

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSES

PHIL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

#16025 (3 credits)

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM MW Dr. Stone

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PHIL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

#16026 (3 credits)

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM MW Dr. Stone

“What is thinking?” Socrates was put on trial and ultimately put to death for having the audacity to openly question tradition, the status quo, and those with power and influence. His life and death have since served as an example to those who contend that not only is our rational capacity a fundamental component of human nature, but that its exercise is the means by which we can cultivate a better functioning (i.e., healthy, safe, just, technologically advanced, ethical, etc.) society. The course will begin with a close reading of the trial of Socrates. Students will then explore a variety of other philosophical reflections on the nature of thinking and its role in human society by thinkers such as: Simone Weil, Martin Luther King, Jr., Fyodor Dostoevsky, Jean-Paul Sartre, Hannah Arendt, and others.

PHIL 103: INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

#11217 (3 credits)

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM MWF Dr. Miller

Religion is an important and powerful force in our world today. But what is this thing called “religion” and how might we approach a study of the topic from an academic perspective? In this course, you will be introduced to key concepts

and methods used in Religious Studies, so that you might be equipped to investigate “religion” and to understand better how it functions within our contemporary world.

PHIL 105: RELIGIONS OF ASIA

#6573 (3 credits)

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM TR Dr. Lawrence

An introduction to the characteristic beliefs and practices of selected religions that developed in Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto. We will devote special attention to scriptures and other classic literature of the traditions. Students will gain an appreciation of the vitality and enduring significance of each of the religions as a way of life for large numbers of people.

PHIL 110: FORWARD OR DELETE- AN INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

#6577 (3 credits)

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM MWF Mr. Beltz

This course provides an examination of principles of logical reasoning. Students will explore a variety of theories underlying critical thinking. This theoretical understanding will be applied to practical reasoning; giving students tools to evaluate arguments, determine soundness and consistency, and helping students understand their own reasoning processes. This course will explore multiple forms of logic, including formal and informal logic, deductive and inductive logic.

PHIL 120: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

#16027 (3 credits)

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM TR Mr. Beltz

What is the purpose of life? How can I live my best life? These will be the central questions for this course’s investigation into ethics. This course

will explore various ethical situations and how morality defines who we are. Our investigation will include an examination of the major theoretical frameworks in ethics. We will examine how to make ethical decisions, what factors should be considered, who (or what) should be included, and why ethical decisions matter. By the end of this course, students will have developed a stronger understanding of how they make the right decision and how to guide others to a more ethical life.

PHIL 130: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

#16143 (3 credits)

4:00 PM – 6:30 PM T Dr. Weinstein

Don’t you wish there were a way to talk about politics without fighting about Democrats or Republicans? Shouldn’t there be a way to settle issues by appealing to something more than just people’s opinions? Well, there is! Political philosophy is a way of talking politics while focusing on the big questions instead of the policies that make everyone so angry. We ask about the nature of justice, whether government is good or bad (and whether it should be big or small), whether we can morally take away people’s rights, and whether we need authorities to tell us what to do. Ultimately, we have to ask whether people in a democracy really can make decisions for themselves. Introduction to Political Philosophy is a fun, discussion-oriented class with minimal homework. It is technology heavy and focuses on peer-to-peer interaction while minimizing lecture time. It’s a great face-to-face class but also ideal if we shift online. It even provides social interaction during social distancing! Join this class. It will make politics enjoyable even as everyone around us is going crazy.

PHIL 227: MYSTICISM AND SPIRITUALITY IN RELIGION

#6587 (3 credits)

11:00 AM-12:15 PM TR Dr. Lawrence

This course introduces mysticism and spirituality and their place in world religions. After examining the history of the concepts, we will study mystical and spiritual experience and practice, in both Western and Asian religious traditions. Questions to be considered include methods for studying mysticism and spirituality, whether there is a common core in different religions, the spiritual-rather-than-religious movement, and relations to ethics.

PHIL 245/PHIL 245HON: DEATH AND DYING

#6590 /6589(HON) (3 credits)

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM MW Dr. Valentine

What is death? Is it bad? If so, for whom? These will be the questions that start our inquiry. We will then consider approaches to death before considering how to approach dying. For example, we’ll ask what does it mean to die with dignity, and how should we care for those who are dying? In the process, we’ll discuss a variety of related issues such as immortality and physician assisted aid in dying.

PHIL 282: ASIAN PHILOSOPHY

#6591 (3 credits)

2:00 PM-3:15 PM TR Dr. Lawrence

This class introduces selected examples of Asian philosophy and interprets their contemporary relevance. Topics to be considered include theories of consciousness and embodiment, knowledge, language, and reality.

**PHIL 300: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I
(MODERN)**

#6576 (3 credits)

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM TR Mr. Beltz

In 1641, Rene Descartes published a short work of philosophy that changed the way the world thought about everything. This publication occurred at a time when Western Europe was seeing major advancements in science, economics, and political structures. In this crucible of change, the modern era of philosophy was born. This was an exciting era of philosophical questioning. It was also one of the most prolific eras of major ideas. This course will explore this 200-year period. We will be examining epistemic, metaphysic, and ethical issues. Where does knowledge come from? Should I trust my sensory experiences? Can we use science or reason to prove that God exists? How do the mind and the body interact? Is there such a thing as causation? Does the world that we experience have independent existence, or are we only able to experience events as they are represented in the mind? How do emotions affect our reasoning? What is the basis for ethical behavior? These are some of the most challenging questions asked in philosophy. The sophistication of the philosophers' answers might amaze you.

PHIL 311: ATHEISM AND SECULARISM

#6592 (3 credits)

4:30 PM -5:45 PM MW Dr. Miller

Most courses that focus on this topic are primarily interested in examining the philosophical roots of atheism, want to engage with the polemics of the “new atheists,” or seek to explore the religious arguments against atheism and in favor of theism. These approaches to the issue can be both interesting and beneficial. The concern of this course,

however, is not with the arguments for or against atheism (or religion, for that matter). Rather, since (atheist, agnostic, and/or humanist) non-theism has become a significant part of our contemporary reality, we will be interested in what positive role non-theism has had and can potentially have in our world. These contributions (both real and potential) are the focus of this course.

**PHIL 315: PHILOSOPHY OF RACE &
POSTCOLONIALISM**

#6593 (3 credits)

6:00 PM – 7:15 PM MW Dr. Stone

In this course students will critically examine the persistent legacies of racism, ethnic nationalism, and colonial empire building. Of particular interest will be understanding how major figures in the history of western philosophy contribute(d) to the construction of the other by inventing the concept of race and consequently race supremacy which was-and continues to be-used to justify social, economic, political, and military practices. Reading theorists outside of the so-called western canon-including Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, Chinua Achebe, Aimé Césaire, Angela Davis, Steven Salaita, and others-seminar participants will decenter otherwise uncritical assumptions about the history of philosophy.

**PHIL 355: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
PHILOSOPHY**

#6594 (3 credits)

9:30 AM -10:45 AM TR Dr. Weinstein

Everyone teaches us that diversity is important, but other than focusing on vague buzzwords like “tolerance” or “celebrating differences,” no one ever tells us what we’re supposed to do about it. This course does just this by focusing on justice and equality. Does justice involve finding out

what every human has in common or managing each person’s unique traits? Does treating people equally mean regarding them as identical or catering to their specific needs? Together, we will examine economic inequality, gender and sex diversity, religious disagreement, and racial and ethnic plurality. We will focus on contemporary philosophers (many of whom are still alive!), with an emphasis on John Rawls, the most important political philosopher of the last fifty years.

**LOOKING AHEAD:
COURSES FOR SPRING 2021**

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 103: Introduction to Religious Studies
PHIL 104: Religions of the West
PHIL 120: Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 245: Death and Dying
PHIL 251: Ethics in Health Care
PHIL 301: History of Philosophy II (19th Century)
PHIL 304: Phenomenology
PHIL 342: Advanced Ethics
PHIL 360: Feminist Philosophy
PHIL 380: Buddhism
PHIL 451: Current Topics in Political Philosophy
PHIL 480: Public Philosophy

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Fall
2020

**Philosophy
&
Religious Studies**



Course Offerings

No Prerequisites

*Most Courses Fulfill
Essential Studies
Requirements*