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics, and aesthetics. In this way, they challenge us to rethink our own philosophical categories and approaches to issues in philosophy.

Prior exposure to Chinese philosophy is not required.

PHIL 494 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.
