No Prerequisites
Most Courses Fulfill
Essential Studies Requirements

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy
Dr. Stone  MW / 4:40p-5:55p  #10361 (3 credits)

“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 philosophical thinking and its role in human society by thinkers such as: Martin Luther King, Jr., Simone Weil, Jean-Paul Sartre, Paulo Freire, and Hannah Arendt.

PHIL 104: Religions of the West
Dr. Miller  On-line  #17161 (3 credits)

In this class, we will explore the relationship of religion and culture in an attempt to answer such questions as: What function does religion have within different cultural systems? What role does religion play in constructing and maintaining ideas about gender? How does ritual serve to promote and reinforce cultural values and norms? Although we will focus our attention on religion, in general, we will be drawing on the three western monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) to illustrate the issues we explore. In this way, we will balance our study of religion both with general theory and with examples of specific practice. This is an Essential Studies approved course for the Humanities and for Global Diversity.
PHIL 105: Religions of Asia
Dr. Lawrence  TR / 9:30a-10:45a  #12617 (3 credits)

This course is 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. This class counts toward the Essential Studies requirements of Breadth of Knowledge: Humanities and Special Emphasis: Diversity of Human Experience.

PHIL 120: Introduction to Ethics
Mr. Beltz  TR / 11:00a-12:15p  #10357 (3 credits)

What is the purpose of life? How can I live my best life? These will be central questions for this course’s investigation into ethics. In this course we will explore various ethical situations and how morality defines who we are. Students will be introduced to 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 can make more ethical decisions and how to guide others to a more ethical life. This course will be taught using both online and in-class sessions; students will learn from online lectures, in addition to in-person discussion sessions.

PHIL 245: Death and Dying
Dr. Lawrence  TR / 2:00p-3:15p  #10366 (3 credits)

This course will offer students the opportunity to examine various perspectives on death and dying in our own and other cultures with a view to coping with the problems of mortality and immortality. Resources on medical, psychological, philosophical and religious aspects of the meaning of death will be utilized to assist students in their own personal confrontations with the reality of death and dying. The majority of the class will provide an introduction to the main areas that make up the field of Thanatology or Death Studies. This includes an expanded treatment with selected readings from great religions of the World. The final section of the class will further engage the issues of Thanatology with the psychological perspective of Terror Management Theory, which argues that the fear of death is the primary human motivation. This class counts toward the Essential Studies requirements of Breadth of Knowledge: Humanities and Special Emphasis: Diversity of Human Experience.

PHIL 251: Ethics in Health Care
Mr. Beltz  MWF / 2:30p-3:20p  #10372 (3 credits)

At some point in our lives, we become involved in the health care system. Whether we are patients, nurses, doctors, or family members of patients, we must understand how the decisions we make about health care are ethical decisions. This course focuses on understanding the ethical responsibilities of professionals, the rights of patients, the nature of moral decision making, and applying ethical frameworks to concrete situations. Drawing on case studies, ethical dilemmas, and real-world scenarios, this course examines the significance of informed consent, abortion, euthanasia, organ transplant policy, professional standards, assisted suicide, drug screening, national health care policy and reform. The rights and responsibilities of professionals and patients will be examined through contemporary ethical theories and through codes of professional ethics. This course will be taught using both online and in-class sessions; students will learn from online lectures, in addition to in-person discussion sessions and book discussions.
This course will cover the historical development of Western philosophy from Kant through the 19th century. In particular, students will study how philosophers responded to Kant’s Enlightenment philosophy paying special attention to the formation of the subject (consciousness) within the modern world. Thinkers covered will include: Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud.

Phenomenology is one of the major philosophical schools of thought to emerge during the 20th century and it is still very influential in contemporary philosophical analyses. Phenomenology is a method for discovering the world from a first-person (subjective) point of view so as to avoid the pitfalls of the abstraction, deduction, and reductivism that characterize other philosophical schools of thought as well as relativism. Students who enroll in this course will study the formative ideas of phenomenology as well as practice the phenomenological method—i.e., they will do phenomenological experiments in class. They will also explore and apply critical phenomenology to problems in the contemporary world (e.g., the environmental crisis, race, gender, disability, and more).

Over the past year, social structures around the world have been put to the test. COVID-19 has impacted everyone in large and small ways. The way we live our lives may never be the same. This course will examine how COVID-19 has changed how we think about our ethical obligations to ourselves and to others. We will explore what ethics can tell us about physical distancing, the distribution of treatments and equipment, who counts as essential workers, how to best re-open different aspects of our society, educational changes, social justice and fairness, our right to travel, how to protect vulnerable populations, and health privacy concerns. In the end, this course is designed to help students understand these radical changes in our lives. This course will be primarily taught through in-class discussions and presentations.

What does it mean to live a feminist life? Why are feminists often portrayed as “willful” or “problems” for others? How are some of our social dilemmas analyzed by various feminists? In this course, we will analyze not only these broad questions, but we also will attend to individual, sexual, and familial obstacles through a feminist-philosophical lens. Themes will include: body/beauty norms, “outlaw emotions,” relationship paradigms, the intersections between race, class, and gender oppression, feminist resistance in workplaces, and more. The course will revolve around readings, discussions, and small writing assignments; no background in philosophy is needed.

This class begins with the study of some of the foundational Buddhist beliefs and practices documented in the earliest Pali scriptures. It proceeds to examine how these beliefs and practices
were transformed and developed in later traditions of Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism that flourished throughout Asia. We will also consider the recent spread of Buddhism to the West and the challenges Buddhism has faced in the contemporary period. The goal is to leave the students with a greater appreciation for the enduring importance of Buddhist religion and philosophy in world civilization. In order to stimulate the greatest interest among the students, the focus will be on selections of classic texts. Two or three movies will be viewed to provide a sense of Buddhism in concrete life. This class counts toward the Essential Studies requirements of Breadth of Knowledge: Humanities and Special Emphasis: Diversity of Human Experience.

**PHIL 451: Current Topics in Political Philosophy: Citizenship and its Challenges**
Dr. Weinstein  R / 4:00p-6:30p  #13820 (3 credits)

This class will examine the idea of citizenship as it has been understood throughout history, with special attention to dignity and human rights. We will then look at the way governments have tried to divide or subordinate citizens, by exploring how fascism, propaganda, racism, and antisemitism work to undermine individuality and community. We will also look at the role of education in social change.

**PHIL 480: Public Philosophy**
Dr. Weinstein  TR / 12:30p-1:45p  #10360 (3 credits)

Did you ever want to write philosophy for a blog, magazine, on Twitter or Reddit, or call-in with a philosophical comment on the radio? If so, this course is what you are looking for. It provides you the opportunity to take philosophy out of the classroom and into the world around you. It focuses on writing blog entries, social network posts, and evaluating existing public philosophy books and articles. First and foremost, it is a writing course that will help you refine your composition skills to better communicate ideas and “translate” them into more accessible media. Best of all, YOU get to choose what you write about, not the professor. No subject is off limits.

“This is the Philosophy department’s capstone course but is open to all students with at least 75 credit hours. It fulfills ES capstone requirements for many majors beside philosophies. It also fulfills the A (Advanced Writing) Essential Studies Requirement.”

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[http://arts-sciences.und.edu/philosophy-religion/](http://arts-sciences.und.edu/philosophy-religion/)