

FALL 2012 -- Philosophy Course Offerings

First Course in Philosophy -- What should you take?

Any of the following courses are great introductions, whether you just want to try out philosophy, or you want to major in it. All courses involve a combination of lecture, discussion, and writing. Even "higher number" philosophy courses do not presuppose prior familiarity with philosophy, so if something grabs your interest, you should sign up for it! See more courses listed on the reverse, some of which are HP courses. The point of philosophy is to do it and to develop your own reasoning skills. It's not memorizing facts or bullet points.

PHI 10, (HP) Introduction to Philosophy (multiple sections) -- survey of central topics in philosophy (e.g., freedom & determinism; nature of mind; God; difference between knowledge and belief)

PHI 14, (HP) Introduction to Ethics (multiple sections) -- more focused than PHI 10; study of values; what it means to lead a good life; the nature of right and wrong; what justice is; the role of happiness in making moral choices.

PHI 14F (HP) First Year Seminars -- topics vary. Any of these are a good introduction to philosophy, A seminar will count towards the philosophy major. Open to incoming students only.

PHI 15, (HP) Law, Philosophy and Public Life (MWF 10:10-11:05) -- This course is especially good if you are interested in pre-law, and satisfies a requirement for the Philosophy of Law minor.

PHI 20, (HP) Social and Political Philosophy (TR 12:45-2:10) -- studies things like the basis for political rights, the nature of democracy, the balance between individual freedom and society. Good course for anyone, but especially if you're interested in pre-law or political science.

PHI 25, (HP) Theories of Human Nature (MW 2:55-4:20) -- what is distinctive about human beings? that human beings are moral, are seekers of knowledge, are political animals? what's the connection between human nature and the natural world?

PHI 90, (HP) Contemporary Ethical Issues (MW 6:30-7:45) -- examines contemporary moral topics, such as euthanasia, the ethics of marriage, abortion, corporate social responsibility, capital punishment; topics vary.

Cross-Cultural Courses

PHI 17 (CC) Intro to Eastern Philosophy (TR 12:45-2:10) -- surveys different types of non-Western philosophy, such as Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism.

PHI 103 (CC) Life, Death and Immortality (TR 2:20-3:45) -- examines life, death and immortality across a range of western and nonwestern traditions.

Most Other Philosophy Courses do not assume that you've already taken a philosophy course, so if something grabs your interest sign up for it! Here are other philosophy offerings for Fall 2012. Some carry HP credit:

PHI 91 Technology and Human Values (MF 11:15-12:40) -- examines the nature of values in technological society. What are the values embodied in technology? How does technology change what we value? Do we control technology or does it control us?

PHI 114 Existentialism and Phenomenology (TR 9:35 - 11) -- examines where there is an essence to human nature or if our existence is radically undetermined; topics include freedom, nature of consciousness, death and anxiety, and others.

PHI 150, Practical Logic (MWF 10:10-11:105) -- this is a great course for students preparing for LSATs, MCATs, and other graduate entrance exams. The course builds critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze and evaluate arguments. **(NOTE: PHI 154, Introduction to Symbolic Logic is also great graduate entrance exam preparation.)**

PHI 161, (HP) Philosophy of Science (MW 4:30-5:55) -- this is a great course for non-science, natural science and social science majors who want to understand the assumptions, methods and limits of science, the relation between science, culture and values.

PHI 170 Ethical Theory: Value, Relativism and Pluralism (TR 4:30-5:55) -- examines topics in contemporary ethical theory, such as the relationship between moral philosophy and theories of the self and whether values are pluralistic

PHI 181 Why Can You Vote and Apple, Inc. Can't?, 1 credit (MW 12:50-2:45 for 4 weeks, 10/1-10/26/2012 -- In this *mini-course*, we will explore the meaning of the idea that a corporation is a legal person, and some of its practical and political implications. No prior coursework or experience in philosophy is required.

Courses Required for the Major

PHI 141 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (TR 2:20-3:45) -- studies the beginnings of western philosophy in the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, followed by a consideration of the influence of Christianity on philosophy from Augustine to the 14th century.

PHI 154 Introduction to Symbolic Logic (MWF 12:50-1:45) -- formal logic teaches skills for evaluating your own and others' reasoning. Also, great preparation for LSATs and other graduate entrance exams.

(Note: PHI 10 and PHI 14 also satisfy requirements for the major.)

Check the offerings for Fall 2012 on-line, stop by the Philosophy Department, Heger Hall 104, visit our webpage (www.hofstra.edu/Academics/HCLAS/Philosophy), call (516-463-5612), email (philosophy@hofstra.edu), or talk to your Advisor.