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 14S (HP) Meaning of Life CRN 22585 (TR 9:35-11) --** an introductory level philosophy course; *for first year students only.*

**PHI 16 (HP) Philosphic Themes in Film CRN 22004 (TR 12:45-2:10) & CRN 24537 (TR 2:20-3:45) --** another good introduction to central topics in philosophy through explicit use of films such as *The Matrix, Memento, A.I.,* and *Crimes & Misdemeanors.*

**PHI 25 (HP) Theories of Human Nature CRN 24731 (MTWR 16:30-18:30), late semester course, starts April 8th, Registration opens in March --** What is human nature? Examines persons as moral beings, as seekers of knowledge, and as social and political animals. Emphasis on the connection between theories of human nature and conceptions of the natural world.

**PHI 92 (HP) Global Ethics CRN 24727 (MW 4:30-6:30), mid-semester course, starts March 4th. 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.
PHI 51A (QR) Artificial Intelligence CRN 24652 (TR 11:10-12:35) – This course will examine philosophical issues concerning artificial intelligence ("AI"). For example, could a machine think or be aware or feel? If there could be artificial intelligences, how ought they related to human societies? How should we be developing and using artificial intelligence tools? This question is immediate, and pressing, since more and more of the technology that meshes with our lives uses AI in various forms. No pre-requisites.

PHI 9X Philosophy Studio: Philosophical Explorations 1 s.h. CRN 23020 (meets M 6-8:30 p.m.; NOTE: first class meeting will be Mon., 2/4 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.

PHI 143 Classical Modern Philosophy WI CRN 20223 (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.

Quantitative Reasoning Courses

PHI 51A (QR) Artificial Intelligence CRN 24652 (TR 11:10-12:35) – This course will examine philosophical issues concerning artificial intelligence ("AI"). For example, could a machine think or be aware or feel? If there could be artificial intelligences, how ought they related to human societies? How should we be developing and using artificial intelligence
tools? This question is immediate, and pressing, since more and more of the technology that meshes with our lives uses AI in various forms. **No pre-requisites.**

**PHI 152 (QR) Scientific Reasoning CRN 24543 (MW12:50-14:15)** – This course covers topics such as the fundamental ideas of reasoning; the nature of evidence and scientific theories; statistical reasoning, reasoning about causes, and the relation between the two; how statistical reasoning can support decision-making under uncertainty. Students will practice a variety of arguments from real contexts. **This course is part of the Minor in Data Analysis and Scientific Reasoning.**

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### Mid-semester & Late Semester Courses

**PHI 25 (HP) Theories of Human Nature CRN 24731 (MTWR 16:30-18:30), late semester course, starts April 8th, Registration opens in March** – What is human nature? Examines persons as moral beings, as seekers of knowledge, and as social and political animals. Emphasis on the connection between theories of human nature and conceptions of the natural world.

**PHI 92 (HP) Global Ethics CRN 24727 (MW 4:30-6:30, mid-semester course, starts March 4th. 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.

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### Other Courses

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

**PHI 67 (HP) Evil: Religious, Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives CRN 24538 (MW 12:50-2:15)** – The “problem of evil” is central to theology and the philosophy of religion. It is also one of the deepest challenges in creating just and stable human communities. In this course we will examine how both religious thinkers and secular philosophers have come to terms with evil. We will also look at contemporary scientific research on empathy and cruelty and consider what insight this may provide into the dark side of human nature.
PHI 110 The Meaning of the Meaning of Life CRN 24420 (TR 12:45-2:10) – What is the meaning of life? is one of the most abiding philosophical questions. But what is it asking? whether there is some ultimate purpose for the universe’s existence? what makes for a satisfying life? Or, is the very question is incoherent? Or, is it really several different questions asking, for example, why anything at all exists, or if human life has value. This course will examine in detail these competing interpretations of the question, and the arguments for and against them.

PHI 120 (HP) Philosophy of Law CRN 20824 (MW 12:50-2:15) -- 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 22992 (MW 14:55-16:20) -- Examination of the justification of punishment, proper sentencing, the death penalty, and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

PHI 130 (HP) Bioethics: Medicine & Morality CRN 24540 (MWF 12:50-1:45) – An investigation of moral theory and applied ethics in relation to the practice of medicine, and recent developments in biological science. Meaning and value of health and disease, life and death will be explored. The course will be especially helpful to philosophy majors or minors concentrating on ethics and to any students preparing to become healthcare professionals.

PHI 138 (HP) Ethics and Sustainability CRN 24541 (W 5-7:50pm) – This course examines the concept of sustainability and the ethical bases for individual, corporate, and social responsibilities to live, consume, and produce sustainably. The course also considers how we should value the future. Should we “discount” the future, that is, value it less than the present, or is it of equal or greater value than the present? Do we have responsibilities to future generations? The course combines philosophical readings with practical and concrete case studies.

PHI 143 (WI) Classical Modern Philosophy CRN 20223 (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 150 (HP) Critical Reasoning CRN 24421 (MWF 10:10-11:05) – A study of reasoning and argument as they appear in ordinary usage. The aim of the course is to increase the
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Philosophy Course Offerings

student’s skills in critical thinking: how to recognize unsupported assertions, how to analyze and assess arguments encountered in everyday life, and how to formulate and present cogent arguments of one’s own. Excellent preparation for LSATs, GREs, MCATs.

PHI 152 (QR) Scientific Reasoning CRN 24543 (MW12:50-14:15) – This course covers topics such as the fundamental ideas of reasoning; the nature of evidence and scientific theories; statistical reasoning, reasoning about causes, and the relation between the two; how statistical reasoning can support decision-making under uncertainty. Students will practice a variety of arguments from real contexts.

PHI 180b Metaphysics CRN 24542 (TR 14:20-15:45) – An investigation of theories of being that state the most general characteristics of reality, and a consideration of the ways in which theories of being and theories of knowledge are related.

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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 Data Analysis and Scientific Reasoning (NEW!)
- Cognitive Science Minor

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