

**PHIL 101**  
**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
#11954 (3 credits)  
M/W/F 10:10 – 11:00am  
Mr. Beltz

This course is designed to provide students with a rich understanding of the ideas and issues that have guided human inquiry for the last six thousand years. This course will provide a survey of the major themes and problems that generations of philosophers have struggled to find solutions to. How do I know what is right? How do I know that there is anything out in the world? How do I know what is beautiful? What does it mean to know something? This course will take a thematic approach to philosophy, focusing on a cross-section of philosophic inquiry. Essential Studies: Humanities.

**PHIL 103**  
**INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
#15692 (3 credits)  
T/R 9:30 – 10:45am  
Dr. Lawrence

This class is an introduction to the academic and comparative study of religion. We will discuss humanistic and social scientific theories of religion, and alternative views on the relations of religious studies to faith or the absence of faith. In the final section of the class we will focus in more depth on the intercultural philosophy of religions as a prospective organizing framework for religious studies. Students will be encouraged to develop their own informed and critical viewpoints on the study of religion. Essential Studies: Humanities.

**PHIL 120**  
**INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**  
#6266 (3 credits)  
T/R 2:00 – 3:15pm  
Mr. Beltz

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. Essential Studies: Humanities.

**PHIL 130**  
**INTRO TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**  
#6978 (3 credits)  
M/W 5:30 – 6:45pm  
Dr. Lucian Stone

Students enrolled in this course will critically examine and debate formative classical and contemporary works of political philosophy such as: Aristotle's *Politics*; Niccolò Machiavelli's *The Prince*; Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto*; writings on American democracy by James Madison and John Dewey; and Michel Foucault's *Discipline & Punish*. In doing so, students will be introduced to fundamental questions philosophers have asked about the nature of reality, human nature, epistemology, ethics, and the role of society in human existence and how their answers to these questions have shaped philosophical thinking about the art of statecraft in view of justice, morality, and power. Essential Studies: Humanities.

**PHIL 245**  
**DEATH & DYING**  
#15690 (3 credits)  
T/R 12:30 – 1:45pm  
Dr. Lawrence

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. Essential Studies: Humanities and Diversity of Human Experience.

**PHIL 251**  
**ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE**  
#6269 (3 credits)  
M/W/F 1:25 – 2:15pm  
Mr. Beltz

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, vaccine mandates, 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. Essential Studies: Humanities.

**PHIL 252**  
**APPLIED BUSINESS ETHICS**  
#15689 (3 credits)  
T/R 11:00am – 12:15pm  
Mr. Beltz

In a world where citizens seem to be at odds with corporations, how can we reconcile ethics and business? Is it possible to be good at business and still be a good person? This course will examine the relationship between business practices and applied ethics. Through case study analysis and real-world scenarios, this course will explore two related issues. We will explore the ways that ethics and business can be understood to work towards oppositional goals and the ways that they might augment each other. We will explore the relationships between these seemingly different public practices. We will, also, examine what it means to be ethical in a business setting. This will involve exploring topics such as: confidentiality, teamwork, honesty, record keeping, employee rights, globalization, advertising, and personal advancement.

**PHIL 331**  
**CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY:**  
**“PHILOSOPHY ON SCREEN”**  
# (3 credits)  
M/W 4:00 – 5:15pm  
Dr. Stone

Ever wonder what philosophers think about when they watch your favorite television shows, series, films, and social media? In this course students will be introduced to the ideas of a variety of contemporary European philosophers vis-à-vis media productions. Students will critically investigate the nature of media technologies and their effects on the individual and society, as well as philosophical themes and dilemmas portrayed on the screen. Alongside reading primary philosophical works, seminar participants will view

television episodes (from, for example, *The Office* and *Black Mirror*) and series (e.g. *Severance*), films (e.g., *Psycho* and *Fight Club*), and social media posts. NB: *This course is repeatable for up to 6 credit hours. Thus, students who have previously taken PHIL 331 on a theme different than the one being offered this semester—Philosophy on Screen—can enroll and earn full credit for this course.*

**PHIL 360  
FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY**

#11956 (3 credits)  
M/W 2:30 – 3:45pm  
Dr. Rozelle-Stone

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. Essential Studies: Humanities and Analyzing Worldviews.

**PHIL 371  
PHILOSOPHY OF LAW**

#6983 (3 credits)  
T/R 9:30 – 10:45am  
Dr. Jack Weinstein

Are you intrigued by the law? Are you planning on going to law school or working in a profession that works with it (criminal justice, political science, and education, for example)? Are you interested in politics or how the government works? Do you want to work in a non-profit or advocacy group? Maybe you're just unhappy with the state of the world—or pleased with it and frustrated with those who aren't. If any of these are true, then Philosophy of Law is the class for you. In it, we will discuss what law is, when and

why it must be obeyed, the US Constitution, international law, civil disobedience, rights and responsibilities, and the meaning and nature of justice. We will also look at how reasoning works in a legal context, asking about precedent and cultural change. This class balances theoretical and practical concerns and its relevance to day-to-day life will be evident from the first session.

**PHIL 380  
BUDDHISM**

#15691 (3 credits)  
T/R 2:00 – 3:15pm  
Dr. Lawrence

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. Essential Studies: Humanities and Diversity of Human Experience.

**PHIL 480  
CAPSTONE: PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY**

#6267 (3 credits)  
T/R 12:30 – 1:45pm  
Dr. Jack Weinstein

Did you ever want to write philosophy for a blog, magazine, on Twitter or Reddit, or make a philosophical comment on a Twitch stream? Do you want to make philosophy content for social networks like Instagram and TikTok? 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, including video for those who want to. 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 philosophy’s. Essential Studies: Advanced Communication.

**PHIL 494  
DATA SCIENCE ETHICS**

#7152 (3 credits)  
R 4:00 – 6:30pm  
Dr. Jack Weinstein

Digital Ethics: We are not human beings; we are data. At least, this is what researchers, marketers, and Artificial Intelligence thinks of us. Yet, despite what they will have us believe, there is no neutral way of evaluating this data. Everyone has an agenda. Everyone has a point of view. And lots of people are bigots, even if they don't know it. In this course, we will look at the history of data misuse and the ways it is currently abused, to develop an ethical theory that applies to new technology and research methods. We will engage with both the theory and practice of data ethics to see if the great ethical theories still apply. This is a graduate seminar but is open to advanced undergraduates. It is not a technical course and no experience with computer science or data software is required. All the reading is accessible and intended for philosophical readers, not just data scientists.



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# Spring 2023

## Philosophy & Religious Studies



### Course Offerings

**No Prerequisites**

**Most Courses Fulfill Essential  
Studies Requirements**