

PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

PHIL 10100 Introduction to Philosophy (LA)

Introduction to philosophy that focuses on perennial philosophical problems, such as the relation of the mind to the body, the possibility of truth and objectivity, the purpose of human life, and the existence of God, utilizing classical, modern, or contemporary works. (F-S,Y)

Attributes: HM, HU, LMSP, LSCO, TIDE, TMBS

3 Credits

PHIL 10200 Introduction to Philosophy: Greek Foundations (LA)

Introduction to philosophy through the study of Greek thought as the foundation of the Western philosophical tradition. Covers the pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle. (IRR)

Attributes: CSA, HM, HU, TIII

3 Credits

PHIL 15100 Reasoning (LA)

An introduction to the techniques of organized thinking. The course focuses on three areas: (1) the analysis and evaluation of passages that contain reasoning; (2) the fundamentals of logic; and (3) problem solving by deduction. The first two areas serve to increase the student's comprehension of argumentative discourse. The third involves the marshaling of facts and data to arrive at conclusions. (F-S,Y)

Attributes: HU, LMSP, LSCO

3 Credits

PHIL 17500-17505 Selected Topics in Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. (IRR)

Attributes: 1, HU

3 Credits

PHIL 20100 Plato and Aristotle (LA)

Study of selected texts and ideas of the founders of classical Western philosophy. Texts include selected dialogues of Plato and selections from Aristotle's writings, including the 'Metaphysics' and 'Nichomachean Ethics.' Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (IRR)

Attributes: CSA, HU

3 Credits

PHIL 20300 Introduction to Logic (LA)

An introductory treatment of contemporary symbolic logic. Topics include argument structure, validity/invalidity, and soundness and unsoundness, truth-tables, and an exploration of elementary propositional logic including truth-functions and formal proofs. Time-permitting, some elementary quantificational logic may be covered. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: ESTS, HM, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, NS, QL, TIII, TWOS

3 Credits

PHIL 20400 Choosing Wisely: An Introduction to Rational Choice (LA)

An introduction to rational choice theory, a theory that proposes rules that prescribe how individuals ought to behave so as to best satisfy their preferences. Special attention is paid to representing preferences numerically and using that formal representation to determine which action among a set of possible actions should be chosen. Applications include uses of probability and decision theory in epistemology, the philosophy of religion, and ethics. Some applications outside of philosophy are discussed as well, including economics, voting theory, and biology. General topics covered include probability, decision theory, game theory, and social choice. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: NS, QL

3 Credits

PHIL 21200 Introduction to Ethics (LA)

Introduction to the problems and theories of normative thinking. Is there a right thing to do, and how can we tell what it is? Contemporary moral issues, such as abortion, capital punishment, discrimination, war, aid to the needy, require us to reflect carefully on fundamental topics in ethics, including rights, human dignity, responsibility, and the value of life. Readings selected from both classical and modern sources.

Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (Y)

Attributes: HM, HU, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, TIDE

3 Credits

PHIL 22000 Political Philosophy (LA)

Introduction to the central questions of political philosophy. Topics include the disputed necessity of a political authority; various attempts to justify a political obligation to comply with the demands of the state; an examination of the merits and weaknesses of democracy as a legitimate form of governing; the proper scope of a right to liberty within a democratic society; and questions of distributive justice, including the justice of redistribution of wealth to rectify large social inequities.

Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (IRR)

Attributes: HM, HU, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, TPJ

3 Credits

PHIL 22300 Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (LA)

Analysis of the problem of defining art, examination of criteria used to evaluate artworks, illustration of Langer's principles of art, and consideration of avant-garde and Marxist views of art. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (IRR)

Attributes: HM, HU, TIII

3 Credits

PHIL 22500 Science and Pseudoscience (LA)

Examination of selected issues concerning scientific methodology and the demarcation of genuine science from phony science (pseudoscience). Issues include the role of observational evidence in confirmation and disconfirmation of scientific hypotheses, properties a hypothesis must have to be empirical and therefore refutable, and the ways scientific explanation differs from nonscientific explanations. Students learn how to distinguish legitimate science from nonscientific belief systems that attempt to pass as science in the eyes of the public. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing, or permission of instructor. (IRR) Attributes: ENHU, ESHU, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 23000 Bioethics (LA)

Bioethics focuses on moral questions about life, human and non-human. It explores the reasoning and moral principles at stake in medical decisions, including, for example, abortion, euthanasia, medical experimentation, and distribution of health care. The moral dimensions of broader life issues, such as cloning and reproductive technology, are also relevant. Such practical topics in bioethics force us to reflect on fundamental ethical matters, including the nature of morality, rights, and the value of life. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing, or permission of instructor. (F-S) Attributes: ENHU, ESHU, HM, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, TMBS
3 Credits

PHIL 24000 Philosophy in Film (LA)

Exploration of various philosophical issues conveyed in film. The course uses the narratives in film to illustrate various philosophical issues and offers philosophical reflection as an interpretive medium to understand films. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (IRR) Attributes: 1, ENHU, ESHU, HU, MAP, SCE
3 Credits

PHIL 25200 Environmental Ethics (LA)

A critical examination of various moral problems raised when considering environmental issues. Questions regarding the moral status of animals, future generations, and the environment as a whole are explored. Also taken up are the moral aspects of famine relief, population control, and resource use. These issues and others generate challenging and fundamental questions of moral philosophy: What is the basis of obligation? Do animals have rights? What does it mean to say something is intrinsically valuable? Students cannot receive credit for both this course and ENVS 25200. Prerequisite: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENVS, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST. (Y) Attributes: ABSS, HM, TPJ, TQSF
3 Credits

PHIL 26000 Difference and Community (LA)

Individuals sometimes find themselves at odds with the larger community, as do minority groups whose ways of life are unfamiliar or alarming to those in the majority. How should we balance the often competing demands of individuals, groups, and the larger community? What sort of community, if any, is possible despite our individual and group differences? To answer questions such as these, this course will examine philosophical debates over individual liberty, toleration, and multiculturalism. Prerequisite: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (F,O) Attributes: HM, HU, TIDE, TPJ
3 Credits

PHIL 26500 Philosophical Problems in Law (LA)

Examination and evaluation of basic practices and principles of law, focusing on such topics as the nature and extent of legal authority, the interpretation of law, and the justification of punishment, including capital punishment. Examination of prominent legal cases and their underlying principles. Emphasis is placed on philosophical analysis and moral evaluation. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (Y) Attributes: HM, HU, TPJ
3 Credits

PHIL 27500-27503 Selected Topics in Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (IRR) Attributes: 1, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 27504 ST: Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing, or permission of instructor. (IRR) Attributes: 1, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 27505 Selected Topics in Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing, or permission of instructor. (IRR) Attributes: 1, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 28300 Introduction to Buddhism (LA)

Study of the life and teachings of the historical Buddha, development of Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana traditions in Asia and their globalization in the contemporary world, utilizing both classic and contemporary texts. Students may not receive credit for this course and RLST 28300. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (E) Attributes: G, H, INBG
3 Credits

PHIL 28600 Philosophy and Literature (LA)

Explores philosophical issues related to literary fiction and focuses on philosophical questions related to literary discourse. Questions range from 'Do fictional entities exist?' and 'How is it possible to be emotionally moved by fictional events and characters?' to 'How do metaphors work?' and 'Who are the genuine authors of literary texts?' Prerequisites: WRTG 10600 or ICSM 10800 or ICSM 11800; sophomore standing. (IRR)
Attributes: WI
3 Credits

PHIL 30100 God, Self, World: Seventeenth Century Philosophy (LA)

Study of early British empiricism and continental rationalism with an emphasis on the works of Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 30200 Perception, Causation, and the Limits of Human Reason: Eighteenth-Century Philosophy (LA)

Study of Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 31100 Philosophy of Religion (LA)

Study and discussion of a broad range of issues in the philosophy of religion, such as religious epistemology, the ontological argument, the cosmological argument, the teleological argument, religion and science, and the problem of evil. Primary source readings. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU, LMSP
3 Credits

PHIL 31300 Marxist Philosophy (LA)

Analysis of the basic elements of Marx's philosophy: dialectical materialism, economic determinism, ethical relativism, ideology and science, and the thesis of class struggle and exploitation. Examines how these concepts might be applied to contemporary capitalist development. Seminar. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 32100 Intermediate Logic (LA)

Topics include a review of propositional logic, first-order quantificational logic including relations and identity, and elementary logical metatheory for both propositional logic and basic first-order logic, including soundness and completeness proofs. The Incompleteness of higher first-order logics is presented conceptually but without formal proof techniques. Prerequisites: PHIL 20300 or MATH 27000. (IRR)
Attributes: NS
3 Credits

PHIL 32600 Seminar in Aesthetics (LA)

Examination of traditional and contemporary aesthetic concepts such as empathy, psychic distance, the beautiful and the sublime, and expressive form, with special attention to the nature of aesthetic responsiveness and judgment, and the kind of meaning to be found in art. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 33000 The Good Life (LA)

This course examines one of the oldest and most compelling questions of all time: What is a good life? We all want good lives and we all strive to achieve good lives, but despite the overriding importance of the question, we give little reflective thought to what a good life might be. Is there one particular form that a life must exemplify in order to be good, or are there many kinds of good lives? Is judging a life to be good sufficient for it to be good, or is this the sort of thing one can get wrong? The course will consider what great thinkers -- classical, modern, and contemporary -- have written on this issue. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 34000 Global Ethics (LA)

The course surveys significant ethical challenges that are global in scope: Are there such things as universal human rights, or is morality ultimately relative to one's particular culture? What, if any, duties do we have to the global environment? What is the difference between a just and unjust war, and between just and unjust ways of combating terrorism? Morally speaking, what can be said in defense of economic globalization, and against it? Are global inequalities in wealth morally defensible? Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (F, E)
Attributes: HU, INBG, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO
3 Credits

PHIL 34800 Epistemology: Theories of Knowledge and Justified Belief (LA)

Philosophical study of knowledge and justified belief, with an emphasis on how these are possible in the face of skeptical threats. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 35000 Philosophy of Science (LA)

A comprehensive survey of issues in the philosophical foundations of science. Topics include the structure and function of scientific theories; the dispute over the existence or nonexistence of theoretical entities; reductionism and antireductionism; laws of nature and models of scientific explanation; Kuhn and historicist models of science; the realism/antirealism dispute over the philosophical implications of scientific theories. Prerequisites: PHIL 20300 or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 35200 Moral Philosophy (LA)

Critical exploration of foundational issues in metaethics and normative ethical theory. Topics for consideration include moral relativism, moral realism, and morality and self-interest, along with utilitarian, deontological, natural law, and contractarian theories of ethics. Moral concepts such as rights, duty, and value will also be considered. Readings will be from both classical and contemporary sources. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO
3 Credits

PHIL 35500 Metaphysics (LA)

Metaphysics is the philosophical investigation into the ultimate nature of reality. This course examines issues and answers in traditional and contemporary metaphysics. Topics include personal identity, causality, determinism, essence and accident, mind and matter, and the nature of God. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: 1, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 36000 Philosophy of Mind (LA)

The distinctive feature of human beings that traditionally has been held to separate us from the rest of the universe is our supposed possession of a special thing/capacity called 'mind.' In this course we investigate what kind of thing (or non-thing) the mind is, what relation it has to bodily behavior, and how and why the mind has the extraordinary ability to represent the world truly or falsely. Topics include such questions as, Is the mind physical or non-physical? What is a mental state? What kinds of beings can possess minds? Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: 1, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 36200 Philosophy of Language (LA)

Investigation of philosophical questions concerning linguistic representation, particularly concerning the meanings of names, definite descriptions, and sentences, and how those linguistic expressions acquire their meanings. Further topics include whether metaphors have meaning, whether meaning is subjective or public, and whether representation is the only function of language. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

3 Credits

PHIL 37500-37510 Selected Topics in Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to student and teacher interest, with primary focus on a problem or a person. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: HU
1-4 Credits

PHIL 38100 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy (LA)

Major philosophical movements in the 19th century. Emphasis is placed on selections from the works of Hegel, Mill, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 38200 Language, Mind, and Meaning: Themes in Twentieth Century Philosophy (LA)

Investigates the main trends and concerns of 20th century analytic philosophy. Readings will be from important works in logical positivism, the philosophy of the later Wittgenstein, and recent varieties of pragmatism and naturalism. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 38300 Tradition, Interpretation, and Authority: Themes in Twentieth Century Philosophy (LA)

Examines some of the key debates among the key figures in 20th century European philosophy concerned with the problems of intellectual and political authority, the effectiveness and limits of interpretation in preserving, re-directing, or subverting authority, as well as the historically formed nature of institutions and social practices charged with maintaining the integrity of responsible and authoritative intellectual discourse. Focuses particularly on the work of Derrida, Gadamer, and Habermas. Prerequisites: one 200-level course in philosophy, or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: GERM, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 38400 Existentialism (LA)

In-depth philosophical analysis of concepts such as authenticity, the meaning of life, freedom of choice, responsibility, and mortality in the works of 20th-century existentialist thinkers such as Heidegger, Sartre, and Camus, and their 19th-century precursors such as Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, and Kierkegaard. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: GERM, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 39100-39101 Independent Study: Philosophy (LA)

Study or research project of the student's own devising. Minimal consultation with professor; final projects evaluated by professor. Offered on demand only. May be repeated for credit for different projects. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

PHIL 39300-39301 Tutorial in Philosophy (LA)

Work by student and teacher on a problem or project of interest to both. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

PHIL 41000 Philosophy Capstone Seminar (LA)

Serves as the capstone for philosophy majors and minors. Synthesizes students' experience in the program by having students apply the philosophical skills they have acquired in previous classes to a faculty-guided, largely independent research project on a prominent philosophical position, movement, or debate. Facilitates student reflection on achievements in both the major/minor and the Integrative Core Curriculum, and how these relate to personal intellectual formation while at Ithaca College. Prerequisites: WRTG 10600 or ICSM 108xx or ICSM 118xx; senior standing; restricted to philosophy majors, philosophy-religion majors, philosophy minors. (S,Y)

Attributes: CP, HU, WI
3 Credits

PHIL 49100-49101 Independent Study: Philosophy (LA)

Study or research project of the student's own devising. Minimal consultation with professor; final projects evaluated by professor. Offered on demand only. May be repeated for credit for different projects. Prerequisites: At least one 30000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

PHIL 49300-49301 Tutorial in Philosophy (LA)

Work by student and teacher on a problem or project of interest to both.

Prerequisites: At least one 30000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: UND

1-4 Credits

PHIL 49500-49501 Philosophy Seminar (LA)

Small group study of a topic not otherwise offered in the curriculum or not offered at the same level. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: At least one 30000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: HU

1-4 Credits