

PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

Only one three-credit course from the following may be taken for credit:

PHIL 101 Reasoning and Value
PHIL 102 Reasoning and Human Nature
PHIL 103 Reasoning and Politics
PHIL 104 Reasoning and Religion
PHIL 105 Reasoning and Science
PHIL 111 Foundations of Logical Reasoning

PHIL 111 Foundations of Logical Reasoning (3 credits)

This course introduces the student to the intellectual foundations, conceptual frameworks and methodologies of logic. It examines the distinctions between arguments and nonarguments, premises and conclusions, deductive and inductive arguments, explicit and implicit premises, and key valid and invalid argument forms. It explores the kinds of reasons that are relevant to major foundational projects for acquisition and increase of knowledge, the function of logic in the context of theories about meaning, knowledge, values or reality, and how to apply logical reasoning to controversies in ethics, politics, science or religion. (CLOR)

PHIL 135-136 Freshman Honors Colloquium (1 credit each semester)

Prerequisite: Open to Commonwealth Honors students and to others at the discretion of instructor

Freshman Honors Colloquia in philosophy allow exceptionally able students to explore a challenging topic in small classes under close faculty supervision. Colloquia meet once a week for 50 minutes and culminate in a paper or scientific project which provides the major part of the grade. The minimum enrollment is two and the maximum is 12. Topics vary from semester to semester. *PHIL 135 fall semester, PHIL 136 spring semester*

PHIL 151 Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

This course serves as an introduction to philosophy. Students will be introduced to the field of philosophy through the examination of fundamental questions and issues involving the nature of reality, knowledge, morality and the human person. (CHUM)

PHIL 199 First Year Seminar (3 credits)

Prerequisite: Open to all freshmen with a writing placement score of 3 or above or a SAT score of 500 or above. Students with 24 or more transfer credits will have this requirement waived.

First Year Seminars (FYS) are writing-intensive, topic courses that introduce students to academic thought, discourse and practices. FYS courses prepare and orient students toward productive and fulfilling college careers by actively engaging them in a specific academic area of interest. Students will improve their writing, reading, research and basic information and technology skills while learning to work both collaboratively and independently. These courses will fulfill the First Year Seminar requirement and may fulfill other requirements for the core curriculum. Each course may fulfill different requirements and topics may change each semester. Only one FYS course may be taken for credit. (CFYS)

PHIL 203 Happiness and the Meaning of Life (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course provides a framework for thinking about happiness and life's meaning by considering such questions as: What is happiness and how can it be attained? Is happiness the main, or only, goal in living a good life? Does life have a meaning? Is living morally a condition of having a good life? How are happiness and life's meaning affected by emotion, desire, reason, pleasure, suffering and death? *Offered alternate years (CHUM)*

PHIL 204 Sex and Personal Relations (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines central topics in the philosophy of sex including questions such as: What is the philosophical significance of sex? Can we justify the distinction between good and bad sex? Moral and immoral sex? Normal and perverted sex? Is the language of sex sexist? What is love and how is it related to reason and emotion? Can friendship be distinguished from love? Does prostitution or pornography degrade persons? *Offered alternate years*

PHIL 205 Medical Ethics (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level course in philosophy

This course explores issues of life and death including questions such as: Is abortion ever justified? Is euthanasia ever justified? Does the patient ever have the right to refuse life-saving treatment? Does a doctor have the right to withhold information from patients? Do the parents or society have the right to determine what is the best treatment, if any, for a child? Is suicide ever justifiable? On what basis should limited medical resources be allocated? *Offered alternate years (CHUM)*

PHIL 211 Inductive Logic (3 credits)

Prerequisite: PHIL 111

This course explores the ideas and techniques of inductive logic that are of use in understanding, developing and appraising inductive arguments as they occur in philosophy, education and science. Specifically, the course examines sampling and statistics, Mill's methods, the probability calculus, the traditional problem of induction, Goodman's paradox and the new problem of induction. (CHUM)

PHIL 212 Philosophies of India (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines some of the central ideas and issues found in past and contemporary Vedanta, Yoga, and Buddhism, especially as they illuminate Asian/Western misunderstanding and relationships. Emphasis will be placed on concepts of moral value, human nature, salvation, harmony and pluralism. *Offered alternate years (CGCL; CHUM; CMCL; CWRT)*

PHIL 213 Philosophies of China and Japan (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines some of the central ideas and issues found in past and contemporary Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism and Shintoism, especially as they illuminate Asian/Western misunder-

standings and relationships. Emphasis will be placed on concepts of moral value, human nature, salvation, harmony and pluralism. Offered alternate years (CGCL; CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 215 Environmental Ethics (3 credits)

Prerequisite: Three credits in philosophy

What is the basis of distinctions between human and animal, culture and nature, domestic and wild, civilized and primitive, the ethical and the natural? This course will examine these issues by pursuing questions such as: Does the value of nature consist entirely in how it can be used by humans? Do animals exert a moral claim on humans? Does wilderness have value in itself? Is there an obligation to use natural resources for human welfare? Are famine, population growth and pollution merely economic issues of resource distribution? Offered alternate years (CHUM)

PHIL 216 Values and Technology (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

The development and application of modern technology have influenced human choices, self-understanding, and social organization. This course will examine the value implications of controversies such as reproductive technologies and choice, censorship and privacy on the Internet, DNA research and its applications, advertising in the classroom, and monopoly control of communication technologies. Offered alternate years (CHUM)

PHIL 222 Philosophy of Law (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines law and justice, the structure of legal reasoning, the nature and justification of the adversary system, lawyers' roles and ethics and questions such as: Should confidentiality, zealous advocacy, plea bargaining or the insanity defense be abolished? Is punishment morally defensible? What is the basis for legal interference with individual liberty? Do lawyers have an obligation to defend clients they find repulsive? Offered alternate years (Formerly PHIL 322) (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 225 Philosophy of Art (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines philosophical questions arising in connection with the identification, interpretation and evaluation of art and its creation and questions such as: What is art? Is there a valid way to distinguish art from non-art and good art from bad art? Are there ways to establish the meaning of a work of art, or is all interpretation subjective? Do artists have moral responsibilities as artists? Should the government subsidize art? Offered alternate years (Formerly PHIL 325) (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 228 Philosophy of Religion (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course critically examines the nature and justification of religious claims, including discussion of: What are the grounds for belief or disbelief in God's existence? Is religious discourse meaningful? Do faith and reason conflict? Is belief in immortality intelligible and/or defensible? Is religious knowledge possible? Are revelation and religious experience reliable sources of truth? Is it rational to believe in miracles? Is atheism a religion? Offered alternate years (Formerly PHIL 328) (CHUM; CWRT)

tMay be taken for graduate-level credit

PHIL 229 Explaining the Paranormal (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

An application of ideas about personal experience, problem solving, evidence, observation, testimony, theory-acceptance, and proof to claims about paranormal phenomena including ESP, near-death experiences, UFO abductions, psychic forecasting, miracle cures, and reincarnation. The course considers the extent and limits of our ability to explain such phenomena as well as the arguments of those who are skeptical about the paranormal. Offered alternate years (CHUM)

PHIL 231 Amoralism, Egoism and Altruism (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course discusses amoralism, egoism, and altruism as alternative life plans, raising such questions as: What is self-interest? Is being an egoist compatible with bonds of trust, friendship and love? Can we ever be true altruists? Is morality more rational than immorality? Are our ultimate life plans and commitments defensible? Why be moral? Offered alternate years (Formerly PHIL 330) (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 232 Philosophy and Feminist Thought (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines issues in contemporary feminist thought as they have emerged from Western philosophy, such as: Are there distinctively feminist accounts of human nature, society and persons? Do interpretations of rationality, thought and experience reflect gender experiences? Do positions on moral issues reflect gender differences? Do feminist theories of gender, culture and power have social and political applications? Is feminism anti-male? Offered alternate years (Formerly PHIL 332) (CHUM; CMCL)

PHIL 234 Free Will, Determinism and Responsibility (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines main topics and problems in the philosophy of action and agency, including: What is free will and do we have it? Are our motives, desires, and intentions determined? When, if at all, are we responsible for what we do? What implications does free will (or its absence) have for autonomy and legal liability, as in the insanity defense? Offered alternate years (Formerly PHIL 334) (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 235 Human Rights and Human Liberties (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course explores different theories of the grounding, nature, and scope of rights and liberties, such as: What does it mean to call something a "human right"? How should we understand liberty? Are there different conceptions of liberty underlying different political theories? Other topics include such things as the relation between rights and responsibility, the relation between a theory of morality and a system of legal rights, and the possible conflicts between liberty and community. (CHUM)

PHIL 242 Philosophy of Human Nature (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level course in philosophy

This course will be a study of ancient and modern theories of human nature. We will investigate topics such as freedom and

determinism, good and evil, race and gender, mind and consciousness, and society and politics. Each of these topics will be considered as a possible aspect of human nature, in pursuit of the notion of a human self. (CHUM)

PHIL 247 Existentialism (3 credits)

Prerequisite: PHIL 111

Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? This course covers the existential analysis of the quest for meaning in a human's life. We will consider how we understand ourselves, the world and our relationship with the world. These considerations will include notions of self-identity, the role and limits of reason/rationality, the role of emotions and passions, the role of faith and religion, human freedom, views of the world self-estrangement, anxiety and fear, death and the relation of the self to other human beings. We will grapple with these questions as we analyze and interpret the philosophies of famous 'existentialist' thinkers such as Soren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger and Jean-Paul Sartre. (CHUM)

PHIL 248 Buddha, Socrates, Jesus (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level course in philosophy

Each of these major paradigms of human possibility – Buddha, Socrates, Jesus – represents a markedly different tradition – respectively, Indian, Greek, Jewish; a different understanding of religiosity – atheistic, agnostic, theistic; a different mode of religious practice – meditation, inquiry, fideism; a different hope for human possibility – release, understanding, salvation; and myriad interpretations by critics and followers alike of what their respective lives meant and mean. Students will be expected to discern and address the philosophical issues that arise out of these figures and develop in response their own considered views. *Offered alternate years* (CGCL; CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 260 Philosophy of Science (3 credits)

Prerequisite: PHIL 111

This course introduces students to foundational issues in the philosophy of science. Topics discussed may include issues such as the science/non-science distinction, the nature of scientific explanation, the interactions between theory and observation, causation and the existence of natural kinds. Also, some application issues may be discussed like whether science is objective, sexist or racist, or how to apply science to policy questions like school science curricula and funding of large-scale scientific initiatives. (CHUM)

PHIL 286-287 Sophomore Honors Colloquium (1 credit each semester)

Prerequisite: Open to Commonwealth Honors students and to others at the discretion of instructor; and one 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy; and consent of instructor

Sophomore Honors Colloquia in philosophy allow exceptionally able students to explore a challenging topic in small classes under close faculty supervision. Colloquia meet once a week for 50 minutes and culminate in a paper or scientific project which provides the major part of the grade. The minimum enrollment is two and the maximum is 12. Topics vary from semester to semester. *PHIL 286 fall semester, PHIL 287 spring semester*

tMay be taken for graduate-level credit

PHIL 298 Second Year Seminar (Speaking Intensive) (3 credits)

Prerequisite: ____199; Open to all sophomores and juniors who have completed ENGL 101, and the speaking skills requirement. Students with 54 or more transfer credits will have this requirement waived. Cannot be taken if ____299 is taken for credit.

Second Year Seminars (SYS) are speaking-intensive, topic courses that build on the academic skills and habits introduced in the First Year Seminar. SYS courses engage students in a specific academic area of interest and provide them with the opportunity to reinforce, share and interpret knowledge. Students will improve their speaking, reading, research and basic information and technology skills while building the connections between scholarship and action that are required for lifelong learning. These courses will fulfill the Second Year Seminar requirement and may fulfill other requirements for the core curriculum. Each course may fulfill different requirements and topics may change each semester. Only one SYS course may be taken for credit. (CSYS)

PHIL 299 Second Year Seminar (Writing Intensive) (3 credits)

Prerequisite: ____199; Open to all sophomores and juniors who have completed ENGL 101 and ENGL 102. Students with 54 or more transfer credits will have this requirement waived. Cannot be taken if ____298 is taken for credit.

Second Year Seminars (SYS) are writing-intensive, topic courses that build on the academic skills and habits introduced in the First Year Seminar. SYS courses engage students in a specific academic area of interest and provide them with the opportunity to reinforce, share and interpret knowledge. Students will improve their writing, reading, research and basic information and technology skills while building the connections between scholarship and action that are required for lifelong learning. These courses will fulfill the Second Year Seminar requirement and may fulfill other requirements for the core curriculum. Each course may fulfill different requirements and topics may change each semester. Only one SYS course may be taken for credit. (CSYS)

PHIL 301 Plato and Aristotle (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines selected works of Plato and Aristotle on such issues as the nature of philosophy, the method of inquiry, the ground and possibility of knowledge, the reality of form and psyche, deliberation and human good and the ideal society. *Offered alternate years* (CGCL; CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 302 Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines selected works of influential thinkers of the middle ages on such problems as the nature of the divine, universals and particulars, the nature of knowledge and truth, faith and reason, morality and society. The Arabic tradition and its relation to the Christian and Jewish traditions will be discussed. *Offered alternate years*

PHIL 303 Major Modern Philosophers (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course examines selected works of the more prominent philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries, including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant. It explores their metaphysical and epistemological views, as well as the systematic approaches they take to solving some difficult philosophical puzzles. (CGCL; CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 304 19th Century Philosophy (3 credits)

Prerequisite: PHIL 111

This course examines some of the predominant thinkers in the 19th century, and the philosophical questions addressing the tension between reason as a central aspect of human beings and nature on the one hand, and the collapse of reason and the human being's possible descent into nihilism on the other. This tension will be examined in such topics as metaphysics, epistemology and ethics. The course will begin with Kant to help students move from 18th to 19th century philosophy, and then turn to German Idealism, Hegel, Mill, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, and see not only how each philosopher responds to Kant and relates to one another, but also how they all help to influence various philosophies of the 20th century. (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 310 Symbolic Logic (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course explores the ideas and techniques of symbolic logic that are of use in understanding, developing and appraising natural deductive arguments. *Offered alternate years* (CQUR)

PHIL 320 Topics in Philosophy (3 credits)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

This course offers various topics of special interest to philosophers, including topics in the history, problems, and methods of philosophy. The course will be offered from time to time and may be taken for credit more than once with change of topic. (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 402 Knowledge and Truth (3 credits†)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

Note: May be taken for graduate-level credit with the consent of the department chairperson

This course examines both historical and recent discussions of problems and arguments concerning knowledge, belief, skepticism, justification, objectivity, relativism and truth. Questions include: Can we have knowledge? Does knowledge entail certainty? Are there sources of knowledge that transcend the senses? Are we justified in believing that there is an external world? Is there one objective reality or many alternative realities? What is truth? Is truth relative? *Offered alternate years* (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 403 Ethics and Action (3 credits†)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

Note: May be taken for graduate-level credit with the consent of the department chairperson

This course examines both historical and recent discussions of problems and arguments concerning moral reasons, knowledge, character, motivation, justification, judgements, and action. Questions include: Can we have moral knowledge? If so, in what does it consist? Are moral disagreements capable of rational resolution? What does it mean to be moral? Are there morally preferable ideals, qualities of character, and ways of life? Are there moral facts or truths independent of human desires, preferences, and agreements? (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 404 Mind and Language (3 credits†)

Prerequisite: One 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

Note: May be taken for graduate-level credit with the consent of the department chairperson

This course examines both historical and recent discussions of problems and arguments concerning mind, consciousness, emotion, personal identity, meaning, privacy, causality and behavior. Questions include: What is the mind? What is the relationship between mind and body? Can reasons, emotions, and motives cause behavior? What is consciousness? Can we have knowledge of the mental states of others? Can there be an exclusively private language for our own feelings? Will there ever be a machine that can think and feel? Do animals have minds and language? Is language innate? (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 405 Metaphysics (3 credits)

Prerequisite: PHIL 111

This course focuses on the study of fundamental metaphysical issues. Topics may include issues such as the nature of existence, the mind-body problem, issues in space and time, the finite vs. the infinite, personal identity and causation plus its implications for freedom. The course explores classical as well as contemporary readings. (CHUM; CWRT)

PHIL 450 Senior Seminar in Philosophy (3 credits)

Prerequisite: Senior standing in any major and four courses in philosophy; or consent of instructor

This course will integrate the students' previous studies in philosophy with their present work, culminating in a three-part reflective essay on their philosophical progress in the areas of history of philosophy, philosophical problems, and applications of philosophy to other disciplines. Students and philosophy faculty will engage in discussions based on selected readings and research presentations by the faculty in various areas of philosophy. *Spring semester* (CWWM)

PHIL 485 Honors Thesis (3 credits)

Prerequisite: Open to Commonwealth and Departmental Honors students; one 100-level, three-credit course in philosophy

One-hour weekly meetings with the thesis director will culminate in an honors thesis. With the consent of the Departmental Honors Committee and the thesis director, this course may be extended into a second semester for three additional credits depending upon the scope of the project. Whether the final version of the thesis qualifies the student to graduate with honors will be determined by the Departmental Honors Committee. *Either semester*



Course Descriptions

PHIL 499 Directed Study in Philosophy (1-3 credits)

Prerequisite: Consent of the department; formal application required

Directed study is open to juniors and seniors who have demonstrated critical and analytical abilities in their studies and who wish to pursue a project independently. May be taken twice for a maximum of six credits. *Either semester*

Other Approved Courses

PHIL 101 Reasoning and Value

PHIL 102 Reasoning and Human Nature

PHIL 103 Reasoning and Politics

PHIL 104 Reasoning and Religion

PHIL 105 Reasoning and Science

PHIL 207 Philosophy of Education

PHIL 210 Liberation Ethics

PHIL 305 American Philosophy

PHIL 338 Honors Tutorial

PHIL 339 Honors Tutorial

PHIL 502 Research

PHIL 503 Directed Study