LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Philosophy

Fall 2025 Courses

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 & Society
Prof. Georgette Sinkler | MW 10AM
Discussion Sections: F 9AM, 10AM

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy— Philosophy and the Environment
Human beings are both a product of and a dominant influence on the physical and biological world we live in. What can we learn about ourselves by understanding our relation to the rest of our world? What implications does this relationship have for how human societies should be organized? Should human beings care about the earth itself and the non-human life on it? We will discuss topics like global warming, human-caused mass extinction, and the role of disease in human biological and cultural evolution.
Gen. Ed.: Individual & Society
Instructor TBD | Online ASYNCH
Discussion Sections: T 4PM, W 4PM, R 7PM

PHIL 101: Critical Thinking
Practical course designed to improve student reasoning skills useful for life, college coursework, and explicitly tested on standardized tests like MCAT, GRE, LSAT. Emphasis is on developing skill at evaluating, formulating and presenting arguments.
Gen. Ed.: Individual & Society
Instructor TBD | Online ASYNCH
Discussion Sections: T 4PM, W 4PM, R 7PM

PHIL 102: Introductory Logic
Logic is the study of the most basic property of information: that you can put two 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 trying to give 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 careful thought. You will also improve your ability to make and evaluate arguments, and you will gain a greater understanding of precision in language.
Gen. Ed.: Natural World (no lab); fulfills University Quantitative Reasoning requirement .
Prof. Aidan Gray | MW 12PM
Discussion Sections: F 11AM, 12PM, 1PM

PHIL 104: Introduction to Political Philosophy
An introductory survey of topics in political philosophy that bear on U.S. society. Readings will usually be drawn from both classical and contemporary sources.
Gen. Ed.: Individual & Society
Instructor TBD | TR 2-3:15PM

PHIL 110: Philosophy of Love and Sex
What does it mean to love someone? Are romantic relationships more valuable than friendships? What is the relationship between sex and romantic love? Is sexual objectification always wrong? This course will examine these and related philosophical questions about love and sex.
Gen. Ed.: Individual & Society
Prof. Annette Martín | MW 1PM
Discussion Sections: F 10AM, 11AM, 12PM, 1PM

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*
Prof. Daniel Sutherland | MW 10AM
Discussion Sections: F 10AM, 11AM, 12PM, 1PM

Instructor TBD | Online ASYNCH
Discussion Sections: T 4PM, W 4PM, R 7PM

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.
Instructor TBD | TR 8-9:15AM

PHIL 201: Theory of Knowledge
Basic issues concerning knowledge, such as knowledge of the external world, other minds, scientific laws, and necessary truths. *Prerequisite: One non-logic course in philosophy; or consent of the instructor.*
Instructor TBD | TR 2-3:15PM

PHIL 202: Philosophy of Psychology
Almost everyone agrees 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 different things that may or may not interact with each other? In this course, we will look at a range of answers to questions about the relation between mind and body. We will then ask whether and how the nature of conscious experience should impact our answers to questions about the relationship between our minds and our bodies.
Prof. David Hilbert | MW 9AM
Discussion Sections F 8AM, 9AM

PHIL 203: Metaphysics
Philosophical issues concerning free will, causation, action, mind and body, identity over time, God, universals and particulars. Emphasis varies from term to term.
Instructor TBD | TR 2-3:15

PHIL 204: Intro to the Philosophy of Science
The nature of scientific observation, explanation, and theories; confirmation of laws and theories; the relation between the physical and social sciences.
Instructor TBD | TR 3:30-4:45PM

PHIL 206: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
We all know that language is not always used simply to tell the truth. But what's the difference between lying, misleading and simply 'bullshitting'? How do these relate to persuasion and propaganda? We'll read texts in the philosophy of language that will help us understand how language functions as a medium of meaning and, more specifically, how it can be used to inform, communicate, implicate, manipulate, silence, subordinate, etc.
Prof. Rachel Goodman | TR 12:30-1:45PM

PHIL 210: Symbolic Logic
The focus of this course will be first-order quantification theory. 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 introduce quantifiers and their use to symbolize English sentences. We will set up a natural deduction system for first-order logic and consider meta-theoretical questions that arise about such a system—in particular, its soundness and completeness.
Prof. Nick Huggett | Online ASYNCH Discussions | R 3:30-4:45 PM (IN PERSON)

PHIL 221: Aristotle and his Successors
A general introduction to Aristotle: his metaphysical, scientific, and ethical views, and his influences on later philosophical thought.
Prof. Georgette Sinkler | MW 9:30-10:45AM

PHIL 232: Sex Roles: Moral and Political Issues
What does it mean to say that gender is "socially constructed"? Can words really be oppressive? In this course we will touch on these and other questions as we review key debates in feminist philosophy, with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of both gender and gendered forms of injustice.
Prof. Annette Martín | TR 2-3:15PM

PHIL 300: Fundamentals of Philosophical Discourse
Writing philosophy papers (and anything else) can be enjoyable if you know what you are doing. This course, designed for philosophy majors, focuses on the activity of writing—presenting ideas clearly—rather than the surface mechanics of grammar and paragraph construction. It is writing intensive, with almost weekly writing assignments. Students will be expected to write a new philosophy paper that explores ideas from work in one of their previous courses, and so this course is best taken AFTER you have already completed a 200-level non-logic philosophy class where you have written a paper that is more than a couple of pages long.
Prof. Anthony Laden | MW 9:30-10:45AM

PHIL 315: Ethics of Computing and Artificial Intelligence
Computing technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) have become a central element of our lives, shaping us and our society in ways both subtle and profound. In this course, students will learn to identify and critically reason through the ethical challenges that arise in the design, development, and deployment of AI and other data-driven technologies. Topics may include large language models, facial recognition technology, predictive policing tools, AI-generated art, deepfakes, autonomous vehicles, dating apps, social media algorithms, autonomous weapons, and emotion recognition technology. Throughout the course, we will examine how the sociotechnical details of a particular case study might inform our thinking about a range of morally salient concepts, including justice, oppression, autonomy, responsibility, and privacy.
Prof. Dasha Pruss | TR 2-3:15

For any questions, please contact:

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PHIL 404: Science and the Laws of Nature
Philosophy of science analyzes the nature of the scientific enterprise: what are the processes of reasoning and the practices that explain its success in producing knowledge of the natural world? Central to this analysis is the concept of a 'law' of nature: doesn't science discover what the laws of nature are? Don't these laws allow us to predict and explain? But what, exactly, are the characteristics of a law? We will address answers that philosophers have given to these questions through study of the laws of a particular science, physics (although no background in physics is presupposed), and their implications for the nature of space and time.
Prof. Nick Huggett | R 3:30-6PM

PHIL 429: Phenomenology and Existentialism
Existentialism and Phenomenology examine lived experience to determine what it reveals about our nature, the material and social world we inhabit, and how to live well. This course uses close readings of texts by major figures in Existentialism and Phenomenology, including Husserl, Beauvoir, Sartre, and Merleau-Ponty, as well as secondary sources to explore these ideas and consider their ongoing influence. *Note: this course is suitable for students whether they have taken PHIL 227 or not.*
Prof. Marya Schechtman | T 3:30-6PM

PHIL 433: Topics in Social/Political Philosophy
Description coming soon!
Prof. Dasha Pruss | TR 11-12:15PM

Prerequisites:

202 & 204: One non-logic course in philosophy; or junior or senior standing in the physical, biological, or social sciences; or consent of the instructor

All other 200-level courses: One non-logic course in philosophy, or consent of the instructor

300: Major or minor in philosophy; at least one non-logic 200- level philosophy course; or consent of the instructor.

400-level courses: One 200-level course in philosophy, or consent of the instructor