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 11 (HP) Introduction to Reasoning and Critical Thinking**  CRN 23683 (MWF 10:10-11:05) -- Introduces the student to key elements of critical reasoning, and applies those elements to practical cases. The course aims to develop proficiency in the use of natural logic, which will be helpful to students in everyday contexts, as well as in graduate and professional exam preparation and in their careers. Not for credit if have already taken PHI 150.

**PHI 12 (HP) What does it all mean? Life, Meaning and Philosophy** CRN 22619 (TR 2:20-3:45) – examines various approaches to the question of the meaning of life, and how this question connects with other important philosophical questions.

**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 16 (HP) Philosophic Themes in Film** CRN 22265 (TR 12:45-2:10) -- another good introduction to central topics in philosophy through explicit use of films such as *The Matrix, Memento, A.I.,* and *Crimes & Misdemeanors.*

**PHI 92 (HP) Global Ethics** CRN 24619 (MW 4:30-6:30, mid-semester course. Registration opens in February) -- provides students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the phenomenon of globalization by inviting them to reflect on its philosophical and ethical implications.

New! – see next page
Spring 2018

Philosophy Course Offerings

New!

PHI 51R Philosophy and Race CRN 24605 or CRN 24606 (MW 12:45-2:15) – This course examines the ideas of race and racism, primarily in the United States. We investigate the science and metaphysics of race—the question “in what way is race ‘real’?”—the cognitive science of race and racism (what psychological mechanisms are involved in race classifications), the concept of “whiteness”, and the political theory of equality and egalitarianism. We will discuss the normative philosophical question: what, if anything, should we do about race and racism?

PHI 137 (HP) Leadership and Values WI CRN 24796 (M 4:30-7:30) – This course examines the nature of leadership and of good leadership. It also considers the ethical guidelines and principles of leadership, and the issue of defining worthwhile goals and values for both leaders and followers. No prior course work in philosophy is required. This is a writing intensive course.

1-Credit Course

PHI 9X Philosophy Studio: Philosophical Explorations 1 s.h. CRN 23632 (meets M 6-8:30p.m.; NOTE: first class meeting will be Mon., 2/5 and class will meet on some Mondays thereafter; consult with Instructor, Prof. Karolksy) – Each student will explore a philosophical topic of the student’s choice and the expression of it in alternative media, such as a screenplay, a short story, a poem, a piece of music. Topics might include: time travel, personal identity, skepticism, free will, artificial intelligence, ethics, philosophy of religion, the meaning of life. Each student will then compose a piece of writing, exploring how the philosophical issue might be developed or transformed into another form such as a persuasive or descriptive essay, a screenplay, a short story, a poem, or other piece of art.

Other Courses

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

PHI 80 Philosophy of Love CRN 24548 (TR 2:20-3:45) – This course considers the nature of love by exploring such questions as whether there is a single definition of love; whether there are different kinds of love, e.g., sexual love, erotic love, friendship love; whether
can love strangers; whether one can love objects, and if so in what sense; how loving is
different from being loved, and whether one is more important than the other.

**PHI 91 Technology and Human Values CRN 24549 (MW 2:55-4:20)** -- Investigation of
the origin, nature, and status of human values in contemporary forms of technology. The
course combines three elements of coverage: study of values; introduction to philosophy
of technology (including its relations to science and society); examination of engineering
ethics and/or aesthetics (including professional duty, cultural conscience, and
environmental responsibility). This course is the same as TPP 112.

**PHI 120 (HP) Philosophy of Law CRN 20867 (MWF 10:10-11:05)** -- studies major areas in
the philosophy of law; the nature of law and its relation to morality and custom, and the
proper limits of criminal and tort law.

**PHI 121 (HP) Crime & Punishment CRN 23573 (MF 11:15-12:40)** -- Examination of the
justification of punishment, proper sentencing, the death penalty, and the prohibition
against cruel and unusual punishment.

**PHI 143 Classical Modern Philosophy WI CRN 20229 (TR 4:30-5:55)** -- Beginnings of
modern science and consequent reconstructions in philosophy from the 16th century
forward. Particular emphasis on Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley,
Hume and Kant. Course is designed to help students develop competency in the oral
presentation of philosophical ideas and arguments. This is a writing intensive course.

**PHI 163 (HP) Philosophy of Religion CRN 24550 (TR 11:10-12:35)** -- Course explores
various debates between theists, atheists, and agnostics, including: Whether there is
adequate proof of God’s existence; whether the existence of the universe can be explained
if there is no God; whether God’s existence is necessary for morality; whether life can have
meaning and purpose without God; and whether there can ever be adequate responses to
any of these questions.

**PHI 180a Epistemology CRN 24551 (TR 12:45-2:10)** -- An investigation of theories
of knowledge and justification that attempt to define these concepts, and a consideration of
the ways in which theories of knowledge and being are related.

**Writing Intensive Courses – see next page**
Writing Intensive Courses

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Philosophy Programs

Major in Philosophy -- 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
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