PHILOSOPHY

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MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY

Bachelor of Arts degree, the major in philosophy includes courses in the history of philosophy, logic, recent or contemporary philosophy

The student's major may embody one of several possibilities; for example, a historical emphasis, an applied philosophy focus, a problems approach. Fulfilling whatever pattern a student selects will be under the guidance of a departmental adviser.

If prerequisites are lacking, permission to take a course may be requested of the department. Study of special topics related to the chosen pattern of courses or topics of interest not covered by course offerings may be accomplished by means of independent study (PHI 499).

Students may not count more than 6 credits toward the philosophy major from among the following courses: PHI 207, 208, 301, 302, 303, and 403. Students are strongly advised to complete a year of European history early in their program. For those contemplating graduate study in philosophy, a second foreign language is recommended.

MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

The minor consists of 18 credits, selected with the advice of the department. Not more than 6 credits may be taken at the 100 level, and at least 6 credits must be taken at the 300 and/or 400 levels. PHI 296 and 306 are required. The philosophy seminar, which is optional for minors, may be taken only with the consent of the department. Students may count not more than three credits toward the minor from among the following courses: PHI 207, 208, 301, 302, 303, and 403.
MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

(See Religious Studies)

PHILOSOPHY COURSES

Philosophy courses are offered according to a rotation scheme which may be obtained at the Philosophy Department office.
The department offers the following:

Philosophy, B.A.
Minor in Philosophy
Minor in Religious Studies
Minor in Science, Values, and Society
PHILOSOPHY, B.A.

120 Overall Credits Required

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS

**Liberal Education Program**

Students must complete a comprehensive three-tiered Liberal Education Program (LEP). View all requirements of the tiers on the Liberal Education Program. While the choice of courses that fulfill the requirements is generally left up to students, courses in the major and/or cognate may also satisfy LEP requirements, although the course credits are only counted once towards the 120 credits required for graduation.

**Writing Requirements (“W-Courses”)**

Three W-courses are required. These may not be taken until after a student has passed ENG 112 — Writing Arguments. W-courses may count toward LEP, major, or cognate requirements, as well as free electives. Course sections that meet this requirement are designated by section numbers ending in “W”.

Transfer students who enter with 60 to 89 credits are required to pass two W-courses, while transfer students who enter with 90 credits or more must pass one W-course.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

33 Credits Required

Requirements:
PHI 215 - Logic and Scientific Reasoning
PHI 296 - Ancient Philosophy
PHI 297 - Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy
PHI 306 - The Age of Reason
PHI 307 - 19th Century Philosophy: Fichte to Bradley
PHI 490 - Philosophy Seminar

Select one from:
- PHI 408 - Existentialism
- PHI 420 - American Philosophy
- PHI 480 - 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

Select an additional 12 credits of PHI in consultation with a departmental advisor. May not include PHI 100, and may not include more than 6 credits at the 100/200 level.
COGNATE REQUIREMENTS

No cognates are required for this program.

FREE ELECTIVES

Remaining credits to reach Overall Credits Required (listed above).
COURSES

IDS 320 - Human Flourishing in the 21st Century
This interdisciplinary capstone focuses on two interrelated questions: what does it mean to live well in America in the 21st century? and; what is an individual's role and responsibility as a member of a larger community and environment? As a capstone project, students develop a thoughtful and coherent response to these questions, which they will then present as a poster presentation. The capstone project is a synthesis of four positions developed over the course of the semester as smaller unit projects dealing with the following interrelated themes: food, clothing and shelter, transportation, and population.
Prerequisite(s): 6 of 8 Tier 2 complete (Honors Coll.: 15 cr. HON or 45 cr. total), and prior or concurrent completion of all Tier 1 (Honors Coll.: TIMC and TIQR)
Last Offered: Winter 2020-21
3 credits

PHI 100 - Introduction to Philosophy
Introduction to the approach, questions, and schools of the philosophical tradition. Deals with such important philosophical matters as questions of knowledge, value, the individual in society.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 200 - Problems in Philosophy
Analysis of specific philosophical problems, such as the problem of knowledge, the nature of the real, value and obligation, religious belief, and the foundations of society. Selected readings on each topic from a variety of viewpoints.
Last Offered: Fall 2016
3 credits

PHI 207 - The Religious Dimension of Human Existence
The origin, nature, forms, and social manifestations of religious experience; relation to other cultural institutions and expressions: analysis of diverse types of religious experiences.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 211 - Asian Philosophy: India
Historical study of the religious and philosophical thought of India from the Vedic literature to representative contemporary philosophers, e.g. Aurobindo, Radhakrishnan, and Gandhi.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 212 - Asian Philosophy: China and Japan
Study of Chinese philosophy: Confucianism, Neo-Taoism, the later Mohists, the Yin-Yang school, Mahayana Buddhism, Ch’anism, modern Chinese philosophy. Shinto and Zen Buddhism in Japan.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PHI 215 - Logic and Scientific Reasoning
Basic principles of logical and formal reasoning, analyses of argumentation, with a special emphasis on inductive and scientific reasoning.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 or 4 credits
PHI 216 - Philosophy and Literature
Introduces students to philosophical concepts through fictional literary works and to debates about the aesthetics of literature. The literary works may be written by philosophers or nonphilosophers, e.g. Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, Kafka, Woolf, Mann, Sartre, Camus, Morrison, and Atwood. Examples of topics in literary aesthetics include the purpose of literature, the relationship between truth and fiction, and theories of interpretation.
Prerequisite(s): Tier 1 Critical Thinking
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PHI 217 - Sex, Love, and Friendship
Covers philosophical debates about the meaning and ethics of friendship and romantic, erotic and familial love.
Prerequisite(s): Tier 1 Critical Thinking
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 220 - Ethics: Know Thyself
Ethics is the study of what there is most reason to do or want, which inevitably assumes an account of who one is and what it means to be excellent at being who one is. We examine past and present philosophical attempts to understand what is right, good, and just, with special emphasis on how these accounts relate to the nature of the self and the embodied pursuit of the good life. Contemporary ethical issues are analyzed in light of this understanding.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 222 - The Creative Process
Examination of debates about the creative process and includes creative projects in a range of disciplines.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 242 - Death and the Meaning of Life
One of the few certainties about life is that it is going to end. But what should we make of that fact and how might it influence our thoughts about the meaning of life? This course explores the work of philosophers and philosophical thinkers who have grappled with questions related to our mortality. Is death an evil? If so, how and why? Would immortality be desirable? What does it mean to say that a person has died? Why do we lament our post-mortem non-existence but not our pre-natal non-existence? Students will reflect on how our response to the end of life informs our view of the meaning of life and will propose, design, and produce a creative work which offers a view of the meaning of life and is cognizant of the inevitability of death.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 270 - Philosophy of Education
Philosophical ideas about education as the expression of a culture; specific philosophical issues and problems relating to education, especially values.
Prerequisite(s): Sophomore status.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 296 - Ancient Philosophy: Pre-Socratics to Plotinus
Development of Western philosophy from its beginnings in Pre-Socratics. Main emphasis is on the works of Plato and Aristotle. Included are the Stoics, Epicureans, and Plotinus.
Prerequisite(s): LEP Critical Thinking and Inquiry.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits
PHI 297 - Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy: Augustine to Machiavelli
Philosophical thought in the Middle Ages and the Humanist tradition of the Renaissance. Emphasis upon the thought of Augustine, Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham, and Machiavelli.
Prerequisite(s): PHI 296.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PHI 300 - Human Rights and Human Wrongs
Examines the philosophical origins of the concept of human rights, its ethical implications, historical development, and incorporation into international law. Examples of large-scale human rights violations are examined. Topics such as genocide, human trafficking, religious persecution, and torture are examined.
Prerequisite(s): 6 of 8 Tier 2 complete (Honors Coll.: 15 cr. HON or 45 cr. total), and prior or concurrent completion of all Tier 1 (Honors Coll.: T1MC and T1QR only).
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 303 - The History of Islamic Thought
Examination of Muslim beliefs and practices, origin of Islamic religious ideas in historical perspective: Muhammad, Quran, religious law, philosophy, theology, mystical sects, modern trends.
Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
Last Offered: Spring 2019
3 credits

PHI 306 - The Age of Reason: Galileo to Kant
Beginnings of the modern tradition of philosophy; the great rationalists (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz); the empiricists (Locke, Berkeley, Hume); and the critical philosophy of Kant.
Prerequisite(s): PHI 296.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 307 - 19th Century Philosophy: Fichte to Bradley
Major currents of philosophy of this period; the German Idealist movement of Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel; Marxist Materialism; Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Mill, Bradley.
Prerequisite(s): PHI 296.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

PHI 309 - Women and Religion: The Old and New Eve
Influence of religion on women’s image, role, and status in Western Culture: cross cultural comparison; contemporary liberation theology; new roles in church and synagogue; sex and marriage.
Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking, 6 of 8 Tier 2 complete (Honors Coll.: 15 cr. HON or 45 cr. total), and prior or concurrent completion of all Tier 1 (Honors Coll.: T1MC and T1QR only).
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PHI 310 - Women, Philosophy, and Science
Examines philosophical issues relating to women with an emphasis on the philosophy of science. Surveys works of women philosophers from ancient to contemporary.
Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 315 - Art and Beauty
Topics include the nature of the work of art, communication in art, value judgments, natural beauty and the examination of philosophical theories of art.
Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits
PHI 321 - Philosophy of Science
 Structures and methods of mathematics, physics, biology, psychology, and the social sciences analyzed in light of the writings of classical and modern philosophers and of recent American, British, and Continental philosophers and scientists.
 Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
 Last Offered: Fall 2020
 3 credits

PHI 323 - Ethical Individualism
 Ethical individualism is an orientation in ethics according to which living rightly and living well come together in one's honest efforts to realize her own highest conception of who she is and who she might become as the concreate ultimate particular judged by practical wisdom. This conception of ethics, discernible in Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics and most clearly exemplified in the 19th century works of Emerson, Nietzsche, and Mill is explored in a course that enjoins each student to ask, "Who am I?"
 Prerequisite(s): 6 of 8 Tier 2 complete (Honors Coll.: 15 cr. HON or 45 cr. total), and prior or concurrent completion of all Tier 1 (Honors Coll.: T1MC and T1QR only).
 Last Offered: Spring 2021
 3 credits

PHI 324 - Computer Ethics
 Application of moral theories to ethical problems created, aggravated or transformed by computer technology. Topics include: privacy, computer crime, replacement of human decision-making.
 Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
 Last Offered: Spring 2021
 3 credits

PHI 325 - Bio-Ethics of the Life Sciences
 Moral and social issues arising from present practices, research and technology in medicine and biology; genetics, interventions in human birth, human experimentation, abortion, health-care delivery, euthanasia, life prolongation, etc.
 Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
 Last Offered: Spring 2021
 3 credits

PHI 327 - Moral Problems in the Law
 Examination of the moral and philosophical problems in the law such as privacy, due process, and the death penalty.
 Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
 Last Offered: Spring 2021
 3 credits

PHI 351 - Philosophy of Language
 Investigation of various theories of language in terms of a set of concepts internal to language and for which any theory must provide an account.
 Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
 Last Offered: Fall 2020
 3 credits

PHI 375 - Philosophies of Social and Political Change
 Analysis of the philosophic assumptions of prominent advocates of social and political change and their impact on contemporary political and social dialogue. Included are Locke, Plato, Marx, Dewey, Marcuse, Skinner, Tillich, and Augustine.
 Prerequisite(s): Tier 1: Critical Thinking
 Last Offered: Spring 2018
 3 credits

PHI 403 - Contemporary Challenges to Religion
 Major critiques of Western religion and Jewish-Christian responses to the challenges of science, Marxism, psycho-analysis, secularization, new religions and contemporary world problems.
 Prerequisite(s): 3 credits in religious studies.
 Last Offered: Fall 2019
 3 credits
PHI 408 - Phenomenology and Existentialism
Parallel themes of existentialism are introduced, concomitantly, in Dostoyevsky’s “Underground Man” and in Kierkegaard and Nietzsche. Continuing the theme of the Cartesian cogito, first raised by Husserl, analysis of Heidegger’s investigations into Being, Sartre’s writings on the contingency of human freedom. Prerequisite(s): 3 credits in PHI at 200-level or higher. Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PHI 420 - American Philosophy
Major themes of the pragmatists: the logic of discovery, adaptation of scientific method and of social Darwinism, historical relations to Hume and British empiricism, to Kant, Hegel and Continental rationalism. Included are Peirce, James, and Dewey. Prerequisite(s): 3 credits in PHI at the 200-level or higher. Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 480 - 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
Philosophies embraced by “The Analytic Movement” are examined: for example, those of Moore, Russell, Ayer, and Wittgenstein. Prerequisite(s): 3 credits in PHI at the 200-level or higher. Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PHI 490 - Philosophy Seminar
Research and in-depth analysis of selected philosophical problems. Independent study and seminar work on the basis of student interest. Required for senior majors, open to minors. May be taken twice. Prerequisite(s): 12 credits in PHI. Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PHI 497 - Philosophy Internship
No Description Available
Last Offered: not yet offered
3 credits

PHI 499 - Independent Study
No Description Available
Prerequisite(s): 12 credits in PHI or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Summer 2020
1 to 3 credits