

PHILOSOPHY

Major

- Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy (p. 1)

Minor:

- Philosophy (p. 3)
- Philosophy, Justice, and Society (p. 3)

The objective of the philosophy major program is to provide students with the opportunity to understand contemporary philosophy in view of the history of philosophy. Students majoring in philosophy must successfully complete a minimum of 30 semester hours. The philosophy major program is also offered in India in conjunction with the Marianists. Consult the department chairperson for further information.

FACULTY LISTING (<https://udayton.edu/artssciences/academics/philosophy/faculty-staff.php>)

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy (PHL) minimum 120 hours

The Common Academic Program (CAP) is an innovative curriculum that is the foundation of a University of Dayton education. It is a learning experience that is shared in common among all undergraduate students, regardless of their major. Some CAP requirements must be fulfilled by courses taken at UD. Some major requirements must also be fulfilled by courses taken at UD. Students should consult with their advisor regarding applicability of transfer credit to fulfill CAP and major program requirements.

Common Academic Program (CAP) ¹

First-Year Humanities Commons ²		6
		cr.
		hrs.
HUM 101	Chaminade Seminar: Reading and Responding to the Signs of the Times	
HUM 102	Marie Thérèse Seminar: Human Dignity and the Common Good	
Second-Year Writing Seminar		3
		cr.
		hrs.
Oral Communication		3
		cr.
		hrs.
Mathematics		3
		cr.
		hrs.
Social Science		3
		cr.
		hrs.
Arts		3
		cr.
		hrs.
Natural Science ³		4
		cr.
		hrs.

Crossing Boundaries	9
	cr.
	hrs.
Faith Traditions (3 cr. hrs.)	
Practical Ethical Action (3 cr. hrs.)	
Interdisciplinary Investigations (3 cr. hrs.) ⁴	
Advanced Study	9
	cr.
	hrs.
Religious Studies (3 cr. hrs.)	
Philosophical Studies (3 cr. hrs.)	
Historical Studies (3 cr. hrs.)	
Diversity and Social Justice ⁵	3
	cr.
	hrs.
Major Capstone ⁶	0-6
	cr.
	hrs.
Experiential Learning ⁷	0-3
	cr.
	hrs.

¹ The credit hours listed reflect what is needed to complete each CAP component. However, they should not be viewed as a cumulative addition to a student's degree requirements because many CAP courses are designed to satisfy more than one CAP component (e.g., Crossing Boundaries and Advanced Studies) and may also satisfy requirements in the student's major.

² May be completed with ASI 110 through the Core Program.

³ Must include a lecture course and an accompanying lab.

⁴ New Crossing Boundaries category effective with the 2025-26 Catalog, which incorporates all courses previously approved in the Crossing Boundaries Inquiry or Integrative categories. This new category does not include any restriction that students must take the course outside of their unit or division.

⁵ May not double count with First-Year Humanities Commons, Second-Year Writing, Oral Communication, Social Science, or Natural Science CAP components, but may double count with courses taken to satisfy other CAP components and/or courses taken in the student's major.

⁶ The course or experience is designed by faculty in each major; it may, or may not, be assigned credit hours.

⁷ The course or experience will have variable credit, depending on the intensity and duration of the experience, or where it is housed in existing curricular and co-curricular spaces.

A liberal studies degree from the University of Dayton is grounded in the institution's Catholic and Marianist tradition, which emphasizes holistic education, community, service, and social justice. The program encourages students to explore a wide range of subjects, integrating knowledge from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and fine arts. Overall, a liberal studies degree from the University of Dayton not only provides a comprehensive educational experience but also instills values that encourage students to contribute positively to society.

The Bachelor of Arts degree requires a minimum of 120 credit hours. All BA students will complete the Liberal Studies Curriculum as part of their degree plan. This Curriculum provides students with a breadth of study and experiences in the humanities, the creative and performing

arts, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. It provides a distinct complement to the specialized study in a major and presupposes, builds upon and enhances the University's Common Academic Program (CAP). No credits may double-count toward CAP or the first major and also the Liberal Studies Curriculum requirements, including the language context course options.

Liberal Studies Curriculum

Language Proficiency¹ **0-9**

Breadth and Depth Requirements² **24**

Breadth: Earn 3 credits in each of the five categories:

Arts

Humanities

Social Sciences

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

CAS Interdisciplinary Programs (options include courses with HRS, WGS, MST, RCE, SEE, DST, and INS prefixes)

Depth: Take 9 additional credits of CAS courses from any combination of breadth categories

Total Hours **24-33**

¹ Students demonstrate basic practical communication in a language other than English.

² No more than 12 of the 24 credit hours may come from 100- or 200-level courses. None of the 24 credit hours may also count toward CAP or the first major. If students take a 3-credit context course toward language proficiency, those credits may count here.

Major Requirements **30**

Select one course from: **3**

PHL 301 Practical Logic

PHL 302 Symbolic Logic

Select one course from: **3**

PHL 350 Classical Greek Philosophy

PHL 351 Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Philosophy

PHL 352 Modern Philosophy

PHL 353 Kant & Nineteenth-Century Philosophy

PHL 354 Twentieth-Century Philosophy

Select one course from: **3**

PHL 342 Latina Philosophy

PHL 347 Japanese Philosophy

PHL 348 Comparative East-West Philosophy

PHL 355 Asian Philosophy

PHL 363 African Philosophy

PHL 365 Islamic Philosophy & Culture

PHL 366 Afro-Caribbean Philosophy

PHL 379 Latin American Philosophy

Select one course from: **3**

PHL 304 Philosophy of Human Nature

PHL 306 Philosophy of Knowledge

PHL 308 Metaphysics in Context

PHL 309 Philosophy of Mind

PHL 311 Philosophy of Religion

PHL 330 Philosophy of Science

PHL 331 Science, Values & Society

PHL 333 Philosophy & Cognitive Science

PHL 334 Philosophy & Ecology

PHL 335 Philosophy of Sustainability

PHL 356 Christian Philosophy

PHL 362 Philosophy of Language

Select one course from: **3**

PHL 307 Philosophy and Feminist Thought

PHL 310 Social Philosophy

PHL 312 Ethics

PHL 313 Business Ethics

PHL 314 Philosophy of Law

PHL 315 Medical Ethics

PHL 316 Engineering Ethics

PHL 317 Ethics of War

PHL 318 Family Ethics

PHL 319 Information Ethics

PHL 320 Philosophy of Art

PHL 321 Environmental Ethics

PHL 323 Philosophy & Literature

PHL 324 Philosophy & Film

PHL 325 Philosophy of Music

PHL 326 History and Philosophy of Tragedy

PHL 327 Philosophy of Peace

PHL 328 Philosophy of Punishment

PHL 329 Genocide, Mass Atrocity and Transitional Justice

PHL 332 Technology & Values

PHL 336 Ethics and Leadership

PHL 341 Hip Hop and Philosophy

PHL 357 Radical Philosophy

PHL 358 Marxist Philosophy

PHL 360 Existentialism

PHL 361 Philosophies of Change in U.S. History

PHL 364 Race, Gender and Philosophy

PHL 370 Political Philosophy

PHL 371 Philosophy & Human Rights

PHL 372 Values & Economics

PHL 373 Philosophy & Cultural Diversity

PHL 374 Philosophy and the City

PHL 376 Philosophy & Revolution

PHL 377 Philosophy and Mass Media

PHL 381 Sexual Ethics

PHL 382 Culture, Modernization, and Multiple Modernities

PHL 383 Ethics of Scientific Research

Philosophy Electives **9**

Select two seminars from: **6**

PHL 440 Seminar - Advanced Problems in Philosophy

PHL 451 Seminar - Individual Philosophers

PHL 461 Seminar - Contemporary Epistemology

PHL 462 Seminar - Contemporary Ethics

PHL 463 Seminar - Contemporary Metaphysics

Required: **0**

PHL 480 Senior Capstone (Satisfies CAP Major Capstone)

Breadth

ASI 150	Introduction to the University Experience	1
Total Hours to total at least		120

Minor in Philosophy (PHL)

Philosophy		15
PHL 301	Practical Logic	3
or PHL 302	Symbolic Logic	
Select one course from:		3
PHL 350	Classical Greek Philosophy	
PHL 351	Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Philosophy	
PHL 352	Modern Philosophy	
PHL 353	Kant & Nineteenth-Century Philosophy	
PHL 354	Twentieth-Century Philosophy	
PHL 360	Existentialism	
Select two PHL courses		6
Select one PHL seminar (400 level)		3

Minor in Philosophy, Justice, and Society (PJS)

The Philosophy, Justice, and Society minor is designed for students with academic and personal interests in philosophical issues related to justice and society. By studying both dominant and critical philosophical traditions, students will learn to think more critically about existing power structures and relations (e.g., race, gender, class, sexuality, ability). Furthermore, students will reflect on how to put theory into practice by promoting justice and the common good.

Philosophy, Justice, and Society (PJS), 15 hrs.

PHL 310	Social Philosophy	3
Select 1 course from:		3
PHL 342	Latina Philosophy	
PHL 363	African Philosophy	
PHL 365	Islamic Philosophy & Culture	
PHL 366	Afro-Caribbean Philosophy	
PHL 379	Latin American Philosophy	
Select 2 additional courses from the above list or the following list:		6
PHL 302	Symbolic Logic	
PHL 304	Philosophy of Human Nature	
PHL 307	Philosophy and Feminist Thought	
PHL 312	Ethics	
PHL 313	Business Ethics	
PHL 314	Philosophy of Law	
PHL 317	Ethics of War	
PHL 321	Environmental Ethics	
PHL 323	Philosophy & Literature	
PHL 329	Genocide, Mass Atrocity and Transitional Justice	
PHL 331	Science, Values & Society	
PHL 341	Hip Hop and Philosophy	
PHL 350	Classical Greek Philosophy	
PHL 364	Race, Gender and Philosophy	
PHL 371	Philosophy & Human Rights	

PHL 374	Philosophy and the City	
PHL 377	Philosophy and Mass Media	
PHL 381	Sexual Ethics	
Select one course from:		3
PHL 440	Seminar - Advanced Problems in Philosophy	
PHL 451	Seminar - Individual Philosophers	
PHL 461	Seminar - Contemporary Epistemology	
PHL 462	Seminar - Contemporary Ethics	
PHL 463	Seminar - Contemporary Metaphysics	

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ASI 150		1 ENG 200 (CAP Second-Year Writing)	3
ASI 110 (CAP Humanities Commons)		6 CAP Arts Course	3
CMM 100 (CAP Communication)		3 CAP Social Science Course	3
CAP Mathematics Course		3 CAP Natural Science (Lecture + Lab)	4
Language 101		3 Language 141	3
		16	16
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PHL 352		3 PHL 350	3
BA Arts Course		3 PHL 312 (or another ethics course)	3
BA Social Science Course		3 CAP Advanced Religious Studies Course	3
Language 201 or Contextual Course		3 BA Natural Science or Math Course	3
General Elective		3 BA Elective	3
UDI Mini Course		1	
		16	15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PHL 302		3 PHL 379 (or another global philosophies course)	3
PHL Elective		3 BA Humanities Course (other than PHL)	3
CAP Advanced Historical Studies Course		3 PHL Elective	3
BA Interdisciplinary Programs Course		3 PHL Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PHL 331 (or another knowledge and reality course)		3 PHL 480 (Satisfies CAP Major Capstone)	0
PHL 440		3 PHL 451	3
BA Elective		3 BA Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
			12
			15

Total credit hours: 120

Courses**PHL 240. Research Methodologies & Technologies. 1 Hour**

Development of research skills appropriate for the major. Students submit papers carefully selected from written work required for major classes. Required for all Philosophy majors.

PHL 301. Practical Logic. 3 Hours

Study of reasoning, judgment, and decision making in everyday-life as well as in the professional contexts of academia, the natural and social sciences, politics, and business. Students will be introduced to the principles of correct reasoning; techniques for the evaluation of arguments; common fallacies in argumentation (including self-deception, emotional bias, ambiguity, and groupthink); and applications to current issues in ethics and other areas.

PHL 302. Symbolic Logic. 3 Hours

Concentrated study of the valid forms of deductive argument and proof in propositional logic and in predicate logic; study of formal systems and of logic and language.

PHL 304. Philosophy of Human Nature. 3 Hours

Examination of humanist, religious and scientific perspectives regarding what defines our 'human nature?' These perspectives include: Western and non-Western philosophical and spiritual traditions, social psychology, cultural anthropology, and evolutionary biology. Throughout the focus is on primary-source texts rather than on summaries and surveys.

PHL 306. Philosophy of Knowledge. 3 Hours

Study of various concepts of knowledge, including the difference between knowledge and opinion, skepticism and certainty, the rationality of religious belief, and the limits of human cognitive ability.

PHL 307. Philosophy and Feminist Thought. 3 Hours

Philosophical examination of major concepts and selected issues in feminist thought.

PHL 308. Metaphysics in Context. 3 Hours

The course explores major metaphysical topics such as appearance and reality, essence and existence, mind-body relation, and facilitates a critical and comparative study of alternative methods of metaphysical inquiry within secular and religious contexts.

PHL 309. Philosophy of Mind. 3 Hours

Critical examination of the structure and functions of the human mind, drawing on the history of philosophy and contemporary science. Topics include consciousness, self-deception, bias, emotion, and self-control. Consideration of practical applications.

PHL 310. Social Philosophy. 3 Hours

The concepts of liberty, justice, and equality as they relate to social problems such as autonomy, responsibility, privacy, common good, power, economic justice, and discrimination. This course also addresses how the obstacles to justice can be overcome.

PHL 311. Philosophy of Religion. 3 Hours

Philosophical examination of religious belief and practices, including the nature of religion; concepts of God; arguments concerning God's existence; faith and reason; revelation and miracles; science and religion; the problem of evil; and religious pluralism.

PHL 312. Ethics. 3 Hours

Ethics is a stand-alone branch of philosophic inquiry that examines the internal coherency of various ethical systems as well as their applicability to solving personal dilemmas, social injustices and real-world problems.

PHL 313. Business Ethics. 3 Hours

Review of major ethical theories and concepts such as justice, human flourishing, rights, virtues, common good, and examination of their implications for today's business world.

PHL 314. Philosophy of Law. 3 Hours

This is a course in the philosophy of law and jurisprudence that is designed for upper-level work in law, philosophy and law-related fields. The course includes the topics of rule of law, natural law theory, critical approaches to law, international law and human rights, distributive justice and material equality, privacy and sexual equality, and the function and limits of punishment.

PHL 315. Medical Ethics. 3 Hours

Introduction to ethics in general and inquiry into the main ethical problems tied to medical practice and research, and the moral approaches for resolving them.

PHL 316. Engineering Ethics. 3 Hours

Introduction to ethical issues in engineering by studying theories of moral justification and codes of ethics for engineers, and by applying these theories and codes to moral issues in engineering.

PHL 317. Ethics of War. 3 Hours

Study of the ethics of war and the Just War Tradition. Students will be expected to apply the principles of this tradition to ethical issues such as the ethics of torture and the ethics of humanitarian intervention.

PHL 318. Family Ethics. 3 Hours

Introduction to the development of the concept of a family in the tradition of Western philosophy and the philosophic analysis of contemporary ethical problems in marriage and in parenthood.

PHL 319. Information Ethics. 3 Hours

Examination of ethical principles, codes, cases, incidents, and issues in the creation, use and distribution of information in and through various media. This includes issues in the ethical design, implementation, and use of computerized information systems.

PHL 320. Philosophy of Art. 3 Hours

This course will critically evaluate advanced philosophical and art-historical texts pertaining to understanding and appreciating such arts as painting, sculpture, architecture, comedy, literature, theatre, music, dance, and street art.

PHL 321. Environmental Ethics. 3 Hours

Study of the principal ethical perspectives on the treatment of animals and nature including such issues as agriculture, energy, pollution, and economics; assessment of political responses to current environmental problems.

PHL 323. Philosophy & Literature. 3 Hours

Critical examination of philosophical concepts in selected literary masterpieces, ancient and modern.

PHL 324. Philosophy & Film. 3 Hours

This course will critically evaluate texts in philosophy, film criticism, popular culture and other areas that are related to the philosophical study of movies and film.

PHL 325. Philosophy of Music. 3 Hours

Philosophical investigation of the nature and value of music with emphasis on the varied attributes and purposes of music in relation to art, language, emotion, spirituality, and culture.

PHL 326. History and Philosophy of Tragedy. 3 Hours

Examination of the history and philosophy of tragedy from its ancient origins in the Mediterranean through its Hellenistic and Roman revisions. We will read classical texts in their historical specificity as ancient texts as well as the revival of tragedy in Modernity.

PHL 327. Philosophy of Peace. 3 Hours

Examination of human violence and ethical justifications for war and exploration of resolutions for human conflict in processes such as pacifism, peacemaking, democratic world governance, nonviolent caring, and a sustainable economy.

PHL 328. Philosophy of Punishment. 3 Hours

Critical examination of punishment, through an analysis of various forms of punishment and what they imply about human nature, power, social norms, and moral principles.

PHL 329. Genocide, Mass Atrocity and Transitional Justice. 3 Hours

Study of the causes of mass atrocities, the moral and legal challenges involved in responding to them, and the steps individuals can take to raise awareness of these urgent issues.

PHL 330. Philosophy of Science. 3 Hours

Critical examination of the underpinnings of scientific knowledge, and how it differs from other systems of belief and knowledge, through an analysis and evaluation of various scientific concepts such as scientific laws, explanation, observation, experiment, and theory, with an exploration of the methods, social organization, and values involved in the production of scientific knowledge, as well as the interaction between science and society.

PHL 331. Science, Values & Society. 3 Hours

Study of four interrelated issues: the acceptable and unacceptable roles of values in scientific research, the nature of scientific objectivity, the influence of social structures on scientific research, and the role of science in promoting a just and inclusive society.

PHL 332. Technology & Values. 3 Hours

Study of the social impact of technology-scientists' responsibility; technological change and social change; the 'technological fix'; democracy and the new technological elite; counter-culture critiques of technology.

PHL 333. Philosophy & Cognitive Science. 3 Hours

Philosophical introduction to recent research in cognitive psychology, artificial intelligence, and neuroscience regarding human, animal, and machine intelligence; the relation between mind, brain, and personhood; and the biology of conscious states.

PHL 334. Philosophy & Ecology. 3 Hours

An examination of the epistemological, methodological, ontological, and value issues of ecology, with a focus on how these issues affect the debates in philosophy of science.

PHL 335. Philosophy of Sustainability. 3 Hours

Critical examination of the conceptual foundations of sustainability science, and how it differs from other domain specific sciences, through an analysis and evaluation of the various concepts of sustainability, its relationship to economics, ecology, society, moral, political and religious values, with an examination of the nature of sustainability problems and of the methodology required to study and solve them.

PHL 336. Ethics and Leadership. 3 Hours

This course draws on philosophy, social psychology, and politics to explore ethical leadership in the twenty-first century. In addition to theoretical readings on natures of ethics and of leadership, we will look to psychology to help us understand the unique ethical challenges that leadership presents us. We will ask questions like: How should I lead? Whom should I follow? Does the power involved in certain leadership positions inevitably corrupt human moral sensibilities? Do followers have obligations to obey or dissent, and how do we know when to do each? How much control do we really have over our behavior? Is behavior dictated primarily by external circumstances or by the virtues of our character? From the challenges facing governments to decisions students confront daily, this course will help prepare students to create and evaluate solutions to ethical dilemmas in a global world.

PHL 340. Special Problems in Philosophy. 1-3 Hours

Examination of perennial and contemporary problems of philosophy. May be repeated when topic changes.

PHL 341. Hip Hop and Philosophy. 3 Hours

Exploration of various theories of what hip hop is, at a basic level. It also investigates how we know what kind of phenomenon hip hop is, at a fundamental level. The course critically evaluates the political, ethical, and aesthetic significance of hip hop. By thinking through hip hop we will work to gain a better understanding of the complex relationships between race, gender, class, religion and other variables of difference.

PHL 342. Latina Philosophy. 3 Hours

This course critically investigates the interweaving metaphysical, epistemological, ethical and political issues grappled with in the Latina philosophical tradition. This course will introduce and expand students' knowledge of various figures within this intellectual tradition. Students will also critically evaluate the various internal debates within Latina philosophy and identify the continuities and ruptures within this tradition of thought.

PHL 347. Japanese Philosophy. 3 Hours

Introduction to Japanese thought through the study of Japanese philosophers, texts, sects, philosophical schools, and concepts. Comparisons of various Japanese philosophies and religions with each other as well as with Western traditions.

PHL 348. Comparative East-West Philosophy. 3 Hours

Advanced study of problems of social justice approached through significant texts of Western and Asian philosophies and religions.

PHL 350. Classical Greek Philosophy. 3 Hours

Critical exploration of the history of ancient Greek philosophy from the Presocratics to Aristotle.

PHL 351. Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Philosophy. 3 Hours

A critical examination of theological arguments by major thinkers representing the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions in the Middle Ages, with close attention to common philosophical underpinnings, and the cross-fertilization of ideas.

PHL 352. Modern Philosophy. 3 Hours

Survey of developments of Natural Philosophy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and how strands of Christian and Jewish religious traditions influenced the philosophical beginnings of modern science.

PHL 353. Kant & Nineteenth-Century Philosophy. 3 Hours

Development of philosophy beginning with Kant through the nineteenth century including Kant and philosophers such as Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, James, Peirce, and Frege.

PHL 354. Twentieth-Century Philosophy. 3 Hours

Study of some of the major philosophical movements in the twentieth century including phenomenology, existentialism, critical theory (Frankfurt School), hermeneutics, and analytic philosophy.

PHL 355. Asian Philosophy. 3 Hours

Introduction to Asian thought through the study of philosophers, texts, philosophical schools, and concepts that have their origins in Asia. Comparisons of various Asian philosophies and religions with each other as well as with Western traditions.

PHL 356. Christian Philosophy. 3 Hours

An examination of the underlying philosophical issues of selected topics in the Christian faith to deepen the students' understanding of the faith in its historical and intellectual contexts.

PHL 357. Radical Philosophy. 3 Hours

Study of major attempts to develop a critical understanding of society; analysis of theories such as socialism, anarchism, feminism, critical theory, and critical race theory.

PHL 358. Marxist Philosophy. 3 Hours

Explanation and critical examination of the basic concepts of dialectical and historical materialism and their application to issues of social change, with particular emphasis on class, gender, and race inequalities. Evaluation of the Marxist analysis of globalism and world inequality.

PHL 360. Existentialism. 3 Hours

This course examines the body of philosophic thought known as Existentialism: its genesis within Kierkegaard's analysis of faith; its reaction to 19th century philosophy; its maturation in 20th century; and its absorption and extension into Christian Existentialism, religious inquiry, the arts, literature, social thinking and freedom movements of today. Primary foci of this course revolve around the themes of Faith as a lived experience, Human Reasoning and the Human Condition, Self and Others, Freedom and Morality. This course directs virtually all of its textual materials and discursive development toward the question "What does it mean to be human?" and in light of that, "What then shall we do?".

PHL 361. Philosophies of Change in U.S. History. 3 Hours

Study of philosophies of change emerging within U.S. history. It will examine 1) Philosophies arising from interactions and tensions among Indigenous, European, African, Latin American, and Asian cultural groups, and 2) American Pragmatism as articulating processes of change rather than seeking universal truths.

PHL 362. Philosophy of Language. 3 Hours

Theories of meaning and reference and their philosophical significance.

PHL 363. African Philosophy. 3 Hours

Study African philosophy both in its confrontations with Eurocentrism and as an expression of Black Africa's distinct identity. It combines analytical and comparative approaches to expound Africa's traditional worldviews, ethical notions, and social ideas in the context defined by the impacts and legacies of colonization and the subsequent difficult transition to modernity.

PHL 364. Race, Gender and Philosophy. 3 Hours

This course Investigates how the intersections of race and gender shape our identity and the organization of local and global spaces. To this end the course considers questions about the metaphysical and epistemological dimensions of raced and gendered identity. Attention will be given to ethical and political analyses of racial patriarchy and in the course students will think through the most effective ways of reaching racial and gender justice.

PHL 365. Islamic Philosophy & Culture. 3 Hours

Study of the intellectual history and culture of Islam as epitomized by Islamic philosophy, ethics, politics, and arts.

PHL 366. Afro-Caribbean Philosophy. 3 Hours

This course investigates the interweaving metaphysical, epistemological, ethical and political issues grappled with in the Afro-Caribbean philosophical tradition. This course will introduce and expand students' knowledge of various figures within this intellectual tradition. Students will also critically evaluate the various internal debates within Afro-Caribbean philosophy and identify the continuities and ruptures within this tradition of thought.

PHL 370. Political Philosophy. 3 Hours

The course analyzes the evolution of political theories through a study of representative ancient and modern works of political philosophy. It also studies political changes and contemporary political ideas and practices in relation to diverse cultural contexts.

PHL 371. Philosophy & Human Rights. 3 Hours

Examination of the nature and philosophical foundations of universal moral (human) rights; and application of human rights theory to issues and cases involving civil and political rights, and rights to equality, security, subsistence, education, welfare, employment, and health care.

PHL 372. Values & Economics. 3 Hours

An inquiry into the impact of values and beliefs on the generation of modern economic forces. Analyzing capitalism as a system of validation of beliefs and values, the course relates underdevelopment with the conflict between tradition and modernity. It then reflects on the conditions of change liable to promote global expansion.

PHL 373. Philosophy & Cultural Diversity. 3 Hours

Philosophical investigation into historical, social, and political dimensions of human diversity in its various manifestations. Topics include colonialism, racism, multiculturalism, nationalism, and democracy.

PHL 374. Philosophy and the City. 3 Hours

By studying philosophical questions as they apply to the local community, students will deepen their understanding both of philosophical theory and Dayton. This class may be taken multiple times for credit.

PHL 375. Ethical Theory. 3 Hours

An examination of the significant ethical theories offered by historically significant philosophers along with some contemporary critiques of these theories. The theories examined will include virtue, deontological, and utilitarian approaches.

PHL 376. Philosophy & Revolution. 3 Hours

No description available.

PHL 377. Philosophy and Mass Media. 3 Hours

Study of the intersection of various areas of philosophical inquiry and the mass media and investigation into the implications for the lives of individuals, the functioning of societies, and the development of the global community. Students will be expected to engage in inquiry into how mass media influences their own lives and communities, and to reflect upon the ethical responsibilities they have as consumers of mass media and that the makers of mass media might have.

PHL 379. Latin American Philosophy. 3 Hours

This course provides background to the history of philosophy that emerges in and from Latin America. Were the Indians human? Did they have souls? When, if at all, is war justified? Why is the U.S. rich and Latin America poor? How can poverty in Latin America be addressed? What could it mean for nations in Latin America to take small steps of self-determination and embark on a path of liberation? These questions and others are addressed by thinking through theory within the Latin American philosophical tradition. In the process students gain a sense of what it's like to philosophize from a Latin American perspective.

PHL 381. Sexual Ethics. 3 Hours

Academic examination of a range of issues in sexual ethics, including monogamy, adultery, and fidelity; contraception; homosexuality and homophobia; and sexual objectification, exploitation, and violence. Special attention will be devoted to Catholic perspectives, as well as to contemporary feminist perspectives.

PHL 382. Culture, Modernization, and Multiple Modernities. 3 Hours

The course surveys representative and contending theories of modernization with the view of unraveling the role of values and beliefs in the modernization process. It reexamines the role of culture in light of the emergence of a globalized world and the associated rise of diverse modernities.

PHL 383. Ethics of Scientific Research. 3 Hours

Inquiry into what it means to be an ethical scientist and how to ethically prevent and respond to violations of ethical norms in scientific research.

PHL 440. Seminar - Advanced Problems in Philosophy. 3 Hours

Detailed examination of some of the more technical problems of philosophy as well as those problems that arise in interdisciplinary settings upon which philosophers have brought their technical skills to bear. May be repeated when topic varies.

PHL 451. Seminar - Individual Philosophers. 3 Hours

Detailed examination of the thought of an individual philosopher (e.g., Aquinas, Kant, Rawls, Quine) who is of sufficient importance to warrant special study. May be repeated when topic varies.

PHL 461. Seminar - Contemporary Epistemology. 3 Hours

Study of recent philosophical work in the theory of knowledge inclusive of scepticism, knowledge and belief, evidence and justification, theories of perception and knowledge, human interests and valuation.

PHL 462. Seminar - Contemporary Ethics. 3 Hours

Study of recent philosophical work in ethics inclusive of an analysis of ethical concepts, theories of normative ethics, theories of human action, and moral justification.

PHL 463. Seminar - Contemporary Metaphysics. 3 Hours

Study of recent work in metaphysics inclusive of the nature of metaphysics, causality, free will and determinism, personal identity and the theory of mind and body.

PHL 477. Honors Thesis Project. 3 Hours

First of two courses leading to the selection, design, investigation, and completion of an independent, original Honors Thesis project under the guidance of a faculty research advisor. Restricted to students in the University Honors Program with permission of the program director and department chairperson. Students pursuing an interdisciplinary thesis topic may register for three semester hours each in two separate disciplines in consultation with the department chairpersons. Prerequisite(s): Approval of University Honors Program.

PHL 478. Honors Thesis Project. 3 Hours

Second of two courses leading to the selection, design, investigation, and completion of an independent, original Honors Thesis project under the guidance of a faculty research advisor. Restricted to students in the University Honors Program with permission of the program director and department chairperson. Students pursuing an interdisciplinary thesis topic may register for three semester hours each in two separate disciplines in consultation with the department chairpersons. Prerequisite(s): Approved 477; approval of University Honors Program.

PHL 480. Senior Capstone. 0 Hours

PHILOSOPHY SENIOR CAPSTONE CAPSTONE AND PRESENTATION Project and presentation in the scholarship, activity and/or practice related to the major. Students will present their work in a forum appropriate to the major. Prerequisite(s): SENIOR STANDING.

PHL 490. Directed Readings. 1-4 Hours

Guided independent study primarily for philosophy majors but open to students who have completed twelve semester hours in philosophy. Normally three semester hours but in certain cases the chairperson may approve one, two, or four semester hours. May be repeated when topic changes.

PHL 492. Directed Research. 3 Hours

Faculty-directed research for philosophy majors who have completed all 300-level requirements and at least one 400-level seminar. Students will write a substantial paper in relation to this research.

PHL 495. Internship. 1-3 Hours

Supervised practical and professional experience related to philosophy for philosophy majors who have completed prescribed course work. May be repeated to a maximum of three semester hours. Grading Option Two only.