Courses

PHIL 001 Introduction to Philosophy 4 Credits
Philosophy is a broad discipline which critically addresses many different branches of human experience. Aesthetics, politics, ethics, religion and even the structure of the world have all represented great sources of philosophical discussion in both eastern and western traditions. Study of historical and contemporary texts will introduce students to this vast philosophical universe and provide the skills necessary to benefit from its further exploration. Course not open to seniors.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 003 (ETH 003, REL 003) Global Religion, Global Ethics 4 Credits
Introduction to philosophical and religious modes of moral thinking, with attention given to ethical issues as they arise cross-culturally and through religious traditions. The course will reference the United Nations Millennium Goals to consider family life and the role of women, social justice, the environment, and ethical ideals. Particular focus varies but may include one or more of the following: abortion and reproductive health, the death penalty, religiously motivated violence, and problems of personal disorder (heavy drinking, anorexia, vengeance).
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 010 (ASIA 010, REL 010) Intro to Buddhism: Love Death and Freedom 4 Credits
This course will introduce students to Buddhist practices, philosophical systems, and cultural forms, from Buddhism’s Indian origins to its spread across Asia and globally. Students will explore how Buddhists have approached the problem of death, the possibility of freedom, and the forms of social and individual love and concern. Course materials include poetry, biographies, philosophical writings, art and film.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 014 Reasoning and Critical Thinking 4 Credits
Most intellectual endeavors involve reasoning. Whether in everyday discussion about right and wrong, friendly political disagreements, or in sophisticated legal debates, national political campaigns, complex treatises, and intricate scientific theories, reasons are constantly invoked to support or criticize points of view. This course develops skills needed to reason well, to analyze and critique others’ reasoning, to distinguish reasoning from mere rhetoric, and to become a savvy consumer of information.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 100 (GS 100, POLS 100) Introduction to Political Thought 4 Credits
A critical examination of political ideologies: Liberalism, Marxism, Fascism, and Islamism.

PHIL 101 Ancient Political Heritage 4 Credits
Important Political thinkers from the pre-Socratics to early, modern political theorists like Machiavelli.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

PHIL 102 Philosophical Thinking 4 Credits
We can think philosophically about almost any topic: mathematics, ethics, ordinary objects, explanations, race, even philosophy itself. But if philosophy has no special subject matter, what exactly is it? Philosophy is a distinctive kind of activity - an activity that involves certain ways of thinking and certain kinds of conceptual tools. This course will familiarize students with the tools philosophers take for granted and with philosophical patterns of reasoning and argumentative strategies that go beyond basic critical thinking.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 105 (ETH 105) Ethics 4 Credits
Examination of right and wrong, good and bad, from classic sources such as Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Mill and Nietzsche.

PHIL 106 (ETH 106, HMS 106, REL 106) Bioethics and the Law 4 Credits
Students in this course will learn something about the foundations and (nontechnical) workings of the American system of justice, and will combine that understanding with a focus on various topics in bioethics, from the "right to die" to gene-patenting. A key point will be the understanding that, as science and medicine continually move forward, there are always new challenges to existing legal understanding. How should the law respond to new questions, e.g. inheritance rights of posthumously conceived children?
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 107 (HMS 107, REL 107) Bio-Ethics and the Family 4 Credits
From reproduction to dying, this course will focus on how ethical issues in science and medicine highlight the role of the family. Issues include assisted reproduction and the role of gamete donors; genetic testing and the problem of misattributed paternity; the locus of decision making when patients are terminal or in pvs. Should our individual-orientated medical culture move toward a more family-oriented perspective?
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 114 (MATH 114) Symbolic Logic 4 Credits
A first course in logical theory, introducing the notions of logical consequence and proof, as well as related concepts such as consistency and contingency. Formal systems taught may include: term logic, sentence logic, and predicate logic.
Attribute/Distribution: MA

PHIL 116 (ETH 116, HMS 116, REL 116) Bioethics 4 Credits
Moral issues that arise in the context of health care and related biomedical fields in the United States today, examined in the light of the nature and foundation of moral rights and obligations. Topics include: confidentiality, informed consent, euthanasia, medical research and experimentation, genetics, and the distribution of health care.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 117 (AAS 117) Race, Racism, and Philosophy 4 Credits
An introduction to the philosophy born of struggle against racism and white supremacy. We will read the work of philosophers, mostly European, who quietly made modern racism possible by inventing the category of race, but we will concentrate on the work of philosophers, mostly of African descent, who for 200 years have struggled to force a philosophical critique of the category of race and the practice of white supremacy.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 119 (ES 119, ETH 119) Environmental Ethics 4 Credits
Evaluates the ethical and moral dimensions of humanity’s relationship to nature as well as our individual and collective moral duties to confront urgent environmental challenges. Topics may include the intersection of climate and social justice; responsibilities to future generations, distant others, and nonhuman animals; the limitations of traditional ethical, political, and economic frameworks for accommodating our obligations and commitments to justice; and possible legal and public policy responses.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 120 (FILM 120) Philosophy and Film 4 Credits
This seminar course will explore a variety of themes, genres, and movements within cinema from a philosophical perspective. Regular screenings of films from silent era to present. Content may vary depending upon instructor.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 122 Philosophy Of Law 4 Credits
Analysis of the conceptual foundations of our legal system. Special attention devoted to the nature of law and legal obligation, liberty and privacy in constitutional litigation, justice and contractual obligation, theories of punishment in criminal law, and the nature and scope of responsibility in criminal law.
Attribute/Distribution: HU
PHIL 123 Aesthetics 4 Credits
Theories, classical and modern, of the nature of beauty and the aesthetic experience. Practical criticism of some works of art, and examination of analogies between arts, and between art and nature. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 124 (REL 124) Philosophy Of Religion 4 Credits
Critical examination, from a philosophical perspective, of some fundamental problems of religion, the nature of religious experience and belief, reason and revelation, the existence and nature of God, the problem of evil, and religious truth. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 125 Social & Political Philosophy 4 Credits
Examination of visions of good social life and values that should shape society so that people are able to live good lives together. Issues of war and peace, the nature of freedom, how the facts of gender, race, class, ethnic, and cultural differences should be taken into account in social and political relations, the limits of religious tolerance, war, world hunger.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 127 Existentialism 4 Credits
Investigation of the historical development of existentialism from its origins in the 19th century (Kierkegaard, Nietzsche) through its marriage to phenomenology in the early 20th (Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty), and out the other side as a vigorous dimension of much literary, psychological, and artistic work produced in the last 50 years.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 128 Philosophy Of Science 4 Credits
Science obviously works, and newer theories surely are better than the theories they replace, but why does science work, how does it work, and in what sense is it progressive? Is science a revelation of reality, or an account of evolving human experience? Are scientists rational? Is scientific reasoning logical? This course surveys the wide range of 20th century responses to these surprisingly elusive, and surprisingly still open, questions.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 129 (JST 129, REL 129) Jewish Philosophy 4 Credits
Consideration of how major Jewish thinkers from the first to 21st centuries confronted questions at the intersection of religion and philosophy: the existence and nature of God, free will, evil, divine providence, miracles, creation, revelation, and religious obligation. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 131 (CLSS 131) Ancient Philosophy 4 Credits
Historical survey of selected texts and issues in the classical world, from the pre-Socratics through Aristotle, with emphasis on the origins of the western philosophical traditions in ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 132 (CLSS 132) Hellenistic Philosophy 4 Credits
Historical survey of selected texts and issues in post-Aristotelian Greek and Roman philosophy from the fourth century B.C. to the third century A.D. Areas of focus may include epicureanism, stoicism, academic and pyrrhonian scepticism, and neoplatonism. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 133 Medieval Philosophy 4 Credits
Historical survey of selected texts and issues in western philosophy from the fourth to 14th centuries. Attention will be given to the relation between developments in medieval philosophy and major currents in ancient and modern thought. Figures may include Augustine, Eriugena, Anselm, Aquinas, Ockham, and Nicholas of Autrecourt. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 135 Modern Philosophy 4 Credits
Historical survey of selected texts and issues in 17th and 18th century European philosophy with particular emphasis on developments in epistemology and metaphysics. Attention will be given to the relation of the "modern period" to developments in late medieval philosophy and the rise of the experimental sciences. Figures may include Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, and Kant.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 137 Nineteenth Century Philosophy 4 Credits
Historical survey of selected texts and issues in 19th century philosophy. Areas of focus may include post-Kantian idealism; period-specific critiques of religion, politics, and morality; theories of history; the origins of utilitarianism, pragmatism, existentialism, and mathematical logic; etc. Figures may include Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, Mill, Peirce, Frege, Nietzsche, James, etc. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 139 Contemporary Philosophy 4 Credits
Philosophical thought from the late 19th century to the present: pragmatism, linguistic analysis, existentialism, and Marxism. Truth and knowledge, values and moral judgment, meaning, the place of the individual in the physical world and society, and the impact of the scientific method upon all of these.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 140 (ASIA 140) Eastern Philosophy 4 Credits
Survey of selected texts and issues in the eastern philosophical traditions. Attention will be given to the development and interrelations of these traditions as well as a comparison of western and eastern treatments of selected issues. Areas of focus may include Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen Buddhism. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 141 Islamic Philosophy 4 Credits
An introduction to Islamic philosophy examining various subjects including its contribution to science, mathematics, theology, philosophy, logic, jurisprudence and how it has influenced philosophical thought from its roots in the Greek intellectual tradition, through its affects on European thoughts during the Middle Ages and beyond. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 142 (ASIA 142) Zen and Art of the Everyday 4 Credits
The Japanese conception of beauty is strikingly different to our own: it is associated with impermanence, imperfection, and austerity. Moreover, attention to beauty pervades every day activities in Japan, such as wrapping purchases at the dollar store or putting out garbage. This course explores principles that guide the Japanese aesthetic sensibility with an eye to its expression in Japanese literature, film, and traditional arts, such as the tea ceremony and gardening. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 145 Philosophy and Technology 4 Credits
This course is an exploration of questions of metaphysics and morality in the digital age. Are new technologies changing our views of metaphysics (what's real) and morality (what's right)? Can classical and contemporary philosophical theories help us think more clearly and make better choices when faced with new technologies? To help answer these questions, students will read a variety of philosophical works that invite critical reflection on a broad array of topics at the intersection of philosophy and technology. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 146 (WGSS 146) Philosophy of Sex and Gender 4 Credits
An examination of concepts, values, and assumptions relevant to gender and sex(uality) in our diverse society, investigating how they affect our lives in both concrete and symbolic ways. Intersections among gender, sex(uality), race, class, religion, ethnicity, etc., will be explored. Special attention will be paid to how gendered assumptions color our understandings of experiences of embodiment and emotion, reasoning and decision-making, knowledge production, and public and private relationships and activities. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 150 Philosophy of Education 4 Credits
A historical survey of major views on the meaning and function of education, this course will address questions such as, What is the role of education in individual human development? What are the goals of education? What are the ideal approaches to meet those goals? What is the relationship between one's view of learning and one's view of teaching? What is the relationship between educational institutions and the state? Does everyone need the same type of education? 
Attribute/Distribution: HU
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Attribute/Distribution</th>
<th>Repeat Status</th>
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<td>PHIL 155</td>
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<td>PHIL 214</td>
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<td>PHIL 216</td>
<td>Research Ethics 4 Credits</td>
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<td>PHIL 217</td>
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<td>PHIL 221</td>
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<td>PHIL 231</td>
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<td>PHIL 232</td>
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<td>Course may be repeated</td>
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PHIL 233 Medieval Philosophy Seminar 4 Credits
Advanced seminar in Medieval Philosophy. Content varies. Check department website for term-specific content. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 235 Modern Philosophy Seminar 4 Credits
Advanced seminar in Modern Philosophy. Content varies. Check department website for term-specific content. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 237 Nineteenth Century Philosophy Seminar 4 Credits
Advanced seminar in Nineteenth Century Philosophy. Content varies. Check department website for term-specific content. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 239 Contemporary Philosophy Seminar 4 Credits
Advanced seminar in Contemporary Philosophy. Content varies. Check department website for term-specific content. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 240 (ASIA 240) Eastern Philosophy Seminar 4 Credits
Advanced seminar in Eastern Philosophy. Content varies. Check department website for term-specific content. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 250 (COGS 250) Philosophy of Mind 4 Credits
An exploration of the mind-body problem. Are the body and mind distinct substances (dualism); or is there only body (materialism); or only mind (idealism)? Other views to be considered include behaviorism (the view that behavior can be explained without recourse to mental states), and the view that the mind is a complex computer. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 251 (COGS 251) Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science 4 Credits
Cognitive Science is the study of aspects of natural and artificial minds: perception, cognition, reasoning, action, and language. Several fields intersect here: artificial intelligence, linguistics, cognitive psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience. Central issues include: the nature of representation, the boundaries of cognitive science, and consciousness. We will survey the foundational philosophical aspects of these issues within Cognitive Science. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level, or major in Cognitive Science.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 260 Philosophy of Language 4 Credits
Issues in the philosophy of language, including analysis of the nature of the relation between the words we use and the world in which we live. We will aim to understand how words make sense and how we make sense of ourselves and the world through words. We will examine such central notions as truth, meaning, and reference, as understood in historically influential philosophical theories of language. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 265 Philosophy of Mathematics 4 Credits
A survey of the main philosophical views on the nature of mathematics and mathematical knowledge, including the classical debate between the logicist, formalist, and intuitionist schools, and the recent debate between realism and antirealism. Some of the material makes use of logical theory. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 271 Independent Study 1-4 Credits
Individual philosophical investigation of an author, book, or topic designed in collaboration with a philosophy professor. Tutorial meetings; substantial written work. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level. Consent of faculty instructor required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

PHIL 292 Philosophical Methods 2 Credits
Methods of and approaches to philosophical research, reasoning, and writing, as preparation for senior thesis. Open only to junior philosophy majors. Department permission required.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 300 Apprentice Teaching 1-4 Credits
Attribute/Distribution: ND

PHIL 301 (ES 301) Philosophical-Policy & Legal Design: Methods & Applications 4 Credits
A basic class on the idea of policy design, as opposed to standard economic analysis of public policy and its application to various domestic and international areas of law, including environmental law. The course will introduce Philosophical-Policy Methods, or the protocol employing integrated philosophical systems to justify specific policy-legal design arguments, through the use of a variety of distinct policy paradigms.

PHIL 303 (MATH 303) Mathematical Logic 3,4 Credits
Detailed proofs for the basic mathematical results relating the syntax and semantics of first-order logic (predicate logic): the Soundness and Completeness (and Compactness) Theorems, followed by a brief exposition of the celebrated limiting results of Gӧdel, Turing, and Church on incompleteness and undecidability. The material is conceptually rigorous and mathematically mature; the necessary background is a certain degree of mathematical sophistication or a basic knowledge of symbolic logic. Consent of instructor required.
Prerequisites: (PHIL 114)
Attribute/Distribution: MA

PHIL 333 (ES 333) International Environmental Law & Philosophical-Policy Design 4 Credits
This course studies international law and the natural environment assuming that the superficial legal structure and policy dilemmas of globally regulating the natural world are the result of the more essential philosophical ideas and concepts that have created both the international legal system and humanity’s evolving interrelationship with nature. Learning the current structure of the international-environmental legal system we shall comparatively apply theory to practice to both explain existing law and justifying policy change.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 342 (ES 342) International Law & Philosophical-Policy Design 4 Credits
Using the techniques of Philosophical-Policy and Legal Design we will examine the evolution of those fundamental ideas from the 16th to the 19th centuries that have shaped our current understanding of international law. To assess both what law is, and what it ought to be, we will contrast narrow theories of international law with more comprehensive philosophical arguments that place the evolution of legal practice within a more universal concern for practical reason and human nature.
Attribute/Distribution: HU
PHIL 343 (ES 343) Comparative Environmental Law & Philosophical-Policy Design 4 Credits
Globalization is changing our perception of environmental policy as a strictly “domestic” issue. Those interested in humanity’s future interaction with nature need to understand not only the comparative practice of law and policy but the various philosophical principles that inform distinct approaches to environmental regulation within different political systems. We will explore both the components of the generic legal system and the range of alternatives for environmental law and policy design as practiced in various parts of the world.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 347 (AMST 347, REL 347) American Religious Thinkers 3-4 Credits
An examination of the writings of key figures in the history of American religious thought (such as Edwards, Emerson, Bushnell, Peirce, James, Royce, Dewey and the Niebuhrs). Attention will be directed both to the historical reception of these writings and to their contemporary significance.

PHIL 350 Special Topics In Philosophy, Law & Public Policy 4 Credits
Themes, Techniques and Methods for the integration of Philosophy, Law and Public Policy. Considered from the standpoint of various core themes. These will change from offering to offering and may include, Healthcare, Bioethics, Race, Violence, The Market As An Allocation-Distribution Mechanism, Various Models Of The State, and the juxtaposition between Constitutionalism and Democracy. May be repeated for credit as topic varies.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 364 (POLS 364) Issues In Contemporary Political Philosophy 3-4 Credits
Selected topics in contemporary political philosophy, such as the Frankfurt school, existentialism, legitimation, authenticity, participatory democracy, and the alleged decline of political philosophy.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

PHIL 367 (POLS 367) American Political Thought 3-4 Credits
Critical examination of American political thought from the founding of the Republic to the present. Writings from Madison, Hamilton, and Jefferson to Emma Goldman, Mary Daly, Malcolm X, Henry Kariel, and others will be discussed.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

PHIL 371 Advanced Independent Study 1-4 Credits
Individual philosophical investigation of an author, book, or topic designed in collaboration with a philosophy professor. Tutorial meetings; substantial written work. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 200-level or higher, and have consent of instructor.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: ND

PHIL 390 Honors Thesis I 4 Credits
The first part of two semesters of intensive research and writing supervised by the philosophy faculty thesis advisor in anticipation of completing an honor’s thesis in philosophy. Individual tutorials; substantial written work. Senior standing as a philosophy major and permission of the faculty advisor and permission of the philosophy department required.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

PHIL 391 Honors Thesis II 4 Credits
Continuation and completion of PHIL 390 under the guidance of the thesis advisor. Consent of thesis advisor required.
Prerequisites: PHIL 390
Attribute/Distribution: HU