

**PHILOSOPHY (PHI) 454**

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Chairperson: Chris Horvath.

**General Department Information**

The Major in Philosophy is designed to provide a liberal arts core around which a student may build a program of courses to suit a wide variety of career opportunities or other goals. The Department encourages its students to work with a departmental advisor in selecting a minor, a second major, or a set of connected courses in various fields which will best combine with philosophical study to produce a program meeting their needs. Majors are encouraged to pursue undergraduate research and internship opportunities.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS**

The Department of Philosophy participates in a number of interdisciplinary minors at the University. Coursework offered by the Department contributes to the following minors: Cognitive Science, Peace and Conflict Resolution, and Women's and Gender Studies. For further information, please consult the Department advisor as well as the section entitled Interdisciplinary Studies Programs in this *Undergraduate Catalog*.

**Philosophy Programs**

Degrees Offered: B.A.

**MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY**

- 33 total hours in Philosophy are required.
- A 2.00 cumulative GPA is required for retention in this major.
- Required courses (15 hours): PHI 112, 201, 232, 254, 255.
- Elective courses (18 hours):
  - At least one 3-hour elective course from two of the three groups, A, B, and C (6 hours):
    - Group A** - History of Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Human Nature: PHI 202, 207, 208, 222, 224, 246, 270.
    - Group B** - Mind, Science, Metaphysics, Epistemology: PHI 204, 205, 206, 250, 251, 253, 263.
    - Group C** - Ethics, Social and Political

Philosophy: PHI 233, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242.

—At least two elective courses (6 hours) at the 300-level: PHI 305, 310, 315, 330, 340, 350, 363.

—At least two additional elective courses in Philosophy (6 hours) with no more than one course (3 hours) at the 100-level (PHI 101, 104, 150).

**Majors are strongly discouraged from enrolling in more than two 300-level courses in one semester.**

**Concentrations:** Philosophy majors may elect to take courses in one or more of the following areas of concentration, depending on individual interests.

(NOTE: A concentration is not required and will not appear on the student's transcript or diploma.)

**Pre-law:** PHI 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 246, 340.

**Ethics:** PHI 233, 234, 236, 330.

**Metaphysics and Epistemology:** PHI 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 222, 224, 250, 251, 253, 263, 310, 315, 363.

**History of Philosophy:** PHI 207, 208, 254, 255, 305, 350.

**MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY**

- 18 hours in Philosophy required.
- Required Philosophy courses by area: Logic: PHI 112; History of Philosophy: PHI 254 and 255; at least 9 additional hours in Philosophy.
- Not more than two 100-level courses may count toward the minor.

**MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

- 21 hours required, distributed as follows:
  - 6 hours from Group A.
  - 9 hours chosen from exactly 3 of the Groups B, C, D, and E. Courses listed as Related Courses may not be used to satisfy this requirement.
  - 6 additional hours from any of the Groups used to satisfy the above requirements. At most, 3 of these hours may be chosen from the courses listed as Related Courses for those Groups.

Students are advised to complete several courses from Groups B through E prior to enrolling in the courses of Group A, (other than HIS 270). Courses listed as Related Courses in

the following Groups may be of interest to students even though at most one of these may be used to complete the requirements for the minor. Also note that no more than 9 hours from a student's major field of study may be used to satisfy the requirements of a minor.

**Group A:** HIS 270; IDS 254 (with advisor approval\*); PHI 224; SOC 268.

**Group B:** ENG 250, 251; PHI 222. *Related Courses:* ART 367, 369, 377; HIS 223, 225, 351.

**Group C:** HIS 271, 378  
*Related Courses:* HIS 104A04; IDS 121A02.

**Group D:** HIS 269; PHI 207, 208.  
*Related Courses:* HIS 104A02, 275, 276.

**Group E:** ART 275 (with advisor approval\*); IDS 121A14; LAN 106.

**Additional courses for various groups:** Specific offerings of the following courses may sometimes be placed into one of the above Groups by the Religious Studies Advisor depending on topic: ENG 352; IDS 121; 203; HIS 307.

\*Topics in ART 275 and IDS 254 may vary. See the Religious Studies advisor to verify how a specific offering of these courses will count in the Minor.

### Philosophy Courses

Freshmen wishing to select a Philosophy course normally should enroll in a 100-level course.

#### 101 BASIC ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY H 3 sem. hrs.

An introduction to central philosophical issues, e.g., knowledge, reality, freedom, God, and morality.

#### 104 THE IDEAL OF DEMOCRACY ICL 3 sem. hrs.

Critical examination of the nature and moral justification of democracy, particularly as it is practiced in the United States. May not be taken under the P/NP option.

#### 112 LANGUAGE, LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS QR 3 sem. hrs.

Using modern logic to understand basic mathematical concepts (such as function and proof) as well as complementary concepts outside mathematics (such as demonstration and explanation). May not be taken under the P/NP option.

#### 150 SCIENCE AND HUMAN CULTURE H

3 sem. hrs.

Examination of the dynamic interrelationship between human culture and the scientific methodologies used to study it; how culture both shapes and is shaped by science.

#### 201 INTRODUCTION TO METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY

3 sem. hrs.

Introduction to contemporary issues in metaphysics and epistemology and related issues in philosophy of mind and language.

#### 202 SEX, VALUES, AND HUMAN NATURE H

3 sem. hrs.

Investigation of competing views about the nature of human sexuality, and their moral and social consequences. Prerequisites: COM 110 and ENG 101.

#### 204 PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

3 sem. hrs.

An examination of the mind/body problem, consciousness, self-knowledge, mental content, mental causation, personal identity and agency.

#### 205 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

3 sem. hrs.

An introduction to contemporary work in the philosophy of language: What is meaning? What is truth? How do we communicate?

#### 206 METAPHYSICS

3 sem. hrs.

Introduction to contemporary metaphysics, exploring issues of existence and reality, similarity and identity, possibility and necessity, space and time.

#### 207 INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

3 sem. hrs.

Major Indian philosophical issues and theories and their contribution to Indian religion and culture; Hindu systems and the early Buddhist challenge.

#### 208 BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY

3 sem. hrs.

Origins and development of Buddhist philosophy; East Asian transformation (including Zen).

#### 210 SYMBOLIC LOGIC I

3 sem. hrs.

Introduction to proof theory. Formal deductive systems, especially propositional logic and predicate logic. Properties of deductive systems, such as consistency and completeness. Also offered as MAT 210. Prerequisites: 1 year each high school algebra and high school geometry.

**222 PHILOSOPHY AND CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY****3 sem. hrs.**

Philosophical examination of selected central ideas in Christianity, such as the incarnation, the trinity, sin, salvation, and ethics. Standard philosophical methodologies will be employed.

**224 MEANING AND RELIGIOUS BELIEF H****3 sem. hrs.**

Interdisciplinary examination of religion, emphasizing the character and evaluation of religious world views and their connections to mythologies, ethics, and ethos. Prerequisites: COM 110 and ENG 101.

**232 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS****3 sem. hrs.**

An introduction to ethics, including utilitarian, deontological, and virtue theories. Skills associated with analytical reading and writing are emphasized. Formerly CLASSICAL WESTERN MORAL THEORIES.

**233 CONTEMPORARY WESTERN MORAL THEORIES****3 sem. hrs.**

A survey of important thinkers and developments in twentieth-century moral philosophy. Problems and theories discussed concern values and right conduct.

**234 BUSINESS ETHICS****3 sem. hrs.**

A philosophical examination of selected ethical issues in business practice including discussions of case material, such as personnel management, advertising, labor-management relations, and corporate responsibility.

**236 VALUES AND THE ENVIRONMENT****3 sem. hrs.**

Philosophical examination of selected moral and social issues involving humans, non-humans, and the environment, e.g., animal rights, resource distribution, environmental racism.

**238 RIGHTS AND WRONGS H****3 sem. hrs.**

Interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of moral and social issues in relation to the cultural contexts in which they arise. Prerequisites: COM 110 and ENG 101.

**240 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY****3 sem. hrs.**

Discussion of traditional and contemporary issues, e.g., human rights, theories of justice, Marxism, civil disobedience, punishment, and the end and limit of government. Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in 1 PHI course or 2.50 overall GPA recommended.

**246 FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES****3 sem. hrs.**

Survey and critical examination of a variety of feminist contributions to philosophical topics such as gender, oppression, ethics, and epistemology.

**250 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE****3 sem. hrs.**

The nature of scientific theories, methods, reasoning, hypotheses, laws, and explanations.

**251 VISIONS OF THE SELF: A STUDY OF MINDS AND PERSONS H****3 sem. hrs.**

Study of mind and self, drawing on insights from literature, philosophy, psychology, ethics, medicine, and artificial intelligence. Prerequisites: COM 110 and ENG 101.

**253 PHILOSOPHY AND THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES****3 sem. hrs.**

Philosophical issues raised by and relevant to the scientific study of human behavior.

**254 ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY****3 sem. hrs.**

This course introduces students to Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, focusing on reality, knowledge, the self, and the good life. Formerly *ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY*.

**255 MODERN PHILOSOPHY****3 sem. hrs.**

Classic western philosophical ideas of the 17th and 18th centuries. Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in one PHI course or 2.50 overall GPA recommended.

**263 THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE****3 sem. hrs.**

What is knowledge? What makes a belief rational? Do we know anything? A historical introduction to contemporary epistemology. Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in at least one philosophy course recommended.

**270 EXISTENTIALISM****3 sem. hrs.**

An introduction to existentialism. Figures include Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Heidegger, and others. Topics include authenticity, freedom, meaning, power, and others. Prerequisites: COM 110 and ENG 101.

**305 TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY****3 sem. hrs.**

Focuses on a topic or topics in contemporary philosophy, or on major figures in recent philosophy. Multiple enrollments are allowed for credit if topic is different. Formerly *TOPICS IN 20TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY*. Prerequisites: PHI 201 and 232 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**310 TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE****3 sem. hrs.**

Examination of topics in philosophy of natural, behavioral, and/or social sciences, e.g., scientific explanation, evidence, methodology, progress, universality, normativity, testability. Multiple enrollments are allowed for credit if topic is different. Prerequisite: PHI 201 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**315 TOPICS IN MIND AND LANGUAGE****3 sem. hrs.**

Exploration of a topic within the philosophy of mind and/or language (e.g., consciousness, realism/antirealism, truth and meaning). Multiple enrollments are allowed for credit if topic is different. Formerly *TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, AND MIND*. Prerequisite: PHI 201 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**330 TOPICS IN MORAL THEORY****3 sem. hrs.**

Examination of fundamental issues in moral philosophy, e.g., possibility of moral knowledge, justification of value judgments, nature of moral responsibility. Multiple enrollments are allowed for credit if topic is different. Prerequisite: PHI 232 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**340 TOPICS IN LEGAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY****3 sem. hrs.**

Intensive examination of selected topics in social, political, and legal philosophy, e.g., liberty, justice, rights, equality, community, democracy, political obligation. Multiple enrollments are allowed for credit if topic is different. Prerequisite: PHI 232 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**340A01 TOPICS IN LEGAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: GENDER, EQUALITY, AND THE STATE****3 sem. hrs.**

This course will examine gendered division of labor and what role government should or should not play; examine contemporary state of gendered labor; examine theoretical accounts of gender justice; and consider several proposals for political intervention to make society more gender just. Prerequisite: PHI 232 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**350 TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY****3 sem. hrs.**

Intensive examination of an important figure, movement, or theme in the history of philosophy, e.g. Plato, British Empiricism, freewill/determinism. Multiple enrollments are allowed for credit if topic is different. Contact the Department for availability of the following topics. Prerequisites: PHI 254 and 255 or consent of the instructor.

**350A13 TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: DAVID HUME'S PHILOSOPHICAL LEGACY****3 sem. hrs.**

A close examination of the important sections of Hume's seminal *A Treatise of Human Nature* along with an examination of the current philosophical significance of Hume's ideas about, e.g., causation and ethical sentimentalism. Prerequisites: PHI 254 and 255 or consent of the instructor.

**350A14 TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: PLATO****3 sem. hrs.**

This course will presume a beginning general knowledge of Plato's main contributions to metaphysics and axiology. Following a refresher on the middle books of the *Republic* the course will cover more deeply some of Plato's most important middle and later dialogues. Prerequisites: PHI 254 and 255 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**363 TOPICS IN METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY****3 sem. hrs.**

Detailed examination of selected issues in contemporary metaphysics and epistemology. Multiple enrollments are allowed for credit if topic is different. Prerequisite: PHI 201 or consent of the instructor; or graduate standing.

**300**    **Philosophy**

**390 INDEPENDENT STUDY**

**1-3 sem. hrs.**

Prerequisites: One PHI course; consent of the instructor and department chair.