

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 101 CRITICAL THINKING (4)

Critical Thinking is the best defense against intellectual trickery and self-delusion. It provides specific techniques and tools whereby we can avoid basic fallacies in our own thinking and detect them in the thought of others. Reasoning is a highly complicated human activity and cannot be satisfactorily studied in an intellectual vacuum. Hence, in this course, critical thinking and uncritical thought are contrasted in the context of the world of human interests and activities--social, political and scientific. All of the basic 'tricks' for persuading people to accept false premises and conclusions as true are systematically laid out and their detection practiced. Some basic works of world philosophers will be studied to substantiate and contextualize the technical focus of the course. This course may be taught online only during the winter and summer intersession. Satisfies GE A3 (Critical Thinking).

PHIL 101A CRITICAL THINKING (2)

Critical thinking is the best defense against intellectual trickery and self-delusion. It provides specific techniques and tools whereby we can avoid basic fallacies in our own thinking and detect them in the thought of others. Reasoning is a highly complicated human activity and cannot be satisfactorily studied in an intellectual vacuum. Hence, in this course, critical and uncritical thought are contrasted in the context of the world of human interests and activities -- social, political, and scientific. All of the basic "tricks" for persuading people to accept false premises and conclusions as true are systematically laid out and their detection practiced. Satisfies GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking). C- or better required in the second semester for A3 credit.

PHIL 101B CRITICAL THINKING (2)

Critical thinking is the best defense against intellectual trickery and self-delusion. It provides specific techniques and tools whereby we can avoid basic fallacies in our own thinking and detect them in the thought of others. Reasoning is a highly complicated human activity and cannot be satisfactorily studied in an intellectual vacuum. Hence, in this course, critical and uncritical thought are contrasted in the context of the world of human interests and activities -- social, political, and scientific. All of the basic "tricks" for persuading people to accept false premises and conclusions as true are systematically laid out and their detection practiced. Satisfies GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking). C- or better required in the second semester for A3 credit. Prerequisite: PHIL 101A.

PHIL 102 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC (4)

An introduction to the nature of contemporary systems of logic and their application. Students will learn how to abbreviate arguments in ordinary language, to deduce conclusions, and to locate fallacies. Recommended for students of the sciences, computer programming or mathematics, and the general student interested in the structure of arguments. Satisfies GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking). Course will be offered in online mode during intersession only.

PHIL 120 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (4)

This course provides an introduction to some of the enduring questions of thinking: What is the nature of knowledge, of morality, of justice, of the self, of religion, of the search for wisdom, of reality? Topics and approaches may vary from section to section. Consult the department office for current information. Satisfies GE Area C2.

PHIL 160A HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 160 A/B is a year long course, which features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking) and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE Areas. C- or better required in the second semester for A3 credit.

PHIL 160B HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 160 A/B is a year long course, which features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking) and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE Areas. C- or better required in the second semester for A3 credit.

PHIL 165A HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 165 A/B is a year long course, which, features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE categories. This course also fulfills the Ethnic Studies requirement. C- or better required in the second semester for A3 credit.

PHIL 165B HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 165 A/B is a year long course, which, features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE categories. This course also fulfills the Ethnic Studies requirement. C- or better required in the second semester for A3 credit.

PHIL 200 PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES (3)

Students practice the techniques of reading and thinking critically, of expository writing, and of oral expression as they reflect together on philosophical issues. Recent topics have included Human Consciousness, Foundations of Greek and Chinese Thought, and Philosophical Issues in Global Climate Change. As students read and discuss the semester's topic, they will reflect consciously on the principles of thinking, speaking, and writing. This skills-oriented course reflects the assumption that we master skills more thoroughly when we are working on an interesting set of issues that are significant and relevant to our lives. Prerequisites: completion of GE Areas A2 and A3. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 201 BUDDHISM, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE (4)

This course explores foundational teachings Buddhist philosophy, religion, arts and culture and examines the interactions between those teachings and Western science, philosophy and culture. Students read original writings from the Buddha as well as Buddhist scholars, selections from Western philosophy and contemporary scientific research that deals directly with Buddhism. This course will be taught online only during the winter and summer intersession. Satisfies GE Area C3 (Comparative Perspectives/Foreign Languages).

PHIL 202 PROSEMINAR (3)

This course is designed to help students acquire the skills required to successfully major or minor in Philosophy, skills such as making effective oral presentations or critically evaluating demanding philosophical texts. The course will be based on an investigation of important contemporary or historical problems, and attention will be paid to both analytic and continental approaches to these problems. Possible topics of discussion are: postmodern critiques of science, moral relativism, arguments for the existence of God, the good life, the nature of emotions, and the nature of beauty. Topics will vary from year to year depending on the interests of faculty. Prerequisite: current Philosophy major or minor, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 203 GLOBAL JUSTICE (4)

This course covers theoretical and practical issues of global justice. Topics may include: what obligations wealthy nations owe to the global poor; responsibility for the costs of climate change; what rules should govern international trade; when going to war is just; whether terrorism is a legitimate means of conducting war; how terrorism may be combated; whether nations have the right to exclude immigrants; whether we should have numerous nation-states or one cosmopolitan society. Satisfies GE, area C2.

PHIL 204 APPLIED ETHICS (4)

The focus of this course is the philosophical examination, from a moral standpoint, of pressing issues that we as human beings face today. For example, depending on the faculty member teaching, the course might focus on the ethics of science and technology, environmental ethics, bioethics, or business ethics. Students will gain an understanding of moral theory in this course but always through a practical field of study. The course is essentially interdisciplinary.

PHIL 205 ETHICS, LAW, AND SOCIETY FORUM (1)

A series of events focused on current issues in law, ethics, and justice. The events will include visiting lectures, debates, film screenings, and workshops. Satisfies GE, area C2. These events will cover a wide-ranging and evolving range of topics, such as racial identity, climate change, technology and war, human trafficking, gender and sexuality law, distributive justice, privacy, and more. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 207 PHILOSOPHICAL MOVEMENTS (4)

A class dedicated to a range of alternative historical movements in philosophy. They can be chosen from ancient, medieval, modern, or contemporary examples. As movements they have some degree of unity or cohesiveness within their historical period, and their study seeks to describe, besides their internal characteristics, this historical context. Previous examples of movements taught have included: existentialism, phenomenology, ordinary language philosophy, American pragmatism, deconstruction, and the Frankfurt School.

PHIL 212 THE GOOD LIFE (4)

The good life has been a subject of philosophical reflection for centuries. This course looks at how different cultures have addressed a variety of questions concerning the good life from a philosophical perspective. Specific topics may include: what counts as a good life; what happiness is; the relation between morality and the good life; what makes for a life with meaning; whether we really matter in the big picture; whether we can make a difference; whether life is absurd; and whether death is bad for the one who dies.

PHIL 273 CRITICAL AND CREATIVE READINGS OF PHILOSOPHICAL LITERATURE (4)

This course explores a variety of key philosophical concepts such as truth, justice, equality, fairness, the good and beauty within the historical, socio-cultural and political contexts from out of which they developed and continue to do so. Students will gain a deeper understanding of these ideas while learning how to read and write about them in a variety of different contexts. Satisfies GE Area C2. Only one course numbered 273 in the Arts & Humanities will be considered for credit. Prerequisite: completion of GE Category A2 (Engl 101 or ENGL 100B) required.

PHIL 275 RACE, RACISM, LAW, AND SOCIETY (4)

This course covers theoretical, practical, and legal issues surrounding race and racism. Topics may include: what counts as 'racist'; when discrimination is allowable; racial profiling; tolerating cultural differences; whether race-thinking makes sense; and the nature of racial identities like white or Latino. This course fulfills GE category C3 and Ethnic Studies.

PHIL 276 GENDER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)

This course uses philosophy's tools to analyze how gender has been implicated in questions of social justice that arise in a multi-cultural, global context. The investigation will be intersectional, in that it looks at how gender identities interact with other socially relevant identities, such as race, sexuality, and culture. It also will be multi-cultural, in that it looks at a variety of perspectives on these questions from around the globe.

PHIL 301 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (4)

Recently the scope and speed of scientific discovery and technological change has noticeably accelerated with the advent of information technology. Fantastic claims have been made in regards to our potential to understand through science and control through technology nearly every aspect of the natural world, including our own bodies and minds. We will look at science and technology as a human practice that inherently fosters certain social values at the expense of others.

PHIL 302 ETHICS AND VALUE THEORY (4)

An overview of the philosophical analysis of ethics, morality and values. Issues to be discussed include: What is the difference between right and wrong actions? Are moral principles universal or relative? Are values real or imagined? How can moral judgments be justified? This course may be taught online only during winter and summer intersession. Satisfies GE C2

PHIL 303 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (3)

A philosophical examination of the Western tradition of social and political thought. The course will discuss topics such as justice and the ideal society, the question of justified revolution, the role of private property, freedom, individual rights and social welfare, different forms of government, and the role of values in political deliberation.

PHIL 306 CONTEMPORARY TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY (3)

This course introduces students to themes, thinkers, and debates within contemporary philosophy. While the specific emphasis may vary, the course engages with the open-ended problems and concerns that currently animate philosophical research. Students will be encouraged to think self-reflexively about the nature of philosophical thinking and the ways in which philosophy participates in public debates today. Topics may include globalization and financial crisis, democracy and violence, post-colonialism, neo-liberalism, market critique, religious pluralism, media and pop culture, law, and social movements.

PHIL 307 PHILOSOPHICAL FIGURES (4)

This course provides students with an in-depth study of one or more figures from the philosophical literature. Faculty will select the specific figures in light of their current research interests and projects. The course can range over historical and contemporary texts. Possible topics might include Hegel, Kant, Nietzsche, Aristotle, Heidegger, and Habermas. Per faculty interest, students may study philosophical figures from non-Western traditions, such as Buddhism.

PHIL 309 PHILOSOPHY AND ROBOTICS (4)

Robotics stands to transform every aspect of our society. This class explores the values and ethical norms that are impacted by the development of these technologies as well as the political policies that might need to be developed to mitigate those impacts. The course includes lecture and lab sessions so the student can learn the practice, as well as the theories, behind the creation of robotics technologies. The labs utilize the SSU Maker Space and students will engage in hands on interactions with simple robotics systems. Taught in face-to-face and hybrid modes.

PHIL 312 PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE AND EMOTION (4)

Students examine the nature of love and emotion through a philosophically informed interdisciplinary framework. Philosophy provides the means for integrating recent empirical theories of love from psychology, biology and neuroscience. Students read historical and contemporary philosophical writings and selections from work in evolutionary biology, the neurological structure of emotion, attachment theory, positive and developmental psychology and social psychology. Students integrate these diverse theoretical approaches using the tools of philosophy. There are no pre-requisites. This course may be taught online only during winter and summer intersession.

PHIL 370 ADVANCED LOGIC (3)

This course is designed for students who have taken an introductory course in logic. The goal of this course is twofold. First, to consider some more complex logical languages and systems, and second, to consider some of the more properly philosophical issues raised by discussion of those systems. Possible topics of discussion include modality and modal propositional languages; probability calculus and its application to problems of induction and confirmation; decision theory, and some of the paradoxes of rationality that it seems to give rise to; and game theory, and its relation to economic and moral reasoning.

PHIL 375 DRUGS, PROSTITUTION, PUNISHMENT AND MORE: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW (4)

This course will expose students to classical and contemporary issues in Philosophy of Law. Topics may include the following: When can the government use the law to infringe on our liberty? Is it legitimate for the law to force us to act in our own best interests, say by prohibiting drugs or prostitution? When can the law interfere with freedom of expression? In particular, can it prohibit offensive speech, such as racist or sexist speech, or pornography? Should we abolish punishment, so that criminal offenders are never punished for their crimes? This course will also address classical analytic jurisprudence.

PHIL 377 LEGAL REASONING AND THE LSAT (4)

This course will expose students to legal reasoning in order to prepare them for the LSAT. It builds skills in the kind of Analytical Reasoning and Logical Reasoning that constitute the core of the LSAT and covers logical concepts, analytical reading, application of legal concepts, oral arguments and reasoning.

PHIL 390 ADVANCED TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Topics courses are intended to cover some particular aspect of a philosophical problem, a particular philosopher, or some philosophical issue not normally explored in detail in any of the standard course offerings. Topics include: philosophy in literature, American philosophy, phenomenology, advanced logic, philosophy of science, Eastern world views, and 20th century philosophy. May be repeated (with a different focus) for credit.

PHIL 399 STUDENT-INSTRUCTED COURSE (1-3)

An introductory or advanced course designed by a senior or graduate student and taught under the supervision of faculty sponsor(s).

PHIL 400 SENIOR SEMINAR (4)

A capstone research-based seminar for students in their senior year. Students determine topics based on their concentration in the major. May not be repeated for credit. Students must complete 32 units of credit, including all their lower division major unit load before taking this course.

PHIL 450 SENIOR THESIS (A) (3)

Writing of a paper deemed acceptable by a faculty director and reader. Superior papers nominated for distinction will be defended before the philosophy faculty. Students wishing to be candidates for graduation "with distinction" are urged to write a thesis. Prerequisite to PHIL 452: PHIL 450. Prerequisites: advanced standing and instructor consent.

PHIL 452 SENIOR THESIS (B) (3)

Writing of a paper deemed acceptable by a faculty director and reader. Superior papers nominated for distinction will be defended before the philosophy faculty. Students wishing to be candidates for graduation "with distinction" are urged to write a thesis. Prerequisite to PHIL 452: PHIL 450. Prerequisites: advanced standing and instructor consent.

PHIL 462 RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Intended to give selected students experience in participating in the construction of a professor's research project. Prerequisites: advanced standing and a faculty invitation. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 470 TEACHING ASSISTANT IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Intended to give students experience in assisting the instructor in a philosophy course by doing research and tutoring students in the class. Prerequisites: advanced standing and consent of the instructor. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 490 CRITICAL THINKING WORKSHOP (1)**PHIL 495 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)**

Advanced individualized instruction and research with one or more members of the philosophy faculty. The course is designed to provide advanced students with an opportunity to do specialized research and study under strict faculty supervision. Prerequisite: consent of the instructor. May be repeated for credit up to 8 units.

PHIL 499 LAW, ETHICS, AND JUSTICE INTERNSHIP (4)

Supervised training and experience in applied philosophy for advanced students in community organizations. Internship contracts are required. Cr/NC only. May be repeated one time for credit. Prerequisite: consent of the instructor.

PHIL 595 SPECIAL STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Advanced research and writing. Students work under close supervision of faculty members. Subject matter variable. May be repeated for credit.