

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 recommended for those students contemplating graduate study in philosophy.

The Department's offerings may, with appropriate permission, be complemented by the resources of the Department of Philosophy of the University of New Brunswick.

Honours and the

philosophy		in		their
1. The		element		of
PHIL	Nat	1013	is	Philosophy
PHIL	Nat	1023	is	Philosophy
PHIL	Atheism	1033	An	Introd
PHIL	Fee	1043		An
PHIL	Myth	1053	and	Reason
PHIL	Life	1063	and	Death
PHIL	Nat	1073		Animal
*		A		maximum
Major		requirements;		any
degree		requirements.		
2. the	six	equivalent	(6)	from
PHIL	Introduction	2213	to	of credit
PHIL	Contemporary	2233	Moral	Mo
PHIL	Current	2243	Issues	in
PHIL	The	2253	Ethics	of
PHIL	The	2263	Art	of
	Century			
3. the equivalent of twelve (12) credit hours				
PHIL 2113	<i>Ancient Philosophy: The Presocratics and Plato</i>			
PHIL 2123	<i>Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy</i>			
PHIL 2133	<i>Medieval Philosophy: Augustine, Neoplatonism and Arabic Philosophy</i>			
	<i>(RELG 213)</i>			

- PHIL 2143 Medieval Philosophy: Pre-Modern Modernity and the Rise and Fall of Scholasticism (RELG 2153)
- 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 What is Philosophy? (Historical Introduction 1)
- PHIL 1023 What is Philosophy? (Historical Introduction 2)
- PHIL 1033 Atheism: An Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 1043 Free Will: An Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 1053 Myth and Reason: and Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 1063 Life and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 1073 Robot & Animal Ethics: An Introduction to Philosophy
- * A maximum of six (6) credit hours at the first-year level can be used to satisfy the Honours or Major requirements; any additional credit hours at the first-year level may satisfy only other degree requirements.*
2. the equivalent of *six (6) credit hours* from among:
- PHIL 2213 Introduction to Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 2233 Contemporary Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 2243 Current Issues in Ethics
- PHIL 2253 The Ethics of Sustainability: Thinking, Acting Green
- PHIL 2263 The Art of Living: Ancient Greek Strategies for Happiness in the XXIst Century
3. the equivalent of *twelve (12) credit hours* from among:
- PHIL 2113 Ancient Philosophy: The Presocratics and Plato
- PHIL 2123 Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy
- PHIL 2133 Medieval Philosophy: Augustine, Neoplatonism and Arabic Philosophy (RELG 2143)
- PHIL 2143 Medieval Philosophy: Pre-Modern Modernity and the Rise and Fall of Scholasticism (RELG 2153)

- 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

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 IV.IV.

PHIL-1023. What is Philosophy? (Historical Introduction 2)

To do philosophy is to reflect critically on our underlying beliefs (e.g., about reality, knowledge, freedom, responsibility) and to modify whatever doesn't stand up to scrutiny. Whether we realize it or not, the very way we think is shaped by past thinkers -- which is why studying philosophy's history is a crucial part of doing philosophy. In this course, we will focus on Modern and Contemporary thinkers as we strive to evaluate our views critically. This course has no prerequisite.

PHIL-1033. Atheism: An Introduction to Philosophy

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on atheism. Students will be introduced to the current debate, but will also consider what the great minds of the past can tell us about the existence or non-existence of God. We will draw on both historical and contemporary sources, developing skills of philosophical analysis in connection with a single, hotly disputed topic. This course has no prerequisite.

PHIL-1043. Free Will: An Introduction to Philosophy

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on the problem of free will. Students will be introduced to the current debate, but will also consider what the great minds of the past can tell us about the possibility or impossibility of acting freely. We will draw on both historical and contemporary sources, developing skills of philosophical analysis in connection with a single, hotly disputed topic. This course has no prerequisite.

PHIL-1053. Myth and Reason: An Introduction to Philosophy

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on the opposition between myth and reason. Students learn the skills of philosophical analysis by studying one topic in detail. Questions explored may include: How are myth and reason different? Are they opposed? What are the limits of reason? Can myth help reason? Can reason refute myth? What role does authority play in myth and reason? This course has no prerequisite.

PHIL-1063. Life and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on philosophical questions related to life and death. Students learn the skills of philosophical analysis by studying one topic in detail. Questions explored may include: What are life and death? Does anything persist after death? If so, what *nā*detail. Questions explored may include: Wb15(W)5 (and dea)4 (th. S)3 (tuden)4 artu

II. History of Philosophy

PHIL-2113. Ancient Philosophy I: The Fundamental Structures of Reality

A lecture course surveying ancient philosophy from the Presocratics to Plato. Philosophers covered may include: Anaximander, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus, Gorgias, Protagoras, Socrates and Plato. Through readings of original sources and ancient testimony, the course analyses key questions in ancient philosophy, e.g. what is philosophy and what does it achieve? What is nature? What is the best life? Prerequisites: Any 1000-level PHIL course, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2123. Ancient Philosophy II: Discovering the Inner Workings of Nature

A lecture course surveying ancient philosophy from Aristotle to Hellenistic philosophy (Epicurus, the Stoics and the Sceptics). Through readings of original sources and ancient testimony, the course analyses key questions in ancient philosophy, e.g. what can philosophy achieve? What is the nature of reality? What does it mean to live together? Prerequisites: Any 1000-level PHIL course, or permission of the instructor.

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: Either PHIL 1013 or 1023 or 1053 or 2263 or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2143. Medieval Philosophy: Pre-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: Either PHIL 1013 or 1023 or 1053 or 2263 or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2153. Rationalism

A study of the 17th and 18th century rationalist philosophers. Prerequisites: Any 1000-level PHIL course, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2163. Empiricism

A study of the 17th and 18th century British empiricists. Prerequisites: Any 1000-level PHIL course, or permission of the instructor.

III. Moral Philosophy

PHIL-2213. Introduction to Moral Philosophy (HMRT 2253)

This course introduces different positions in moral philosophy to provide alternative ways of thinking about questions like: Is our happiness influenced by our moral condition? Can we say what makes an individual or a society morally good or bad? What is the relation between pleasure and moral action? Fundamental moral concepts are treated through the careful

PHIL-2233. Contemporary Moral Philosophy (HMRT 2263)

A lecture course examining a specific topic in contemporary moral philosophy. Topics vary from year to year and may include: virtue ethics, metaethics, contemporary deontology, contemporary utilitarianism, emotivism, relativism, the is-ought debate, and others. Prerequisites: Any 1000-level PHIL course, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2243. Current Issues in Ethics (HMRT 2273)

A discussion, through lectures and student presentations, of ethical theory through its application in the consideration of such contemporary issues as: pornography and censorship, euthanasia, abortion, punishment, justice and welfare, sexual and racial discrimination. Prerequisite: Phil 2213, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-2253. The Ethics of Sustainability: Thinking, Acting Green (ENVS, HMRT)

An historically-conscious analysis of various normative stances in environmental ethics integrated with a sustained consideration of how to apply this ethical theory to modern life. Topics may include deep and shallow ecology, biocentrism, eco-feminism, environmental justice, environmental virtue ethics, the ambiguous role of technology in the environmental crisis, the ethics of the green economy, the ethics of green public policy, a survey of various locally-employed environmental initiatives. Recommended preparation: PHIL 2213.

PHIL-2263. The Art of Living: Ancient Greek Strategies for Happiness in the XXIst Century

Can Greek philosophers help us live a fulfilling life? This course examines a rich tradition known as therapy for the mind, that developed from Socrates to Hellenistic Philosophy. These thinkers argue that philosophy improves many facets of our lives and can help us become happy. What do they have to say about happiness, emotions, desires, love, and death? Can this advice be 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 investigate and critically assess some of the most influential attempts in the history of philosophy to respond to art and artistic expression. Readings include selections from a variety of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Heidegger, and Benjamin. Prerequisites: None.

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-interest? Do moral reasons depend on desires? How does virtue relate to moral motivation? These questions are central to moral psychology. The course presupposes no background in philosophy and may be of interest to students in psychology and the life sciences, as well as philosophy. This course will not count toward credits in Psychology (i.e. a Major). Prerequisites: none.

PHIL-3106. Love and Friendship

This course will explore the interrelated themes of friendship, love and beauty. Each theme will be examined separately and as connected to the others. Ancient and modern texts will be used to examine the ways that different ages have addressed these fundamentally personal and yet common human experiences. Texts will vary from year to year but may include works such as Plato's *Symposium and Lysis*, Rousseau's *Emile*, Descartes' *Passions of the Mind*. Prerequisite: GRBK 2006 or GRBK 2106, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3206. Human Nature and Technology

This course will study the way in which diverse thinkers have considered the question of human nature. This question will be sharpened with a consideration of the way in which human beings considered as natural beings use and are affected by technology. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Grant's *Technology and Empire*, Heidegger's *The Question Concerning Technology*, Fukuyama's *The Posthuman Future*. Prerequisite: GRBK 2006 or GRBK 2106, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3413. God in Western Thought

A survey, through lectures, readings, and discussion, of Western philosophical speculation regarding the divine. Themes: theism and atheism in classical antiquity; demonstrations of God's existence in medieval philosophy; the effect on religious belief of empiricism, idealism, Marxism, and existentialism. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3443. Hegel's Philosophy of Religion

This course will involve a consideration of G.W.F. Hegel's philosophy of religion. The primary text will be Hegel's *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, although consideration may be given to other relevant material from the *Phenomenology of Spirit* and the *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences*. Prerequisites: PHIL 2153 and 2163, or PHIL 3623, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3503. Seminar on Plato's Philosophy

This seminar brings together two questions central to the study of Plato: What is philosophy? and what can it achieve? Through an analysis of primary sources and secondary literature, the seminar assesses various answers provided by Plato. Texts covered may include selections from the dialogues of definition (*Apology*, *Euthyphro*, *Gorgias*), from the metaphysical dialogues (*Phaedo*, *Republic*), and from the dialogues on language (*Theaetetus*, *Parmenides*, *Sophist*). Prerequisite: Any six (6) credit hours in the History of Philosophy (PHIL 2113, 2123, 2133, 2143, 2153, and 2163), or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3513. Seminar on Aristotle's Philosophy

This seminar examines key topics in Aristotle's logic, physics and metaphysics. More specifically, through a systematic reading of passages in foundational texts such as (for example) the *Posterior Analytics*, the *Categories*, *De interpretatione*, the *Topics*, the *De anima*, the *Physics*, and the *Metaphysics*, the seminar examines and assesses Aristotle's philosophy and its contribution to central debates in the history of philosophy. Prerequisite: Any six (6) credit hours in the History of Philosophy (PHIL 2113, 2123, 2133, 2143, 2153, and 2163), or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3523. The Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas

A seminar course covering the philosophy of Aquinas and its relation to the previous history of philosophy, and to the historical context of St. Thomas' own time. Thematic focus: philosophy of knowledge, of being, and of human nature. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 or PHIL 1023 or permission of instructor.

PHIL-3533. Thomas Aquinas: Law, Morality, Society

A lecture course covering the fundamentals of the legal, moral, and political philosophy of Aquinas and its relation to the previous history of philosophy and to the historical and cultural context of the high middle ages. Prerequisite: PHIL 3523, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3543. Existential Philosophy

A study of existential thinking, its fundamental structure, and its importance for a contemporary understanding of the human situation. Prerequisites: Any 1000-level PHIL course, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3553. Augustine's Confessions

This course provides an in-depth analysis of Augustine's Christian philosophy through a close reading of his most widely read work, the *Confessions*. The course focuses on themes like the relation between addiction and free will, the invention of the concept of selfhood, truth as an integration of universality and particularity, the problems that friendship creates for self knowledge, and the Christian take-over of Platonism and Stoicism. Prerequisites: Either PHIL 1013 or 1023 or 1053 or 2263 or permission of the instructor.

PHIL-3563. Philosophy of Science

This course will examine science from the perspective of philosophy. Topics will include the historical relation between science and philosophy, the differences between the social and

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

A survey of intermediate topics in formal 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. 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.