UIC PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

FALL 2022 COURSE BROCHURE

All classes are in-person unless otherwise specified

UIC LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Philosophy

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy
A survey of traditional problems concerning the existence and nature of God, freedom, justification, morality, etc. Readings from historical or contemporary philosophers. (Gen. Ed.: *Individual and Society*)
Professor Georgette Sinkler | MW 12-12:50 PM
Discussion Sections: F 12-12:50PM or 2-2:50PM

PHIL 101: Critical Thinking (Async Section Available)
Critical thinking will enable you to better understand, evaluate, and defend the beliefs that make up your worldview, as well as the competing beliefs offered by others. We will learn how to analyze, evaluate and criticize arguments. We will then apply these skills to various forms of reasoning offered in academic and non-academic contexts. These are the skills you need to do well in college and to ace tests like the MCAT and the GRE. (Gen. Ed.: *Individual and Society*)
Professor John Whipple | MW 11-11:50 AM
Discussion sections: F 10-10:50 AM or 11-11:50 AM

Online Asynchronous section: Professor TBD; please note, there will be synchronous discussion sections (set around student preferences)

PHIL 102: Introductory Logic (Async Section Available)
Information is all around you. It is stored in books, on computers, in the rings of a tree, in your brain. Logic is the study of the most basic property of information: that you can put pieces of information together to make a new piece of information. This process is called inference and it is at the heart of what it means to be a thinker. In logic, we study inference by establishing precise rules for what makes a good inference. In this course you will learn principles of inference that will be useful to you in any activity that requires thought. You will improve your ability to make and evaluate arguments, and you will gain a greater appreciation for precision in language. (Gen. Ed.: *Natural World - No Lab*; also fulfills LAS Quantitative Reasoning requirement.)
Professor Aidan Gray | MW 12-12:50 PM
Discussion sections: F 9-9:50 AM, 10-10:50 AM, 11-11:50 AM, or 12-12:50PM

Online Asynchronous section: Professor TBD; please note, there will be synchronous discussion sections (set around student preferences)

PHIL 103: Introduction to Ethics
Can people be excused for having immoral beliefs because they were "products of their time"? Do victims have a duty to resist their own oppression? Who is responsible for structural injustice? In this course we will explore questions about agency and responsibility in the context of a social world that is shaped by systematic injustice. (Gen. Ed.: *Individual and Society*)
Professor Annette Martín | TR 11-11:50 AM
Discussion sections: F 1-1:50 PM or 2-2:50 PM

PHIL 110: Philosophy of Love and Sex
What is it to love someone as a lover rather than a parent, sibling, or friend? What is the nature of sexual desire; how does it relate to love, to sexual activity and sexual pleasure? Among the topics discussed are sexual intercourse, transgender identity, homosexuality, prostitution, pornography, incest, and rape. (Gen. Ed.: *Individual and Society*)
Professor TBA | MW 9-9:50 AM
Discussion section: F 9-9:50 AM

PHIL 115: Death
There are few certainties in life, but one of them is that it ends. You, and everyone you have ever met, will one day die. What does this mean for us? In this course, we take a philosophical approach to death. We ask questions like: Is immortality possible? Would immortality be desirable? How should I feel about my own death? How should I feel about the death of other people? How should the knowledge that I will die affect how I live? (Gen. Ed.: *Individual and Society*)
Professor Daniel Sutherland | MW 10-10:50
Discussion sections: F 9, 10, 11, or 12

PHIL 116: Biomedical Ethics
Moral issues as they arise in medical contexts, including such topics as abortion, euthanasia, paternalism, allocation of medical resources, and psychiatric issues.
Professor TBD | TR 8-9:15 AM

PHIL 201: Theory of Knowledge
We will examine classical as well as contemporary discussions of what it is to know. What do we know? What counts as good evidence, or good reasons, for a claim to know something? Can we know anything? Can we know our selves? Can we know whether there is a God, or any of the other things central to religious belief? What are the proper or best foundations for knowledge? Readings from Descartes, Hume, Kant, Wittgenstein, as well as philosophers of more recent vintage.
Professor Samuel Fleischacker | TR 11-11:50 AM
Discussion sections: F 9-9:50 AM or 10-10:50 AM

PHIL 202: Philosophy of Psychology

Almost everyone will agree that we have minds and we have bodies. What's less clear is exactly how our minds and bodies are related. Is there really just one thing with two ways of describing it? Or are there two very different things that may or may not interact with each other? In the first part of the course we will look at a range of answers to questions concerning the relation between mind and body and consider their strengths and weaknesses. One important activity involving both mind and body is the use of the senses to find out about the world around us. In the second part of the course we will be focused on questions concerning the individual senses from both a scientific and a philosophical perspective.

Professor David Hilbert | MW 9-9:50 AM
Discussion Sections: F 8-8:50 AM or 9-9:50 AM

PHIL 203: Metaphysics

Metaphysics is the study of the most fundamental questions about the way things are. We will investigate issues of possibility, necessity, essence, and possible worlds. We ask questions like: Is it possible for a mathematical truth to be false? Could I have been a penguin? What are the essential properties of ordinary individuals such as people, cats, trees, and tables? Prerequisite: One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.

Professor TBD | MW 3-4:15 PM

PHIL 204: Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

Science is our best source of knowledge of the world and how it works, but what is the nature of that knowledge and its reliability? We will address questions like: What is science? What is the scientific method? How reliable is the knowledge granted by science? How do fallible, sometimes irrational scientists generate reliable knowledge? Prerequisite: One non-logic course in philosophy; or junior/senior standing in the physical/biological/social sciences; or consent of the instructor.

Professor TBA | TR 2-3:15 PM

PHIL 206: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language

Philosophical issues concerning meaning, the relationship between language and thought, how language is to be distinguished from other forms of communication, and how truth relates to meaning. Recommended background: One non-logic course in philosophy.

Professor TBA | TR 11-12:15 PM

PHIL 210: Symbolic Logic

The focus of this course will be truth-functional and first-order logic. We will begin by reviewing truth-functional logic, treating it in a somewhat more abstract and rigorous way than in PHIL 102. We will then consider various systems that arise from changing the principles of truth-functional logic, in particular by denying the principle of non-contradiction and the law of excluded middle. These non-classical logics are both interesting philosophically and shed new light on the nature and structure of truth-functional logic. We will end by introducing quantifiers and their use to symbolize English sentences. We will set up a natural deduction system for first-order logic. Prerequisite: PHIL 102 or consent of instructor. (Gen. Ed.: *Natural World - No Lab*)

Professor Justin Vlasits | TR 12:30-1:45 PM

PHIL 223: History of Modern Philosophy

Introduction to Descartes and some of his successors in the early modern period. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.

Professor John Whipple | MW 9:30-10:45 AM

PHIL 225: The Philosophy of Karl Marx

Survey of Marx's theoretical (rather than political and historical) works. We will examine Marx's analysis and critique of capitalism, paying special attention to his accounts of the forms that human agency and social relations take in capitalist society, and of what they could be in a socialist society. Topics include: value, labour, alienation, exploitation, and the relationship between freedom and equality. Prerequisite: One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.

Professor Will Small | TR 11-12:15 PM

PHIL 300: Fundamentals of Philosophical Discourse

An intensive course for philosophy majors or minors aimed at introducing and developing skill in philosophical writing and oral presentation. Prerequisites: Major or minor in philosophy; at least one non-logic 200-level philosophy course; or approval of the instructor.

Professor Georgette Sinkler | MW 9:30-10:45 AM

Questions? Need advice about courses?

Contact:
✦ Your favorite instructor
✦ Director of Undergraduate Studies
Professor Will Small
wsmall@uic.edu
✦ Departmental Advisor Albert Hernandez
ahern093@uic.edu

PHIL 402: Philosophy of Mind

What is the nature of perceptual experience and how does it relate us to the world? We ordinarily think that we directly perceive the objects in our environment. Many have thought, however, that illusions and hallucinations raise serious problems for our ordinary understanding. Philosophers have developed a variety of theories of perceptual experience to address these problems. We will read literature from classic work by Elizabeth Anscombe to recent work by Susanna Siegel, and consider accounts of the nature of experience and perception up to the present day, including the Sense-Datum, Adverbial, Intentionalist, and Naïve Realist theories. We may also explore related issues, e.g. the nature of color, or the extent to which concepts play a role in perception.

Professor Daniel Sutherland | T 3:30-6 PM

PHIL 403: Metaphysics

We will address a cluster of interrelated questions in metaphysics, focusing on two topics: (1) *The metaphysics of personal identity*. What makes you the same person you were 20 years ago? Are you the same person you were 20 years ago? Do people really persist over time or is the sense that they do an illusion? (2) *The metaphysics of memory*. Memory has usually been addressed by philosophers within other debates about, e.g., knowledge, the nature of consciousness, or personal identity. Recently, in part because of important developments in the scientific study of memory, the philosophy of memory has become an important area in its own right, focusing mostly on questions about what makes something a memory and how memory connects us to the past. We will look at fast developing debates in this area and consider how the two topics interact.

Professor Marya Schechtman | T 3:30-6 PM

PHIL 424: Kant

Kant's *Critique of the Power of Judgment* is a remarkable book, comprising an addition to Kant's earlier views of knowledge, a theory of beauty, a theory of "natural purposes," a theory of the worth of human life, and (in the light of all this) a theory of religion. We will work through the text slowly, using some secondary sources, and ask ourselves how much of it remains of value to our thinking about art, science, and religion today.

Professor Samuel Fleischacker | R 3:30-6 PM

PHIL 433: Topics in Social/Political Philosophy

Can hip hop be a form of protest? Should we speak up about injustice even if it won't cause change? Is there any role for philosophy in changing the social world? We will consider these and other questions as we undertake a philosophical analysis of oppression, resistance, and social change.

Professor Annette Martín | TR 2-3:15 PM