



PHILOSOPHY

Associate Professor Krishna Mallick, Chairperson

Associate Professor: James E. McGregor

Assistant Professor: Kurt Armsden

Faculty Emeriti

Professors: William J. Donlan, Kevin P. Funchion, Edward D. Meagher

Associate Professors: Gerard A. Bedard, Salvatore E. DeSimone

PROGRAM OFFERED

Minor

Philosophy

Program In Philosophy

The Philosophy Department offers a minor in the discipline (see the description below), as well as both introductory and specialized courses as electives for liberal arts students and for students in career-oriented fields like law, nursing, medicine, computers and government, in which the training in philosophy has proved both useful and valued. Students are encouraged to be critical and reflective, to search for self-knowledge, and to question the meaning of life. Proceeding on Aristotle's premises that "all men by nature desire to know," and that "philosophy begins in wonder," the department pursues its goal of stimulating students through both traditional and contemporary readings and through participation in classroom discussions. The study of philosophy helps students to understand the views of other individuals and other cultures.

It is hoped that students will continue their philosophical dialogue beyond the classroom, sharing it with their fellow-students, other teachers, parents and friends. Students are encouraged to act upon their individual philosophic convictions rather than accept any given set of philosophical ideas and values as a matter of convenience.

Philosophy Minor

Minors are required to take the following three courses:

PHL 140	Early Greek Thinkers	3
PHL 150	Medieval Philosophy	3
PHL 160	Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Nietzsche	3

Minors are also required to take one course from the following: Medical Ethics, Social Ethics and

PHL 203	Business Ethics	3
PHL 209	Social Ethics	3
PHL 218	Medical Ethics	3
PHL 224	Environmental Ethics	3
PHL 307	Ethics	3

In addition, minors are required to take two additional courses in Philosophy from the following:

PHL 100	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHL 201	Principles of Logic	3
PHL 303	Philosophy of Religion	3
PHL 304	Existentialism	3
PHL 308	Aesthetics	3
PHL 309	Philosophy and Non-Violence	3
PHL 310N	Philosophy and Religion of the Eastern World	3
PHL 312	Philosophy of Love and Sex	3
PHL 320	Philosophical Perspectives on Women	3
PHL 325	Symbolic Logic	3
PHL 350H	Topics in Ethics	3
PHL 500	Tutorial, Readings and Research in Philosophy	3

Total number of credits required to minor in Philosophy 18





COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHL 100 Introduction to Philosophy 3 credits DI

A study is made of the role of philosophy in its relation to all areas of human knowledge. The student is introduced to some of the general questions, ideas, theories, and methods of inquiry which have given direction to Western thought. Students are encouraged to clarify and examine their own ideas regarding knowledge, reality, and value. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 140 Early Greek Thinkers (Fall) 3 credits DI

Early Greek Thinkers – from Thales, the first man of science to Plotinus, the first man of mysticism. A detailed examination of the major philosophical themes of Classical Greek tradition and their relevance to Modern Thought. Three lecture hours per week. Required of Philosophy minors.

PHL 150 Medieval Philosophy 3 credits DI

Medieval Philosophy is a study of the thought of the most influential philosophers dating from the time of St. Augustine to the end of the thirteenth century. It includes writers from the Christian, Jewish and Islamic traditions, and focuses on themes such as Philosophy and Theology, Faith and Reason, and Logic and Metaphysics. Required for Philosophy minors. Three lecture hours per week. Prerequisites PHL 100 or permission of Department Chairperson.

PHL 160 Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Nietzsche (Spring) 3 credits DI

The purpose of this course is to help the student understand what modern philosophers have thought about major philosophical problems concerning the nature of reality, truth, and value. An attempt is made to describe accurately and explain systematically what each of these philosophers has written about perennial philosophical concerns. Three lecture hours per week. Required of Philosophy minors.

PHL 201 Principles of Logic 3 credits DI

Logic is the study of the science of right reasoning; it is specifically concerned with separating good (valid) arguments from bad (invalid) arguments. Topics to be discussed include the various uses of language, informal fallacies, definitions, categorical propositions, syllogisms, Venn diagrams and induction. Three lecture hours per week. Required for B.S. Political Science majors and all B.S. Sociology majors except those with the Human Behavior in Organizations option. Highly recommended for all students planning to write the GRE, the LSAT or the GMAT.

PHL 203 Business Ethics 3 credits DI

This course introduces the student to fundamental theories of justice – commutative, distributive, and social – based on the teleological and deontological moral theories in the Western philosophic tradition. Applications of these theories are made to cases concerning administrative law, product liability, affirmative action, acid rain, hazardous waste and others. Three lecture hours per week. Required of Business Administration majors, and of Sociology majors with a Human Behavior in Organizations option.

PHL 209 Social Ethics 3 credits DI

An inquiry into the major theories in Moral Philosophy, with special application to social problems. Issues to be discussed will include some of the following: abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, sexual equality, discrimination and reverse discrimination, pornography and censorship, violence, economic injustice, and environmental and population control. Required of Social Work majors, but also open to other students. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 218 Medical Ethics 3 credits DI

An examination of the moral dimensions of decision making in health related situations. Special attention will be focused on the implications for human life and values occasioned by recent advances in biological and medical technologies. Some of the main topics of consideration will be the following: euthanasia, reproductive technologies, behavior control, health-care delivery systems, human experimentation, pollution, and genetic engineering. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 224 Environmental Ethics 3 credits DI

This course will incorporate a survey of the philosophical issues and

methodological assumptions employed in the developing field of environmental ethics with a study of the ethical issues raised by the current environmental movement. Some of the issues to be discussed will be the moral status of animals and our natural environment, pollution, population, hunger, energy, our obligation to future generations and the just distribution of scarce resources.

PHL 300 African Philosophy (Fall) 3 credits DI

This course will examine and analyze the traditional philosophical concepts and cultures of Africa through selective readings and discussion. It will also consider the African concept of time in religion and philosophy and examine the ideas of contemporary African thinkers. Three lecture hours per week. Recommended for African-American Studies minors. No prerequisites, although PHL 100, SOC 303, or PHL 302 are desirable.

PHL 302 Philosophy of the Black Experience (Spring) 3 credits DI

A philosophical and anthropological exploration of the black experience through reading and discussion of selected literature. Recommended for African-American Studies minors. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 303 Philosophy of Religion (Spring) 3 credits DI

A critical study of the relationship between faith and knowledge. Special emphasis will be placed on the following themes: the existence and nature of God, the problem of evil, immortality, religion and science, naturalistic explanations of religion, religious language, and religious experience. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 304 Existentialism (Spring) 3 credits DI

An analysis and discussion of the "human condition," with special emphasis on the philosophic literature of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre and Buber. Three lecture hours per week. Recommended for English and Psychology majors. Prerequisite: PHL 100 or PHL 201 or permission of the Department Chairperson.

PHL 305 Social and Political Philosophy (Fall) 3 credits DI

A study of the evolution of social and political theory; the analysis of rights and political obligation; the conflict of contemporary social thought. Readings will include Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, and Arendt. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 306 The Age of Marxism(Spring) 3 credits DI

Examination of the leading representatives of dialectical materialism with particular emphasis on Marx, Engels, Lenin and Mao Tse Tung. Three lecture hours per week. Recommended for History and Political Science majors.

PHL 307 Ethics (Spring) 3 credits DI

A critical analysis of the different types of ethical theories through a reading and discussion of selected classical and contemporary works. Special emphasis will be placed on the ontological status of moral values and the problems of freedom and responsibility. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 308 Aesthetics (Fall) 3 credits DI

A critical analysis of fundamental problems relating to art, beauty, the creative process and the aesthetic response through reading and discussion of selected literature in this area. Three lecture hours per week. Recommended for Art and English majors and minors.

PHL 309 Philosophy and Non-Violence (Fall) 3 credits

An introduction to the lives and thoughts of major practitioners of non-violence. An analysis and critical examination will be made of the views of people such as Henry David Thoreau, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Martin Luther King and others. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 310N Philosophy and Religion of the Eastern World 3 credits DI

A study of the classical literature of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto. Traditional problems of the nature of human beings, such as reincarnation and the problem of evil, will be discussed in the context of the social/cultural matrix of the East. The objective of this course is to help students acquire a better understanding of the philosophy of the Eastern world and to



determine how Eastern philosophy may complement that of the West. Three lecture hours per week. Not open to students who have received credit for PHL 310.

PHL 312 Philosophy of Love and Sex **3 credits DI**

A philosophical exploration of the issues of human sexuality and love—physical, emotional and spiritual (“Eros”, “Philia”, “Agape”), through a reading and discussion of selected literature. Conceptual, moral, social and political questions about human sexuality and love will be analyzed, clarified and evaluated. The whole range of human sexual experience and love will be considered, i.e., auto-erotic sexuality, heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, marriage, friendship and pornography.

PHL 320 Philosophical Perspectives

on Women

3credits DI

An introduction and critical examination of the contemporary feminist theories, liberal feminism, radical feminism, socialist feminism, postmodernist feminism and others. It will include applications of feminist theories to women’s sexual experience, work experience, pornography and other experiences. Discussions will focus on how women relate to themselves, to others and to social and political institutions and if contemporary feminist theorists address the voice of Black, Hispanic and non-western women. The objective of the course is to give students an overview of current western and non-western feminist thought.

PHL 325 Symbolic Logic **3 credits**

An introduction to truth functional logic and quantification theory employing both semantical methods (e.g., the truth tables) and natural deduction. The relationship between truth functions, Boolean Algebra and electrical circuits will be explored as will the relationship between the predicate calculus and elementary set theory. The use of the symbolism to assess arguments in ordinary language will also be discussed. Three lecture hours per week. Required of Computer and Information Studies majors. Recommended for students planning to write the GRE, the LSAT or the GMAT.

PHL 350H Topics in Ethics (Fall)

3 credits DI

An examination of some of the most widely read and influential works in the history of moral philosophy, such as Aristotle’s Nichomachean Ethics, Immanuel Kant’s Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysic of Morals, and John Stuart Mill’s Utilitarianism, with applications to some of the following contemporary moral issues: euthanasia, suicide, war, sex, discrimination, affirmative action, and ethical problems in business and medicine. Three lecture hours per week.

PHL 500 Tutorial, Readings and Research in Philosophy

3 credits

This course is designed to allow the individual to pursue interests in philosophy beyond the limits of the regular course offerings under the direction of an instructor of choice. Through selection of an individual topic or field, the student will be encouraged to enlarge his or her vision and to participate in a philosophic dialogue. Meetings by arrangement.

Prerequisites: A minimum of two courses in Philosophy and permission of the Department Chairperson.