

Fall 2019

## 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). (NOTE: midsemester section MW 4:30-6:30 CRN 94229)

**PHI 12 (HP) Life, Meaning & Philosophy CRN 92699** (MW 12:50-2:15) – 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.

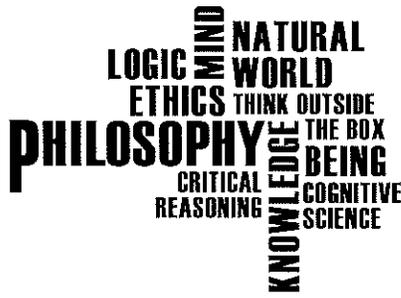
**PHI 20 (HP) Self, Society and Politics CRN 94059** (TR 9:35-11) – explores relation between individual as citizen and society. Topics include nature and responsibilities of citizenship; equality and fairness; forms of political organization; foundations of political rights and duties; foundations of justice.

**PHI 25 (HP) Theories of Human Nature CRN 93017** (TR 11:10-12:45) – 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 90 (HP) Contemporary Ethical Issues CRN 91483** (MW 2:55-4:20) -- examines contemporary topics, such as euthanasia, the ethics of marriage, abortion, corporate social responsibility, capital punishment, duties to future generations; topics vary.

### 1-Credit Courses

**PHI 5L Insights into Love 1 s.h. CRN 93348** (meets T 6-7:30)-- 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



Fall 2019

## Philosophy Course Offerings

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 9Y, Philosophy and Yoga 1 s.h. CRN 94061** (M 2:55-4:20) – introduction to the philosophical underpinnings of Yoga and to key elements of its practice.

**PHI 51D Dangerous Ideas 1 s.h. CRN 94244** (M 4:30-6:25) -- Ideas matter. Concepts such as cultural identity, the meaning of food, democracy, faith, race, freedom, gender have inspired social movements, shaped ways of life and political systems, and dramatically influenced the lives of individuals. Scientific ideas (such as evolution, species extinction, climate science) also have power to shape our lives. Powerful ideas can be dangerous, generating turmoil and destabilizing the status quo, or *supporting* the status quo when change is needed, or creating 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 91482** (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 91484** (TR 2:20-3:45) -- examines life, death and immortality across a range of western and nonwestern traditions.

### QR & WI Courses

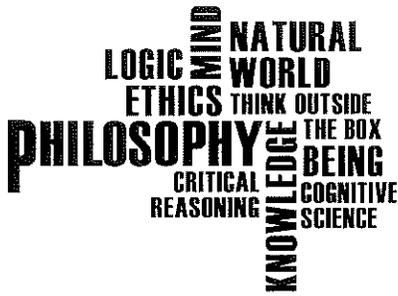
**PHI 51C (QR) Coding for Philosophical Problems CRN 93160 4 cr.** (TR 2:15-4:10)

**PHI 154 (QR) Introduction to Symbolic Logic CRN 93022** (TR 12:45-2:10)

**PHI 14 (HP, WI) Introduction to Ethics CRN 91524** (MW 12:50-2:15)

**PHI 114 (WI) Existentialism & Phenomenology CRN 93990** (TR 4:30-5:55)

### Other Courses – see next page



Fall 2019

## Philosophy Course Offerings

**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 93160 4 cr.** (TR 2:15-4:10) --

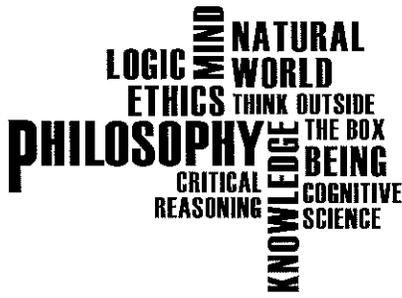
A practical, hands-on introduction to computer programming, through a particular focus on philosophically interesting applications. Students will learn the basics of a modern general-purpose programming language that is used in a wide variety of academic, scientific and business settings. Students will 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 51R Philosophy and Race CRN 93989** (TR 11:10-12:35) – 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 ethical and political theory of equality and egalitarianism – and the question, what, if anything, should we do about race and racism?

**PHI 51H Philosophy of Health and Wellness CRN 94245** (MW 4:30-5:55) -- It's challenging to become happy and healthy. It can take a lot of work, and it's often hard to know what we should try to do. What it means to be healthy and happy is not obvious. Do meanings vary from person to person, or are there some “right” definitions? Does health mean the same thing universally or are there cultural variations? Why does research on health and happiness point in many different, sometimes opposite, directions? Course considers theories of what it means to be happy and healthy from both western and non-western philosophical traditions.

**PHI 52 (HP) Philosophy and Popular Culture CRN 93019** (MF 11:15-12:40) -- Once dismissed as “kid’s stuff,” the comic book – or graphic novel – has gained respectability as a genuine literary form. Stories of superheroes and villains, androids and aliens, travels through time and space are both thrilling to read, and offer food for thought and contemplation. Course considers a selection of comic books classics (such as *Watchmen*, *Ronin*, *The Fantastic 4*, *Longshot*), and newer ones (such as *O Human Star*, *Seconds*) to explore philosophical perspectives on free will, personal identity, the nature of time, the existence of God. Course assumes some prior familiarity with the genre and the works mentioned.

**PHI 114 (WI) Existentialism and Phenomenology CRN 93990** (TR 4:30-5:55) –course probes such questions as: Is there an essence to human nature or is one's existence



Fall 2019

## Philosophy Course Offerings

radically undetermined? What is human freedom? What is self-deception? How does anxiety and consciousness of death affect human life? What is the nature of subjectivity, alienation, consciousness?

**PHI 154 (QR) Introduction to Symbolic Logic CRN 93022** (TR 12:45-2:10) – 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 161 (HP) Philosophy of Science CRN 93991** (MW 2:55-4:20) – What is science? What distinguishes knowledge from bunk? How can we be confident that science sometimes reveals nature? How is science related to culture and human goals? Working with philosophical arguments and examples from the history of science, this course will examine some very different answers to these questions. It will explore how what it means to be scientific has developed, especially from 1920 to the present.

**PHI 181Q Harry Potter and Philosophy CRN 93992** (TR 9:35-11) – This course examines some of the philosophical issues raised in J.K. Rowling's monumental 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** – there are several distinct programs; some are interdisciplinary:

Philosophy Minor

Philosophy of Law Minor

Cognitive Science Minor

Data Analysis & Scientific Reasoning Minor

Philosophy, Society & Business Minor

Philosophy Department

Heger Hall

516-463-5612

[www.hofstra.edu/Academics/HCLAS/Philosophy](http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/HCLAS/Philosophy)