

## **Philosophy Course Offerings 200-level and above Winter 2025**

PHIL 220: Ethics  
Instructor TBA  
T/Th 2:00 – 3:15

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.

*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 Professor Jeremy Proulx Online Asynchronous**

In this class we will explore the moral principles and values that govern business conduct. This course is designed to help students understand the ethical challenges and responsibilities faced by businesses in today's global environment.

Students will engage with various paradigms of ethical decision-making and apply them to real-world business scenarios through case studies, discussions, and group projects. The course covers issues such as corporate social responsibility, institutional and corporate governance, environmental sustainability, fair labor practices, and the ethical implications of technology and innovation. Students will learn to analyze moral issues in the impact of

business decisions on different stakeholders, including employees, customers, communities, and shareholders.

By the end of the course, students should be able to articulate and defend their ethical viewpoints, make informed ethical decisions, and contribute to creating ethical organizational cultures.

*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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Additional section of PHIL 221 offered MW 2:00 – 3:15, Instructor  
TBA

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PHIL 223: Medical Ethics  
Professor John Ouko  
Available sections:  
11:00 – 12:15  
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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PHIL 224: Ethics and Food  
Professor Jill Dieterle  
T/Th 9:30 – 10:45

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.*

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PHIL 226: Feminist Theory  
Instructor TBA  
Available Sections:  
MW 3:30 – 4:45  
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15  
Online Asynchronous

A consideration of philosophical issues concerning the nature and status of women. Readings from both traditional and contemporary sources. Topics may include scientific and religious views, the ideal society and women’s place in in, varieties of feminism, views on sexuality, family, and reproduction, and work and the economy.

*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 for students who matriculated prior to 2024; it fulfills the Social Justice requirement in the Philosophy Program for all others.*

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PHIL 228: Global Ethics  
Prof. John Ouko  
Available Sections:  
MW 12:30 – 1:45 (Honors Section)  
Online Asynchronous

This course introduces students to a variety of ethical systems from around the world and applies these systems to issues that are currently in dispute between nations or cultures. The course is divided into two parts. The first part covers Western ethical systems such as deontology, divine command theories, consequentialism, virtue ethics, and rights theory and non-Western ethical systems such as Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist, and African ethics. Fundamental questions about ethics, such as whether there is one universal ethical system that underlies the apparently differing ethical ways of thinking in the world or whether there are multiple equally valid ethical ways of thinking, are also considered. The second part applies the aforementioned ethical systems to moral issues like global poverty and international development, global conflict and the ethics of making peace, global bioethics, global environmental and climate ethics, and global gender justice.

*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  
Professor Michael Scoville  
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

Contemporary discussions of environmental ethics are animated by a number of questions. Which aspects of nature (or of particular environments) are important or valuable, and why? How does concern for human beings relate to concern for nature or the environment? What policies do we need to address pressing issues such as climate change or the loss of biodiversity, and what values and normative principles underlie those policies? How is sustainability

best understood and is it a useful goal for collective action and policy? What sorts of character traits, dispositions, and ways of living do we need to cultivate in order to support an environmental ethic in practice? Answers to these questions are multifaceted and contested. We'll study a range of philosophical views that offer insight and practical guidance.

*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 331W: Modern Philosophy  
Professor Kris Phillips  
MW 11:00 – 12:15

The traditional narrative surrounding the development of philosophy in the 17th and 18th centuries revolves around a dispute between so-called “rationalists” (Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz), “empiricists” (Locke, Berkeley, and Hume), culminating in a great unifier (Kant). There are a number of reasons to be unhappy with this narrative. It oversimplifies the complex interactions and influences important thinkers had on one another; ignores the contributions of anyone other than affluent white men; forces us to study systematic thinkers in an incomplete way; and offers at best a shallow understanding of tremendously rich philosophical and scientific issues. In this class, we will focus on only three figures from the “modern” era: Rene Descartes, Margaret Cavendish, and Anton Wilhelm Amo. We will devote substantial time to developing and understanding their philosophical systems and the interconnections between these thinkers. The idea is to develop the skills required to approach the works from this era (for example: how to read texts closely, how to extract extended arguments from longer manuscripts, how to reconstruct arguments in a way that is charitable to the author, how to be sensitive to and avoid anachronism, and how to approach a philosopher’s work systematically). The reason that we will focus on these skills is that they will allow you to continue to read modern philosophy carefully and attentively well beyond our short time together. To that end, I have included on the last page a list of works from the 17th and 18th centuries that we will not read this semester, but that deserve careful attention, and will prepare you for future studies.

*PHIL 331W fulfills the History of Western Philosophy requirement in the  
Philosophy Program.*

*PHIL 331W counts as a Writing Intensive course.*

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PHIL 418: Symbolic Logic  
Professor Jill Dieterle  
T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

*Rene Descartes walks into a bar and orders a drink. When he finishes his drink,  
the bartender asks him if he would like another. Descartes replies, “No, I think  
not,” and disappears in a puff of logic.*

The Descartes joke is actually an example of a formal fallacy: denying the antecedent. In PHIL 418, we’ll learn how to formalize arguments and show the ways in which they go wrong (or right!). We’ll begin with propositional logic and progress to predicate logic with identity. We’ll discuss soundness and completeness – what those properties are and why they might be important.

Some highlights of the course: Classical logic makes a number of assumptions. For example, it is assumed that every declarative sentence has a determinate truth value and that logical operators work much like English connectives. We’ll question those assumptions. Classical logic also has some rather counterintuitive results. For example, it turns out to be logically true that there is at least one thing in the world. Of course, no one will deny that there is at least one thing in the world, but (speaking philosophically), should that be a *logical* truth? We’ll look at logical systems that don’t have that result.

Over the course of the semester, we’ll also spend some time talking about expressive completeness, the differences between semantic consequence and deductive consequence, decision procedures, and lots of other fun and interesting topics!!

**\*\*If you plan to do graduate work in philosophy, we strongly recommend that you take this class.\*\***

*PHIL 418 fulfills the Logic and Reasoning requirement in the Philosophy Program.*

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PHIL 448: Environmental Values, Justice, and Policy  
Professor Michael Scoville  
T/Th 2:00 – 3:15

In this course, we'll study philosophical perspectives on value and social justice and their relevance for environmental action and policy. Specific topics to be discussed include: the plurality of values relevant to supporting and motivating environmental concern; the practice of deliberative democracy and its prospects for addressing social and environmental injustice; normative perspectives on how to integrate global poverty-alleviation and human development goals with environmental protection; the normative bases of global climate policy; and policy instruments for mitigating climate change. We'll study a range of texts by contemporary authors, including John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum, Elizabeth Anderson, and Darrel Moellendorf.

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

*PHIL 448 is also a requirement for ENVI majors in the Environment and Society Concentration*

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

In this iteration of Philosophy of Science, we cover three areas of contemporary general and feminist philosophy of science. We will begin with a section on scientific reasoning. While we will cover some of the common inference patterns, we will lean into a recent dispute about social procedural objectivity and pluralism, with a particular focus on the epistemic responsibility for inclusion. In the second section of the class, we will look at philosophy of archeology. Archeological spaces, like museums and dig sites, offer interesting epistemic spaces. A recent anthology by Chapman and Wyile provides a wide range of engagements with this science. For the final section, we take a look at cognitive science in relation to non-human animals. Kristin Andrews book regarding the study of animal minds offers some excellent questions about how the study of animal minds has changed dramatically over the last century, including non-human animals as co-investigators, the prohibition on assigning human like cognition to non-human animals wherever possible, and anthropolofabulation. It also provides a mirror on how we study human cognition. Should be a fun ride!

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

*PHIL 480W counts as a Writing Intensive course.*

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