

**Philosophy Course Offerings  
200-level and above  
Winter 2023**

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

PHIL 220: Ethics  
Professor Brian Coffey  
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*

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Philosophy 221: Business Ethics  
Instructors TBA  
Sections offered:  
MW 12:30 – 1:45  
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*

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PHIL 223H: Medical Ethics  
Professor Brian Coffey  
MW 11:00 – 12:15  
Honors Section

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 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.

*Additionally, Honors students will put the skills they develop in this course to the test when they engage in an in-class Ethics Bowl competition.*

*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*

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PHIL 223: Medical Ethics  
Professor Jill Dieterle  
Online asynchronous

This course is an examination of ethical issues in medicine and health care.

The Supreme Court recently overturned Roe v. Wade. As a result, the legal status of abortion is now determined by individual states. We will examine the ethical arguments on both sides of the abortion debate and discuss some of the consequences of legal prohibitions on abortion.

We'll also talk about other topics in medical ethics: pandemic ethics, vaccine refusal, patient autonomy and informed consent, reproductive technology, and genetic screening.

*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 counts as an elective in the Critical Disability Studies minor.*

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PHIL 223: Medical Ethics  
Professor John Ouko  
Online Asynchronous

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*

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Additional sections of PHIL 223 offered MW 12:30 – 1:45 and T/Th 2:00 – 3:15; instructors TBA

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PHIL 225: Philosophy and Society  
Instructor TBA  
MW 11:00 – 12:15

This course engages in critical analysis of our society's institutions and principles. Major works of political philosophy will be considered in light of their implications for controversies linked to systemic social inequalities, such as affirmative action; freedom of speech, religion, and conscience; protest, violence, and civil disobedience; prisons and law enforcement; access to education; and immigration.

*PHIL 225 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.*

*PHIL 225 fulfills the Social Justice requirement in the Philosophy Program*

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PHIL 226: Feminist Theory  
Professor Kate Mehuron  
T/Th 3:30 – 4:45

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.*

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PHIL 226 also offered MW 3:30 – 4:45 and Online Asynchronous

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PHIL 228: Global Ethics  
Professor John Ouko  
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

This course explores major ethical traditions from around the world in their application to particular moral issues like global poverty and international development, global conflict, international surrogacy, global organ trade, global gender justice and global environmental crisis, among others.

*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.*

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PHIL 229: Environmental Ethics  
Instructor TBA  
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

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, animal rights, preservation, pollution, sustainability, population, 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.*

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PHIL 260: Existentialism  
Professor Jeremy Proulx  
MW 2:00 – 3:15

This course is an introduction to the wide-ranging school of thought referred to as Existentialism. Existentialist thinkers are a highly diverse group, with little to unify them. Thinkers who can be clearly classified as existentialists begin to appear in the middle of the 19th century, but existentialist themes have played a role in philosophy since the beginning. Existentialism is thus less a name for a philosophical school than it is a very broad and diverse way of understanding the world and the human place within it. Existentialist thinkers are generally interested in the role of human ideas and actions in the constitution of the world as meaningful. Students interested in just about any aspect of human life and activity will find something of interest in this course. The course is structured in such a way to provide students with the freedom to pursue their own interests in the context of the course material.

*PHIL 260 fulfills the General Education requirement for Area IV: Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.*

*PHIL 260 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program.*

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PHIL 330W: Ancient Philosophy  
Professor Jeremy Proulx  
MW 12:30 – 1:45

This course is a historical survey of Philosophy in Classical Antiquity, a period in the history of Western philosophy running roughly from early pre-Socratic thinkers in the 7th century BCE all the way to late Stoicism and Epicureanism in the 4th century CE. We will begin the course with a brief look at the so-called pre-Socratic philosophers. We will then move on to study the work of Plato and the Sophists. The Sophists were Plato's most serious philosophical challenge during his own time and much of the arguments Plato makes can be understood as reactions to what he regarded as the dangers of sophistic thought. From here will move on to read Aristotle, focusing in particular on his idea about natural process, growth and change that we find in Physics and Metaphysics. We will close the course by exploring the ideas of three major Hellenistic philosophers, Epicurus, Epictetus, and Sextus Empiricus. Here, our concern will be the idea that philosophy has a practical application as a kind of therapy, as a way to become happier people.

The course 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 330W fulfills the History of Western Philosophy requirement in the Philosophy Program.*

*PHIL 330W counts as a Writing Intensive course.*

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PHIL 423/523: Philosophical Perspectives on Disability  
Professor Jill Dieterle  
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

Disability discourse classifies people on the basis of characteristics that are observed or inferred and being classified as disabled is often a source of discrimination and oppression. As such, standard philosophical analyses of discrimination and oppression apply. Yet issues arise for those who are disabled that might not for other oppressed groups. For example, philosophical accounts of autonomy, agency, dependence, and even personhood often assume able bodies and minds. PHIL 423/523 examines and questions the abled assumptions at the core of most western political and moral philosophy. We will also examine and critique philosophical accounts of the quality of life.

*PHIL 423 fulfills the Social Justice requirement in the Philosophy Program.*

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PHIL 442W/542: Philosophy of Mind  
Professor John Koolage  
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

In this iteration of Philosophy of Mind, we will survey three areas of current research in Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science. We will read work directed at (1) Folk Psychology, (2) Embodied Cognition, and (3) Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence. We will examine new work in Folk Psychology, the toolkit we use to predict and explain the behavior of other humans (and maybe some other non-human animals). This work includes understanding when and why we explain others behavior, and the nature of the toolkit itself. We will read work by Shannon Spaulding and Suilin Lavalley, and probably Fodor, Sellars, and Andrews. For our section on Embodied Cognition, we will begin with an organizing text by Larry Shapiro. I have some interest in pursuing related work by Clark and Chalmers that aims to extend the embodied paradigm to objects in the world. In our third section, we will begin with work by Cameron Buckner on Deep Learning, but I hope to advance our understanding of the role of AI research in Cognitive Science more broadly.

*PHIL 442W fulfills the Knowledge and Reality requirement in the Philosophy Program.*

*PHIL 442W counts as a Writing Intensive course.*



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PHIL 448/548: Environmental Values, Justice, and Policy  
Professor Michael Scoville  
T/Th 3:30 – 4:45

In this course, we'll explore philosophical perspectives on nature, value, and justice, and consider how those perspectives should inform environmental decision-making and policy. We'll start by working through some texts that aim to clarify concepts of nature that are important for environmental decision-making and policy. Then, we'll turn to some foundational texts on social justice, giving special attention to the influential theories of John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum, and Iris Marion Young. We'll then study several chapters from a recent book by political philosopher Darrel Moellendorf in which the tools of normative philosophy are used to inform and critique global climate policy (specifically in the institutional context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Over the course of the semester, we'll consider a number of specific issues and debates, including: contemporary concepts of nature; the relation of concepts of nature to value and normative reasons; what we owe each other as a matter of justice; the normative status of nature/environments within accounts of justice; how to reconcile global poverty-alleviation and human development goals with environmental protection in the context of global climate policy; and the plurality of values relevant to supporting and motivating environmental action and policy.

*PHIL 448 fulfills the Social Justice requirement in the Philosophy Program.*

*PHIL 448 is a required course for ENVI majors in the Environment and Society Concentration.*

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