

UBC Philosophy Course Offerings, Summer and Winter 2024–25

The lists below show the courses the UBC Philosophy Department plans to offer in 2024–25 Summer and Winter terms. These details are still subject to change; see the official course schedule for confirmation, as well as further details such as course meeting times. You can also contact instructors with questions. When multiple instructors are listed under a course number, each instructor will teach a section of the course that term.

Summer Term 1 (May–June 2024)

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Celia Edell</i>	This course will introduce students to philosophy through the study of some of the most important works in the Western philosophical tradition, each paired with a contemporary public philosophy work to complement. We will consider questions of reality, personal identity, theories of morality, justice and oppression, and questions of sex, love, mortality, and meaning.
PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking <i>Davide Zappulli</i>	Formal and informal 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>Paul Bartha</i>	This is a first course in formal reasoning. You will learn to symbolize and evaluate deductive arguments. Topics include symbolization in sentential logic (SL), predicate logic (PL) and relational predicate logic (RPL); truth tables; and proofs and invalidity in SL, PL and RPL.
PHIL 230: Introduction to Ethics <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	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 <i>Gillette Kinley</i>	What are the limits of knowledge? What makes knowledge possible? How does knowledge function in society? To address these questions, we'll discuss a variety of topics, including ancient Greek skepticism, modern skepticism, Kantian epistemology, relativized knowledge, the epistemology of science, "thinking for yourself," marginalized knowledge, and the epistemology of democracy. Class sessions will consist of synchronous online lectures and discussions.
PHIL 314: Philosophy in the 17th Century <i>Anders Kraal</i>	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 330: Social and Political Philosophy <i>Kimberley Brownlee</i>	This course will explore the case for and against resorting to civil disobedience in response to the climate crisis. It will study whether we have a general moral duty to follow the law, whether we can have duties sometimes to disobey the law (even in liberal democracies), whether certain people - such as doctors or scientists - have special duties to engage in climate activism, and whether legal defenses of deep belief or necessity apply to civilly disobedient climate activism.
PHIL 338: Philosophy of Law <i>Lukits Stefan</i>	PHIL 338 "Philosophy of Law" in general addresses subjects such as concepts of law, constitution and sovereignty; law and morality; natural law theories and legal positivism; obligation, responsibility, and punishment. This course in particular will

	focus on legal positivism, Marxism, and poststructuralist approaches to laws and norms.
PHIL 347: Philosophy of Religion <i>Anders Kraal</i>	Study of the main arguments for and against the existence of God, including cosmological arguments, design arguments, ontological arguments, and the problem of evil.
PHIL 375: Philosophy and Literature <i>Carrie Jenkins</i>	We begin by analysing examples of philosophical literature to understand their techniques, strategies, strengths, and weaknesses. Then in the second half of term, students create and workshop their own philosophical writing.

Summer Term 2 (June–July 2024)

PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Bianca Crewe</i>	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as morality, personal identity, free will and determinism, and the meaning of life.
PHIL 230: Introduction to Ethics <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	Theories of obligation and value; moral reasoning; normative ethics, descriptive ethics and meta-ethics. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics <i>Irwin Chan</i>	This course delves into in-depth discussions of topics including drug legalization, euthanasia, and abortion. Throughout the term, there will be plenty of case study discussions, enabling you to apply your knowledge and thinking skills to analyze practical problems.
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.

Summer Term 1-2 (May–August 2024)

PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking <i>Alexandre Korolev</i>	Formal and informal 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>Alexandre Korolev</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 <i>Rana Ahmad</i>	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>	This course delves into in-depth discussions of topics including drug legalization, euthanasia, and abortion. Throughout the term, there will be plenty of case study discussions, enabling you to apply your knowledge and thinking skills to analyze practical problems.

Winter Term 1 (September–December 2024)

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Ori Simchen</i>	Basic problems and methods of Philosophy. Topics such as the existence of God, the nature and scope of human knowledge, the relationship between mind and body, personal identity, free will, issues and problems in moral philosophy.
PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Kimberly Brownlee</i>	This course invites students to consider what makes for deep, lasting happiness. The course looks at joy, pleasure, and wellbeing, focusing on contemporary and classical philosophical works and noting debates in cognate fields such as positive psychology, social neuroscience, religious studies, and sociology.
PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Eric Margolis</i>	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics include the existence of God, whether we have a soul as well as a body, and whether we have free will. This section focuses on contemporary approaches to these problems rather than historical texts and will use a hybrid method of delivery — part of the course will be synchronous (in person) and part will be asynchronous (pre-recorded lectures).
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Irwin Chan</i>	This course introduces some important philosophical issues in moral philosophy. It aims to demonstrate the relevance of philosophy and develop your abilities to solve real-life problems ethically and creatively.
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Anders Kraal</i>	An overview of key developments in the history of the philosophy of ethics, politics, law and rights from the Ancient Greeks up to the present day.
PHIL 120: Introduction to Critical Thinking <i>Aaron Henry, Alexandre Korolev</i>	Formal and informal 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 <i>Alan Richardson</i>	This course takes an expansive approach to both of the key terms in the title: science and reasoning. Our aim is to help you have a better sense of evidential practices in science and how they relate to the institutions of government and commerce so you can be a better citizen of today's world.
PHIL 211: Greek Philosophy I: Socrates and Plato <i>Michael Griffin</i>	This course explores our earliest sources for Greek philosophical thought and 'the examined life' (Socrates), including ethics, metaphysics, and theories of knowledge, stretching from the earliest Homeric poetry in the 8th-7th centuries BCE to Plato in the 4th century.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Murat Aydede</i>	Symbolic Logic. Introduction to First-Order Predicate Logic with Identity.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Roberta Ballarín</i>	Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; proofs and derivations in a system of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity. May use computer-based materials and test.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Ali Jewell</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. Some sections may use computer-based materials and tests.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Alexandre Korolev</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 <i>Matt Bedke</i>	This is an introduction to moral philosophy where we cover theories of well-being, and moral theories like utilitarianism, deontology, Kantianism, and virtue ethics. We also consider the role of religion and culture in ethics. cs, descriptive ethics and meta-ethics. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 235: Contemporary Moral Issues <i>Rana Ahmad</i>	Moral issues such as life and death decisions, paternalism, markets, animal welfare, technology, and global justice.
PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology <i>Elena Holmgren</i>	This course will explore fundamental questions in epistemology such as: What is knowledge and what are its limits? How can we respond to scepticism? Is relativism about knowledge correct? Can we give a naturalistic explanation of knowledge? That is, science purports to explain the natural world and, increasingly, the human mind, but can it also explain the act of knowing that generates science? We will then explore knowledge as a social phenomenon by exploring questions such as: How do social processes help and hinder the production of knowledge? And how can we understand the epistemic merits of collective knowledge practices embodied in democratic institutions and internet communities? To what extent does the proliferation of online content by artificial agents (e.g., AI-disseminated misinformation) affect our knowledge practices? We will explore these and other topics through a close study of important classical and contemporary texts. This course will be online and synchronous.
PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology <i>Cat Prueitt</i>	This course will provide an introduction to epistemology---the study of how and what we know---by focusing on the question of trust. We'll ask to what extent we can trust the world, ourselves, other people, and institutions. We'll draw on materials from Classical South Asian and contemporary analytic epistemology.
PHIL 250: Minds and Machines <i>Kousaku Yui</i>	A philosophical exploration of artificial intelligence. We will address traditional and contemporary philosophical issues concerning the nature of the mind and how mental phenomena fit into the physical world. Topics will include the mind-body problem, neural networks, intelligence, consciousness, free will, and AI ethics.
PHIL 310: The Philosophy of Plato <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	A study of Plato's dialogues and his influence on subsequent philosophy.
PHIL 313: Medieval Philosophy <i>Anders Kraal</i>	Medieval Philosophy with a focus on the seminal writings of St Augustine and their ramifications through ten centuries including on the Carolingian Renaissance, Scholasticism, the Italian Renaissance, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, and on Early Modern Philosophy.
PHIL 314: Philosophy in the 17th Century <i>Fatema Amijee</i>	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 315: Philosophy in the 18th Century <i>Margaret Schabas</i>	Survey of 18th-century philosophy from Locke to Kant, including the writings of Berkeley, Rousseau, Hume, and Wollstonecraft. The influence of science and religion on philosophy.
PHIL 316: Philosophy after 1800 <i>Anders Kraal</i>	We survey some key philosophical developments in 19th Century ethical and political philosophy, with special focus on Hegel's "Philosophy of Right", JS Mill's "On Liberty", and Nietzsche's "Genealogy of Morals".
PHIL 320: Logic: Metatheory and Computability <i>Paul Bartha</i>	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 <i>Paul Bartha</i>	This course explains the fundamentals of decision theory and game theory, and relevant background concepts such as probability and utility. We explore paradoxical situations where these theories appear to clash with ordinary intuitions about rationality. We consider applications throughout the course and conclude with an introduction to evolutionary game theory.
PHIL 326: Philosophy of Language I <i>Ori Simchen</i>	Philosophical discussion of language, meaning, and communication.
PHIL 330: Social and Political Philosophy <i>Matt Bedke</i>	This is a survey course in political philosophy that begins with the work of John Rawls, the most influential political philosopher in the modern era. We also consider alternative approaches, such as communitarianism, libertarianism, egalitarianism, as well as critiques based on race and feminism.
PHIL 331: Business and Professional Ethics <i>Rana Ahmad, Celia Edell</i>	This course will cover foundational ethical theories and their applications to the business context. Topics include: corporate social responsibility, leadership and bias, whistleblowing, automation and AI, and more.
PHIL 332: Environmental Ethics <i>John Beatty</i>	In this course, we will pursue two central issues having to do with nature: what <i>*value*</i> does nature have, and what is it about <i>*nature*</i> that makes it valuable? These are philosophical questions that are also informed by ecology and environmental history.
PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics <i>Jade Hadley, Doran Smolkin</i>	This course delves into in-depth discussions of topics including drug legalization, euthanasia, and abortion. Throughout the term, there will be plenty of case study discussions, enabling you to apply your knowledge and thinking skills to analyze practical problems.
PHIL 334: Sex, Gender, and Philosophy <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	Relationship between sex, gender, and philosophy. Topics include sexism in the history of philosophy, gender ontology, and intersectionality.
PHIL 335: Power and Oppression <i>Wayne Wapeemukwa</i>	This seminar will explore the "philosophy of dispossession." It begins with the recognition that empires have historically instrumentalized political philosophies to justify colonial ambitions; and that Indigenous Peoples have provided theoretical challenges to the philosophy of dispossession. By the end of the course students will have acquired an advanced understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of settler-colonialism as well as Indigenous criticisms of it.

<p>PHIL 338: Philosophy of Law <i>Tom Bittner</i></p>	<p>Covers some of the main philosophical problems that arise in connection with the concept of law and with legal institutions, such as the courts and legislatures. These problems range from relatively practical questions such as the distinction between intent and knowledge in criminal law to more theoretical questions such as law's relationship to morality.</p>
<p>PHIL 340: Introduction to Metaphysics <i>Aaron Henry</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>PHIL 347: Philosophy of Religion <i>Anders Kraal</i></p>	<p>Study of the main arguments for and against the existence of God, including cosmological arguments, design arguments, ontological arguments, and the problem of evil.</p>
<p>PHIL 351: Philosophical Perspectives on Cognitive Systems Research <i>Jordan Dodd</i></p>	<p>Focus on empirically-engaged philosophical work on cognition. Topics include: the nature of mental states, the extended mind hypothesis, the singularity, character traits, psychological egoism, empathy, and perception.</p>
<p>PHIL 362: History and Philosophy of Economics from Aristotle to Adam Smith <i>Margaret Schabas</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>PHIL 371: Foundations of Chinese Thought <i>Edward Slingerland</i></p>	<p>This course is designed to give students a thorough introduction to early (pre 221 BCE) Chinese thought, its contemporary implications, and the role of philosophy and religion in human flourishing. This period of Chinese history witnessed the formation of all of the major indigenous schools of Chinese thought (Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism and Legalism), which in turn had an impact on the development of East Asian cultural history that is still felt today. Students will be exposed to both received texts and recently discovered archeological texts; this combination of sources will both enrich students' understanding of the world of thought in early China and call into question the boundaries drawn between the traditionally-defined "schools" such as Daoism or Confucianism.</p>
<p>PHIL 375: Philosophy and Literature <i>Stefan Lukits</i></p>	<p>"Philosophy and Literature" addresses 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.</p>
<p>PHIL 378: Philosophical Wisdom of Early India <i>Cat Prueitt</i></p>	<p>According to the common Sanskrit adage, the point of philosophy is yathābhūtadarśana: to see things as they really are, so that we may live in accord with reality. So, how is reality, how do we know it, and how does this knowledge guide our goals and actions? This course explores the early foundational texts whose visions will shape Indian philosophical instincts, inquiries, and debates moving into the classical period of systematic thought.</p>

PHIL 385: Existentialism <i>Anders Kraal</i>	An introduction to Existentialism with a focus on the seminal writings of Kierkegaard, including a deep dive into his books <i>Either/Or</i> and <i>The Sickness Unto Death</i> . We also compare Kierkegaard's thought with that of Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Martin Heidegger.
PHIL 390 Honours <i>Alisabeth Ayars</i>	Honours seminar.
PHIL 416: Topics in 19th-Century Philosophy <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	A study of one or more of Nietzsche's texts.
PHIL 432: Topics in Ethical Theory <i>Celia Edell</i>	This course will cover ethical theory that addresses the moral dimensions of living in a digital world. Topics include: Is online behavior morally distinct from real world behavior? What do we owe our online relationships? How do we balance potentially conflicting values of anonymity and accountability?
PHIL 441: Philosophy of Perception <i>Dominic Alford-Duguid</i>	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 <i>Aaron Henry</i>	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 <i>Murat Aydede</i>	Topics in the Philosophy of Cognitive Science. Critical examination of fundamental concepts in Cognitive Science: information, representation, computation.
PHIL 464: Philosophy of Biology <i>Chris Stephens</i>	Philosophical questions about the nature of evolutionary biology such as: How do we get evidence about evolutionary claims? What is a species? Does natural selection ever act for the good of the group? Is there a biological basis for racial classifications? What does evolutionary theory tell us about whether there is a human nature? What are the implications of an evolutionary approach to morality? Students with background in either philosophy or biology are welcome.
PHIL 469: Topics in Philosophy of Science <i>Alan Richardson</i>	In a recently-published paper, Heather Douglas and T.Y. Branch (2024) argue that the value-free ideal of scientific objectivity took hold in post-World-War-2 America as part of a then new "social contract for science" and they argue, further, that critiques of various aspects of this social contract make forging a new such contract for the present a pressing concern now. This course uses their term "social contract for science" to investigate science/society/government/commerce relations both in the wake of World War 2 and now.
PHIL 470: Comparative Conceptions of the Self <i>Edward Slingerland</i>	This course is intended to introduce students to the various ways in which the "self" has been portrayed (implicitly or explicitly) in both Eastern and Western religious traditions, as well as how these differing conceptions of the self have resulted in quite disparate manners of understanding ethics, the relation of the self to society, and the valuation of particular human abilities. The main theme will be the history of the construction of the modern western, liberal conception of the self, some of

	<p>the problems endemic to this conception, and how western conceptions of the self compare with those from the Warring States period of early China.</p>
<p>PHIL 491: Seminar for Majors in Philosophy <i>Scott Anderson</i></p>	<p>Four British women philosophers--G. E. M. Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Iris Murdoch, and Mary Midgley--have recently been the subjects of two different popular philosophical books discussing their significance to 20th Century philosophy. Each is an important figure in her own right, but collectively, their work, friendship, and approach to philosophy changed the direction of ethics in the mid-to-late 20th century, or so these books argue. This course will look at the philosophical world they were trained in, how they objected and responded to it, and what lasting impacts their work has had. It will serve as an introduction to some of their most important works as well as the history of mid-20th century analytic philosophy.</p>

Winter Term 2 (January–April 2024)

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Ori Simchen</i>	Basic problems and methods of Philosophy. Topics such as the existence of God, the nature and scope of human knowledge, the relationship between mind and body, personal identity, free will, issues and problems in moral philosophy.
PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Anders Kraal</i>	Overview of the key philosophical developments in the history of philosophy, focusing on such topics as Free-Will, Mind, God, Knowledge, and Science. Special attention will be paid to the seminal writings of Plato, Descartes, Hume, and Kant.
PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Eric Margolis</i>	Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics include the existence of God, whether we have a soul as well as a body, and whether we have free will. This section focuses on contemporary approaches to these problems rather than historical texts and will use a hybrid method of delivery — part of the course will be synchronous (in person) and part will be asynchronous (pre-recorded lectures).
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Scott Anderson</i>	Many philosophers have held that happiness is the goal of human life, and so ethics and politics are primarily about promoting happiness. This course introduces students to ethical and political philosophy through a study of the role of happiness in ethics and politics. We'll consider questions about the nature of happiness, how happiness might be measured, whether happiness is truly an ethical goal, and how and whether we as a society should try to promote it.
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Celia Edell</i>	By surveying some key texts from the philosophical tradition, we will examine questions that relate to central areas of human existence. First, we will familiarize ourselves with key philosophical theories of morality and society. From there, we will take a look at a few social and ethical questions surrounding sex, love, technology, death, and meaning. Each topic is discussed briefly and is meant to introduce a few philosophical arguments in order to pique interest and invite further study in what most interests you.
PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy <i>Carrie Jenkins</i>	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 <i>Alexandre Korolev</i>	Formal and informal 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 <i>Alexandre Korolev</i>	Historical and logical analysis of various types of scientific hypotheses and the data that support or undermine them.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Roberta Ballarin</i>	Sentential and predicate logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; proofs and derivations in a system of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity. May use computer-based materials and test.
PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Jonathan Ichikawa</i>	Sentential and quantified logic. Translation from natural language; truth tables and interpretations; systems of natural deduction up to relational predicate logic with identity; alternative proof methods. My section of this course will be available for either in-person or hybrid/online participation.

PHIL 220: Symbolic Logic <i>Dominic Lopes</i>	Sentential and predicate logic with a focus on translation from natural language, formal methods, fundamental concepts, and an introduction to meta-theory. Problem sets are done on computer.
PHIL 230: Introduction to Ethics <i>Alisabeth Ayars</i>	This is an introduction to moral philosophy where we cover theories of well-being, and moral theories like utilitarianism, deontology, Kantianism, and virtue ethics. We also consider the role of religion and culture in ethics. cs, descriptive ethics and meta-ethics. Readings in classic and contemporary texts.
PHIL 235: Contemporary Moral Issues <i>Matt Bedke</i>	This is a course on contemporary moral issues. We will be critically examining contemporary moral problems in a dispassionate way, focusing on the quality of the arguments for and against various positions.
PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology <i>Chris Stephens</i>	An introduction to philosophical issues about the nature of knowledge and evidence. Topics will include: epistemic relativism, external world skepticism, the problem of induction, design arguments and the epistemology of conspiracy theories. Readings will be from both classical and contemporary sources.
PHIL 250: Minds and Machines <i>Aaron Henry</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 <i>Sylvia Berryman</i>	Study of Aristotle's philosophy, with an emphasis on his new approach to the study of the natural world and his contributions to ethics. Studying Plato first (Phil 310 or a similar course) is helpful and recommended, but not required.
PHIL 313: Medieval Philosophy <i>Anders Kraal</i>	Medieval Philosophy with a focus on the seminal writings of St Augustine and their ramifications through ten centuries including on the Carolingian Renaissance, Scholasticism, the Italian Renaissance, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, and on Early Modern Philosophy.
PHIL 315: Philosophy in the 18th Century <i>Fatema Amijee</i>	This course will examine central themes in the philosophical systems of philosophers from the 18th century and beyond: John Locke, Catharine Cockburn, George Berkeley, David Hume, Thomas Reid, and Mary Shepherd. The issues taken up by these philosophers and their ways of grappling with them have helped to define modern conceptions of the world and of our place in it. For this reason, these philosophical systems continue to be important and influential in philosophy down to the present day. We will focus on the interpretation and evaluation of the arguments these philosophers offer in the areas of metaphysics and theory of knowledge. Among the particular topics to be discussed are: the nature of perception, idealism, skepticism about the external world, notions of causality and substance, self-knowledge, the problem of induction, and personal identity.
PHIL 316: Philosophy after 1800 <i>Anders Kraal</i>	We survey some key philosophical developments in 19th Century ethical and political philosophy, with special focus on Hegel's "Philosophy of Right", JS Mill's "On Liberty", and Nietzsche's "Genealogy of Morals".

<p>PHIL 321: Induction, Decision and Game Theory <i>Christopher Stephens</i></p>	<p>What makes a decision rational? In this course we will examine two different approaches to this question: decision theory and game theory. Although decision and game theory are studied and used in a wide variety of areas, the primary emphasis here will be on philosophical issues. This means that we will focus on the conceptual foundations of decision and game theory, with special attention given to certain puzzles such as Newcomb's paradox and the Prisoner's Dilemma. We will also spend time thinking about the applications of these theories to various areas of philosophy, including social and ethical problems.</p>
<p>PHIL 326: Philosophy of Language <i>Roberta Ballarin</i></p>	<p>Philosophical discussion of language, meaning, and communication in the analytic tradition. We focus on some fundamental questions in philosophy of language: What is the relation between thought and language? How do words acquire their meanings and what are meanings anyway? What role do individual speakers' intentions play in linguistic significance? What role does a linguistic community play?</p>
<p>PHIL 330: Social and Political Philosophy <i>John Beatty</i></p>	<p>In this class, we will focus on the concept of "political authority." States generally have the power to command their subjects, compel them to obey, and punish them if they do not. But are there any good reasons for us to obey, other than the fact that we are often forced into doing so, and other than the fear of further force against us if we disobey?</p>
<p>PHIL 331: Business and Professional Ethics <i>Rana Ahmad, Irwin Chan</i></p>	<p>This course discusses several ethical theories, two theories of the nature of the firm, and various ethical issues in business. Its objective is to cultivate your ability to recognize and consider the interests of all relevant stakeholders, find creative solutions to business challenges while considering these interests, and make business decisions that are guided by ethical considerations.</p>
<p>PHIL 332: Environmental Ethics <i>Rana Ahmad</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>PHIL 333: Bio-Medical Ethics <i>Irwin Chan, Doran Smolkin</i></p>	<p>This course delves into in-depth discussions of topics including drug legalization, euthanasia, and abortion. Throughout the term, there will be plenty of case study discussions, enabling you to apply your knowledge and thinking skills to analyze practical problems.</p>
<p>PHIL 334: Sex, Gender, and Philosophy <i>Jasper Heaton</i></p>	<p>A philosophical investigation into concepts of sex and gender. This course will especially explore the historical and contemporary relationship between feminist and trans feminist theories of gender as the basis for political action.</p>
<p>PHIL 335: Power and Oppression <i>Scott Anderson</i></p>	<p>This course looks at power and oppression through the work of a variety of philosophical and social theorists. We will consider how force/violence, economic, and ideological/structural power can be identified, and their usefulness as potential tools for oppression or for combatting oppression. We will also consider how oppression can be defined and identified, and how it might be limited or eliminated. The course gives special attention to power and oppression in sex and gender relations.</p>

PHIL 337: Ethics for the Sciences <i>Alison Wylie</i>	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 <i>Dom Alford-Duguid</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 <i>Dominic Lopes</i>	Recent work on aesthetic value, art, and the specific arts and aesthetic practices. The course is designed for philosophy majors but also students with little background in philosophy, including students in the fine arts disciplines.
PHIL 340: Metaphysics <i>Anders Kraal</i>	Overview of key ideas in modern metaphysics, including arguments for and against free-will, abstract objects, non-existent objects, properties, and the reality of the past and the future.
PHIL 347: Philosophy of Religion <i>Anders Kraal</i>	Study of the main arguments for and against the existence of God, including cosmological arguments, design arguments, ontological arguments, and the problem of evil.
PHIL 348: Introduction to Continental Philosophy <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	Knowledge, freedom, and progress and their relationships with humanism and enlightenment in continental philosophy.
PHIL 351: Philosophical Perspectives on Cognitive Systems Research <i>Tom Bittner</i>	Philosophical exploration of questions and theories arising from, or in connection with, scientific research into the mind, as conducted in psychology, linguistics, and computer science.
PHIL 360: Introduction to History and Philosophy of Science <i>Alan Richardson</i>	This course surveys some key moments in 20th-century history and philosophy of science in order to explore various reasons why a triumphalist "science is the engine of human progress" narrative became increasingly difficult to believe in the 20th century. We shall also reflect on what that means for understanding the place of science and technology for us as we enter the second quarter of the 21st century.
PHIL 363: History and Philosophy of Economics from Ricardo to Keynes <i>Margaret Schabas</i>	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 364: Darwin, Evolution, and Modern History <i>John Beatty</i>	The Darwinian revolution was an historical development of wide-ranging significance. We will consider not only the scientific but also the social, political, economic, religious, and philosophical sources of the Darwinian revolution, as well as its influence in all these areas.

<p>PHIL 369: Philosophy of Science <i>Alexandre Korolev</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>PHIL 375: Philosophy and Literature <i>Stefan Lukits</i></p>	<p>"Philosophy and Literature" addresses 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.</p>
<p>PHIL 385: Existentialism <i>Willow Verkerk</i></p>	<p>Meaning, identity, and alienation as explored in the works of Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Sartre, Beauvoir, Fanon, and Camus.</p>
<p>PHIL 388: Classical South Asian Philosophy <i>Cat Prueitt</i></p>	<p>This course examines Classical Sanskrit philosophy with a focus on inter-traditional debates what can be known, how we can know it, and how knowledge guides action in the world. After orienting ourselves to the norms of philosophical inquiry in Classical India, we'll organize our study in terms of the two major sources of knowledge that nearly all Classical Indian traditions accepted: perception and inference. PHIL 378 or similar is highly recommended as a prerequisite.</p>
<p>PHIL 400: Morals, Politics and the Individual <i>Matthew Perry</i></p>	<p>This course will introduce students to some of the major themes in moral and political philosophy. We'll examine what responsibilities individuals might have for addressing contemporary moral and political issues, what a just world for each and every one of us might look like, and how to apply these individual responsibilities to achieve it in practice. Primarily for fourth-year and graduate students who have had no previous course in (Moral and Political) Philosophy.</p>
<p>PHIL 431: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy <i>Matt Bedke</i></p>	<p>In this course we will pick a topic in Political and Social philosophy and give it a deep dive. Last year's topic was Equality and Equity. This year is TBD. Suggestions welcome.</p>
<p>PHIL 440: Topics in Epistemology <i>Cat Prueitt</i></p>	<p>As sentient beings, we exist in worlds populated by objects and other subjects that appear to be entirely distinct from us. But, if you and I were really utterly distinct, and really completely different from the objects in our worlds, how could we interact at all? What's the connection that allows us to experience ourselves and others as both distinct and part of the same world? A philosophical tradition that flourished in Kashmir in the 9th-11th centuries offers particularly brilliant responses to questions such as these. This tradition, called Pratyabhijñā, holds that we are able to experience our worlds as we do because our worlds are nothing but the play of divine consciousness manifesting itself in diverse forms. This may strike you as implausible, but Pratyabhijñā thinkers will argue that rational inquiry leads directly to their view. We'll explore their arguments by reading key primary texts in English translation.</p>
<p>PHIL 441: Philosophy of Perception <i>Dominic Alford-Duguid</i></p>	<p>The contribution of the senses to knowledge of the external world; the nature of perception and its contribution to empirical knowledge.</p>

PHIL 448: Topics in Continental Philosophy <i>Willow Verkerk</i>	A study of selected thinkers in phenomenology and psychoanalysis.
PHIL 451: Philosophy of Mind <i>Murat Aydede</i>	Philosophy of Mind. Survey of philosophical theories about the metaphysics of phenomenal (experiential) consciousness. The problem of personal identity. Personal death.
PHIL 455: Topics in the Philosophy of Cognitive Science <i>Eric Margolis</i>	Philosophical topics in the cognitive sciences. This section will look at a range of questions about the overall structure of the mind where the best research is equally grounded in developments in philosophy and the cognitive sciences. For example: Do people with radically different background theories perceive the world in different ways? Is language essential to some forms of cognition? How do human and (non-human) animal minds differ?
PHIL 461: Philosophy of Social Science <i>Margaret Schabas</i>	Topics in the philosophy of science of special concern to the social sciences: the problem of objectivity, the use of models and evidence, causation and causal reasoning, formal methods, the status of social kinds and norms, scientific explanation, laws.
PHIL 470: Comparative Conceptions of the Self <i>Evan Thompson</i>	An examination of conceptions of the self in Asian philosophical traditions compared with current conceptions in Western philosophy.
PHIL 490 <i>Murat Aydede</i>	Honours Tutorial. (Tentative) Metaphysics, epistemology, and moral psychology of pain and pleasure experiences.
PHIL 491: Seminar for Majors in Philosophy <i>Alisabeth Ayars</i>	Primarily for fourth-year Philosophy Major students, but also open to Philosophy Honours.