First Course in Philosophy -- What should you take?

Any of the following courses is a great introduction, whether you just want to try out philosophy and develop your own reasoning skills, or you want to major or minor in it. All courses involve a combination of lecture, discussion, and writing.

**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 25 (HP) Theories of Human Nature CRN 93466 (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 CRN 92467 (MW 4:30-5:55)** -- examines contemporary moral topics, such as euthanasia, the ethics of marriage, abortion, corporate social responsibility, capital punishment; topics vary.

Mini- Courses, 1 s.h. courses

**PHI 5 Insights: Happiness CRN 94416 (MW1:55-2:50)** This course will examine various philosophical theories about the nature of Happiness. Each student will be encouraged to consider his or her own life and views about happiness. This course has no prerequisites, and doesn’t presuppose prior experience in philosophy. NOTE: course meets 10/5-11/23/2015

**PHI 5 Insights: Free Will CRN 94467 (TR 10-11)** -- At every moment of the day we act with the knowledge that what we do is up to us. When morals or the law is important, we count ourselves as responsible because what happened was up to us. Yet, from a wider perspective, our contribution is nothing at all: the world proceeds, and we are carried along in the flow. This is the free will problem. This course will introduce the student to this problem through classical and contemporary readings. This course has no prerequisites, and doesn’t presuppose prior experience in philosophy. NOTE: course meets: 10/6-11/19/2015
### Cross-Cultural Courses

**PHI 17 (CC) Intro to Eastern Philosophy CRN 92466** (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 CRN 92468** (TR 2:20-3:45) -- examines life, death and immortality across a range of western and non-western traditions.

### Other Courses

Most "higher number" philosophy courses do not presuppose prior familiarity with philosophy, so if something grabs your interest, sign up for it!

**PHI 131 (HP) Ethics and Animals CRN 94423** (MWF 12:50-1:45) -- Inquiry into the ethical significance of non-human animals. Do they have interests and rights? If so, on what basis - capacity for consciousness? for pain and pleasure? similarity to human beings? The course may examine treatment of animals in agriculture and diet, science and education, wild nature and domestic life, and entertainment and fashion.

**PHI 141 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy CRN 90659** (TR 12:45-2:10) -- 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 150 Critical Reasoning CRN 90657** (MWF 10:10-11:05) -- develops student's critical thinking skills. Analyze and assess arguments and learn how to formulate good arguments of one's own. Great preparation for LSATs, MCATs, and other graduate entrance exams.

**PHI 154 Introduction to Symbolic Logic CRN 93680** (MW 4:30-5:55) -- formal logic teaches skills for evaluating your own and others' reasoning. Also, great preparation for LSATs and other graduate entrance exams. (Required for PHI major.)

**PHI 182 Selected Philosophers: Hume CRN 94424** (TR 4:30-5:55) -- David Hume is famous as a skeptic and as an advocate of common sense, as a sharply critical reasoner and as a proponent of instinct's power. He is one of the most challenging and influential of philosophers. This course will aim partly at understanding Hume in his historical context, and partly at using Hume's thinking to gain a better understanding of philosophical issues like cause and effect, naturalism and skepticism, personal identity, free will, the basis of morality, and the character and status of religious belief.