UBC Philosophy Course Offerings, Summer and Winter 2023–24

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy Aaron Henry	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as the nature and scope of human knowledge, the existence of God, and the relationship between mind and body.
PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking Alexandre Korolev	Tools for dealing with both everyday and more technical arguments and concepts. Analysis and resolution of confusions, ambiguities, and fallacies.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic Paul Bartha	Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; systems of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity; alternative proof methods.
PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology Emily Tilton	Topics in epistemology such as skepticism, truth, justification, a priori and a posteriori knowledge. Readings from classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 250: Minds and Machines Elena Holmgren	Philosophical and theoretical issues that pertain to how mental phenomena fit into the material world. Examine questions such as whether a sophisticated enough computer should be deemed a conscious intelligent being. Focus on philosophical literature on consciousness, intelligence, animal minds, and the mind-body relation.
PHIL 314: Philosophy in the 17th Century Anders Kraal	Survey of 17th-century philosophy from Bacon to Leibniz, including the writings of Hobbes, Descartes, and Spinoza. The influence of science and religion on philosophy.
PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics <i>Kinley Gillette</i>	Moral problems related to health care and the health sciences. Topics may include genetic engineering, compulsory treatment, informed consent, patient/public trust, transparency, quarantine/isolation, disability, resource allocation, triage, etc. No philosophical background is required. Also, you will not need to buy any course materials, which will range from philosophical texts to magazine articles and movies. In addition to lectures, the course will include extensive discussions and role-playing scenarios/games.
PHIL 347: Philosophy of Religion Anders Kraal	A critical and analytical examination of arguments for and arguments against the existence of God, and other related topics.
PHIL 375: Philosophy and Literature <i>Stefan Lukits</i>	Philosophical issues in works of literature or arising from theories of literary interpretation. Topics include issues relating to relativism, the nature of morality, free will, personal identity, the nature of the emotions. This course in particular will be about the question what the interpretation of texts and the methods associated with interpretation (hermeneutics) can teach us about more general philosophical questions such as metaphysics, scientific method, moral responsibility, and personal identity.

Summer Term 1 (May–June 2023)

PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy Carrie Jenkins	All sections of PHIL 102 address basic problems and methods of philosophy. This section will cover topics in ethics, epistemology, political philosophy, and aesthetics relating to local Indigenous societies in the context of settler colonialism.
PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking Zoe Luo	Tools for dealing with both everyday and more technical arguments and concepts. Analysis and resolution of confusions, ambiguities, and fallacies.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Gary Neels</i>	Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; systems of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity; alternative proof methods.
PHIL 230: Introduction to Ethics Willow Verkerk	Theories of obligation and value; moral reasoning; normative ethics, descriptive ethics and meta-ethics. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 250: Minds and Machines Albert Cotugno	Philosophical and theoretical issues that pertain to how mental phenomena fit into the material world. Examine questions such as whether a sophisticated enough computer should be deemed a conscious intelligent being. Focus on philosophical literature on consciousness, intelligence, animal minds, and the mind-body relation.
PHIL 330: Social and Political Philosophy Celia Edelll	The course will explore the social effects and political significance of the internet through a philosophical exploration of various topics, including: online identity, privacy, misinformation, online shaming, and social responsibility.
PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics Irwin Chan	Moral problems arising in the health sciences, especially in medicine but also in biology, psychology, and social work. Topics include abortion, death and euthanasia, genetic engineering, behaviour modification, compulsory treatment, experimentation with human beings and animals, and the relationship between professionals and their patients, subjects or clients. No philosophical background is required.
PHIL 338: Philosophy of Law Irwin Chan	Concepts of law, constitution and sovereignty; law and morality; natural law theories and legal positivism; obligation, responsibility, and punishment.
PHIL 385: Existentialism <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	Meaning, identity and alienation as explored in the works of Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Sartre, Beauvoir, Fanon, and Camus, among others.

Summer Term 2 (June–July 2023)

Summer Term 1-2 (May–August)

PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking Alexandre Korolev	Tools for dealing with both everyday and more technical arguments and concepts. Analysis and resolution of confusions, ambiguities, and fallacies.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Leslie Burkholder</i>	Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; systems of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity; alternative proof methods.
PHIL 331: Business and Professional Ethics Rana Ahmad	Moral problems in contemporary business and professional practice, general moral theory, the law, and policy formation. Corporate social and environmental responsibility, employee rights, preferential hiring and affirmative action programs, conflicts of interest, advertising, "whistle blowing" and self-regulation.
PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics <i>Doran Smolkin</i>	Moral problems arising in the health sciences, especially in medicine but also in biology, psychology, and social work. Topics include abortion, death and euthanasia, genetic engineering, behaviour modification, compulsory treatment, experimentation with human beings and animals, and the relationship between professionals and their patients, subjects or clients. No philosophical background is required.

Winter Term 1–2 (September 2023–April 2024)

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy	Year-long 6-credit Introduction to Philosophy
Dom Lopes	

Winter Term 1 (September–December 2023)

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy Eric Margolis, Anders Kraal	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as the nature and scope of human knowledge, the existence of God, and the relationship between mind and body.
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Sylvia Berryman</i>	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as morality, personal identity, free will and determinism, and the meaning of life. We will approach questions of morality by reading texts featuring some famous law cases involving philosophers, including Socrates, Martin Luther King Jr, Galileo, Hannah Arendt and Adolf Eichmann.
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy Anders Kraal	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as morality, personal identity, free will and determinism, and the meaning of life.
PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking Alexandre Korolev	Tools for dealing with both everyday and more technical arguments and concepts. Analysis and resolution of confusions, ambiguities, and fallacies.
PHIL 125: Introduction to Scientific Reasoning Jas Heaton, Alexandre Korolev	Historical and logical analysis of various types of scientific hypotheses and the data that support or undermine them.
PHIL 211: Greek Philosophy I: Socrates and Plato Michael Griffin	The Pre-Socratics; Socrates; Sophists; Plato. Recommended as preparation for PHIL 310.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic Murat Aydede, Paul Bartha, Leslie Burkholder, Dave Gilbert, Jonathan Ichikawa	Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; systems of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity; alternative proof methods.
PHIL 222: Enriched Symbolic Logic Dave Gilbert	A more mathematically rigorous, enriched version of PHIL 220. Recommended for advanced study in logic. (This course is new this year.)
PHIL 230: Introduction to Ethics Alisabeth Ayars	Theories of obligation and value; moral reasoning; normative ethics, descriptive ethics and meta-ethics. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 235: Contemporary Moral Issues Rana Ahmad	Moral issues such as life and death decisions, paternalism, markets, animal welfare, technology, and global justice.
PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology Stefan Lukits	Philosophical issues concerning the nature of knowledge and justification. Our goal is to understand the work of the contemporary epistemologist Amia Srinivasan. On the way there, we will pick up the basic tool box of epistemology and learn about justified true belief, Gettier cases, standpoint epistemology, and the internalism versus externalism debate.

PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology Chris Stephens	Topics in epistemology such as skepticism, truth, justification, a priori and a posteriori knowledge. Readings from classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 250: Minds and Machines Henry Aaron	Philosophical and theoretical issues that pertain to how mental phenomena fit into the material world. Examine questions such as whether a sophisticated enough computer should be deemed a conscious intelligent being. Focus on philosophical literature on consciousness, intelligence, animal minds, and the mind-body relation.
PHIL 310: The Philosophy of Plato Sylvia Berryman	A study of Plato's dialogues and his influence on subsequent philosophy. We will follow Plato in his lifelong debates with the Sophists and other challengers to the objectivity of truth.
PHIL 313: Medieval Philosophy Anders Kraal	Survey of Western European thought from Augustine to the 14th century. Possible topics and authors include: Augustine; Abelard; the influence of Islam; the rediscovery of Aristotle; Aquinas; Scotus; Ockham.
PHIL 314: Philosophy in the 17 th Century Fatema Amijee	Survey of 17th-century philosophy from Bacon to Leibniz, including the writings of Hobbes, Descartes, and Spinoza. The influence of science and religion on philosophy.
PHIL 316: Philosophy after 1800 Anders Kraal	Survey of 19th and 20th century philosophy. May include Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Mill, Meinong, Brentano, the British Idealists, Russell, and Moore. Social and political currents in 19th century philosophical thought.
PHIL 321: Induction, Decision and Game Theory Chris Stephens	Formal methods relevant to probabilistic and inductive reasoning. Decision theory, game theory, axiomatic probability theory and its interpretations, belief dynamics, simulation and modelling.
PHIL 322: Modal Logic <i>Dave Gilbert</i>	Logic of the modal operators "It is necessary that" and "It is possible that." Possible-world semantics and a method of derivation for this logic.
PHIL 330: Social and Political Philosophy Matt Bedke	Theories of political and legal obligation and authority, legal reasoning, society and the state. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 331: Business and Professional Ethics Rana Ahmad, Irwin Chan	Moral problems in contemporary business and professional practice, general moral theory, the law, and policy formation. Corporate social and environmental responsibility, employee rights, preferential hiring and affirmative action programs, conflicts of interest, advertising, "whistle blowing" and self-regulation.
PHIL 332: Environmental Ethics John Beatty	Moral problems arising in the context of human relationships to nature and to non-human living things, considered in terms of both general moral theory and policy formation. Topics include moral standing, animal rights, obligations to future generations, pollution, hazardous materials, the depletion of natural resources and the treatment of non-human living things.

PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics Irwin Chan, Doran Smolkin	Moral problems arising in the health sciences, especially in medicine but also in biology, psychology, and social work. Topics include abortion, death and euthanasia, genetic engineering, behaviour modification, compulsory treatment, experimentation with human beings and animals, and the relationship between professionals and their patients, subjects or clients. No philosophical background is required.
PHIL 334: Sex, Gender, and Philosophy Willow Verkerk	Relationship between sex, gender, and philosophy. Topics include sexism in the history of philosophy, gender ontology, and intersectionality.
PHIL 335: Power and Oppression	Focus on Indigenous Philosophy.
PHIL 338: Philosophy of Law <i>Tom Bittner</i>	Concepts of law, constitution and sovereignty; law and morality; natural law theories and legal positivism; obligation, responsibility, and punishment.
PHIL 339: Philosophy of Art Dom Lopes	Philosophical approaches to beauty, art, and the arts, with readings principally drawn from contemporary sources.
PHIL 340: Metaphysics Ori Simchen	Topics in metaphysics such as the nature of physical reality, personal identity, the mind/body problem, free will, causation and action theory. Readings from classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 347: Philosophy of Religion Evan Thompson	An introduction to how to think philosophically about religion from a cross- cultural perspective. Topics include the nature of religion, arguments for and against the existence of God across Western and Asian traditions, and secular critiques of religion.
PHIL 348: Introduction to Continental Philosophy Willow Verkerk	Knowledge, freedom, and progress and their relationships with humanism and enlightenment in continental philosophy.
PHIL 351: Philosophical Perspectives on Cognitive Systems Research Aaron Henry	Philosophical exploration of questions and theories arising from research into the mind, as conducted in psychology, linguistics, and computer science.
PHIL 360: Introduction to History and Philosophy of Science Alan Richardson	An examination of historical, conceptual and methodological conditions of scientific knowledge through detailed consideration of important episodes in the history of science.
PHIL 362: History and Philosophy of Economics from Aristotle to Adam Smith Margaret Schabas	The development of economic thought from Aristotle to Adam Smith, focusing primarily on the conceptual foundations of economics, particularly the problems of value, distribution, and economic growth.

PHIL 364: Darwin, Evolution, and Modern History John Beatty	Darwin and the science of evolution in nineteenth and early twentieth century.
PHIL 369: Philosophy of Science <i>Paul Bartha</i>	Issues common to all sciences. Philosophical questions including the character of scientific laws, theories and revolutions, the nature of scientific confirmation, causality, explanation and prediction, and the use of logic and probability. Difficulties in the interpretation of atomic physics and questions about relationships between biology and psychology. No philosophical background is assumed.
PHIL 371: Foundations of Chinese Thought Ted Slingerland	Early (pre 221 BCE) Chinese thought (Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism), its philosophy and religion in human flourishing.
PHIL 375: Philosophy and Literature Stefan Lukits	Philosophical issues in works of literature or arising from theories of literary interpretation. Topics include issues relating to relativism, the nature of morality, free will, personal identity, the nature of the emotions.
PHIL 378: Philosophical Wisdom of Early India Cat Prueitt	Epistemological and ontological thought from the Vedic Period to the period of the rise of philosophical schools or systems. Philosophy in the Mahabharata, Gita; early Buddhist and Jain views on knowledge and reality; views on language.
PHIL 385: Existentialism Anders Kraal	Meaning, identity and alienation as explored in the works for example of Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Sartre, and Camus.
PHIL 390 Evan Thompson	An intensive study of the entirety of Maurice Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology of Perception.
PHIL 415: Kant Fatema Amijee	Study of Kant's critical philosophy.
PHIL 416: Topics in 19 th - Century Philosophy Willow Verkerk	A study of one or more of Nietzsche's texts.
PHIL 418: Topics in 20 th - Century Philosophy Alan Richardson	Intensive study of a major philosopher such as Wittgenstein, Russell, or Heidegger, or school, such as pragmatism or logical empiricism.
PHIL 431: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy Matt Bedke	Central concepts and problems in political life and thought including obligation, citizenship, representation, justice; equality; civil rights and liberty; disobedience.
PHIL 432: Topics in Ethical Theory Alisabeth Ayars	Classic or contemporary works in ethical theory.
PHIL 441: Philosophy of Perception Dominic Alford-Duguid	The contribution of the senses to knowledge of the external world; the nature of perception and its contribution to empirical knowledge.

PHIL 451: Philosophy of Mind Murat Aydede	The nature of the mental and physical; the relation between minds and bodies; the character of psychological explanation.
PHIL 455: Topics in the Philosophy of Cognitive Science Eric Margolis	Philosophical topics in the cognitive sciences, such as empiricism vs. nativism, consciousness, mental representation, cognitive architecture, language & thought, and situated cognition.
PHIL 462: Space and Time Alexandre Korolev	Such topics as: Are space and time continuous? Is motion always relative to another body? Does time flow? Is time irreversible?
PHIL 470: Comparative Conceptions of the Self Ted Slingerland	Ways in which the 'self has been portrayed in eastern and western religious traditions. Thinkers to be considered include Aristotle, Mencius, Freud, Xunzi (Hsün-tzu), Nietzche, and Zhuangzi
PHIL 491: Seminar for Majors in Philosophy Ori Simchen	Primarily for fourth-year Philosophy Major students, but also open to Philosophy Honours.

Winter Term 2 (January–April 2024)

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Eric Margolis, Anders Kraal</i>	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as the nature and scope of human knowledge, the existence of God, and the relationship between mind and body.
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy Celia Edell, Anders Kraal	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as morality, personal identity, free will and determinism, and the meaning of life.
PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking Aaron Henry	Tools for dealing with both everyday and more technical arguments and concepts. Analysis and resolution of confusions, ambiguities, and fallacies.
PHIL 125: Introduction to Scientific Reasoning Leslie Burkholder	Historical and logical analysis of various types of scientific hypotheses and the data that support or undermine them.
PHIL 212: Greek Philosophy II: Aristotle and After Sylvia Berryman	Aristotle; selections from Hellenistic and Late Antique Philosophy. Aristotle's teleology and his central role in the formation of a 'scientific' approach to investigating the world will be featured, along with his contributions to ethical thought.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic Tom Bittner, Dave Gilbert, Alexandre Korolev, Jonathan Ichikawa	Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; systems of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity; alternative proof methods.
PHIL 230: Introduction to Ethics Matt Bedke, Kimberley Brownlee	Theories of obligation and value; moral reasoning; normative ethics, descriptive ethics and meta-ethics. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology Cat Prueitt	Topics in epistemology such as skepticism, truth, justification, a priori and a posteriori knowledge. Readings from classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 250: Minds and Machines <i>Tom Bittner</i>	Philosophical and theoretical issues that pertain to how mental phenomena fit into the material world. Examine questions such as whether a sophisticated enough computer should be deemed a conscious intelligent being. Focus on philosophical literature on consciousness, intelligence, animal minds, and the mind-body relation.
PHIL 311: The Philosophy of Aristotle Sylvia Berryman	A study of Aristotle's writings and his influence on subsequent philosophy.
PHIL 313: Medieval Philosophy Anders Kraal	Survey of Western European thought from Augustine to the 14th century. Possible topics and authors include: Augustine; Abelard; the influence of Islam; the rediscovery of Aristotle; Aquinas; Scotus; Ockham.

PHIL 315: Philosophy in	Survey of 18th-century philosophy from Locke to Kant, including the writings of
the 18th Century Fatema Amijee	Berkeley, Rousseau, and Hume. The influence of science and religion on philosophy.
PHIL 320: Logic: Metatheory and Computability Dave Gilbert	Continuation of PHIL 220. A system of deduction for predicate logic is selected for further study. Completeness of this system and other metatheoretic results are proved. Other topics include computability, recursive function theory, incompleteness and decidability.
PHIL 321: Induction, Decision and Game Theory Alexandre Korolev	Formal methods relevant to probabilistic and inductive reasoning. Decision theory, game theory, axiomatic probability theory and its interpretations, belief dynamics, simulation and modelling.
PHIL 323: Nonclassical Logic Dave Gilbert	One or more of conditional logic, deontic logic, epistemic logic, many-valued logic, systems of belief dynamics.
PHIL 326: Philosophy of Language Jordan Dodd	Philosophical discussion of language, meaning, and communication. Credit will be granted for only one of PHIL 326 or PHIL 425.
PHIL 330: Social and Political Philosophy John Beatty	Theories of political and legal obligation and authority, legal reasoning, society and the state. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 332: Environmental Ethics Rana Ahmad	Moral problems arising in the context of human relationships to nature and to non-human living things, considered in terms of both general moral theory and policy formation. Topics include moral standing, animal rights, obligations to future generations, pollution, hazardous materials, the depletion of natural resources and the treatment of non-human living things.
PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics Irwin Chan, Spencer Knafelc	Moral problems arising in the health sciences, especially in medicine but also in biology, psychology, and social work. Topics include abortion, death and euthanasia, genetic engineering, behaviour modification, compulsory treatment, experimentation with human beings and animals, and the relationship between professionals and their patients, subjects or clients. No philosophical background is required.
PHIL 335: Power and Oppression Willow Verkerk	How power functions to govern, oppress, and empower life. Indigenous, Black, and feminist philosophers in dialogue with Hegel, Marx, and Foucault.
PHIL 337: Ethics for the Sciences Daniel Saunders	Philosophical exploration of ethical issues in the non-medical sciences, including topics such as intellectual integrity, responsible conduct of research, protection of human subjects, ethics of animal experimentation, and the social responsibilities of scientists. Credit will be granted for only one of ISCI 433 or PHIL 337.
PHIL 338: Philosophy of Law Dom Alford-Duguid	Concepts of law, constitution and sovereignty; law and morality; natural law theories and legal positivism; obligation, responsibility, and punishment.

PHIL 340: Metaphysics Ori Simchen	Topics in metaphysics such as the nature of physical reality, personal identity, the mind/body problem, free will, causation and action theory. Readings from classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 363: History and Philosophy of Economics from Ricardo to Keynes Margaret Schabas	The development of economic thought from David Ricardo up to the present, including such figures as Mill, Jevons, and Keynes, focusing primarily on the conceptual foundations of economics, particularly the problems of value, distribution and growth.
PHIL 375: Philosophy and Literature Stefan Lukits	Philosophical issues in works of literature or arising from theories of literary interpretation. Topics include issues relating to relativism, the nature of morality, free will, personal identity, the nature of the emotions.
PHIL 385: Existentialism Willow Verkerk	Meaning, identity and alienation as explored in the works of Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Sartre, Beauvoir, Fanon, and Camus, among others.
PHIL 388: Classical South Asian Philosophy Cat Prueitt	Debates on issues of epistemology, language and ontology among the philosophical traditions of classical South Asia.
PHIL 414: Topics in the History of Modern Philosophy Anders Kraal	Intensive study of a major philosopher or school such as Descartes, Hume, Empiricism, Rationalism, or the British utilitarians.
PHIL 416: Topics in 19 th - Century Philosophy Dom Lopes	Major contributions to aesthetics in the long nineteenth century, with a focus on Kant, Schiller, Hegel, Bolzano, and Moore.
PHIL 418: Topics in 20 th - Century Philosophy Evan Thompson	An intoduction to and overview of the 20th century philosophical movement of Phenomenology. Authors include Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, de Beauvoir, and others.
PHIL 426" Topics in Philosophy of Language Ori Simchen	Advanced topics in the philosophy of language.
PHIL 441: Philosophy of Perception Murat Aydede	The contribution of the senses to knowledge of the external world; the nature of perception and its contribution to empirical knowledge.
PHIL 448: Topics in Continental Philosophy Willow Verkerk	A study of selected thinkers in phenomenology and psychoanalysis.
PHIL 451: Philosophy of Mind Evan Thompson	Philosophical debates about the nature of consciousness and the self as informed by theories and findings from cognitive neuroscience.

PHIL 455: Topics in the Philosophy of Cognitive Science Eric Margolis	Philosophical topics in the cognitive sciences, such as empiricism vs. nativism, consciousness, mental representation, cognitive architecture, language & thought, and situated cognition.
PHIL 464: Philosophy of Biology Chris Stephens	Methodological, historical, philosophical and social science questions about biology.
PHIL 490 Alisabeth Ayars	Honours seminar.
PHIL 491: Seminar for Majors in Philosophy Margaret Schabas	Focus on "objectivity". Primarily for fourth-year Philosophy Major students, but also open to Philosophy Honours.