

Department of Philosophy

"The unexamined life is not worth living." These words of Socrates, spoken 2400 years ago, have inspired and shaped not only all subsequent lines of philosophical inquiry, but also all critical and scientific discourse through the course of Western history. Our Department embraces this maxim, both in the research work of our faculty members and in our teaching: we strive to familiarize our students with the various ways philosophers throughout history have affirmed and responded, concretely, to Socrates' claim; and we also strive to help our students engage these various philosophical positions and approaches critically and rigorously, on their own terms.

Courses offered by the Department are intended to acquaint students with both the historical development of philosophical questions and problems and with the ways these are taken up in contemporary philosophical discourse. The Honours Program is designed and recom-

- PHIL 2153 Early Modern Philosophy: Rationalism and the Supremacy of Reason
- PHIL 2163 Early Modern Philosophy: Empiricism and the Priority of Sensation
- 4. PHIL 2513 Introduction to Logic
- 5. the equivalent of *three (3) credit hours* from among:
 - PHIL 3663 Analytic Philosophy: Metaphysics and the Linguistic Turn
 - PHIL 3673 Analytic Philosophy: Theories of Knowledge and Justification
 - PHIL 3683 Epistemology
- 6. the equivalent of *three (3) credit hours* from among:
 - PHIL 3543 Existential Philosophy
 - PHIL 3583 Phenomenology
 - PHIL 3653 Contemporary Continental Philosophy
 - PHIL 3763 Martin Heidegger
- 7. *six (6) credit hours* from between:
 - PHIL 4886 Honours Seminar
 - PHIL 4996 Honours Thesis

Major

Students majoring in philosophy must include a minimum of 36 credit hours in philosophy in their program of studies. These 36 credit hours must include:

- 1. the equivalent of *six (6) credit hours* of introductory courses* from among:
 - PHIL 1013 Introduction to Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval
 - PHIL 1023 Introduction to Philosophy II: Modern and Contemporary
 - PHIL 1033 Atheism: An Introduction to Philosophy
 - PHIL 1043 Free Will: An Introduction to Philosophy
 - PHIL 1053 Life and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy
 - PHIL 1063 Myth and Reason: An Introduction to Philosophy
 - PHIL 1073 Robot & Animal Ethics: An Introduction to Philosophy

* Students may take no more than two of the six introductory courses in philosophy. *T(en-ntx)-12. tion t/6*

4. PHIL 2513 Introduction to Logic
5. the equivalent of *three (3) credit hours* from among:
 - PHIL 3663 Analytic Philosophy: Metaphysics and the Linguistic Turn
 - PHIL 3673 Analytic Philosophy: Theories of Knowledge and Justification
 - PHIL 3683 Epistemology
6. the equivalent of *three (3) credit hours* from among:
 - PHIL 3543 Existential Philosophy
 - PHIL 3583 Phenomenology
 - PHIL 3653 Contemporary Continental Philosophy
 - PHIL 3763 Martin Heidegger

Any *18 credit hours* in philosophy suffice to constitute a Minor in Philosophy.

Each student honouring or majoring in philosophy is required to choose a member of the Department as program Adviser.

The Department's course offerings are listed according to areas within the discipline as follows:

- I. Introductory Courses
- II. History of Philosophy
- III. Moral Philosophy
- IV. Legal and Political Philosophy
- V. Themes and Authors
- VI. Tutorials and Independent Studies

I. Introductory Courses

PHIL-1006. Introduction to Philosophy

An introduction, through lecture, reading of original sources, and discussion, to the origins and development of Western philosophy. The first part of the course studies this tradition from its beginnings in ancient Greece through the Christian Middle Ages. Authors read include Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, and St. Thomas Aquinas. Themes include the nature of reality; the nature of human being and human knowledge; moral and political philosophy; the existence and nature of God. The latter part of the course continues the survey of developments in Western philosophy, from the early modern period to contemporary discussion. The focus is on rationalism, empiricism, idealism, and the reactions these provoked. For the purposes of prerequisite and degree requirements, this course is the equivalent of PHIL 1013 and 1023.

PHIL-1013. Introduction to Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval

An introduction, through lecture, reading of original sources, and discussion, to the origins and development of Western philosophy from its beginnings in ancient Greece through the Middle Ages. Authors read include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas. Themes: the nature of reality; the nature of human being and human knowledge; moral and political philosophy; the existence and nature of God. This course has no prerequisite.

PHIL-1023. Introduction to Philosophy II: Modern and Contemporary

A continuation of the survey of developments in Western philosophy, through lecture, reading of original sources, and discussion, from the early modern period to contemporary discussion. Focus: rationalism, empiricism, idealism, and the reactions these provoked. This course has no prerequisite.

PHIL-2133. Medieval Philosophy: Augustine, Neoplatonism and Arabic Philosophy (RELG 2143)

A lecture course covering Medieval philosophy from its earliest origins, culminating in the Platonism of Augustine, Boethius, John Scotus Eriugena, and Anselm. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2143. Medieval Philosophy: Pre-Modern Modernity and the Rise and Fall of Scholasticism (RELG 2153)

A lecture course covering the Medieval philosophy of the 13th century (especially St. Thomas Aquinas), the collapse of the Thomistic synthesis in fourteenth century philosophy, and the beginning of the Modern outlook. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2153. Early Modern Philosophy: Rationalism and the Supremacy of Reason

useful for us today? The course presupposes no background in philosophy. Prerequisites: none.

IV. Legal and Political Philosophy

PHIL-2313. Western Tradition of Political Philosophy II (POLS 2806)

This course will introduce students to seminal texts in political philosophy focussing on the medieval, early modern and modern periods. Texts may include: Aquinas' *Treatise on Law*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Locke's *The Second Treatise on Government*, Rousseau's *Discourses*, Hegel's *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*. Prerequisite: POLS 2803.

PHIL-3313. Philosophy of Human Rights

This course will introduce students to philosophical questions concerning the foundation of human rights. What are human rights based on? What makes something a human right? Are human rights universally and permanently valid, or is the notion of human rights merely a construct of modern Western culture? The course will familiarize students with alternative theoretical answers to these and other related questions. Prerequisite: HMRT 2003, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3343. Human Nature, Society, Justice and Law I: Classical and Christian Theories

A lecture course concentrating on philosophies of human nature in relation to civil society, justice, and law. Principal question: Is human nature good or bad? pro-social or sociopathic? Applications: competing theories of justice, law, and sanction, including issues of enforcement and correction. Philosophers: Sophists, Plato, Aristotle, Stoics, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke. Prerequisite: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3353. Human Nature, Society, Justice and Law II: Modern Secular Theories

A lecture course concentrating on the main contemporary views of human nature, in relation to civil society, justice, and law. Principal issue: Is human nature good or bad? pro-social or sociopathic? Applications: competing theories of justice, law, and sanction, including issues of enforcement and correction. Philosophers: Hume, Rousseau, Hegel, Bentham, Mill, Green, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Freud, Dewey, Sartre.

V. Themes and Authors

PHIL-2513. Introduction to Logic (MATH)

A lecture course in which students learn how to identify and evaluate arguments drawn from a wide variety of sources. It will develop informal methods such as the identification of argument structure and informal fallacies. It will also develop formal methods that involve taking arguments in English, symbolizing them in a formal language, and evaluating strengths and weaknesses of the argument forms. Also covered are basic probability theory, inductive logic, and statistical reasoning.

PHIL-2523. Introduction to Aesthetics

In this course, we will investigate and critically assess some of the most influential attempts in the history of philosophy to respond to art and artistic expression. Readings will include selections from a variety of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Heidegger, and Benjamin.

PHIL-2533. Minds and Brains

What is a mind? Is the mind reducible to the brain? If not, how are they related? Various answers to these questions will be considered in the course. Topics will normally include: behaviourism, functionalism, dualism, identity theory, representational theory, consciousness, the intentional stance, eliminativism, property dualism, non-reductive physicalism. The course presupposes no background in philosophy and may be of interest to students in psychology and the life sciences, as well as philosophy.

PHIL-2543. Moral Psychology

Are moral judgements grounded in emotion or reason? Under what conditions are people morally responsible? Why should I be moral? Are all moral decisions motivated by self-

PHIL-3763. Martin Heidegger

In this course, we will engage in a close reading of selected works by Martin Heidegger. We will consider Heidegger's attempt to raise anew the urgent "question of being", specifically, how his development of this question demands a radical assessment of many of our most dearly-held assumptions about truth, human nature, knowledge and reality, freedom and responsibility, history and time. Prerequisite: Either PHIL 3653 or PHIL 3583, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3683. Epistemology

This course is devoted to a topic of current interest in contemporary epistemology. The topic for any particular year may be selected from: skepticism, *a priori* justification, internalism and externalism, epistemic duty, epistemic justification, the definition and conditions of knowledge, sources of knowledge, explanation, knowledge and natural science, naturalized epistemology, analyticity. The text for the course will be either a recent monograph or a collection of articles. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3813. Introduction to Logic II (MATH 3813)

This is a course in first-order symbolic logic in its second main branch (predicate logic). The aim is to acquaint students with the formal language of modern deductive logic and to develop the basic techniques of good deductive reasoning. The course will be of interest to philosophy Majors in particular (especially those who are planning to do graduate work in philosophy), but will benefit anyone who wants to acquire skills in abstract thinking. A good grounding in sentential logic is presupposed. Prerequisite: PHIL 2513, or permission of the instructor.

VI. Tutorials and Independent Studies

NOTE: The courses listed in this section are normally intended for students capable of independent work at an advanced level.

PHIL-4886. Honours Seminar

Directed by a Department member on a topic approved by the Department, this seminar for Philosophy Honours students in their final year will involve, among other requirements, the preparation and presentation of a major essay. Normally, this option will not be available when PHIL 4996 Honours Thesis is offered.

PHIL-4983. Independent Studies

Special courses in philosophical reading and writing under the direction of members of the Department of Philosophy may be permitted by the Chair of the Department.

PHIL-4996. Honours Thesis

Students honouring in philosophy will submit, normally in the final semester of their Bachelor of Arts Program, an extended paper resulting from independent research, and written under the guidance of a director chosen from among the members of the Department.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.