PHILOSOPHY

SPRING 2023

100-LEVEL: THE BIG ISSUES

PHIL 100

Introduction to Philosophy
This course will provide a general introduction to some of the central problems in philosophy. For example, what do we know, and how do we know it? Does a supremely perfect being exist? Do we have free will? What is the nature of morality? Readings will be from classic and contemporary sources.
Gen.Ed.: Individual & Society
Prof. Georgette Sinkler | MW 12–12:50 PM
• Discussion sections: F 11–11:50 AM or 12–12:50 PM

PHIL 101

Critical and Analytical Reasoning
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 & non-academic contexts. These are the skills you need to do well in college and to ace tests like the MCAT & GRE.
Gen.Ed.: Individual & Society
In-person: Prof. John Whipple | MW 11–11:50 AM
• Discussion sections: F 11–11:50 AM or 12–12:50 PM
Online: Prof. TBD | Lecture ASYNC
• Discussion section: SYNCH [times arranged Week 1]

PHIL 102

Introductory Logic
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 fulfils LAS Quantitative Reasoning requirement
Prof. Justin Vlasits
In-person: MW 10–10:50 AM
• Discussion sects: F 10–10:50, 11–11:50, 12–12:50 or 1–1:50
Online: Lecture ASYNC
• Discussion sects: T 10–10:50, 11–11:50, 4–4:50;
W 4–4:50; R 1–1:50; or F 1–1:50

PHIL 103

Introduction to Ethics
Surveys attempts to answer central questions of ethics: What acts are right? What things are good? How do we know this?
Gen.Ed.: Individual & Society
Prof. TBD | MWF 11–11:50 AM

PHIL 107

What is Art?
Introduction to the fundamental problems in understanding art; the historical background; the concept of the aesthetic; theories of art; intentionalistic criticism; metaphor; symbolism; expression; theories of evaluation.
Gen.Ed.: Creative Arts
Prof. TBD | MWF 2–2:50 PM

PHIL 108

What is Freedom?
What is freedom, and why do we value it? Do we have free will? What limitations on individual freedom by society are legitimate? What is a free society?
Gen.Ed.: Individual & Society
Prof. Sam Fleischacker | MW 12–12:50 PM
• Discussion sections: F 12–12:50 PM or 1–1:50 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 & Society
Prof. Maria Mejia | MW 2–2:50 PM
• Discussion sections: F 1–1:50 PM or 2–2:50 PM

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 & Society
Online: Prof. TBD | Lecture ASYNC
• Discussion sections SYNCH [times arranged Week 1]

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.
Prof. TBD | TR 8–9:15 AM

200-LEVEL: EXPAND YOUR RANGE

PHIL 201

Theory of Knowledge
Basic issues concerning knowledge, such as knowledge of the external world, other minds, scientific laws, and necessary truths.
Prof. TBD | TR 2–3:15 PM

PHIL 202

Philosophy of Psychology
Philosophy and psychology both ask questions about the nature and function of the mind. Increasingly, these two forms of inquiry have interacted and informed each other in fruitful ways. We will study some of the ways in which philosophical and scientific study of the mind constrain and support one another in our attempts to understand mind and behavior. Topics will include consciousness, rationality, moral motivation, mind-body interactions, and the history of brain science.
Prof. Marya Schechtman | MW 9–9:50 AM
• Discussion sections: F 8–8:50 AM or 9–9:50AM

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?
Prof. TBD | TR 3:30–4:45 PM

PHIL 204

Philosophy of Science
It is often claimed that science is our best source of knowledge of the world and how it works. It is also often claimed that science is able to supply that knowledge of the world because it operates in accordance with a unique method. We will examine and evaluate these claims, addressing questions like: What is science? What is the scientific method? How reliable is the knowledge generated by science? How do fallible, sometimes irrational, scientists generate reliable knowledge?
Prof. David Hilbert | MW 1–1:50
• Discussion sections: F 10–10:50 AM, 11–11:50 AM

PHIL 220

Plato and His Predecessors *(History Group 1)*
What is a good life? What is the world like? How does the human world relate to the divine? These fundamental questions occupied the earliest Greek philosophers, from Thales to the Sophists, Socrates, and Plato. Focusing on the themes of law (nomos) and nature (phusis), we won't just learn what these philosophers thought; we will question them, argue with them, and develop our own answers to these timeless questions. We will read the original texts in translation of these early Greek philosophers, as well as ancient historians, tragedians, and even doctors!
Prof. Justin Vlasits | MWF 12–12:50

Questions? Need advice about courses? Contact:
- ✦ Your favorite instructor
- ✦ Director of Undergraduate Studies Prof. Will Small (wsmall@uic.edu)
- ✦ Philosophy Advisor Albert Hernandez (ahern093@uic.edu)

400-LEVEL: DEEP DIVES

PHIL 222 — NEW COURSE!

Philosophy in the Islamic World *(History Group 1)*
In the Islamic Golden Age (800–1400 CE), philosophers such as al-Farabi, Avicenna, al-Ghazali, and Averroes made enormous contributions to every aspect of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and philosophical theology. But philosophy in the Islamic world did not end with Averroes. It continued to flourish in Muslim Eastern countries, in particular Persia and India, with the works of such philosophers as Suhrawardi and Mulla Sadra. In the contemporary era, drawing on their rich tradition, Muslim philosophers such as Muhammad Iqbal, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, and Amina Wadud continue to tackle social, philosophical, and theological issues in the Islamic world. In this course, we will discuss the works of Muslim philosophers from the Golden Age to the present day.
Prof. Hashem Morvarid | MW 4:30–5:45 PM

PHIL 224

Kant and His Predecessors *(History Group 2)*
Kant, one of the most important and influential philosophers in the Western tradition, developed his philosophy in reaction to both the empiricist and rationalist traditions and against the larger background of the scientific revolution. We will place his philosophy in historical context by first looking closely at some of his predecessors.
Prof. Daniel Sutherland | TR 12:30–1:45 PM

PHIL 230 — NEW COURSE!

Philosophy of Race and Racism
What does it mean to call racism "structural"? Is race a harmful fiction, or an important political reality? Does it make sense to say that groups like Latinxs or Muslims are racialized in the US? This course will draw on philosophical arguments about the nature of racism, race, and racial identity to help us better understand and critically engage with our everyday experiences of race.
Prof. Annette Martín | TR 12:30–1:45 PM

PHIL 401

Know-How
Is knowing how to do something (e.g. how to drive stick) simply a matter of knowing facts about it? Or does it require having the ability to do it? What is the relationship between know-how and skill? In what sense is know-how a kind of practical knowledge? And how can we acquire it?
Prof. Will Small | R 3:30–6 PM

PHIL 422

Medieval Philosophy *(History Group 1)*
The course will provide an overview of philosophy as it was practiced during the Middle Ages in the Latin-speaking West. The work of authors such as Augustine, Aquinas, Ockham, and Kilvington will be explored on topics ranging from the nature of change to the compatibility of reason and religion.
Prof. Georgette Sinkler | MW 9:30–10:45 AM

PHIL 432

Utilitarianism and its Critics
The idea that we should always promote the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people has been probably the most popular non-religious moral system in the world, for the past 200 years. We will explore both its advantages and its (many) problems in this class. Readings from Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill, Aldous Huxley, Bernard Williams and John Rawls.
Prof. Sam Fleischacker | T 3:30–6 PM