

Philosophy and Religious Studies Course Offerings

- 100 **Creating Meaning: Introduction to Existentialism** emphasizing film and literature (3) Existentialism was one of the most influential intellectual currents of the 20th century. Through film, literature, and the primary philosophical texts of existential philosophers, such as Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Simone de Beauvoir, the course will explore basic existential themes such as “being,” “nonbeing,” the formation of values, “dread,” “anxiety,” and “alienation.” Existentialism focuses less on what to think and more on how to live stark raving sane in the face of radical freedom and responsibility.
- 101 **Introduction to Philosophy** (3) The chief problems and methods of philosophic thought, with a survey of some typical solutions. The place and influence of philosophy in life today.
- 102 **Introduction to Religious Studies** (3) The role of religion in human life. Illustrations drawn from various traditions, rituals, and belief patterns, both ancient and modern. *Approved interdisciplinary and writing emphasis course*
- 125 **Theology and Science: Enemies or Partners** (3) An inquiry into the relationship of theology to the natural sciences. Team taught by a physicist and a philosopher, the course investigates how ideas of God have been affected by advances in physics and biology. Crosslisted as PHY 125.
- 130 **Religion in the United States** (3) (formerly, Religion in America) This course will explore the rich diversity of religions in the United States and the impact of religion on our culture.
- 150 **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving** (3) An introduction to the principles needed for effective thinking and evaluation of arguments in practical situations. Topics include procedures and guidelines for identifying and evaluating arguments, recognizing and eliminating fallacies, and writing and criticizing argumentative essays.
- 174 **Principles of the Arts** (3) A critical examination of traditional and contemporary aesthetic theories from diverse cultural perspectives to extend students' thinking about the "concept" as well as the "experience" of art. Visual and literary arts are emphasized, as well as how to live a more artful life. *Approved interdisciplinary course*
- 180 **Introduction to Ethics** (3) Introduction to major theories and contemporary work in moral philosophy, offering tools for ethical decision making in our daily lives with an emphasis on the influence of culture, power, and privilege. *Approved diverse communities course*
- 190 **Logic** (3) Introduction to deductive and inductive logic, with emphasis on classical syllogistic and symbolic logic. Topics include arguments, categorical propositions and classes, immediate inferences, Venn diagrams, rules of syllogism, propositional functions, truth tables, and predicate logic.
- SSC 200 **Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies** (3) An interdisciplinary inquiry into the nature and causes of social conflict. The aim throughout is to find ways of avoiding destructive conflict, whether through negotiation or other means. The issue of justice as a factor in conflict receives special attention. *Approved interdisciplinary course*
- 201 **Contemporary Issues** (3) Discussion and analysis of contemporary philosophical issues. The topic varies from semester to semester. *This course may be taken again for credit.*
- 204 **Philosophies and Religions of India** (3) The religious and philosophical heritage of India, from Vedic times to the present. Examination of major classics, such as Rig Veda, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, and Yoga-sutras; recent writers such as Tagore, Gandhi, and Radhakrishnan.
- 205 **Philosophies and Religions of the Far East** (3) A survey of Far Eastern philosophy, religion, and scientific thought. Confucianism, Taoism, and the various schools of Mahayana Buddhism, including Zen, are given primary emphasis.
- 206 **Religions of the West** (3) An introduction to the three major traditions of the West: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. By exploring their earliest heritage, including founders, scriptures, early institutions and practices, the course will then address how these traditions were preserved, reinvigorated, and sometimes transformed in response to social change and political upheaval.

- 207 **Philosophies of Nonviolence** (3) An examination of the concepts of violence and nonviolence, especially as seen by recent thinkers. The course attempts to link theory with practice by considering the contributions of Tolstoy, Gandhi, Thoreau, and other philosophers, religious thinkers, and activists.
- 220 **Introduction to Islam** (3) A general introduction to Islam which will focus on the sources for Muslim belief and practices, the diversity within the Muslim community, and modern movements within Islam and the Muslim community.
- 270 **History of Ancient Philosophy** (3) A survey of the major figures of ancient philosophy, from the pre-Socratic period through Plato, Aristotle, the Epicureans, and Stoics, to the Sceptics and Neo-Platonists. *Latin or Greek Culture cluster*
- 271 **History of Medieval Philosophy** (3) The history of philosophy from the early Church founders to the late Middle Ages. St. Augustine, St. Thomas, mysticism, Jewish and Islamic influences, humanism, and the rise of science. *Latin or Greek Culture cluster*
- 272 **History of Modern Philosophy** (3) From Descartes to Hegel. The social, political, and scientific impact of the philosophers. *German Culture cluster*
- 273 **19th-Century Philosophy** (3) Hegel and German Idealism; decisive influences on European and American literature and thought. Survey of the chief themes of Schopenhauer, Comte, Mill, Peirce, Marx, Kierkegaard, Darwin, and Nietzsche. *German Culture cluster*
- 282 **Animal Ethics** (3) An exploration of the religious, philosophical and scientific perspectives on animals, animal treatment, animal use, including arguments for vegetarian/veganism and of activist groups.
- 284 **American Philosophies** (3) Leaders in science, literature, religion, and government who have shaped American thought. Philosophers of Puritanism, the Revolution, Transcendentalism, and native schools of Realism, Idealism, and Pragmatism.
- 310 **New Religious Movements** (3) An examination of New Religious Movements, alternative spiritualities and "cults." This course will explore their main beliefs and practices as well as theoretical perspectives for understanding them. *Approved writing emphasis course.*
- 330 (also **LIN 330**) **Introduction to Meaning** (3) Discussion of the analysis of meaning given by various disciplines, including philosophy, psychology, linguistics, communication studies, and the arts. *Approved interdisciplinary and writing emphasis course*
- 340 **Contemporary Moral Issues** (3) A philosophical study of some of the major moral issues in contemporary society, such as animal rights, just war theory, abortion, genetic technologies, with an emphasis on the affects of race, gender, class, etc. *Approved writing emphasis course.*
- 350 **Philosophical Topics: The 20th Century and Beyond** (3) A historical survey of the main trends in late 20th century and contemporary philosophy. The topic will vary from semester to semester. *This course may be taken again for credit.*
- 349 **Ideas of the Bible** (3) This course will explore major themes in the Bible and their impact on Western culture, including on constructions of gender. Particular attention will be paid to their influence on Western literature, religion and philosophy.
- 355 **Political Philosophy** (3) What is the legitimate role of the state? How do we preserve liberty, equality, and produce a just distribution of burdens and benefits in a society? To begin to answer these sorts of questions, this course examines philosophical texts on politics from thinkers such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson, Thoreau, Mill, and Marx.

- 371 **Medical Ethics** (3) The study of philosophical concepts and ethical criteria as applied to health care practice and clinical research. Issues examined and analyzed include problem-solving methods, the theory and practice of informed consent, end-of-life decision making, resource allocation, and problems posed by managed care, research ethics, and environmental concerns. *Approved interdisciplinary course*
- 373 **Business Ethics** (3) The study of philosophical concepts and ethical criteria as applied to business practices. Through case studies and scholarly contributions, the course will cover issues such as the ethical nature of the free market system, foreign outsourcing, and the environmental impact of business, consumer rights, worker rights, and job discrimination, among other issues. *Approved diverse communities course*
- 390 **Women and Religion** (3) This course will explore the ways in which religious beliefs have affected women's lives; how women's opportunities have been both hampered and enhanced by the symbols, beliefs and practices of diverse religious systems; how ideas and images have become implicated in systemic forms of oppression against women; and how women have used ideas and images from these same traditions to undermine violence and exploitation. *Approved diverse communities course*
- SSC 400 **Peace and Conflict Studies Senior Seminar** (3) This course is a capstone experience for Peace & Conflict Studies students to solidify and integrate their study of social justice, activism, international relations and conflict negotiation with real world experience. Students will examine and review the various theoretical insights of the discipline, develop models of conflict management and get hands-on experience with conflict resolution in the real world.
- 405 **Feminist Theory** (3) Designed to introduce and discuss basic questions in contemporary feminist theory, the course will explore different philosophies of feminism and include such issues as motherhood, intersections with other theories of oppression, and body politics. PREREQ: WOS 225 or permission of the instructor. *Crosslisted with WOS 405. Approved interdisciplinary course.*
- 410 **Independent Studies** (1-3) *This course may be taken again for credit.*
- 411 **The Problem of War** (3) An interdisciplinary examination of war and the "war system," including terrorism. Alternatives to war are also considered.
- 412 **Ethical Theories** (3) An inquiry into the meaning, interpretations, and function of ethical theory in our lives. The course will explore some combination of classic, modern, and contemporary ethical theories. PREREQ: PHI 101, 180, or permission of instructor.
- 414 **Philosophy of Religion** (3) Religion and the religious experience as viewed by major Western thinkers. The concepts of God, immortality, religious knowledge, evil, miracles, and the science-religion dialogue.
- 415 **Existentialism** (3) An exploration of important texts in 19th and 20th century existentialism and their influence on contemporary currents in philosophy and the social sciences. PREREQ: Two prior philosophy courses or instructor approval. *French Culture cluster*
- 421 **Philosophy of Law** (3) Consideration of the philosophical foundations of law. Topics may include the nature of law and its relation to rights, liberties, duties, liability, responsibility, and privacy; the nature of judicial reasoning; concepts of responsibility and liability; theories of punishment; causation in the law; discrimination and equality; the relation of law and morality; civil disobedience.
- 422 **Philosophy of Science** (3) The nature of scientific method and scientific theory, with reference to presuppositions, inference, explanation, prediction, applications, and verification. PREREQ: At least one 200-level PHI course (PHI 272 recommended) and one other PHI course or permission of instructor.
- 436 **Symbolic Logic** (3) Principles and methods of symbolic logic. Practice in determining validity of sentential and quantificational arguments. The algebra of classes. PREREQ: PHI 190 or permission of instructor.
- 480 **Environmental Ethics** (3) Study of arguments and principles surrounding moral questions about the environment: Who and what deserves moral consideration? What are our moral obligations to the environment? What if our

obligations to the environment and human beings conflict? Do animals have rights? PREREQ: Three PHI credits or permission of instructor.

481 **Philosophy of Human Rights** (3) This course examines the theories of human rights and their bearing on public policy issues such as legitimacy of war and terrorism, economic justice, and whether future generations have rights. Topics include whether basic human rights exist, and if so, what are they, what is their nature or basis, and what arguments can be brought to bear upon these questions. PREREQ: Six credits of philosophy or permission of instructor.

482 **Social Philosophy** (3) The relationship between the individual and the social/political order. The good society and the just state as seen by modern and recent Western thinkers, such as Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Nozick, and Rawls. Cutting-edge issues of the present day are also explored. Course is conducted in seminar format.

499 **Philosophic Concepts and Systems** (3) An intensive study of the major works of one philosopher or philosophic approach, emphasizing comparison with other views. Required of all philosophy majors. PREREQ: Six hours of philosophy and senior standing, or permission of instructor. *This course may be taken again for credit.*

Topical Listing of Courses (see previous list for prereqs)

Introductory Courses in Philosophy and Religion

PHI 100 Creating Meaning: Introduction to Existentialism. Multiple sections every term.

Recommended distributive Humanities requirement

PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy. Multiple sections every semester. Recommended distributive Humanities requirement

PHI 102 Introduction to Religious Studies. *Approved interdisciplinary and writing emphasis course*

PHI 150 Critical Thinking. Offered every term

PHI 174 Principles of the Arts. *Approved interdisciplinary course*

PHI 180 Introduction to Ethics. Multiple sections every semester. Recommended distributive Humanities requirement. *Diverse communities course*

PHI 207 Philosophies of Nonviolence. Offered every spring

PHI 220 Introduction to Islam

SSC 200 Introduction to Peace & Conflict Studies. Every term. *Approved interdisciplinary course*

Courses in the History of Philosophy

PHI 270 History of Ancient Philosophy. Offered every Fall. *Culture cluster*

PHI 271 History of Medieval Philosophy. *Culture cluster*

PHI 272 History of Modern Philosophy. Offered every Spring. *Culture cluster*

PHI 273 19th Century Philosophy. *Culture cluster*

PHI 284 American Philosophies

PHI 415 Existentialism. Offered every Fall. *Culture cluster*

Courses on other Philosophical Topics

PHI 190 Logic. Offered every semester

PHI 201 Contemporary Issues. Various Topics. May be taken again for credit

PHI 282 Animal Ethics

PHI 330 (also LIN 330) Introduction to Meaning. *Approved interdisciplinary course*

PHI 340 Contemporary Moral Issues

PHI 350 Philosophical Topics: 20th Century and Beyond. Various Topics. May be taken again

for credit

PHI 355 Political Philosophy

PHI 371 Medical Ethics. *Approved interdisciplinary course*

PHI 373 Business Ethics *Approved diverse communities course*

PHI 405 (also WOS 405) Feminist Theory. *Approved interdisciplinary course*

SSC 400 Peace & Conflict Studies Senior Seminar

PHI 411 The Problem of War

PHI 412 Ethical Theories. Offered every Fall

PHI 414 Philosophy of Religion. Offered every Spring

PHI 421 Philosophy of Law

PHI 422 Philosophy of Science

PHI 436 Symbolic Logic

PHI 480 Environmental Ethics

PHI 481 Philosophy of Human Rights

PHI 482 Social Philosophy

Courses in Religion

PHI 204 Philosophies and Religions of India

PHI 205 Philosophies and Religions of the Far East

PHI 206 Religions of the West

PHI 220 Intro to Islam

PHI 310 New Religious Movements

PHI 349 Ideas of the Bible

PHI 390 Women and Religion. *Approved diverse communities course*

PHI 414 Philosophy of Religion. Offered every spring.

Independent Studies and Seminars

PHI 410 Independent Study. 1 – 3 credits. May be taken again for credit.

PHI 499 Philosophical Concepts and Systems. Major requirement. May be taken again for credit.