

Course offerings in Philosophy

Winter 2020

Lower-level Undergraduate

The courses below (except PHIL 291) *all* count toward the **Knowledge of the Disciplines (Humanities)** requirement in the General Education program.

PHIL 226, PHIL 228, and PHIL 291 count toward the **Perspectives on a Diverse World: Global Awareness** requirement in the General Education program.

Logic and Reasoning courses

PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Reasoning

This is a course in critical reasoning, the methodology of philosophy. This course offers an introduction to the techniques of identifying and evaluating arguments. Our emphasis will be on the enhancement of reasoning skills through the study of arguments in their natural settings (e.g. newspapers, political speeches, advertising). We will also explore such related topics as logical fallacies, inductive and moral reasoning, and the logic of explanation in the social sciences.

- Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm (22312)
- Online (22313)

Eastern and Global courses

PHIL 226: Feminist Theory

Gender is one of the principal characteristics determining identity and life experience for human beings. This course takes a philosophical approach to gender, examining beliefs about women and men from a wide variety of cultural and political perspectives. We consider both traditional justifications of the differential treatment of women and men in such institutions as marriage and family, as well as theories that challenge these traditional views. Additional topics may include scientific and religious views, the ideal society and women's place in it, varieties of feminism, views on sexuality, family and reproduction, and work and the economy.

- Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:15pm (21052)
- Monday/Wednesday 3:30-4:45pm (24448)
- Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm (26504)
- Online (25325)
- Online (25854)

PHIL 228: Global Ethics

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.

- Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:15pm (22318)

PHIL 291: Introduction to Asian Philosophy

This course is an overview of the rich philosophical traditions of South and East Asia. The course will introduce a number of major philosophers, texts, and movements across Hindu, Buddhist and Chinese/Japanese Traditions.

- Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:15pm (26505)

Ethics and Value Theory courses

PHIL 216: Philosophy, Technology, and Digital Life

This course offers a range of philosophical concepts and methods for thinking about technology, especially its social, ethical, and existential implications. Topics may include the nature of technology and technological development; the nature of tools; the aesthetics of engineering design; human enhancement; social media and digital life; philosophical issues in information assurance and Internet security.

- Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:15pm (25852)

PHIL 220 Ethics

An introduction to the basic ethical theories and ethical problems in the Western philosophical tradition. Such problems may include: the nature of value, the justification of ethical decisions, the idea of obligation and the concept of human rights. Applications of ethical theory to specific ethical issues may concern both personal relationships and important contemporary issues.

- Monday/Wednesday 9:30-10:45am (26107)

PHIL 221: Business Ethics

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.

- Monday/Wednesday 12:30-1:45pm (26109)
- Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45pm (22316)
- Online (24133)

PHIL 223: Medical Ethics

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. In this course, students 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 may include abortion, euthanasia, cloning, stem cell research, genetic selection/eugenics, healthcare allocation when resources are scarce, and research involving animal and/or human testing.

- Monday/Wednesday 9:30-10:45am (21930)
- Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:15pm (22317)
- Monday/Wednesday 12:30-1:45pm (26110)
- Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45am (21578)
- Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45pm (22764)
- Online (23981)
- Online (25853)

PHIL 224: Ethics and Food

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.

- Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45am (23702)

PHIL 229: Environmental Ethics

A course addressing 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, animals rights, preservation, pollution, sustainability, population, energy and future generations.

- Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15pm (22426)
- Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15pm (26501): **Honors**

PHIL 260: Existentialism

“Existentialism” names a movement in 19th and 20th-Century European philosophy that explores the fundamentally creative role that human beings have in shaping the terms in which their lives, on an individual and a cultural level, will be meaningful. We will explore such fundamental philosophical questions as:

- What are the unique demands of shaping our own identities?
- What is the nature, and what are the demands, of human freedom?
- What is the nature of authentic and inauthentic existence?
- What is the nature of the experience of anxiety about the meaning of our lives?

We will study selections of writings from some major figures in this tradition: Victor Frankl, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Frantz Fanon, alongside works in film that illuminate some of the forms that human experience takes and the unique demands that these forms of experience make upon us as individuals and communities.

- Monday/Wednesday 12:30-1:45pm (26106)

Elective courses

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy

For at least the last 2500 years, philosophical reflection has extended to all aspects of life, from politics, art and morality, to the very nature of knowledge and existence itself. This course introduces students to the methods of philosophical thinking that underlie the full range of human experience. Through the analysis of historical and contemporary philosophical texts, students in this course explore such fundamental questions as

- What is the nature of truth?
- What is the ultimate nature of existence – for example, is everything physical?
- How ought one live their life?
- How may a society best achieve justice?
- What should be the role of art in our lives?

Introduction to Philosophy enhances the analytic and critical skills required to address the intellectual and other challenges that inevitable complicate, and enrich, the lives of thoughtful human beings.

- Monday/Wednesday 9:30-10:45am (22733)
- Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:15pm (21297)
- Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45am (20970)
- Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15pm (20809)
- Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45pm (21121)
- Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm (22170)
- Online (22762)
- Online (23216)
- Online (23217)

PHIL 110: Philosophies of Life

This course offers an introduction to differing perspectives on what constitutes a meaningful life. Representative topics include the question of whether life has a meaning or purpose; whether life's having a purpose depends on the existence of God; whether death is to be feared; and what makes living worthwhile in the face of death.

- Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45pm (22763)
- Online (21929)