

Fall 2017

Philosophy Course Offerings

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. ***No prior experience in philosophy needed.***

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.

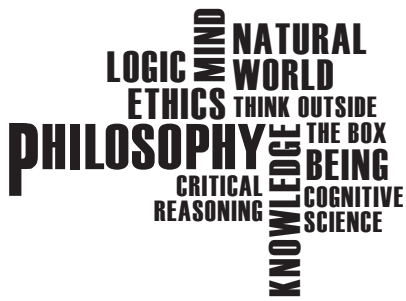
PHI 15 (HP) Law, Philosophy and Public Life CRN 93823 (MF 11:15-12:40) -- -- This course is especially good if you are interested in pre-law, and satisfies a requirement for the Philosophy of Law minor.

PHI 51 Philosophical Explorations: Calling Bullsh*t! CRN 94562 (MW 2:55-4:20) -- How do you sort out lies, half-truths, “alternative facts”, from real facts and strongly supported science? This course will explore how to recognize bullsh*t, understand why it is bullsh*t, and how to defuse it. The course will equip the student with tools for developing critical perspectives on the news, media publications, scientific claims as made in the popular press, and political discourse. Classes led by multiple, alternating faculty.

PHI 90 (HP) Contemporary Ethical Issues CRN 92158 (MW 4:30-5:55) -- examines contemporary moral topics, such as euthanasia, the ethics of marriage, abortion, corporate social responsibility, capital punishment; topics vary.

1-Credit Course: start mid-semester

PHI 5F Friendship 1 s.h. CRN 94325 (meets TR 10-11, for 10 weeks, 10/19-12/20) -- Friendship is a crucial part of a good human life. But many puzzles arise: can it be one-sided, or does it have to be mutual? can it be shallow? Do friends have to be similar or can they be very different from one another? What is the value of friendship in the larger context of things we value (e.g., ambition, morality)? ***No prior experience in philosophy required.***



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Cross-Cultural Courses

PHI 17 (CC) Introduction to Eastern Philosophy CRN 92157 (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 92159 (TR 2:20-3:45) -- examines life, death and immortality across a range of western and nonwestern traditions.

Other Courses

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

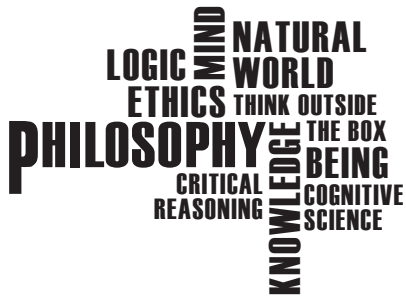
PHI 114 Existentialism and Phenomenology (TR 4:30-5:55) -- examines whether there is an essence to human nature or if our existence is radically undetermined; topics include freedom, nature of consciousness, death and anxiety, and others.

PHI 141 Ancient & Medieval Philosophy CRN 90605 (TR 12:45-2:10) -- Historical survey of ancient and medieval philosophy, examining pre-Socratic philosophers, Plato, Aristotle, Hellenistic thinkers, and medieval writers. Course is designed to help students develop competency in the oral presentation of philosophical ideas and arguments.

PHI 154 Introduction to Symbolic Logic CRN 93031 (MWF 12:50-13:45) -- 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 162 (HP) Philosophy of Biology CRN 24112 (MW 4:30-5:55) -- examines philosophical questions arising from our increasing scientific understanding of ourselves, other organisms, and ecological systems. The questions span areas of philosophy from knowledge (epistemology), to classification (metaphysics), reasoning, and ethics—from whether species and races are real, to the implications of genetics, to whether evolution can explain ethics.

PHI 165 Philosophy of Language CRN 94327 (TR 11:10-12:35) -- How does language relate to the world? Course discusses nature of language and linguistic concepts like meaning, syntax, reference, truth and fiction.



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PHI 181Q Harry Potter and Philosophy CRN 94302 (TR 9:35-11) -- Course examines some of the philosophical issues raised in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. These include, but are not limited to: the nature of evil; "pure blood"; time travel; education and childhood; transformations (of objects into objects, and of persons into other species); kinds of causation (ordinary; with words and spells; with magic); souls, Horcruxes and persons; free will and destiny; and death.

Philosophy Programs

Major in Philosophy -- there are **three** degree tracks in Philosophy to choose from:

BA in Philosophy

BS in Philosophy – allows you to combine Philosophy with a Professional, Technical or Scientific Program and to design an individualized program of study

BA in Pre-health Studies with a concentration in Philosophy

Minor in Philosophy – we offer several:

Philosophy Minor

Philosophy of Law Minor

Philosophy, Society and Business Minor

Minor in Scientific Reasoning and Data Analysis (NEW!)

Cognitive Science Minor

Philosophy Department

Heger Hall

516-463-5612

www.hofstra.edu/Academics/HCLAS/Philosophy