Philosophy Course Catalog | Fall 2026

PHIL 100 **Introduction to Philosophy** **ON CAMPUS**
MW 11AM Discussion Section F 10AM, 11AM G. Sinkler
(General Education: Understanding the Individual and Society)
A survey of traditional problems concerning the existence and nature of God, freedom, justification, morality, etc. Readings from historical or contemporary philosophers.

PHIL 100 **Environmental Philosophy** **ASYNC LEC & SYNC DIS**
Online ASYNC Discussion Section T4PM, W4PM, R7PM TBD
(General Education: Understanding the Individual and Society)
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.

PHIL 101 **Critical and Analytical Reasoning** **ON CAMPUS**
MW 11AM Discussion Section F 11AM, 12PM J. Whipple
(General Education: Understanding the Individual and Society)
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.

PHIL 102 **Introductory Logic** **ON CAMPUS**
MW 11AM Discussion Section F 9AM, 10AM J. Vlasits
(General Education: Natural World – no lab; Fulfills the university's quantitative reasoning requirement)
Information is all around you. It is stored in books, on computers, in your brain, etc. 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. Our goal is to uncover and understand the hidden structure of information. In addition to the intellectual interest that this project has, it also has important practical benefits. In this course you will learn principles of inference that will be useful to you in any activity that requires careful thought. You will improve your ability to make and evaluate arguments, and you will gain a greater understanding of precision in language.

PHIL 104 **Introduction to Political Philosophy** **ON CAMPUS**
TR 2-3:15PM TBD
(General Education: Understanding the Individual and Society or Understanding US Society)
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.

PHIL 110 **Philosophy of Love and Sex** **ON CAMPUS**
MW 12PM Discussion Section F 12PM, 1PM, 2PM A. Martín
(General Education: Understanding the Individual and Society)
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.

PHIL 115 **Death** **ASYNC LEC & SYNC DIS**

Online Async Discussion Section T4PM, W4PM, R7PM TBD

(General Education: Understanding the Individual and Society)

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?

PHIL 116 **Biomedical Ethics** **ON CAMPUS**

TR 8-9:15AM TBD

(General Education: Understanding the Individual and Society or Understanding the Past)

Moral issues as they arise in biomedical research and practice and the use of principles from general ethics to address them. Topics may include euthanasia, paternalism, allocation of medical resources, and healthcare disparities.

PHIL 201 **Theory of Knowledge** **ON CAMPUS**

TR 2-3:15PM TBD

Basic issues concerning knowledge, such as knowledge of the external world, other minds, scientific laws, and necessary truths. Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy; or consent of the instructor.

PHIL 202 **Philosophy of Psychology** **ON CAMPUS**

MW 9AM Discussion Section F 8AM, 9AM M. Schechtman

We all agree that we have minds and we have bodies but the question of just what a "mind" is and how it is related to the body turns out to be quite complicated. In this class we will look at historical and contemporary views about the nature of the mind and its connection to the body. This involves questions like: Is the mind necessarily conscious, or is there an unconscious mind as well? Is the mind distinct from the body? Can it outlive it? Or be uploaded to a computer? Do/could AIs have minds? Is "mind" just another word for "brain"? How does the mind make the body act? Do we have free will? What can neurological and psychological pathologies tell us about the nature of the healthy mind? Using the methods of philosophical analysis, we will explore all of these questions as well as the nature of emotion and the question of whether having a mind requires living in a social world.

PHIL 203 **Metaphysics** **ON CAMPUS**

MW 11AM Discussion Section F 11AM, 12 PM W. Small

Metaphysics is the systematic study of the fundamental nature of reality. This course will introduce students to metaphysics via discussion of selected topics—essence, existence, identity over time, personal identity, time, agency and free will—and texts by philosophers from antiquity through to the present. Pre-requisites: One non-logic course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.

PHIL 204 **Introduction to the Philosophy of Science** **ON CAMPUS**

TR 2-3:15PM TBD

The nature of scientific observation, explanation, and theories; confirmation of laws and theories; the relation between the physical and social sciences. Prerequisite(s): One non-logic course in philosophy; or junior or senior standing in the physical, biological, or social sciences; or consent of the instructor.

PHIL 206 **Introduction to the Philosophy of Language** **ON CAMPUS**

TR 12:30-1:45PM R. Goodman

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.'

PHIL 220 **Ancient Philosophy I: Plato and His Predecessors** **ON CAMPUS**

MW 9:30-10:45AM J. Vlasits

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. In this course, we will do philosophy *with them*, focusing on the themes of law (*nomos*) and nature (*phusis*). We won't just learn what these classical philosophers thought, but also 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!

PHIL 223 **History of Modern Philosophy I: Descartes and His Successors** **ON CAMPUS**
MW 9:30-10:45AM J. Whipple

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.

PHIL 231 **Philosophy of Race and Racism** **ON CAMPUS**
MW 9:30-10:45AM A. Martín

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.

PHIL 300 **Fundamentals of Philosophical Discourse** **ON CAMPUS**
TR 2-3:15PM R. Goodman

An intensive course for philosophy majors or minors aimed at introducing and developing skill in philosophical writing and oral presentation. Course Information: Previously listed as PHIL 400. Prerequisite(s): Major or minor in Philosophy, or major or pre-major in Computer Science and Philosophy; and credit in at least one non-logic 200-level philosophy course or consent of the instructor.

PHIL 315 **Ethics of Computing and Artificial Intelligence** **ON CAMPUS**
TR 3:30-4:45PM TBD

Identification and analysis of ethical challenges specific to computing and artificial intelligence as well as the implications of such technology for important moral concepts such as agency, responsibility, and privacy. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Credit or concurrent enrollment in one 200-level non-logic course in Philosophy; or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Credit in PHIL 215.

PHIL 428 **Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*** **ON CAMPUS**
M 1-3:30PM W. Small

A focused study of the *Nicomachean Ethics*, one of the most important—and still most influential—works in the history of moral philosophy. We will consider Aristotle's views about happiness, virtues and vices, rational agency, pleasure, and friendship in order to understand and evaluate his answer to the question: what is the best life for a human being? Our emphasis will be on engaging directly with the *Nicomachean Ethics* itself, though we may look at selections from other works by Aristotle and some contemporary scholarship. Pre-requisites: One non-logic 200-level course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. No prior knowledge of ancient philosophy is needed.

PHIL 435 **Ethics for Educators** **ON CAMPUS**
T 5-8PM A. Laden

Classroom teachers face tough choices every day, many of which involve moral and ethical dilemmas. In this case-based class designed for practicing and aspiring teachers and educators, we will learn a range of techniques taken from philosophy to think more clearly about what to do in hard ethical situations teachers face. Note that this class is primarily designed for advanced student teachers and returning teachers pursuing an M.Ed. degree, rather than for philosophy majors.

PHIL 441 **Topics in Philosophy of Religion** **ON CAMPUS**
R 3:30-6PM S. Fleischacker

This class will look at the complex influence that the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein has had on the study and practice of religion. Not a believer in any religion himself, Wittgenstein nevertheless showed an unusually high degree of respect for religious believers, given the highly anti-religious academic world in which he moved, and especially disliked the contempt that scientifically-minded philosophers tended to show for religion. What *exactly* he believed about religion is hard to figure out, however, and his followers have taken his enigmatic remarks on religion in many different directions. We'll look here first at Wittgenstein's own remarks on religion, then on the writings of such followers of his, and scholars of his work, as Peter Winch, DZ Phillips, and Gordon Graham.