PHIL - PHILOSOPHY

PHIL408 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy (3 Credits)
An intensive examination of contemporary problems and issues. Source material will be selected from recent books and articles.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

PHIL409 Advanced Studies in Contemporary Philosophy (3 Credits)
An in-depth study of a contemporary philosophical problem or issue.
Topics will vary, but the course will encourage students to grapple with the primary literature in order to generate sustained critical analyses or proposed resolutions of issues under active consideration in contemporary philosophy.
Prerequisite: 6 credits in PHIL courses.
Repeatable to: 12 credits if content differs.

PHIL412 The Philosophy of Plato (3 Credits)
A critical study of selected dialogues.
Prerequisite: 6 credits in PHIL courses.

PHIL414 The Philosophy of Aristotle (3 Credits)
A critical study of selected portions of Aristotle’s writings.
Prerequisite: 6 credits in PHIL courses.

PHIL416 Medieval Philosophy (3 Credits)
A study of philosophical thought from the fourth to the fourteenth centuries. Readings selected from Christian, Islamic, and Jewish thinkers.
Prerequisite: 6 credits in PHIL courses.

PHIL417 The Golden Age of Jewish Philosophy (3 Credits)
Jewish philosophy from Maimonides in the 12th century to the expulsion of the Jews from Spain at the end of the 15th century. Topics include the limitations of human knowledge, creation of the world, foreknowledge and free will, and the existence of God.
Prerequisite: 3 credits in PHIL courses; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department. Also offered as: JWST452.
Credit Only Granted for: JWST452 or PHIL417.

PHIL418 Topics in Epistemology/Metaphysics (3 Credits)
An intensive examination of contemporary problems and issues in epistemology or metaphysics. Source material will be selected from recent books and articles.
Prerequisite: 2 courses in PHIL.
Repeatable to: 12 credits if content differs.

PHIL424 The Philosophy of Spinoza (3 Credits)
An investigation of the metaphysical, ethical and political thought of the 17th century philosopher Benedict Spinoza.
Prerequisite: 3 credits in PHIL courses; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department.
Restriction: Must not have completed JWST453. Also offered as: JWST453.
Credit Only Granted for: JWST453 or PHIL424.

PHIL428 Topics in the History of Philosophy (3 Credits)

PHIL431 Aesthetic Theory (3 Credits)
Study of the theory of the aesthetic as a mode of apprehending the world and of the theory of criticism, its conceptual tools and intellectual presuppositions.
Prerequisite: 9 credits in PHIL courses; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department.

PHIL438 Topics in Value Theory (3 Credits)
An intensive examination of contemporary problems and issues in ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy and related areas. Source material will be selected from recent books and articles.
Prerequisite: 2 courses in PHIL.
Repeatable to: 12 credits if content differs.

PHIL440 Contemporary Ethical Theory (3 Credits)
Contemporary work on fundamental problems in ethical theory, such as whether there are moral truths, whether and how our moral claims can be justified, what exactly makes an act right or wrong, the nature of moral language, and the role of reason and emotion in moral judgment.
Prerequisite: PHIL341; or permission of instructor.

PHIL443 Moral Psychology (3 Credits)
Philosophers often stress reasoning as the appropriate source for practical and moral action. Would a realistic view of human psychology undermine this assumption? This course will examine recent philosophical and empirical work on the relevance of emotion and/or intuition to rationality, moral worth, and moral judgment.
Prerequisite: 2 courses in PHIL.
Recommended: PHIL341 is strongly recommended for background on the historical authors that the readings make reference to.
Credit Only Granted for: PHIL408P or PHIL443.
Formerly: PHIL408P

PHIL445 Contemporary Political Philosophy (3 Credits)
Major trends in contemporary political philosophy: liberal, libertarian, communitarian, socialist, feminist.
Restriction: Must have completed 3 credits in philosophy or political theory; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department. And sophomore standing or higher.

PHIL446 Law, Morality, and War (3 Credits)
An exploration of fundamental moral and legal issues concerning war.
Prerequisite: GVPT401 and PHIL341; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department. Also offered as: GVPT403.

PHIL454 Philosophy of Space and Time (3 Credits)
A non-technical investigation of philosophical issues in the foundations of physics. Topics may include traditional philosophical problems of space and time, metaphysical issues about the nature of particles and fields, and philosophical problems associated with the introduction of probability into physics, such as the problem of irreversibility in thermodynamics and the problem of objectivity in quantum theory.
Prerequisite: 6 credits in PHIL courses.

PHIL456 Philosophy of Biology II (3 Credits)
Questions about concepts, reasoning, explanation, etc., in biology, and their relations to those of other areas of science. Case studies of selected aspects of the history of biology, especially in the twentieth century.
Prerequisite: PHIL256 or PHIL250; or must be Life Science major; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department.

PHIL458 Topics in the Philosophy of Science (3 Credits)
A detailed examination of a particular topic or problem in philosophy of science.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.

PHIL469 Study Abroad Special Topics IV (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.
PHIL470 Logical Theory (3 Credits)
This course will treat a selection of the most important topics in modern logic: alternative proof-theoretic presentations of logical systems, completeness proofs for classical propositional and first-order logic, some basic computability theory, basic limitative results (such as Godel's incompleteness theorems), and some results concerning second-order logic. The primary focus of the course is a study of these fundamental topics, but we will also discuss some of the philosophical issues they raise.
Prerequisite: PHIL370; or permission of instructor.

PHIL478 Topics in Philosophical Logic (3 Credits)
Methods and results of philosophical logic, the application of logical techniques to the study of concepts or problems of philosophical interest. Content will vary, either treating a particular logical area in detail—such as modal logic, conditional logic, deontic logic, intuitionistic or relevance logic, theories of truth and paradox—or surveying a number of these different areas.
Prerequisite: PHIL370; or permission of instructor.
Recommended: PHIL470.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

PHIL488 Topics in Philosophy of Cognitive Studies (3 Credits)
Examination of a particular topic or problem in philosophy of cognitive studies.
Prerequisite: 3 credits in PHIL courses; or permission of ARHU-Philosophy department.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

PHIL489 Undergraduate Seminar in Philosophy (3-6 Credits)
An intensive examination of a philosophical topic or topics.
Restriction: Permission of ARHU-Philosophy department.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.

PHIL498 Topical Investigations (1-3 Credits)
A basic course in value theory for beginning graduate students, covering a number of topics in depth, to provide a springboard for further study and research in the area.

PHIL660 Metaphysics, Mind, and Language (3 Credits)
A basic course on selected issues in metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language for beginning graduate students, covering a number of topics in depth, to provide a springboard for further study and research in the area.

PHIL688 Selected Problems in Philosophy (1-3 Credits)
PHIL788 Research in Philosophy (1-6 Credits)
PHIL798 Master's Level Independent Study (1-3 Credits)
Master's level independent study.
Restriction: Permission of instructor.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.