

Philosophy Course Catalogue

100 Level Philosophy Courses

PHIL 100 (6) Introduction to Philosophy

Basic problems and methods of Philosophy. Topics such as the existence of God, the nature and scope of human knowledge, the relationship between mind and body, personal identity, free will, issues and problems in moral philosophy. Credit will not be granted for both PHIL 100 and either or both PHIL 101 or PHIL 102.

PHIL 101 (3) Introduction to Philosophy

Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as the nature and scope of human knowledge, the existence of God, and the relationship between mind and body. Credit will not be given for both PHIL 100 and 101.

PHIL 102 (3) Introduction to Philosophy II

Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as morality, personal identity, free will and determinism, and the meaning of life. Credit will not be given for both PHIL 100 and 102.

PHIL 120 (3) Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking

Tools for dealing with both everyday and more technical arguments and concepts. Analysis and resolution of confusions, ambiguities, and fallacies. This course is restricted to students with fewer than 90 credits.

PHIL 125 (3) Introduction to Scientific Reasoning

Historical and logical analysis of various types of scientific hypotheses and the data that support or undermine them. This course is restricted to students with fewer than 90 credits.

PHIL 150 (3) Minds and Machines

Philosophical and theoretical issues that pertain to how mental phenomena fit into the material world. Examine questions such as whether a sophisticated enough computer should be deemed a conscious intelligent being. Focus on philosophical literature on consciousness, intelligence, animal minds, and the mind-body relation.

200 Level Philosophy Courses

PHIL 211 (3/4) d Greek Philosophy I

The Presocratics; Socrates; Sophists. Recommended as preparation for CLST/PHIL 212 and PHIL 310.

Equivalency: CLST211

PHIL 212 (3/4) d Greek Philosophy II

Plato; Aristotle; selections from Hellenistic Philosophy. Recommended as preparation for PHIL 310.

Equivalency: CLST212

PHIL 220 (3/4) d Symbolic Logic I

Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; systems of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity; alternative proof methods. Some sections may use computer-based materials and tests.

PHIL 230 (3/4) d Introduction to Moral Theory

Theories of obligation and value; moral reasoning; normative ethics, descriptive ethics and meta-ethics. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.

PHIL 235 (3/4) d Contemporary Moral Issues

Philosophical approaches or moral problems.

PHIL 240 (3/4) d Knowledge and Reality I

Topics in metaphysics and epistemology such as truth, knowledge, justification, the nature of physical reality, and personal identity. Readings from classic and contemporary texts.

PHIL 260 (3/4) d Science and Society in the Contemporary World

An introduction to the historical development, conceptual foundations, and cultural significance of contemporary science. Themes will vary from year to year.

Equivalency: HIST260

300 Level Philosophy Courses

PHIL 310 (3/4) d The Philosophy of Plato

A study of Plato's dialogues and his influence on subsequent philosophy.

PHIL 311 (3/4) d The Philosophy of Aristotle

A study of Aristotle's writings and his influence on subsequent philosophy.

Prerequisite: PHIL 310.

PHIL 313 (3) Medieval Philosophy

Survey of Western European thought from Augustine to the 14th century. Possible topics and authors include: Augustine; Abelard; the influence of Islam; the rediscovery of Aristotle; Aquinas; Scotus; Ockham.

Equivalency: RELG328

PHIL 314 (3/4) d Philosophy in the 17th Century

Survey of 17th-century philosophy from Bacon to Leibniz, including the writings of Hobbes, Descartes, and Spinoza. The influence of science and religion on philosophical thought.

PHIL 315 (3/4) d Philosophy in the 18th Century

Survey of 18th-century philosophy from Locke to Kant, including the writings of Berkeley, Rousseau, and Hume. The influence of science and religion on philosophy.

Prerequisite: PHIL 314.

PHIL 316 (3/4) d Philosophy After 1800

Survey of 19th and 20th century philosophy. May include Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Mill, Meinong, Brentano, the British Idealists, Russell, and Moore. Social and political currents in 19th century philosophical thought.

PHIL 320 (3/4) d Symbolic Logic 2

Continuation of PHIL 220. A system of deduction for predicate logic is selected for further study. Completeness of this system and other metatheoretic results are proved. Other topics include computability, recursive function theory, incompleteness and decidability.

Prerequisite: PHIL 220.

PHIL 321 (3/4) d Induction and Decision

Formal methods relevant to the logic of decision. Decision theory, game theory, axiomatic probability theory and its interpretations, belief dynamics, simulation and modelling.

Prerequisite: One of PHIL 125, PHIL 220.

PHIL 322 (3/4) d Modal Logic

Logic of the modal operators "It is necessary that" and "It is possible that." Possible-world semantics and a method of derivation for this logic.

Prerequisite: PHIL 220.

PHIL 323 (3/4) d Non-Classical Logics

One or more of conditional logic, deontic logic, epistemic logic, many-valued logic, systems of belief dynamics.

Prerequisite: PHIL 220.

PHIL 324 (3/4) d Philosophy of Logic

Fundamental concepts and methods of logic; the logistic method, syntax and semantics; the conditional; entailment; consequence; modal logic; problems concerning extensionality and intentionality. Frege's distinction between sense and reference; Russell's theory of definite descriptions; Tarski's definition of truth.

Prerequisite: PHIL 220.

PHIL 330 (3/4) d Social and Political Philosophy

Theories of political and legal obligation and authority, legal reasoning, society and the state. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.

PHIL 334 (3/4) d Sex, Gender and Philosophy

Relationship between sex, gender, and philosophy. Topics may include ethics, epistemology, science, social relations, law, and personhood.

PHIL 335 (3/4) d Power and Oppression

Philosophical approaches to historical problems of inequality and social harm, with readings drawn from historical and contemporary sources. Topics to be studied may include slavery, colonialism, labour, and the position of women in society.

PHIL 338 (3/4) d Philosophy of Law

Concepts of law, constitution and sovereignty; law and morality; natural law theories and legal positivism; obligation, responsibility, and punishment.

PHIL 339 (3/4) d Philosophy of Art

Topics include art and perception, art and reality, imagination, expression, censorship, and the role of art in human life.

PHIL 340 (3/4) d Knowledge and Reality II

Topics in metaphysics and epistemology such as induction, the mind/body problem, free will, and action theory. Readings from classic and contemporary texts.

Prerequisite: PHIL 240.

PHIL 349 (3/4) d Philosophy of Religion

A critical and analytical examination of arguments for and arguments against the existence of God, and other related topics.

PHIL 360 (3/4) d Introduction to History and Philosophy of Science

An examination of historical, conceptual and methodological conditions of scientific knowledge through detailed consideration of important episodes in the history of science.

Equivalency: HIST360

PHIL 362 (3-6) d History and Philosophy of Economics from Aristotle to Adam Smith

The development of economic thought from Aristotle to Adam Smith, focusing primarily on the conceptual foundations of economics, particularly the problems of value, distribution, and economic growth.

Equivalency: ECON318

PHIL 363 (3-6) d History and Philosophy of Economics from Ricardo to Keynes

The development of economic thought from David Ricardo up to the present, including such figures as Malthus, Mill, Jevons, and Keynes, focusing primarily on the conceptual foundations of economics, particularly the problems of value, distribution and growth.

Equivalency: ECON319

PHIL 364 (3) Darwin, Evolution, and Modern History

Darwin and the science of evolution in nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Equivalency: HIST394

PHIL 371 (3) Foundations of Chinese Thought

Chinese thought from the Han dynasty (206 BCE to 220 CE) in its historical and cultural contexts. Includes among others: Confucius; Mo Zi; the Legalists/Authoritarians; Zhuang Zi; the Lao Zi book.

Equivalency: ASIA371

PHIL 375 (3/4) d Philosophy and Literature

Philosophical issues in works of literature or arising from theories of literary interpretation. Topics include issues relating to relativism, the nature of morality, free will, personal identity, the nature of the emotions.

PHIL 378 (3) Philosophical Wisdom of Early India

Epistemological and ontological thought from the Vedic Period to the period of the rise of philosophical schools or systems. Philosophy in the Mahabharata, Gita; early Buddhist and Jain views on knowledge and reality; views on language.

Equivalency: ASIA378

PHIL 385 (3/4) d Existentialism

Meaning, identity and alienation as explored in the works for example of Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Sartre, and Camus.

PHIL 388 (3) Buddhist, Brahmanical and Jain Philosophers in Interaction

Debates on issues of epistemology, language and ontology among the philosophical schools or systems of classical India Nagarjuna, Bhartrhari, Uma-svati, Sankara and others.

Equivalency: ASIA388

PHIL 390 (6/12) c Honours Tutorial

For students in third-year Honours.

400 Level Philosophy Courses

PHIL 400 (3/4) d Morals, Politics and the Individual

Introduction to major themes in moral and political philosophy. Primarily for fourth-year and graduate students who have had no previous course in Philosophy. Credit will be granted for only one of PHIL 400, PHIL 100 or PHIL 101 and 102.

PHIL 401 (3/4) d Knowledge, Explanation, and the Nature of Things

Introduction to major themes in epistemology and metaphysics. Primarily for fourth-year and graduate students who have had no previous course in Philosophy. Credit will be granted for only one of PHIL 401, PHIL 100 or PHIL 101 and 102.

PHIL 410 (3/4) d Topics in Ancient Philosophy

Advanced study of the Presocratics, or of a philosopher such as Plato, or of a school such as the Sceptics or Stoics. Topics vary from year to year.

Prerequisite: PHIL 311.

PHIL 412 (3/4) d Topics in Medieval Philosophy

Advanced study of a medieval philosopher such as Aquinas, or school.

Prerequisite: PHIL 313.

PHIL 414 (3/6) d Topics in the History of Modern Philosophy

Intensive study of a major philosopher or school such as Descartes, Hume, Empiricism, Rationalism, or the British utilitarians.

Prerequisite: One of PHIL 314, PHIL 315, PHIL 316.

PHIL 415 (3/4) d The Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

Study of Kant's critical philosophy.

Prerequisite: One of PHIL 314, PHIL 315, PHIL 340.

PHIL 416 (3/6) d Topics in 19th-Century Philosophy

Study of a major 19th-century philosopher such as Hegel, Mill or Nietzsche, or school, such as German Idealism.

Prerequisite: One of PHIL 314, PHIL 315, PHIL 316, PHIL 340.

PHIL 418 (3/6) d Topics in Twentieth-Century Philosophy

Intensive study of a major philosopher such as Wittgenstein, Russell, or Heidegger, or school, such as pragmatism or logical empiricism.

Prerequisite: PHIL 340.

PHIL 419 (3/4) d Philosophy of History

Concepts of history and historical explanation, historical progress, purpose, necessity, law and causation. Hegel, Marx, Vico, Spengler, Pareto, Collingwood, Croce, and Toynbee, as well as contemporary figures. Students will be expected to have an adequate knowledge of ancient or modern history.

PHIL 420 (3/4) d Topics in Symbolic Logic

Formal semantics, proof theory, incompleteness and decidability, axiomatic set theory, independence results. Consult the Department as to which topics are offered in a given year.

Prerequisite: PHIL 220.

PHIL 425 (3/4) d Philosophy of Language I

Philosophical discussion of language, meaning, and communication.

Prerequisite: Philosophy or linguistics courses totaling 9 credits at the 200-level or above.

PHIL 426 (3/4) d Philosophy of Language II

Advanced topics in the philosophy of language.

Prerequisite: PHIL 425 and 6 credits of philosophy or linguistics courses at the 200-level or above.

PHIL 427 (3/4) d Philosophy of Mathematics

Logicism, formalism and constructivism, implications of metatheorems such as those of Gödel and Church, mathematical truth, mathematics and mental construction, mathematics and the physical world.

Prerequisite: Philosophy or mathematics courses totaling 9 credits at the 200-level or above.

PHIL 431 (3/4) d Social and Political Philosophy

Central concepts and problems in political life and thought including obligation, citizenship, representation, justice; equality; civil rights and liberty; disobedience.

Prerequisite: Philosophy or political science courses totaling 9 credits at the 200-level or above.

PHIL 432 (3/4) d Ethical Theory

Classic or contemporary works in ethical theory.

Prerequisite: 9 credits in philosophy at the 200-level or above; PHIL 230 is recommended.

PHIL 433 (3/4) d Bio-Medical Ethics

Moral problems arising in the health sciences, especially in medicine but also in biology, psychology, and social work. Topics include abortion, death and euthanasia, genetic engineering, behaviour modification, compulsory treatment, experimentation with human beings and animals, and the relationship between professionals and their patients, subjects or clients. No philosophical background is required.

PHIL 434 (3/4) d Business and Professional Ethics

Moral problems in contemporary business and professional practice, general moral theory, the law, and policy formation. Corporate social and environmental responsibility, employee rights, preferential hiring and affirmative action programs, conflicts of interest, advertising, "whistle blowing" and self-regulation.

PHIL 435 (3/4) d Environmental Ethics

Moral problems arising in the context of human relationships to nature and to non-human living things, considered in terms of both general moral theory and policy formation. Topics include moral standing, animal rights, obligations to future generations, pollution, hazardous materials, the depletion of natural resources and the treatment of non-human living things.

PHIL 440 (3/4) d Epistemology

Analysis of the concept of knowledge; problems of justifying ordinary and basic empirical beliefs.

Prerequisite: PHIL 240.

PHIL 441 (3/4) d Philosophy of Perception

The contribution of the senses to knowledge of the external world; the nature of perception and its contribution to empirical knowledge.

Prerequisite: PHIL 240 or COGS 200 if accompanied by 3 credits in PHIL at the 200-level or above.

PHIL 449 (3/4) d Continental Philosophy

A study of European philosophers from amongst Husserl, Heidegger, Habermas, Foucault, Derrida, Lacan, Levinas, and others.

PHIL 450 (3/4) d Metaphysics

Topics including ontology, universals and particulars, substance, determinism and indeterminism, identity over time, and theories of truth.

Prerequisite: 9 credits in PHIL at the 200-level or above.

PHIL 451 (3/4) d Philosophy of Mind

The nature of the mental and physical; the relation between minds and bodies; the character of psychological explanation.

Prerequisite: PHIL 240 or COGS 200 if accompanied by 3 credits of PHIL at the 200-level or above.

PHIL 452 (3/4) d Philosophy of Action

Explanation of human actions; the conditions of responsibility; freedom of the will; the domains of rational and moral appraisal; the category of action and the individuation of actions.

Prerequisite: PHIL 340.

PHIL 455 (3/6) d Topics in the Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Philosophical topics in the cognitive sciences, such as empiricism vs. nativism, consciousness, mental representation, cognitive architecture, language & thought, and situated cognition.

Prerequisite: PHIL 240 or COGS 200 if accompanied by 3 credits in PHIL at the 200-level or above.

Recommended: PHIL 441 or PHIL 451.

PHIL 460 (3-6) d Philosophy of Science

Issues common to all sciences. Philosophical questions including the character of scientific laws, theories and revolutions, the nature of scientific confirmation, causality, explanation and prediction, and the use of logic and probability. Difficulties in the interpretation of atomic physics and questions about relationships between biology and psychology. No philosophical background is assumed.

PHIL 461 (3/4) d Philosophy of Social Science

Topics in the philosophy of science of special concern to the social and behavioural sciences; hypotheses and explanation; principles, theories, models; the formation of scientific concepts; the function of mathematics in social science.

Prerequisite: 9 credits at the 200-level or above from philosophy, anthropology, geography, economics, history, political science, psychology or sociology.

PHIL 462 (3-6) d Space and Time

Such topics as: Are space and time continuous? Is motion always relative to another body? Does time flow? Is time irreversible?

Prerequisite: PHIL 340 or 12 credits of mathematics or science.

PHIL 464 (3) Philosophy of Biology

Methodological, historical, philosophical and social science questions about biology. Credit will be given for only one of PHIL 464 or BIOL 446.

Prerequisite: Fourth-year standing in any degree program or 9 credits of philosophy.

PHIL 469 (3/4) d Topics in Philosophy of Science

Topics such as probability and induction; foundations of measurement; theory construction.

Prerequisite: PHIL 460.

PHIL 470 (3) Comparative Conceptions of the Self

Ways in which the 'self' has been portrayed in eastern and western religious traditions. Thinkers to be considered include Aristotle, Mencius, Freud, Xunzi (Hsün-tzu), Nietzsche, and Zhuangzi (Chuang-tzu).

Equivalency: ASIA470

PHIL 485 (3/4) d Directed Reading

Same as PHIL 486-9.

PHIL 486 (1-4) d Directed Reading

PHIL 487 (3-4) d Directed Reading

PHIL 488 (3-4) d Directed Reading

PHIL 489 (3-4) d Directed Reading

PHIL 490 (6/12) c Honours Tutorial

For students in fourth-year Honours.

PHIL 491 (3-6) d Seminar for Majors in Philosophy

Selected problems in philosophy, with attention to methods of research. Check with the department for specific topics. Primarily for fourth-year Philosophy Major students, but also open to Philosophy Honours.

PHIL 499 (3-4) d Directed Reading

500 Level Philosophy Courses

PHIL 510 (3-12) d Ancient Philosophy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 512 (3-12) d Medieval Philosophy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 514 (3-12) d Early Modern Philosophy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 516 (3-12) d Modern Philosophy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 518 (3-12) d Twentieth-Century Philosophy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 520 (3-12) d Logic

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 525 (3-12) d Philosophy of Language

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 527 (3-12) d Philosophy of Mathematics

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 528 (3-12) d Philosophical Issues in the Foundations of Mathematics

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 530 (3-12) d Moral Philosophy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 531 (3-12) d Political Philosophy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 532 (3-12) d Ethical Theory and Practice

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 533 (3-12) d Issues in Bio-Medical Ethics

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 534 (3-12) d Issues in Business and Professional Ethics

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 535 (3-12) d Issues in Environmental Ethics

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 536 (3-12) d Ethical Issues in Public Policy

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 539 (3-12) d Aesthetics

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 540 (3-12) d Epistemology

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 550 (3-12) d Metaphysics

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 551 (3-12) d Philosophy of Mind

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 560 (3-12) d Philosophy of Science

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 561 (3-12) d Topics in Science and Technology Studies

Advanced seminar on a theme or topic of interest to both STS and Philosophy. *This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.*

PHIL 581 (3-12) d Problems

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 585 (3-12) d Directed Reading

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 586 (3) Philosophy of Action

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

PHIL 599 (12) MA Thesis

This course is not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading.

600 Level Philosophy Courses

PHIL 699 (0) Doctoral Dissertation