

Fall 2019
Selected Course Offerings

For a full list of course offerings, see the schedule posted on [my.emich](http://my.emich.edu).

If you need advising, contact Jill Dieterle at jdieterle@emich.edu

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy
Professor J. Michael Scoville
TTh 3:30-4:45 (Honors section)

This course is designed to give participants a sense of the force, range, and continued relevance of the philosophical imagination. We'll grapple with both classic and contemporary texts that explore the significance of such topics as freedom, happiness, friendship, death, religious commitment, identity, ethical obligation, meaning, and the good life. Through study and discussion of these and other topics, successful students will develop their powers of discernment, deepen their views on some important matters, and learn to think and live more philosophically.

PHIL 100 fulfills the General Education requirement for Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy
Professor Jeremy Proulx
Online Section

This course is a historical introduction to some major philosophical themes and thinkers. Through a reading of primary sources we will consider questions of the nature of truth, knowledge, reality, responsibility, human nature, and the meaning of human existence. The objective of the course is to furnish you with the basic philosophical-historical contexts in which the discipline of philosophy has developed and thrived. We will explore the ways in which the concerns and issues that dominated a particular period in history gave momentum the thought of some of history's most celebrated philosophical luminaries. Readings are selected from thinkers like Parmenides, Plato, Aristotle, Mengzi, Xunzi, Epictetus, Anselm, Aquinas, Hobbes, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Bergson, and James. Rather than on mastery of the course content, the emphasis in the course

will be on meaningful engagement with the texts and guided discussion between students.

PHIL 100 fulfills the General Education requirement for Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy
Professor Brian Coffey
Online Sections

This course will introduce students to the study of Philosophy by exploring the tools and techniques of philosophical inquiry, and utilizing those tools to evaluate answers to the 'big' philosophical questions. Topics for discussion might include: What do we know, and how do we know it? Do we have free will? Does God exist? What is the relation of our minds and bodies? How ought we to live? What if anything, is 'the meaning of life'? Our discussion of these issues will be inspired and informed by both classical and contemporary writings that we will read carefully and critically. We will not be passively learning about philosophy – we will be *doing philosophy*.

PHIL 100 fulfills the General Education requirement for Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 110 Philosophies of Life
Professor Jeremy Proulx
Online Section

In this course we will explore different philosophical accounts of life, meaning in life, and the value of life. What does it mean to be alive? Can a machine be alive? Is life inherently meaningful or is the constitution of meaning in life up to us? What is the value of life, for humans and more generally? How do we find meaning in life? Can the value of life even be responsibly assessed, especially by the living? To address questions like this, we will read selections from thinkers like Aristotle, Epictetus, Nietzsche, and Camus. We will also consider more recent philosophical debates about meaning in life found in thinkers like Nagel, Blackburn, and Quinn. Rather than on mastery of the course content, the emphasis in the course will be on meaningful engagement with the texts and guided discussion between students.

PHIL 110 fulfills the General Education requirement for Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

PHIL 130: Introduction to Logic
Professor Jill Dieterle
TTh 12:30 - 1:45

This course is an introduction to logic: the study of the methods and principles that distinguish good from bad reasoning. We will discuss argument recognition, argument analysis, symbolization, validity, and methods of deduction.

PHIL 130 fulfills the Logic and Reasoning requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 220: Ethics
Professor Jill Dieterle
TTh 9:30 - 10:45

This course is an introduction to ethics. We will start with basic questions in ethics: What is ethics about? Why are some acts morally permissible and others morally wrong? We will also discuss several ethical issues. For example: Is the current distribution of income and wealth justified? Do we have duties to those less well off? If so, what kind? What obligations do we have to non-human animals? What are the ethical implications of our consumerist society?

PHIL 220 fulfills the General Education requirement for Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.
PHIL 220 fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 223: Medical Ethics
Professor Jill Dieterle
Online sections

This course is an examination of ethical issues in medicine and health care. For example: In Fall 2018, a scientist in China announced that he had edited the genes of two embryos. The two embryos were implanted via IVF, and, eventually twin girls

were born. Is gene editing morally permissible? What values underwrite such processes? What values warn against them? How do we assess this situation? In PHIL 223 Medical Ethics, we'll talk about the ethical issues involved in genetic manipulation. We'll also about cases where patient autonomy and provider rights of conscience conflict. We'll discuss the just allocation of scarce medical resources, the ethical status of surrogate motherhood and in vitro fertilization, and whether having children, in and of itself, could be immoral. We'll end the semester with a discussion of end of life care and physician assisted suicide.

PHIL 223 fulfills the General Education requirement for 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 Brian Coffey

MW 9:30 - 10:45

TTh 11:00 - 12:15

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 Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities.

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

PHIL 225: Philosophy and Society
Professor Jeremy Proulx
TTh 12:30 - 1:45

The social and political landscape is an increasing complex space. This course is designed to provide some conceptual and critical resources for thinking about the kinds of moral, political, and social issues that affect individuals and society. Through the reading of classical, modern, and contemporary texts, we will explore arguments that address the following kinds of questions. What obligations does a society have to its citizens? And what kinds of responsibilities do citizens have to each other and to society at large? Are we better off with a strictly structured and regulated society or with a society in which individuals and corporations are free to do whatever they want? What kinds of things should be publically owned and operated and what kinds of things can be privatized? For instance, should education be public? What about health care? Since it has become so essential, perhaps internet service should be publically provided. What kinds of services and resources are essential for life in a modern industrial society? Does society owe anything to private corporations? Do private corporations owe anything to the societies in which they operate? Should a society address issues of pay inequity, ensuring that all workers are compensated in a fair and equitable manner? How have digital technologies like mobile phones affected society? Rather than on mastery of the course content, the emphasis on this course will be on small assignments based around a topic of a student's choice.

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

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

PHIL/WGST 226: Feminist Theory
Professor Peter Higgins
MW 12:30 - 1:45
MW 3:30 - 4:45

Feminist theory is an area of thought that seeks to expose, analyze and critically assess the justice of gender inequalities present in our society, in other societies, and globally. This course focuses on six sets of questions:

- What is feminism?
- What is gender? Is gender "natural"? Are norms of gender unjust?
- What is sexism? Why is sexism unjust?

- How is contemporary American society sexist, if at all? Are women oppressed? Are men oppressed?
- How should feminists reason about apparently sexist practices occurring outside of their own society?
- What are the ultimate goals of feminism? What would a gender-just society look like?

This is a foundational course for Philosophy majors and minors interested in social justice. It fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement (Area VI) for the major and minor, as well as the Global Awareness and Humanities requirements in the General Education program.

*PHIL 226 fulfills either the Global Awareness or the Knowledge of the Disciplines, Humanities requirement in the General Education program.
PHIL 226 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.*

PHIL/WGST 226: Feminist Theory
Professor Laura McMahon
TTh 11:00-12:15
TTh 12:30-1:45

This course engages in a philosophical study of the situation of women in the contemporary world – a situation that is in deep and pervasive respects a situation of inequality and oppression. In order to carry out this study, we will engage with major philosophical insights that are of interest to human experience generally, and that are also highly relevant to feminist analyses and practices devoted to understanding and transforming situations of oppression for women as well as for other disadvantaged groups. Through studies of work from authors such as Simone de Beauvoir, Iris Marion Young, Angela Davis, Judith Butler, María Lugones, Evelyn Fox Keller, Martha Nussbaum, and Uma Narayan, we will explore questions concerning i) the specific nature of oppression and possibilities for resistance; ii) the embodied, intersectional, and performative nature of identity; (iii) feminist approaches to science and other forms of collective knowledge; and (iv) challenges and new possibilities that arise in opposing the oppression of women in postcolonial, global contexts.

PHIL 226 fulfills either the Global Awareness or the Knowledge of the Disciplines in Humanities requirement in the General Education program.

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

PHIL 226: Feminist Theory
Professor Kate Mehuron
Online section

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 either the Global Awareness or the Knowledge of the Disciplines in Humanities requirement in the General Education program.
PHIL 226 fulfills the Eastern and Global requirement in the Philosophy Program.

PHIL 229: Environmental Ethics
Professor J. Michael Scoville
TTh 11-12:15

Environmental ethics focuses on the ethical aspects of the human relationship to nature. I assume any plausible environmental ethics needs to have an answer to at least two basic questions: What nature matters, and why? I assume, further, that “nature” is a contested concept, one that has multiple, often competing, meanings. Similarly, answers to the “why” question are multiple and contested. One of our basic tasks is to get clear on such complexities in order to make progress on articulating an environmental ethic that holds up to philosophical scrutiny.

In order to complete this task, we will consider a number of more specific questions, including:

- How does concern for nature relate to, and complicate, our obligations to present and future people? What is the basis of our obligations to each

- other?
- Are nonhuman beings, objects, or processes valuable or morally considerable in their own right, that is, independently of their relation to human well-being or of obligations we have to each other? If so, which beings, objects, etc., matter? For example: All sentient beings? All living things? Species? Ecosystems? Biotic communities? *Natural* entities?
 - In terms of how we should live, what are the practical implications of acknowledging that certain nonhuman beings, objects, etc., are (or might be) valuable or morally considerable in their own right?
 - What does sustainability mean, and what are the most plausible conceptions of it?

In addition to exploring these questions, and various answers to them, we'll study a number of normative ethical views, that is, views concerning what is good and bad, right and wrong, and why.

PHIL 229 fulfills the General Education requirement for 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 Brian Coffey
MW 11:00 – 12:15

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 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 260: Existentialism
Professor Kate Mehuron
TTh 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Does life have meaning? Can values exist if God does not? This course considers the works of central existentialist figures such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre and Camus as well as related literary works. It addresses topics involving value, such as authentic existence, freedom, nihilism, meaning, subjectivity and values. The course is both an introduction to this body of work and an attempt to raise individual awareness of the human condition within which our existence takes place. In the quest to redefine human nature and human freedom, existentialists challenge the authority of religion, conventional and philosophical notions of truth, and the notion of objective morality. We study the social context of these philosophical rebellions and discover the ways that existentialism continues to transform society by its persistent challenge to ideological authority and to mass social movements. The traditional method of philosophy, critical and analytical reasoning, is taught in this course. Students will learn habits of mind and writing skills that help you to develop and critique philosophical arguments.

PHIL 260 fulfills the General Education requirement for Knowledge of the Disciplines in the Humanities

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

PHIL 332W: Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
Professor Laura McMahon
TTh 3:30-4:45

Emerging from the framework of the “Enlightenment” in modern philosophy, science, and politics, the Nineteenth Century saw exhilarating developments in all fields of European philosophy. One major such development was a deepened philosophical attention to the role of history in human existence and the organization of society. Accordingly, this course will focus on Nineteenth-Century Philosophy of History through in-depth studies of such figures as Immanuel Kant, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Marx, Wilhelm Dilthey, and Friedrich Nietzsche.

PHIL 332W is a Writing Intensive Class in the Philosophy Program.

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

PHIL 420W: Ethical Theory
Professor J. Michael Scoville
TTh 2-3:15

This course will explore contemporary philosophical work on the nature of values and valuing, the logic of evaluative attitudes, and the normative reasons agents have. Specific topics to be discussed will likely include: valuing as a distinctly rational attitude; the role of the emotions in valuing; the objective, subjective, and social aspects of value and valuing; the temporal structure of certain evaluative attitudes (such as regret, resentment, guilt, hope, and affirmation); the relation of valuing to living a good life; the diverse types of normative reasons (e.g., impersonal or agent-neutral reasons versus agent-relative or positional reasons; moral versus nonmoral normative reasons); the relative importance of different types of normative reasons; and arguments for value pluralism. To appreciate the complexity and significance of these topics, we'll study recent (or relatively recent) scholarship in moral philosophy, focusing on works from (e.g.) Bernard Williams, Elizabeth Anderson, T. M. Scanlon, Samuel Scheffler, Susan Wolf, and R. Jay Wallace.

PHIL 420W is a Writing Intensive course in the Philosophy Program.
PHIL 420W fulfills the Ethics and Value Theory requirement in the Philosophy Program

PHIL 426W: Topics in Gender & Philosophy: Privilege
Professor Peter Higgins
MW 2:00 - 3:15

"It is a fundamental claim of feminism," Marilyn Frye argues, "that women are oppressed." According to Frye (and virtually every other feminist philosopher) to say that a group is oppressed entails that there is another group that is "privileged." What does it mean to say that a group is privileged? Is it true that there is a privileged group for every group that is oppressed? Should we conceive of 'oppression' differently? The purpose of this class is to attempt to answer these questions and come to greater clarity about these fundamental concepts in social justice and feminist theory.

PHIL 426W is a Writing Intensive course in the Philosophy and WGST programs.

PHIL 426W fulfills the Social Justice requirement in the Philosophy program.

PHIL 427: Social Epistemology
Professor Michael Doan
MW 11:00 - 12:15 p.m.

This course examines the social dimensions of knowledge production. Our focus will be on the dynamics of testimony, trust and trustworthiness within and among diverse communities of knowers; on the social production of ignorance and inaction; and on the relational dimensions of cognitive activities, such as perceiving, remembering and judging.

PHIL 427 fulfills the Knowledge and Reality requirement in the Philosophy Program.

Additional Philosophy courses offered in Fall 2019 include:

PHIL 120 Introduction to Critical Reasoning (*fulfills the General Education Knowledge of the Disciplines, Humanities requirement and the Philosophy Logic and Reasoning requirement*)

PHIL 215 Philosophy of Religion (*fulfills the General Education Knowledge of the Disciplines, Humanities requirement and the Philosophy Program requirement in Knowledge and Reality*)

PHIL 221 Business Ethics (*fulfills the General Education Knowledge of the Disciplines, Humanities requirement and the Philosophy Program requirement in Ethics and Value Theory*)

PHIL 228 Global Ethics (*fulfills the General Education Global Awareness or Knowledge of the Disciplines, Humanities requirement and the Philosophy Program requirement in Eastern and Global*)

PHIL 292 Philosophy of Buddhism (*fulfills the General Education Knowledge of the Disciplines, Humanities requirement and the Philosophy Program requirement in Eastern and Global*)

See the course schedule on my.emich for course sections, days, and times.