Philosophy

Paul Weirich, Chair
College of Arts and Science
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http://philosophy.missouri.edu/

The Department of Philosophy offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, including courses on applied ethics, ethical theory, epistemology, logic, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, decision theory, political philosophy, non-Western philosophy, and the history of Western philosophy. The study of philosophy is not only fascinating in its own right but practical too, since it encourages the development of marketable intellectual abilities. These include the abilities to read, think, and write about conceptually complex and abstract material, and to construct and analyze elaborate chains of reasoning. Philosophy majors go on to pursue careers in such fields as law, medicine, business, the non-profit sector, the church, and academia.

The department offers BA, BS, MA, and PhD degrees in philosophy, as well as an undergraduate minor.

Faculty

Professor R. N. Johnson**, A. Melnyk**, P. L. Vallentyne**, P. Weirich**
Associate Professor A. Ariew**, K. Boyce*, M. Folescu*, C. S. Horisk**, P. Robbins**
Assistant Professor M. Heckel*, A. Radulescu*
Associate Professor Emeritus A. von Schönborn*
  • Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.
  ** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

• BA in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/ba-philosophy)
• BS in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/bs-philosophy)
• Minor in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/minor-philosophy)

Double and Dual Majors

A philosophy major can be paired with a major in another department in the College of Arts and Science (double major) or in some other College (dual major). Students must meet the major requirements of both departments. The program for each department must be approved by the advisor for that department.

Departmental Honors

To earn a BA (or BS) with Departmental Honors in philosophy, a student must achieve at least a 3.3 GPA in all courses, and a 3.7 GPA in all philosophy courses; meet all the standard requirements for the regular philosophy BA (or BS); take PHIL 4998 Honors I in Philosophy, and PHIL 4999 Honors II in Philosophy, writing a satisfactory senior thesis normally of 3,000 to 9,000 words under the guidance of a faculty member who has consented to work with the student; and pass an oral examination on the thesis before a committee of three members of the philosophy faculty.

Graduate

• MA in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/ma-philosophy)
• PhD in Philosophy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/phd-philosophy)

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Director of Graduate Studies: Philip Robbins

About the Program

The Department of Philosophy provides excellent training in both research and teaching. The nationally and internationally renowned faculty have expertise in the core areas of philosophy, with particular strengths in epistemology, ethics, philosophy of mind, and political philosophy, and also in various specialties, including philosophy of biology, experimental philosophy, and the foundations of decision and game theory. With 11 full time faculty and around 25 graduate students, we offer a supportive community for pursuit of the MA and the PhD, with a broad range of courses, rigorous training, attentive, high-quality advising, the opportunity to develop a professional network through our series of colloquia and conferences, and help in every aspect of job seeking. We give students the advice and support they need to present their work at regional and national conferences, and to publish in professional journals, before they begin to look for jobs. We also give our students extensive training and experience in teaching, including assistantships with award-winning teachers.

Although we award an MA degree, we only admit students to our PhD program (with the MA obtained in the process).

We receive about 50 applications per year and offer funding to about 10-15% of these. The normal ranges of scores for students we admit are: GRE Verbal 158-170, GRE Quantitative 147-166, and GPA in the major (normally philosophy) 3.9. Our decisions are also based on the quality of the writing sample, letters of reference, and other factors, such as degree of fit with the Department.

Professional Development

Presentation of research at professional meetings and publication by graduate students is strongly encouraged. Prominent philosophers from other institutions visit the Department yearly for talks and symposia.

Twice yearly, the Florence G. Kline endowment sponsors an intensive
workshop at which papers on a special topic are presented by leading figures in philosophy.

**Financial Aid**

Fellowships and teaching assistantships are available to qualified students. Applications for fellowships must meet the Office of Graduate Studies deadlines, usually in January. Applications for teaching assistantships must meet the Department deadline of January 15.

**PHIL 1000: The Big Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy**
Introduction to traditional philosophical problems and methods of philosophical inquiry. Consideration given to different philosophical theories on the nature of reality, human beings, nature and God; knowledge and how it is acquired; values and social issues.

**Credit Hours:** 3
PHIL 1000 - MOTR PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy

**PHIL 1000H: The Big Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy - Honors**
Introduction to traditional philosophical problems and methods of philosophical inquiry. Consideration given to different philosophical theories on the nature of reality, human beings, nature and God; knowledge and how it is acquired; values and social issues.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**PHIL 1100: The Difference Between Right and Wrong: An Introduction to Ethics**
Introduction to different philosophical theories regarding when acts are morally right rather than wrong; when things are good rather than bad; nature of the "good life", nature of ethical reasoning and justification.

**Credit Hours:** 3
PHIL 1100 - MOTR PHIL 102: Introduction to Ethics

**PHIL 1100H: The Difference Between Right and Wrong: An Introduction to Ethics - Honors**
Introduction to different philosophical theories regarding when acts are morally right rather than wrong; when things are good rather than bad; nature of the "good life", nature of ethical reasoning and justification.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**PHIL 1150: Introductory Bioethics**
This course approaches moral problems in biomedical and scientific research from a philosophical perspective. First, we'll familiarize ourselves with ethics and political philosophy. Then we'll study the ethical issues that arise in connection with a series of issues, including research involving human and animal subjects, eugenics, the human genome project, cloning and stem cell research. By thinking about these issues, we learn how to think critically about particular moral quandaries, as well as to uncover and examine some of our deepest moral commitments.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**PHIL 1200: How to Think: Logic and Reasoning for Everyday Life**
Methods of analyzing and evaluating arguments of all types. Uses both informal and formal techniques. Identifies informal fallacies and introduces elementary symbolic logic.

**Credit Hours:** 3
PHIL 1200 - MOTR PHIL 101: Introduction to Logic

**PHIL 1200H: How to Think: Logic and Reasoning for Everyday Life - Honors**
Methods of analyzing and evaluating arguments of all types. Uses both informal and formal techniques. Identifies informal fallacies and introduces elementary symbolic logic.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required

**PHIL 2005: Topics in Philosophy-Humanities**
Organized study of philosophical issues to which no regular course in devoted. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester.

**Credit Hour:** 1-3

**PHIL 2010: The Philosophy of Film**
(same as FILM_S 2010). Philosophical problems having to do with film. Topic may include the nature of films, the differences between fiction and documentary film, ethical issues with film and filmmaking.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**PHIL 2100: Philosophy: East and West**
(same as S_A_ST 2100). Compares the interpretation and role of philosophical concepts such as experience, reason, permanence, change, immortality, soul, God, etc., in Indian, Chinese and European traditions.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**PHIL 2150: Philosophy of Race**
This course surveys developments in the philosophy of race. We will examine the ordinary conception of race and consider criticisms of it. Theorists in the field generally hold the ordinary notion of race in disrepute. The line of inquiry, then becomes ‘what does race denote’ and why”? In response, we will disambiguate race from closely associated concepts such as ethnicity, culture, nation, and class as part of a sustained investigation into the relationship between race and racism. Toward the end of the course, we will more directly reflect on implications of the inequality race seems to track with a focus on mass incarceration and reparations. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Recommended:** PHIL 1000, PHIL 1100, or PHIL 1200

**PHIL 2200: Philosophy and Intellectual Revolution**
Examines such revolutions as the Copernican, Darwinian, Marxist and Freudian. What are the new views? How is our place in the universe affected? What puzzles arise in replacing old by new views?

**Credit Hours:** 3
**Prerequisites:** sophomore standing
PHIL 2300: Philosophy and Human Nature
Philosophical exploration and examination of theories of human nature with reference to relevant developments in such sciences as biology, psychology, and economics.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing

PHIL 2400: Ethics and the Professions
Examination of ethical issues confronted by members of different professions such as medicine, law, business, journalism and engineering.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing

PHIL 2410: Philosophies of War and Peace
(same as PEA_ST 2410). Moral issues about the recourse to war by the nation and the individual's obligations to participate. The nature of peace, social and personal. Special attention to the Vietnam War and the nuclear age.
Credit Hours: 3

PHIL 2410W: Philosophies of War and Peace - Writing Intensive
(same as PEA_ST 2410W). Moral issues about the recourse to war by the nation and the individual's obligations to participate. The nature of peace, social and personal. Special attention to the Vietnam War and the nuclear age.
Credit Hours: 3

PHIL 2420: Ethical Issues in Business
Major theories of moral obligation and justice and their application to business practices. Corporate responsibility, government regulation, investment and production, advertisement, the environment, preferential hiring, etc. through case studies, legal opinions and philosophical analysis.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing

PHIL 2430: Contemporary Moral Issues
Review of the major contemporary ethical theories and their contribution to the resolution of major social issues such as euthanasia, suicide, abortion, capital punishment, violence and war. Emphasis on nature, interests, and rights of persons. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing

PHIL 2440: Medical Ethics
Considers moral issues posed by developments in biological sciences and medical technology. Topics may include: genetic engineering, abortion and euthanasia, distribution of health care.
Credit Hours: 3

PHIL 2500: Philosophy and Gender
(same as WGST 2500). A critical examination of central ideas and themes in feminist philosophical thought. Topics may include: sex, marriage, parenthood, reproduction, body image, pornography, prostitution.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing

PHIL 2500H: Philosophy and Gender - Honors
A critical examination of central ideas and themes in feminist philosophical thought. Topics may include: sex, marriage, parenthood, reproduction, body image, pornography, prostitution.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

PHIL 2600: Rational Decisions
Principles for making decisions in a rational way. Special attention to principles that use probabilities and utilities. Some discussion of decisions made in conjunction with other people, and decisions made for other people. Math Reasoning Proficiency Course.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing

PHIL 2700: Elementary Logic
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing and grade of C or better in MATH 1100 or MATH 1120

PHIL 2820: Minds, Brains, and Machines
(same as PSYCH 2820 and LINGST 2820). Cognitive science is a many-splendored thing. It draws on a variety of disciplines, including psychology, neuroscience, computer science, linguistics, anthropology, and philosophy. The purpose of this course is to introduce the central questions of cognitive science, the conceptual and empirical tools used to investigate those questions, and some of the answers that have emerged so far. After an initial overview of the foundations of the cognitive-scientific enterprise as a whole, we will see what particular sectors of it have to say about mental capacities such as language, categorization, reasoning, social cognition, and consciousness.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: PSYCH 1000

PHIL 2900: Environmental Ethics
Environmental Ethics explores the ethical, ecological, and policy dimensions of a range of issues such as climate change, land and natural resource management, sustainability, animal rights, hunting and fishing, ecofeminism, property rights, and environmental justice. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: PHIL 1100
PHIL 3000: Ancient Western Philosophy
(same as AMS 3025). Philosophical thought on nature, knowledge, the gods, human life and society, from Thales to Augustine. Emphasis on Plato and Aristotle. The relevance of the ancients to contemporary life.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 3200: Modern Philosophy
Surveys critical and speculative thinking of modern period from Descartes to Kant in relation to scientific, religious and social movements.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 3200W: Modern Philosophy - Writing Intensive
Surveys critical and speculative thinking of modern period from Descartes to Kant in relation to scientific, religious and social movements.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 3400: 19th Century Philosophy
A careful and sympathetic study of some of the major thinkers of this period, notably Kierkegaard and Nietzsche.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 3500: Existentialism
The nature of human existence, the meaning of life, the relation of the individual to nature, society, and any gods that may be, according to Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus and others. Students are encouraged to come to grips with the issues in relation to their own lives.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 3600: 20th Century Philosophy
The course will be a survey of some of the notable philosophers/thinkers whose contributions have been made in the twentieth century.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 3700: Selected Modern Philosophers
Advanced study of a particular philosopher or a number of philosophers from the same school in the modern period. May be taken twice for credit with permission of the department.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 3800: Selected Contemporary Philosophers
Advanced study of a particular contemporary philosopher or philosophers. May be taken twice for credit with permission of the department.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 4001: Topics in Philosophy-General
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester.

Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: sophomore standing and two courses in Philosophy, or instructor's consent; departmental consent for repetition

PHIL 4100: Philosophy of Language
(same as LINGST 4100). Examination of contemporary views of the relationship between language, minds, and the world.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing and PHIL 2700
Recommended: one other course in Philosophy

PHIL 4110: Advanced Logic
(same as LINGST 4110; cross-leveled with PHIL 7110). Presents the method of truth trees for sentence and predicate logic. Examines proofs concerning the decidability, soundness, and completeness of formal systems. Emphasizes the theory of formal systems. Math Reasoning Proficiency Course.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing and PHIL 2700
Recommended: one other course in Philosophy

PHIL 4120: Selected Topics in Logic
Elementary set theory. Modal logic, the logic of possibility and necessity.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing and either PHIL 2700 or PHIL 4110

PHIL 4130: Probability and Induction
This course studies probability, its various interpretations, and its basic principles. It identifies forms of reasoning that establish the probability of a conclusion. The methods of reasoning it treats are at the heart of science and practical affairs.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing and PHIL 2700

PHIL 4150: Formal Semantics
(cross-leveled with PHIL 7150). The course provides a systematic introduction to the semantics of natural languages, using the tools of formal logic. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing and one of the following classes: PHIL 2700, PHIL 4110, or ENGLSH 4640.

Credit Hours: 3
PHIL 4200: Metaphysics
Metaphysics studies what there is and how things are, most generally speaking. Topics may include realism versus nominalism, substance and attribute, facts, modality, identity and causality.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: Previous work in PHIL 1000, PHIL 3000 or PHIL 3200

PHIL 4210: Philosophy of Mind
Considers theories and arguments in contemporary philosophy of mind, focusing on the nature of mental states, their relation to brain states and the plausibility of various materialist theories of the mind.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: two Philosophy courses

PHIL 4220: Philosophy of Religion
Considers basis for and nature of religious beliefs.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: One course in Philosophy

PHIL 4300: Epistemology
An examination of contemporary philosophical theories concerning the nature, sources and limits of knowledge and justified belief.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: Previous work in PHIL 1000, PHIL 3000, PHIL 3200

PHIL 4400: Philosophy of Science
Why believe the scientific world-view? What, if anything, is the scientific method? Are today’s theories really superior to past theories? Examines contemporary philosophical answers to such questions.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: two courses in Philosophy

PHIL 4410: Philosophy of History
Readings from classic and contemporary philosophers of history. Problems about nature and limits of historical knowledge; relation between history and other disciplines; the existence, nature, and kinds of historical laws.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: two courses in Philosophy

PHIL 4420: Philosophy of Biology
A survey of philosophical problems arising from consideration of evolutionary theory and the biological sciences. Topics may include reductionism, sociobiology, biological laws, and epistemic problems relating to evolutionary theory.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: two courses in Philosophy

PHIL 4500: Theories of Ethics
Normative and meta-ethical theories. Topics may include the rationality and objectivity of morality, the meaning of moral language, the differences between deontological, utilitarian and virtue theories.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: two courses in Philosophy

PHIL 4600: Political and Social Philosophy
(same as PEA_ST 4600). Contemporary and/or historical theories of justice and the state. Utilitarianism, Liberalism, Libertarianism, Marxism, Communitarianism and Feminism may be among the views covered.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: two courses in Philosophy

PHIL 4610: Philosophy of Law
What is law? Are there pre- or trans-legal rights? Is punishment justifiable? How can judicial decisions be justified? What are the relations between law and morality?

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 4620: Marxism
A philosophical examination of (a) the notion of critique as seen in Marx’s early and middle writings, and (b) specific topics by such authors as Lenin, Lukacs and Plekhanov.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: two courses in Philosophy

PHIL 4700: Aesthetics
Typical components of art; theories of art as representation, form, expression; relation of art to value.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 4700W: Aesthetics-Writing Intensive
Typical components of art; theories of art as representation, form, expression; relation of art to value.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 4800: Asian Philosophy
(same as S_A_ST 4800; cross-leveled with PHIL 7800). This course traces the origins of Indian and Chinese philosophical world views. Included are the major ideas in Hindu, Jaina, and Buddhist thought in India, and Taoism and Confucianism in China. Emphasis is placed on the diverse, assimilative, and pragmatic nature of Indian thought and its impact on contemporary Asian philosophy.
PHIL 4810: Philosophy of India
(same as S.A.ST 4810). General development of Indian philosophy.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: sophomore standing
Recommended: one course in Philosophy

PHIL 4850: Special Readings in Philosophy
Special Readings in Philosophy.

Credit Hours: 1-3
Prerequisites: junior standing

PHIL 4950: Senior Seminar in Philosophy
A capstone course required of and only open to senior Philosophy majors. Course content will vary, depending on the professor teaching the course.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: senior Philosophy major

PHIL 4950W: Senior Seminar in Philosophy - Writing Intensive
A capstone course required of and only open to senior Philosophy majors. Course content will vary, depending on the professor teaching the course.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: senior Philosophy major

PHIL 4998: Honors I in Philosophy
Special work for Honors candidates.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing

PHIL 4999: Honors II in Philosophy
Special work for Honors candidates.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: junior standing

PHIL 7100: Philosophy of Language
(same as LINGST 7100). Examination of contemporary views of the relationship between language, minds, and the world.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHIL 2700 or instructor's consent
Recommended: Some work in PHIL 1000, PHIL 3000 or PHIL 3200

PHIL 7110: Advanced Logic
(same as LINGST 7110; cross-leveled with PHIL 4110, LINGST 4110). Presents the method of truth trees for sentence and predicate logic. Examines proofs concerning the decidability, soundness, and completeness of formal systems. Emphasizes the theory of formal systems.

Credit Hours: 3
### PHIL 7500: Theories of Ethics
Normative and meta-ethical theories. Topics may include the rationality and objectivity of morality, the meaning of moral language, the differences between deontological, utilitarian and virtue theories.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** one course in Philosophy

### PHIL 7600: Political and Social Philosophy
(same as PEA_ST 4600). Contemporary and/or historical theories of justice and the state. Utilitarianism, Liberalism, Libertarianism, Marxism, Communitarianism and Feminism may be among the views covered.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 7610: Philosophy of Law
What is law? Are there pre- or trans-legal rights? Is punishment justifiable? How can judicial decisions be justified? What are the relations between law and morality?

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 7700: Aesthetics
Typical components of art; theories of art as representation, form, expression; relation of art to value.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 7810: Philosophy of India
(same as S_A_ST 4810). General development of Indian philosophy.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 7850: Special Readings in Philosophy
Special Readings in Philosophy.

**Credit Hour:** 1-3

### PHIL 8090: Research in Philosophy
Research not leading to thesis. Graded S/U only.

**Credit Hour:** 1-99

### PHIL 8100: Protoseminar in Philosophy
Introduction to graduate level work in philosophy. Required of all students entering the program, in the first year. An intensive workshop focused on skills rather than any particular philosophical content.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** restricted to first year graduate students

### PHIL 8210: Teaching of Philosophy I
Seminar meetings on course design, teaching methods, the evaluation of teaching, grading, instructor obligations, and teaching aids. Some individualized instruction, including help preparing for and assessing the effectiveness of practice teaching.

**Credit Hour:** 1  
**Prerequisites:** graduate philosophy students

### PHIL 8300: Dissertation Seminar
The course will address writing and time management for Ph.D. students writing a dissertation. Also discussed will be preparation for the academic job market in philosophy, especially the development of an application dossier. Graded on S/U basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 1  
**Prerequisites:** Philosophy Ph.D. student

### PHIL 8510: Metaphysics: A Survey
A graduate-level survey of central issues in metaphysics. May be repeated up to 6 hours of credit.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 8520: Philosophy of Mind: A Survey
A graduate-level survey of central issues in the philosophy of mind.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 8530: Epistemology: A Survey
A graduate-level survey of central issues in epistemology.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 8540: Philosophy of Language: A Survey
A graduate-level survey of central issues in philosophy of language.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 9001: Topics in Philosophy
Organized study of selected topics. Need departmental consent for repetition.

**Credit Hour:** 1-99  
**Prerequisites:** instructor's consent

### PHIL 9030: Topics in Modern Philosophy: 17th-19th Centuries
Interpretation and evaluation of philosophical debates from the 17th to the 19th centuries. These will be addressed in relation to their historical context and current philosophical problems.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### PHIL 9050: Plato
Advanced studies in Plato; emphasis on recent scholarship.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** graduate Philosophy student

### PHIL 9060: Aristotle
Advanced studies in Aristotle; emphasis on recent scholarship.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** graduate Philosophy student

### PHIL 9090: Research in Philosophy
Work toward preparation of thesis or dissertation. Graded on a S/U basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 1-99
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 9110</td>
<td>The Rationalists</td>
<td>Interpretation and evaluation of major works of Descartes, Leibniz, and/or Spinoza in relation to their historical context and current philosophical problems.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>graduate Philosophy students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 9120</td>
<td>The Empiricists</td>
<td>Epistemological and metaphysical doctrines of Locke, Berkeley and Hume.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>graduate Philosophy student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 9130</td>
<td>Kant</td>
<td>Critique of Pure Reason: historical context, meaning and cohesion of its claims, critical assessment of them.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>graduate Philosophy student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 9240</td>
<td>Russell and Wittgenstein</td>
<td>Each initially defends, but then rejects logical atomism. Metaphysical and epistemological themes of such intellectual phases and shifts of one or both philosophers.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>graduate Philosophy student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 9320</td>
<td>Social and Political Philosophy</td>
<td>Topics of current interest in social and political philosophy, generally one of the following: social contract theory, utilitarianism, voting procedures, or convention.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHIL 4600 or instructor's consent and graduate Philosophy student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 9350</td>
<td>History of Eastern Ethics</td>
<td>Historical survey of major eastern ethical theories. Explores broad range of ethical theories developed in Asia: Hindu and Buddhist in India; Taoism and Confucianism in China; and Zen in Japan.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>graduate Philosophy student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 9510</td>
<td>Decision Theory</td>
<td>Principles for making rational decisions, including principles of expected utility theory, game theory, and social choice theory. A survey of basic ideas and an introduction to selected research topics.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHIL 4110; graduate Philosophy student</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 9520</td>
<td>Ethical Theory</td>
<td>Contemporary theories of the right and the good. Metaethical topics such as moral language, reasoning, and justification.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHIL 4110 graduate Philosophy student</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHIL 9901: Seminar in Philosophy
Special topics. May be repeated for credit.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: graduate Philosophy student