

Hofstra University
Philosophy Department
Fall 2025 Courses
(3 credits unless otherwise stated)

PHI 5L Insights: Love

*1 credit

M 7:40-8:40pm, CRN: 92818
Professor Griffith

PHI 9J Joy, Pleasure and Play

*1 credit

T 4:30-5:30, CRN: 93062
Professor Slaninka

PHI 10 Introduction to Philosophy (HP)

MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93758
MW 4:20-5:45, CRN: 93759
Professor TBA

PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP)

TR 9:40-11:05, CRN: 93760
TR 4:20-5:45, CRN: 93761
Professor Farley

PHI 10C Theories of Human Nature (HP)

TR 1:00-2:25, CRN: 93762
TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93763
Professor Slaninka

PHI 14 Introduction to Ethics (HP)

Multiple sections, multiple instructors

PHI 18 Thinking about Animals (HP)

TR 4:20-5:45, CRN: 93710
Professor Acampora

PHI 65 Atheism and Its Critics (HP)

*same as RELI 67
TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93706
Professor Teehan

PHI 91 Technology and Human Values

TR 2:40-4:05, CRN: 93455
Professor Acampora

Contact us!

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PHI 120 Philosophy of Law (HP)

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 93456
Professor Baehr

PHI 121 Crime and Punishment (HP)

MW 2:40-4:05, CRN: 92821
Professor Baehr

PHI 141 Ancient and Medieval Phi (WI)

MW 9:40-11:05, CRN: 93457
Professor Karofsky

PHI 154 Symbolic Logic (QR)

MW 4:20-5:45, CRN: 91247
Professor Eliot

PHI 182K Kant and His Critics (HP)

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN: 93764
Professor Godlove
*Knowledge and Reality major credit

HONORS COLLEGE

HUHC 020A The Universe

MW 11:20-12:45, CRN:
Professor Karofsky

*Philosophy Elective major credit

FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

PHI 10F Introduction to Philosophy (HP)

*4 credits
MW 2:40-4:35, CRN: 91030
Professor Karofsky

PHI 005L Insights: Love (1 credit)

In this course we will be exploring love in all its complexity and nuance. We'll use various sources ranging from bell hooks' *All About Love* to Plato's *Symposium*, in order to come closer to an understanding of what love is and the different forms love can take. Some of the questions we'll face are: (1) What is the nature of familial love? (2) What is the nature of erotic/romantic love? And (3) what does it mean to love yourself? Since we all express our understanding of love differently, students will have the freedom to pursue which medium best expresses their understanding of love, and thus the final assignment may be in the form of a paper, presentation, art project, song, or video essay.

PHI 009J Joy, Pleasure and Play (1 credit)

This interdisciplinary course explores the value and use philosophers, psychologists, and artists have ascribed to the human propensity towards joy, pleasure, and play and the various psychic, social, and political structures that inhibit that drive.

PHI 10 Introduction to Philosophy (HP) (3 credits)

An introduction to some of the major questions in philosophy like: Are my actions determined? Or can I make free choices? Do I have a mind that is distinct from my brain? What makes me *me*? Could robots ever be conscious? Do animals think? Was there a beginning of the universe? Does God exist? If so, why is there evil in the world? Can I know anything with certainty? And what, if anything, is the meaning of life?

PHI 10B Philosophic Themes in Film (HP) (3 credits)

An introduction to various philosophical issues that arise in contemporary films like *Ad Astra*, *Arrival*, *Ex Machina*, *Her*, *Beautiful Boy*, *Silence*, *A Serious Man*, *Edge of Tomorrow*, *Inception*, and *The Matrix*. Some of the issues examined include the problem of skepticism, the mind-body problem, personal identity, artificial intelligence, free will and determinism, moral dilemmas, and the meaning of life.

PHI 10C Theories of Human Nature (HP) (3 credits)

Examination of classical and contemporary theories of human nature. Considers 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 10F Introduction to Philosophy (HP) (4 credits)

In FYC Cluster for first year students only. See description for PHI 10 above.

PHI 014 Introduction to Ethics (HP) (3 credits)

This course focuses on critical reasoning about ethics. It reviews major approaches to ethical values and examines the bases for why some conduct (like killing, deceit, fraud) is wrong, and why some things (like freedom, fairness, compassion) are valuable. The course also examines the relationship between ethics and society, with focus on contemporary issues. For example: ethics in professional or business contexts, health and medical contexts, ethics in personal relationships, and environmental ethics.

PHI 18 Thinking about Animals (HP) (3 credits)

This course explores the ways human beings have thought about and treated animals. Focus is on 1) how humanism – especially the idea that *human beings* are fundamentally different from other animals and should be at the *center* of concern – has functioned to legitimize the oppression of other animals; and 2) the post-humanist movement away from, and beyond, this species prejudice.

PHI 65 Atheism and Its Critics (HP) (3 credits)

This course will examine the history of atheism (denial of the existence of “God”) from the ancient period to the present. We will examine arguments in support of atheism, as well as those that critique atheism – from both religious and secular thinkers. We will also consider atheistic responses to such challenges as: Can an atheist lead a meaningful life? Can atheism provide a basis for morality? Can an atheist be “spiritual”? Finally, we will examine what science may contribute to our understanding of religion and atheism. To explore atheism is, at the same time, to explore religion since denying the existence of “God” involves the contentious and complex undertaking of defining “God.”

PHI 91 Technology and Human Values (3 credits)

This course is an investigation of the origin, nature, and status of human values in contemporary forms of technological civilization. The course combines three elements of coverage: a survey of the study of values; an introduction to philosophy of technology (including its relations to science and society); and an examination of engineering ethics (including professional duty, cultural conscience, and environmental responsibility).

PHI 120 Philosophy of Law (HP) (3 credits)

This course explores prominent answers philosophers have offered to the question ‘What is law?’ Along the way, we explore the idea of the rule of law, the relationship between law and the moral value of justice, the relationship between law and power, the centrality of rules and principles to the law, and the nature of legal reasoning.

PHI 121 Crime and Punishment (HP) (3 cr.)

This course explores the question whether criminal punishment in principle, and our criminal justice system in particular, can be justified by canvassing standard philosophical views: deterrence theory, retributivism, and the moral education theory of punishment. Along the way, we explore criminal defenses, proportionality, attempts, alternative sanctions (for example shaming), mercy, rehabilitation and atonement. We also discuss the moral limits of the criminal law, and whether criminal punishment can be justified after appreciating recent advances in brain science. The main aim of the course is to empower students to understand and evaluate our practices of criminal punishment; this is of great importance because the criminal justice system is among the most coercive and potentially destructive domestic uses of state power.

PHI 141 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)

A historical survey of ancient and medieval philosophy, examining pre-Socratic philosophers, Plato, Aristotle, Hellenistic thinkers, and medieval writers. The course is designed to help students develop competency in the oral presentation of philosophical ideas and arguments.

PHI 154 Symbolic Logic (QR) (3 credits)

A formal study of the logical properties and relationships of sentences by means of the construction of a symbolic language for sentential and predicate logic.

PHI 182K Kant and His Critics (HP) (3 credits)

This course serves as an introduction to the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, a major 18th century philosopher of the European enlightenment. We will consider important works in both his ethics and his theory of knowledge. In Kant's ethics, we will consider his conception of human freedom, the universality of duty and the unavoidability of evil. In his theory of knowledge, we will consider the nature and possibility of metaphysics, synthetic a priori cognition, space and time, mathematics, and causality as well as the meaning of Transcendental Idealism. Some attention to Kant's theory of aesthetic pleasure and to his philosophy of religion. Kant remains a central voice in the European enlightenment—celebrated for throwing off the shackles of the medieval world and urging an era human freedom and autonomy, but also blamed in some measure for the oppression and colonialism that was to follow. We will try to come to some assessment of his legacy.

HUHC 020A The Universe: 12 Claims with Which Everyone Would Agree (3 credits)

There isn't much about which everyone can agree. We all have different tastes, opinions, and beliefs about pretty much everything. But what if we could find a few – or maybe even a dozen – claims about the universe that pretty much everyone would accept? (I say "pretty much" everyone because there are no claims about which every single person will agree. Some will disagree just to disagree. But perhaps we could find claims that even naysayers will find it difficult – maybe even *impossible* – to prove false.) In this course, we will examine the universe, as a whole, and examine whether there are any claims about it with which everyone would agree. We will read various accounts of the universe from ancient to contemporary philosophers, including Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, and David Lewis. You will be encouraged to think – *really think* – on your own about these issues and what you take to be the most compelling responses to them. We will then all work together to examine the various student responses. You do not need to have a background in philosophy for this course, but you will need a thinking cap!