

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The study of philosophy offers students an opportunity to investigate, in the broadest systematic way, fundamental questions about reality, truth and value. Further, the discipline of philosophy promotes serious and sustained reflection upon the formation and application of ideas. The study of philosophy consequently offers immediate, practical use in addition to its well-known life-long value. The philosophic skills of thinking clearly, organizing coherently and analyzing insightfully will help students in all disciplines meet their goals.

Philosophy courses are designed to meet the needs of three classes of students: a) those wishing to approach liberal education through philosophy; b) those desiring an intensive study of philosophy preparatory to graduate study in some other field, e.g., law, theology or education; and c) those seeking preparation for a career as teacher or writer in philosophy.

### **MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY (36 credits)**

#### REQUIRED:

##### *Foundational Courses* (6 credits):

101 Introduction to Philosophy **or**  
111 Human Nature  
112 Logic

##### *Thematic Courses* (6 credits):

421 Metaphysics  
422 Ethics

##### *Historical Courses* (12 credits):

221 Ancient Philosophy      231 Modern Philosophy  
222 Medieval Philosophy      232 Contemporary Thought

ELECTIVES: Any 12 credits in Philosophy.

### **MAJOR IN RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY (36 credits):**

#### REQUIRED: 8 Courses (24 credits)

PHL 101 Introduction to Philosophy **or**      REL 112 Christian Scriptures  
PHL 111 Human Nature      REL 201 Moral Theology  
PHL 121 Phil of Religion      PHL 421 Metaphysics

Choose one course from each area:

##### *Dogma*

REL 231 Ecclesiology & Ecumenism  
REL 232 Christianity in History  
REL 234 Christology

##### *Worship/Sacraments*

REL 331 Sacraments:Encounter w/God  
REL 332 Worship, Belief & Praxis  
REL 333 Theology & Prac of Ministry

##### *History of Philosophy*

PHL 221 Ancient Philosophy      PHL 231 Modern Philosophy  
PHL 222 Medieval Philosophy      PHL 232 Contemporary Thought

ELECTIVES: Any 12 credits from Philosophy or Religion.

### **MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY (18 credits)**

REQUIRED: 2 courses (6 credits)

101 Introduction to Philosophy **or**

111 Human Nature

421 Metaphysics

ELECTIVES: Any 12 credits in Philosophy.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **101. Introduction to Philosophy**

**3 credits**

This course provides a general introduction to the method, history, and topics that comprise the discipline of Philosophy. The course introduces students to topics that include philosophical method (logic), ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion. Students will develop their skills for reading philosophical texts critically and will learn to reflect on many of the most fundamental questions about themselves as humans, their relationships to others, and to God.

### **111. Philosophy of Human Nature**

**3 credits**

A study of the nature of being human and the meaning of human existence. The course asks why and how people philosophize. Philosophers' answers to these questions will be presented and discussed.

### **112. Introductory Logic (POL 112)**

**3 credits**

This course investigates the forms of valid reasoning in the classical as well as in the modern symbolic systems of logic. The classical logic of the syllogism is covered via the Venn diagram method. Symbolic logic involves the propositional calculus, the logic of predicates and classes, and formal proofs of validity-invalidity. The treatment of induction emphasizes scientific method and the logical concept of probability. The aim of the course is both theoretical and practical; it aims at developing the student's ability to think clearly and rigorously and to understand the rules for such thinking.

### **121. Philosophy of Religion (REL 121)**

**3 credits**

This is the departmental introduction to the philosophical study of religion. Emphasis is placed on the reasoned reflection on human experience of the divine. Students will learn to reflect in a systematic way about the nature of God, as well as several related religious issues.

### **142. Christian Bioethics (REL 142)**

**3 credits**

This course examines significant issues in contemporary biomedical ethics. Students learn the major theological/philosophical principles employed by bioethicists and application of these principles to important cases. Students discuss current issues in contemporary health care within the context of the Christian perspective of respect for the dignity of human persons. The central question of the course is whether certain actions and practices affecting human life and health are consistent with an understanding of human beings as created in the *image and likeness of God*.

### **221. Ancient Philosophy (POL 221)**

**3 credits**

A study of the philosophic thought and work of Plato and Aristotle as well as the thought and work of their predecessors. Selected Platonic dialogues and selections from the major works of Plato's best student, Aristotle, will be the focal point of examinations and discussion.

### **222. Medieval Philosophy**

**3 credits**

This course is a study of the development of philosophy in a period when Greek thought merged with Christian faith. The works of several major thinkers of the period, such as Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Duns Scotus, will be examined, as well as the writings of many less influential, but still important, philosophers of the time. Special emphasis will be placed on the contemporary relevance (both secular and religious) of this rich period of philosophy.

**231. Modern Philosophy** **3 credits**

This course covers the period from roughly 1600 to 1900, a time when the distinction between philosophy and the specialized disciplines arose. Special attention will be given to the works of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, Berkeley, and Kant, among others. This class provides a solid introduction to epistemology and metaphysics, as well as background for PHL 232.

**232. Contemporary Thought** **3 credits**

A survey of the principle currents of thought in the western world since 1900. The course will examine existentialism and the other, major philosophical schools of thought (Marxism, Pragmatism, Positivism, and Linguistic Analysis). Correlations between philosophic thought and the politics, scientific theories, art, and literature of the times will be studied. Especially recommended to English and history majors.

**341. The Classics of Political Thought (POL 341)** **3 credits**

This course is a survey of seminal works in Political philosophy. Students examine and evaluate the political thought of thinkers such as Cicero, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Marx and Nietzsche.

**342. Contemporary Political Philosophy (POL 342)** **3 credits**

This course is a survey of contemporary political thought. Students examine and evaluate selected works from contemporary political philosophers such as John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Thomas Nagel, Michel Foucault, Martha Nussbaum and others.

**348. Epistemology: Problems of Knowing** **3 credits**

A study of how to judge a human being's claim to know the truth. In general, what can be claimed about the nature and the scope of human knowledge? In particular, what is the truth value of each of the various sorts of human knowledge—e.g., as expressed in moral and aesthetic claims? This course attempts a radical synthesis of the methods of knowing implicit in the Core Program.

**355. Independent Study** **1-3 credits**

**358-359. Great Thinkers** **6 credits**

An advanced study of enduring philosophic interest. The course's content is determined by the interests of the members of the department, the general faculty, and the students. Specifics are announced as the course is scheduled.

**421. Metaphysics** **3 credits**

A search for the ultimate explanation of being human in the world in which we live; an inquiry into the changing, acting and existing that we experience in ourselves and in the world. Special emphasis is placed upon the relevance of metaphysical conclusions to human living.

**422. Ethics: Problems of Acting** **3 credits**

An inquiry into the nature, the problems, the methods of ethics and theories of the good. Special attention is given to aiding students to clarify for themselves their own lived values.

**433. Phenomenology & Behavioral Science (PSY 433)**

**3 credits**

An introduction to the basics of phenomenology, with special emphasis on the model of being human, the theory of knowledge and the understanding of science as elaborated by Edmund Husserl and his disciples. The revolutionary developments which phenomenology has brought about in psychology and sociology are also studied.

**Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 111 or PSY 110.**

**434. Philosophy of Law (POL 434)**

**3 credits**

An analysis and evaluation of the principle theories on the nature and the purpose of law currently taught in the great law schools of the United States: natural law, legal positivism, and legal realism or sociological jurisprudence. Through critical discussion of these theories and some of their practical and contemporary consequences, students are encouraged to formulate their own philosophy of law. Especially recommended to pre-law and political science students.

**458-459. Great Issues in Philosophy**

**6 credits**

An advanced study of themes of enduring philosophic interest. The course's content is determined by the interests of the members of the department, the general faculty, and the students. Specifics are announced as the course is scheduled.