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 12 (HP) Life, Meaning & Philosophy CRN 94326 (MW 9:05-10:30) --** 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 15 (HP) Law, Philosophy and Public Life CRN 93222 (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 25 (HP) Theories of Human Nature CRN 95354 (TR 14:20-15:45) --** 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 26 (HP) Free Will and Responsibility CRN 95355 (TR 11:10-12:35) --** This course approaches basic questions in philosophy through a focus on the question, do human beings have free will or not, and how does the answer to that question impact whether we are responsible for what we do and who we are.

**PHI 90 (HP) Contemporary Ethical Issues CRN 91982 (MW 16:30-17:55) --** examines contemporary moral topics, such as euthanasia, the ethics of marriage, abortion, corporate social responsibility, capital punishment; topics vary.

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**1-Credit Course: start mid-semester** (next page)
PHI 5L Insights into Love 1 s.h. CRN 95823 (meets TR 6-7:30, starting October 4th) --
What does it mean to love? What does it mean to be loved? How might love be relevant
to doing philosophy (“love of wisdom”)?! This course seeks to understand these questions
as well as provide some insights into the nature of love. **No credit for this course if you have already taken PHI 80. No prior experience in philosophy required.**

PHI 51D Dangerous Ideas 1 s.h. CRN 95542 (M 16:30-17:55, starting October 8th) --
Ideas matter. Concepts such as democracy, religious liberty, race, capitalism have
inspired social movements, shaped ways of life and political systems, dramatically
influenced the lives of individuals and contemporary debates. Ideas can be dangerous,
creating turmoil and destabilizing the status quo, or **supporting** the status quo when change
is needed or in virtue of having unanticipated consequences.
Each week a faculty member from a different department will explore a concept that has
shaped human experience across time and space. The course is available **only** on a
pass/D+/D/fail basis. PHI 51D is one of the cross-listed sections, all of which meet
together as one course.

### Cross-Cultural Courses

PHI 17 (CC) Introduction to Eastern Philosophy CRN 91981 (TR 12:45-14:10) --
surveys different types of non-Western philosophy, such as Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism.

PHI 103 (CC) Life, Death and Immortality CRN 91983 (TR 14:20-15:45) -- 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 51C (QR) Coding for Philosophical Problems CRN 95541 (TR 9:35-11:00) -- This
course offers a practical, hands-on introduction to computer programming, through a
particular focus on philosophically interesting applications. Students will learn the basics
of a modern general-purpose programming language that is used in a wide variety of
academic, scientific and business settings. Students will write programs that display
something like human intelligence or reasoning ability, and programs to model and
explore hypotheses about the evolutionary origin of morality and altruism. No prior exposure to programming or to philosophy is required.

**PHI 52 (HP) Philosophy and Popular Culture CRN 95356 (TR 11:10-12:35)** -- Once dismissed as “kid’s stuff,” the comic book – or graphic novel – has gained respectability as a genuine literary form in recent decades. Stories of superheroes and villains, androids and aliens, travels through time and space are not merely thrilling to read, but offer food for thought and contemplation. We will consider a selection of comic books classics, such as *Watchmen*, *Ronin*, *The Fantastic 4*, *Longshot*, as well as newer ones, such as *O Human Star* and *Seconds*, and explore their philosophical perspectives on free will, personal identity, the nature of time, the existence of God. Students should have some prior familiarity with the genre and the works mentioned.

**PHI 131 (HP) Ethics and Animals CRN 95359 (MW 14:55-16:20)** -- 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 154 Introduction to Symbolic Logic CRN 95360 (TR 12:45-14:10)** – 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 160 (HP) Philosophy of the Arts CRN 95361 (TR 9:35-11:00)** -- Are some works of art better than others? How does context shape how we understand and value artworks? Course explores how the various arts (music, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, and more) relate to our experience of the world; and discusses philosophical theories of art in connection with examples of artwork in the various genres.

**PHI 170 (HP) Ethical Theory: Value, Relativism, Pluralism CRN 95358 (TR 16:30-17:55)** -- If we pay attention to morality’s depth, we tend to think of values as objective. If we pay attention to disagreements about morality, we tend to think of values as subjective or relative. Can we do justice to morality’s depth and to the persistence of moral disputes? What are the clearest and best ways to think about moral value?

**PHI 181W Philosophical Perspectives on Happiness and Ways of Life CRN 95722 (MW 12:50-14:15)** -- Philosophy is often abstract and theoretical, but a surprising amount of it is about how to live and how to achieve happiness and develop self-acceptance. This course will consider some “ways of life” – from among such examples as stoicism
Fall 2018

Philosophy Course Offerings

among the Greeks and Romans to its revival in modern stoicism, Kant, Nietzsche, Foucault’s theory of philosophy as “care of the self,” and others -- and whether some “ways of life” are more conducive to realizing happiness than others.

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 programs:

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