UIC LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Philosophy

Spring 2026 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 11AM
Discussion Sections: F 11AM, 12PM

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
Prof. John Whipple | MW 11-11:50AM
Discussion Sections: F 10AM, 11AM

PHIL 102: Introductory Logic
What do designing an electrical circuit, solving a Sudoku puzzle, and writing a computer program have in common? They all use the logic for information encoding and extraction. In this course, we will study the principles of propositional and first order logic to understand the concept of logical consequence and become better reasoners.
Gen. Ed.: Natural World (no lab); fulfills University Quantitative Reasoning requirement .
Prof. Justin Vlasits | MW 12PM
Discussion Sections: F 9AM, 10AM, 11AM

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 | MW 3-4:15PM

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

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 131: Educational Ethics
A case-based class exploring strategies and approaches for thinking well about hard ethical questions that arise in the course of classroom teaching. Topics include: how to balance fair and consistent standards with individual accommodation, how to balance inclusion and equality, should teachers be politically or morally neutral, and what forms of discipline are appropriate and when. Although the focus makes the class particularly suited to those considering a career in education, the skills developed will help facing all sorts of moral dilemmas.
Individual and Society and Understanding US Society General Education credit, as well as the Minor in Education
Prof. Anthony Laden | MW 12-12:50PM
Discussion Section: F12 PM, 1PM

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 11AM-12:15PM

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. Daniel Sutherland| 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 | MW 4:30-5:45PM

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.
Prof. Nick Huggett | TR 11AM-12:15PM

PHIL 215: Philosophy of Computing and Machine Learning
Computing technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) are dominating headlines. In this course, students will learn about the philosophical foundations of computing and AI. The course will primarily explore connections between computing technologies and philosophical theories in epistemology and mind, examining questions such as: Do large language models think or understand language? What do deep learning systems tell us about human cognition? How can we know if computer simulations are reliable? Is opacity an obstacle to learning about the world using AI?
Prof. Dasha Pruss | TR 12:30-1:45PM

PHIL 222: Philosophy in the Islamic World
Philosophers throughout the Islamic world, from the 8th century until today, engaged in sophisticated debates on a wide range of topics, from logic and psychology to metaphysics, theology, and politics, developing novel arguments and theories about scientific method, the human soul, and the creation of the world. In this course we will consider how philosophers in the Islamic world approached these questions as well as engaged in a series of cultural exchanges: the translation of Greek philosophy into Arabic with the help of Syrian Christians, the vibrant intellectual milieu among Jewish and Muslim authors in Islamic Spain, the translation of Arabic philosophy into Latin, and European colonialism.
Prof. Justin Vlasits | MW 9:30-10:45AM

PHIL 230: Utopia and Dystopia
Why has it become so easy to imagine the end of the world? The rise of the far right, unchecked capitalism, and escalating climate crises have made Utopian thinking seem naïve. However, Utopia has played an important role throughout the history of political philosophy. This course will survey that history, investigate how philosophers have imagined alternative forms of social organization in their times, and weigh Utopia's relevance for our own time.
Tobias Garcia Vega | TR 2-3:15PM

PHIL 401: Social Epistemology
This course will explore how we, as inquirers, are embedded in social systems and practices. We will consider how social systems shape how we think, the questions we ask, the evidence we have access to, what we attend to, and what we remain ignorant of. How does power influence these systems, and when is this a problem? What shortcomings do our knowledge practices have, and how might we improve them?
Prof. Annette Martin | TR 12:30—1:45PM

PHIL 410: Introduction to Formal Logic
Review of predicate logic and of introductory set theory. The concept of a formal system. Notions of completeness and soundness.
Prof. Nick Huggett | TR 2-3:15PM

For any questions, please contact:
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Professor Daniel Sutherland (sutherla@uic.edu)
LAS Philosophy Advisor
Albert Hernandez (ahern093@uic.edu)

PHIL 422: Medieval Philosophy
Study of selected philosophers such as Boethius, Avicenna, Aquinas, William Ockham, and selected issues such as the relationship between faith and reason, the nature of reason, the nature of human cognition, the nature of morality.
Prof. Georgette Sinkler | M 1-3:30PM

PHIL 433: Topics in Political Philosophy: Democracy and the Rule of Law
What makes a society democratic? What does it mean for the law to rule, and is that different from having the people rule? Where do rights and equality figure in? How should a democratic society think about non-citizens? These are not only questions about current headlines. Political philosophers have been asking and trying to answer them for a long time. We will read what they have had to say in the hopes of thinking clearly about our current moment.
Prof. Anthony Laden| MW 9:30-10:45AM

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

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