

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 101 CRITICAL THINKING (4)

Critical thinking is the best defense against intellectual trickery and self-delusion. It provides specific techniques and tools whereby we can avoid basic fallacies in our own thinking and detect them in the thought of others. Reasoning is a highly complicated human activity and cannot be satisfactorily studied in an intellectual vacuum. Hence, in this course, critical and uncritical thought are contrasted in the context of the world of human interests and activities — social, political, and scientific. All of the basic “tricks” for persuading people to accept false premises and conclusions as true are systematically laid out and their detection practiced. Satisfies GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking).

PHIL 101A CRITICAL THINKING (2)

Critical thinking is the best defense against intellectual trickery and self-delusion. It provides specific techniques and tools whereby we can avoid basic fallacies in our own thinking and detect them in the thought of others. Reasoning is a highly complicated human activity and cannot be satisfactorily studied in an intellectual vacuum. Hence, in this course, critical and uncritical thought are contrasted in the context of the world of human interests and activities — social, political, and scientific. All of the basic “tricks” for persuading people to accept false premises and conclusions as true are systematically laid out and their detection practiced. Satisfies GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking).

PHIL 101B CRITICAL THINKING (2)

Critical thinking is the best defense against intellectual trickery and self-delusion. It provides specific techniques and tools whereby we can avoid basic fallacies in our own thinking and detect them in the thought of others. Reasoning is a highly complicated human activity and cannot be satisfactorily studied in an intellectual vacuum. Hence, in this course, critical and uncritical thought are contrasted in the context of the world of human interests and activities — social, political, and scientific. All of the basic “tricks” for persuading people to accept false premises and conclusions as true are systematically laid out and their detection practiced. Satisfies GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking).

PHIL 102 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC (4)

An introduction to the nature of contemporary systems of logic and their application. Students will learn how to abbreviate arguments in ordinary language to deduce conclusions, and to locate fallacies. Recommended for students of the sciences, computer programming or mathematics, and the general student interested in the structure of arguments. Satisfies GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking).

PHIL 120 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (4)

This course provides an introduction to some of the enduring questions of thinking: What is the nature of knowledge of morality, of justice, of the self, of religion, of the search for wisdom, of reality? Topics and approaches may vary from section to section. Consult the department office for current information. Satisfies GE Area C2.

PHIL 160A HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 160 A/B is a year long course, which features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking) and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE Areas.

PHIL 160B HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 160 A/B is a year long course, which features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking) and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE Areas.

PHIL 165A HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 165 A/B is a year long course, which, features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE categories. This course also fulfills the Ethnic Studies requirement.

PHIL 165B HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

PHIL 165 A/B is a year long course, which, features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE categories. This course also fulfills the Ethnic Studies requirement.

PHIL 200 PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES (3)

Students practice the techniques of reading and thinking critically, of expository writing, and of oral expression as they reflect together on philosophical issues. Recent topics have included Human Consciousness, Foundations of Greek and Chinese Thought, and Philosophical Issues in Global Climate Change. As students read and discuss the semester's topic, they will reflect consciously on the principles of thinking, speaking, and writing. This skills-oriented course reflects the assumption that we master skills more thoroughly when we are working on an interesting set of issues that are significant and relevant to our lives. Prerequisites: completion of GE Areas A2 and A3. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 201 BUDDHISM, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE (4)

This course explores foundational teachings, Buddhist philosophy, religion, arts and culture, and examines the interactions between those teachings and Western science, philosophy, and culture. Students read original writings from the Buddha as well as Buddhist scholars, selections from Western philosophy and contemporary scientific research that deals directly with Buddhism.

PHIL 202 PROSEMINAR (3)

This course is designed to help students acquire the skills required to successfully major or minor in Philosophy, skills such as making effective oral presentations or critically evaluating demanding philosophical texts. The course will be based on an investigation of important contemporary or historical problems, and attention will be paid to both analytic and continental approaches to these problems. Possible topics of discussion are: postmodern critiques of science, moral relativism, arguments for the existence of God, the good life, the nature of emotions, and the nature of beauty. Topics will vary from year to year depending on the interests of faculty. Prerequisite: current Philosophy major or minor, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 204 APPLIED ETHICS (4)

The focus of this course is the philosophical examination, from a moral standpoint, of pressing issues that we as human beings face today. For example, depending on the faculty member teaching, the course might focus on the ethics of science and technology, environmental ethics, bioethics, or business ethics. Students will gain an understanding of moral theory in this course but always through a practical field of study. The course is essentially interdisciplinary.

PHIL 207 PHILOSOPHICAL MOVEMENTS (4)

A class dedicated to a range of alternative historical movements in philosophy. They can be chosen from ancient, medieval, modern, or contemporary examples. As movements they have some degree of unity or cohesiveness within their historical period, and their study seeks to describe, besides their internal characteristics, this historical context. Previous examples of movements taught have included: existentialism, phenomenology, ordinary language philosophy, American pragmatism, deconstruction, and the Frankfurt School.

PHIL 275 RACE, RACISM, LAW, AND SOCIETY (4)

This course covers theoretical, practical, and legal issues surrounding race and racism. Topics may include: what counts as racist; when discrimination is allowable; racial profiling; tolerating cultural differences; whether race-thinking makes sense; and the nature of racial identities like white or Latino. This course fulfills GE Area C3 and Ethnic Studies.

PHIL 301 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (4)

Recently the scope and speed of scientific discovery and technological change has noticeably accelerated with the advent of information technology. Fantastic claims have been made in regards to our potential to understand through science and control through technology nearly every aspect of the natural world, including our own bodies and minds. We will look at science and technology as a human practice that inherently fosters certain social values at the expense of others.

PHIL 302 ETHICS AND VALUE THEORY (4)

An introduction to the philosophical analysis of ethics, morality, and values, and a survey of the various systems of moral philosophy. The course covers such issues as: What is the good life? What considerations are relevant to making moral decisions? Are moral principles universal, or relative to a given society? How, if at all, can moral judgments be justified or moral disagreements resolved? Satisfies GE Area C2. Consult Schedule of Classes for the topic to be studied.

PHIL 303 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (3)

A philosophical examination of the Western tradition of social and political thought. The course will discuss topics such as justice and the ideal society, the question of justified revolution, the role of private property, freedom, individual rights and social welfare, different forms of government, and the role of values in political deliberation.

PHIL 306 CONTEMPORARY TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY (3)

This course introduces students to themes, thinkers, and debates within contemporary philosophy. While the specific emphasis may vary, the course engages with the open-ended problems and concerns that currently animate philosophical research. Students will be encouraged to think self-reflexively about the nature of philosophical thinking and the ways in which philosophy participates in public debates today. Topics may include globalization and financial crisis, democracy and violence, post-colonialism, neo-liberalism, market critique, religious pluralism, media and pop culture, law, and social movements.

PHIL 307 PHILOSOPHICAL FIGURES (4)

This course provides students with an in-depth study of one or more figures from the philosophical literature. Faculty will select the specific figures in light of their current research interests and projects. The course can range over historical and contemporary texts. Possible topics might include Hegel, Kant, Nietzsche, Aristotle, Heidegger, and Habermas. Per faculty interest, students may study philosophical figures from non-Western traditions, such as Buddhism.

PHIL 370 ADVANCED LOGIC (3)

This course is designed for students who have taken an introductory course in logic. The goal of this course is twofold. First, to consider some more complex logical languages and systems, and second, to consider some of the more properly philosophical issues raised by discussion of those systems. Possible topics of discussion include modality and modal propositional languages; probability calculus and its application to problems of induction and confirmation; decision theory, and some of the paradoxes of rationality that it seems to give rise to; and game theory, and its relation to economic and moral reasoning.

PHIL 375 PHILOSOPHY OF LAW (3)

This course represents an advanced introduction to seminal problems and themes in the philosophy of law. Of central concern will be two themes: 1) the differences and relation between law, morality, and politics; and 2) the nature of legal reasoning and modes of justification. The course will examine historical and cultural influences on legal institutions and introduce students to rival philosophical approaches such as legal positivism, natural law, and legal realism. Specific course emphases and themes may vary depending on faculty interest.

PHIL 390 ADVANCED TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Topics courses are intended to cover some particular aspect of a philosophical problem, a particular philosopher, or some philosophical issue not normally explored in detail in any of the standard course offerings. Topics include: philosophy in literature, American philosophy, phenomenology, advanced logic, philosophy of science, Eastern world views, and 20th century philosophy. May be repeated (with a different focus) for credit.

PHIL 399 STUDENT-INSTRUCTED COURSE (1-3)

An introductory or advanced course designed by a senior or graduate student and taught under the supervision of faculty sponsor(s).

PHIL 400 SENIOR SEMINAR (3)

A seminar for students in their senior year. Topics vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 450 SENIOR THESIS (A) (3)

Writing of a paper deemed acceptable by a faculty director and reader. Superior papers nominated for distinction will be defended before the philosophy faculty. Students wishing to be candidates for graduation "with distinction" are urged to write a thesis. Prerequisite to PHIL 452: PHIL 450. Prerequisites: advanced standing and instructor consent.

PHIL 452 SENIOR THESIS (B) (3)

Writing of a paper deemed acceptable by a faculty director and reader. Superior papers nominated for distinction will be defended before the philosophy faculty. Students wishing to be candidates for graduation "with distinction" are urged to write a thesis. Prerequisite to PHIL 452: PHIL 450. Prerequisites: advanced standing and instructor consent.

PHIL 462 RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Intended to give selected students experience in participating in the construction of a professor's research project. Prerequisites: advanced standing and a faculty invitation. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 470 TEACHING ASSISTANT IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Intended to give students experience in assisting the instructor in a philosophy course by doing research and tutoring students in the class. Prerequisites: advanced standing and consent of the instructor. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 490 CRITICAL THINKING WORKSHOP (1)**PHIL 495 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)**

Advanced individualized instruction and research with one or more members of the philosophy faculty. The course is designed to provide advanced students with an opportunity to do specialized research and study under strict faculty supervision. Prerequisite: consent of the instructor. May be repeated for credit.

PHIL 499 INTERNSHIP (1-4)

Supervised training and experience in applied philosophy for advanced students in community organizations. Internship contracts are required. Cr/NC only. Prerequisite: consent of the instructor.

PHIL 595 SPECIAL STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY (1-6)

Advanced research and writing. Students work under close supervision of faculty members. Subject matter variable. May be repeated for credit.