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Philosophy Master Course List with Description

11000 Introduction to Philosophy

The basic problems and types of philosophy, with special emphasis on the problems of knowledge and the nature of reality.

11100 Ethics

A study of the nature of moral value and obligation. Topics such as the following will be considered: different conceptions of the good life and standards of right conduct; the relation of nonmoral and moral goodness; determinism, free will, and the problem of moral responsibility; the political and social dimensions of ethics; the principles and methods of moral judgment. Readings will be drawn both from contemporary sources and from the works of such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Butler, Hume, Kant, and J. S. Mill.

12000 Critical Thinking

This course is designed to develop reasoning skills and analytic abilities, based on an understanding of the rules or forms as well as the content of good reasoning. This course will cover moral and scientific reasoning, in addition to ordinary problem solving. This course is intended primarily for students with nontechnical backgrounds.

15000 Principles of Logic

A first course in formal deductive logic; mechanical and other procedures for distinguishing good arguments from bad. Truth-tables and proofs for sentential (Boolean) connectives, followed by quantificational logic with relations. Although metatheoretic topics are treated, the emphasis is on methods.

20600 Philosophy of Religion

The course encourages critical reflection on traditional and contemporary views about God and other religious ideas. Topics include arguments for God's existence, the problem of evil, understanding the divine attributes, miracles, religious pluralism, and life after death.

21900 Introduction to Existentialism

A survey of both the philosophical and more literary writings of the existentialist movement. Readings will be chosen from among the following writers: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Kafka, Marcel, Heidegger, Camus, Sartre, Jaspers, de Beauvoir, Ortega, and Merleau-Ponty.

22100 Introduction to Philosophy of Science

An introduction to the scope and methods of science and to theories of its historical development. Topics include scientific revolutions, theories of scientific method, the nature of scientific discovery, explanation, and the role of values in scientific change.

22500 Philosophy of Woman

An examination of the beliefs, assumptions, and values found in traditional and contemporary philosophical analyses of women. A range of feminist approaches to knowledge, values, and social issues will be introduced.

24000 Social and Political Philosophy

A study of some major social and political philosophers from Plato to contemporary authors. Issues such as justice, rights and freedom, community, and the "globalized" future will be considered.

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24200 Philosophy, Culture, and the African American Experience

The purpose of this course is to consider African American based or inspired conceptions of Western philosophy and new visions of what it is to do philosophy sensitive to culturally rooted diversity.

26000 Philosophy and Law

A discussion of philosophical issues in the law: a critical examination of such basic concepts in law as property, civil liberty, punishment, right, contract, crime and responsibility; and a survey of some main philosophical theories about the nature and justification of legal systems. Readings will be drawn from both law and philosophy.

27000 Biomedical Ethics

An examination of the moral problems raised by developments in medicine and the biomedical sciences. Topics include abortion, reproductive technologies, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, experiments involving human subjects, and health care delivery.

27500 Philosophy of Art

A survey of the principal theories concerning the nature, function, and value of the arts from classical times to the present.

28000 Ethics and Animals

An exploration through the study of major historical and contemporary philosophical writings of basic moral issues as they apply to our treatment of animals. Rational understanding of the general philosophical problems raised by practices such as experimentation on animals or meat-eating will be emphasized.

29000 Environmental Ethics

An introduction to philosophical issues surrounding debates about the environment and our treatment of it. Topics may include endangered species, "deep ecology," the scope and limits of cost-benefit analyses, and duties to future generations.

29300 Selected Topics in Philosophy

A critical examination of some special topic or topics in philosophy. Details concerning topics selected for treatment in a given semester may be obtained in advance from the Department of Philosophy. Sections of this course may sometimes be initiated by students upon petition to the department.

30100 History of Ancient Philosophy

A survey of Greek philosophy from its beginning in the Milesian school through the Presocratics to Plato and Aristotle.

30200 History of Medieval Philosophy

A survey of the main trends and figures of medieval philosophy, with an emphasis on metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Readings (in English translation) may include Augustine, Boethius, Avicenna, Anselm, Abelard, Maimonides, Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham and Suarez.

30300 History of Modern Philosophy

Concentrates on the major philosophical writers from the Renaissance to the beginning of the nineteenth century: Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Kant. Some in other areas, e.g., Galileo, Newton, Calvin, are also considered.

30400 19th Century Philosophy

A study of the major movements and directions of nineteenth-century philosophy, including such figures as Hegel, Comte, Mach, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Mill, Royce and Peirce.

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30600 20th Century Philosophy

A critical examination of the main currents of contemporary philosophical thought, such as pragmatism, analytic philosophy, phenomenology, and existentialism, and other recent developments. The course will cover selected works of such philosophers as Russell, Wittgenstein, Peirce, Whitehead, Heidegger, and Sartre.

31900 Classic and Contemporary Marxism

A systematic exposition and analysis of principal elements in the philosophy of Marx, followed by a survey of some important twentieth-century writers in the Marxian tradition (e.g., Lenin, Lukacs, Marcuse, the Yugoslav Praxis group, etc.)

33000 Religions of the East

(REL 230) A study of the history, teachings, and present institutions of the religions of India, Southeast Asia, China, and Japan. This will include Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, and Zoroastrianism.

33100 Religions of the West

A comparative study of the origins, institutions, and theologies of the three major Western religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

35000 Philosophy and Probability

This course introduces the student to mathematical probability and its philosophical applications. Topics may include theories of probability, Hume's problem of induction, Goodman's paradox, and the foundations of scientific reasoning.

39300 Biomedical Ethics

A philosophical consideration of ethical problems that arise in current biomedical practice; for instance, abortion, euthanasia, determination of death, consent to treatment, and professional responsibilities in connection with research, experimentation, and health care delivery.

40600 Intermediate Philosophy of Religion

An intensive study of some important problems such as the existence of God, the problem of evil, immortality, or the nature of religion. Or the religious philosophy of some significant thinkers such as Buber, Berdyaev, Tillich, Barth, Maritain, or Chardin may form the content of the course. Subject matter may vary.

41100 Modern Ethical Theories

An examination of the major controversies in the history of modern ethics, including: the place of reason in ethics, the basis of moral obligation, and the relation between science and morals.

42100 Philosophy of Science

An examination of central issues in philosophy of science. Topics include theories of explanation, confirmation, reduction, laws, the status of theoretical entities, and the epistemological foundations of scientific theories.

42500 Metaphysics

A concentrated investigation of some of the basic problems concerning essence, existence, time, space, substance, causality, permanence, and change. Readings and discussions will center on representative metaphysical thinkers.

43000 Modern Religious Thought

An intensive study of some of the philosophical and theological problems that arose in the seventeenth

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and eighteenth centuries and some responses to them. We will be looking at figures such as Descartes, Locke, Hume, Lessing, and Kant.

43100 Contemporary Religious Thought

An exploration of the work of major nineteenth and twentieth-century philosophers of religion and theologians such as Kierkegaard, Hegel, Schleiermacher, Barth, Rahner, and others.

43200 Theory of Knowledge

An analysis of selected texts on knowledge and rationality. Topics such as the following will be considered: foundationalism, coherentism, internalism, externalism, skepticism, contextualism, empiricism, rationalism, analyses of epistemic concepts, and the Gettier problem.

43500 Philosophy of Mind

An examination of some central issues in the philosophy of mind. Attention is given to such topics as the knowledge of other minds, the relation between mind and body, the nature of persons, and the analysis of certain relevant concepts such as action, emotion, and perception. Readings are selected primarily from the writings of contemporary philosophers.

45000 Symbolic Logic

An introduction to metatheoretic studies of formal axiomatic systems. Basic set theory is developed for use as a tool in studying the propositional calculus. Further topics include many-valued logics and metatheory for modal or predicate logic.

46500 Philosophy of Language

An examination of some of the central issues in the philosophy of language, such as meaning, reference, truth, propositions, and speech acts.

49000 Advanced Topics in Philosophy

An advanced study of a significant topic in philosophy.

50100 Studies in Greek Philosophy

The subject-matter will alternate between the intensive study of some fairly specific topic in Greek philosophy (e.g., Plato's theory of knowledge, Aristotle's ethics, etc.) and a general study of either the philosophy of Plato or the philosophy of Aristotle.

50200 Studies in Medieval Philosophy

An intensive study of some central topics in the thought of major medieval philosophers. Subject matter will vary. Philosophers most often studied are Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, and Ockham.

50300 Studies in Early Modern Philosophy

A detailed study of either: 1) one or more central philosophical themes or 2) one or more major figures (typically, but not restricted to, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and/or Kant) in the early modern period. Offered in alternate years.

50500 Islamic/ Jewish Phil and the Classical Tradition

A study of representative texts and issues in medieval Islamic and Jewish philosophy. Possible topics include the commensurability of philosophy and (revealed) law, the creation or eternity of the world, the nature of prophecy, the human good, the nature of God, and divine language.

50600 Advanced Philosophy of Religion

A detailed critical investigation of some central problems in a philosophical approach to religion. Readings will be selected from leading representatives of traditional theism and various contemporary schools. The

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thought of the representative thinkers will be analyzed, discussed, and critically evaluated. The problems discussed will be selected from the existence of God, the problem of evil, freedom and determinism, the problem of immortality, and the nature of religious language. Variable content.

50700 Recent American Philosophy

A detailed examination of the central doctrines of one or more of the following six American philosophers: Peirce, James, Royce, Santayana, Dewey, and Whitehead.

51000 Phenomenology

A detailed, critical examination of some major issue(s) in phenomenology. Attention will be given to either the historical development or contemporary relevance of phenomenological philosophy. Readings will be drawn from the works of Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, and others.

51400 20th Century Analytical Philosophy I

The origins of contemporary philosophical analysis. An examination of the most important philosophical writings of Gottlob Frege and Bertrand Russell, as well as the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* of Ludwig Wittgenstein. Need not be followed by PHIL 515.

51500 20th Century Analytical Philosophy II

The development of philosophical analysis through logical positivism and the various forms of linguistic philosophy. An examination of some of the important writings of Moore, Ayer, Ryle, Wisdom, Austin, and the later Wittgenstein. Need not be preceded by PHIL 514.

52000 Existentialism

A detailed exploration and examination of the existentialist movement in modern thought, including its historical roots, its philosophical formulations, and its influence and expression in and relation to art, literature, psychology, social criticism, and religion. Readings will be from at least some of the major existentialists: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Jaspers, Heidegger, and Sartre. In addition, texts from existentialist thinkers in other areas will be used.

52400 Contemporary Ethical Theory

A critical review of twentieth-century developments in ethical and value theory, with particular reference to the dispute between utilitarianism and deontological theories, and to the problem of justification.

52500 Studies in Metaphysics

An intensive and critical examination of one or more of the basic problems of ontology and cosmology, such as substance, existence, causality, change, time, space, teleology, freedom, and universals. Variable content.

53000 Deconstructionist & Postmodernist Philosophy

An examination of the main currents of deconstructionist and postmodernist thought in the latter part of the twentieth century. Texts to be studied will be selected from the writings of Heidegger, Derrida, Foucault, Kristeva, Irigaray, Deleuze, Guattari, Lyotard, Baudrillard, and Rorty.

53200 Studies in Theory of Knowledge

An intensive examination of selected problems concerning the nature of human knowledge, its scope and limits, its relation to sense-perception and memory. Variable content.

53500 Studies in Philosophy of Mind

An intensive study of select topics in the philosophy of mind such as the explanation of human behavior, knowledge of other minds, the relation between mind and body, and the nature of persons. Variable

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content.

54000 Studies in Social and Political Philosophy

A detailed study of one or more important concepts in social or political philosophy, such as natural rights, revolution, law, freedom, justice, or political obligation. Variable content.

54200 Rationality & Relativism: African- American Perspectives

Examines philosophical issues of relativism and rationalism. Considers arguments by particular African American authors concerning relativist or rationalist approaches to the nature of social entities.

54500 Recent Analytic Philosophy

A survey of contemporary developments in analytic philosophy, with emphasis on major issues relevant to the philosophy of language, epistemology, and metaphysics. The course will cover such figures as W.V.O. Quine and Saul Kripke, and such problems as analyticity and necessity, ontological relativity, and the definition of knowledge.

55000 Advanced Symbolic Logic

A study of the properties of formal systems, including consistency and completeness theorems for the propositional calculus, the first order predicate calculus, and various modal logics, as well as a brief consideration of Godel's incompleteness theorem. Students who have taken MA 585 should not take this course; PHIL 650 is more appropriate.

55100 Philosophy of the Natural Sciences

A survey of issues and theories in contemporary philosophy of science. Variable content.

55200 Philosophy of the Social Sciences

An exploration of the nature of the concepts in the social sciences, and a study of the ways in which they have been and are employed.

55500 Critical Theory

An analysis of either the historical development or the contemporary relevance of critical theory. Primary texts may be selected from the "old" Frankfurt School (Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Benjamin, Fromm) or from "new" critical theory (Habermas, Wellmer, Honneth, Benhabib, and others).

56000 Studies in Eastern Philosophy

One of the traditional areas of Eastern philosophy (Indian, Buddhist, Chinese) will be selected for an intensive historical study. Readings will be from English translations of the writings of representative Eastern philosophers. Variable content.

57500 Problems in Aesthetics

An intensive examination of some of the characteristic questions of contemporary esthetic theory. Variable content.

57600 Philosophy & Literature Theory

Explores the interchanges between philosophy and literary theory that animate such areas as hermeneutics, phenomenology, existentialism, Marxism, feminism, African-American studies, postmodern theory, and cultural studies.

58000 Pro-seminar in Philosophy

Designed primarily for majors in philosophy who have already successfully completed six hours in philosophy. Other students may be admitted to the course with the special consent of the instructor in charge. Topic to be selected by the department.

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59000 Directed Reading in Philosophy

A reading course directed by the instructor in whose particular field of specialization the content of the reading falls. Approval of each reading project must be secured from the department.

60100 Special Topics in Ancient Philosophy

A detailed critical analysis of special problems or texts in ancient philosophy. Prerequisite: PHIL 50100.

61000 Seminar in Recent Continental Philosophy

An intensive, critical examination of some of the current modes of thought in recent continental philosophy, including phenomenology, critical theory, hermeneutics, deconstruction, and postmodernism. Selected writings from representative figures. Topics and texts will vary from semester to semester. Prerequisite: PHIL 51000 or 52000.

62400 Seminar in Ethics

An intensive study of some persistent problems of ethics, metaethics, and theory of action such as: intrinsic goods, ends and means, the concepts of utility, justice, and duty; facts and values, justification, ethical relativism, free will and blame-worthiness, belief, and action. Emphasis will be on contemporary discussions. Variable subject matter.

65000 Advanced Topics in Logic

Concentration usually centers on general problems connected with modal and many-valued logics, and the significance of their solution for specific calculi of this sort. Variable content. Prerequisite: PHIL 55000 or MA 58500.

66500 Philosophy of Language

An introduction to some of the main concepts and problems in the philosophy of language, such as meaning, reference, and private languages, through readings in the chief contributors to the field. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours in Philosophy.

67200 Philosophy of Logic

A study of some of the more fundamental logical and philosophical concepts. Topics may include: the analysis of singular and general propositions, the sense-reference distinction, predication, singular terms, assertion, intentional contexts, and truth. Prerequisite: PHIL 45000 or 55000 or 65000.

68000 Seminar in Philosophy

An intensive course for graduate students majoring or minoring in philosophy. The content of the seminar will be determined in accordance with the needs and interests of the students. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours at the graduate level in Philosophy.

68300 Studies in Continental Rationalism

An intensive study of Descartes, Spinoza, or Leibniz, or of certain themes and ideas that played an important role in the development of their philosophies. Variable subject matter. Prerequisite: PHIL 30300.

68400 Studies in British Empiricism

An intensive study of Locke, Berkeley, or Hume, or of certain themes and ideas that played an important role in the development of their philosophies. Variable subject matter. Prerequisite: PHIL 30300.

68500 The Philosophy of Kant

This course will be concerned with the critical philosophy as a whole. Primary emphasis, however, will be on the theories of knowledge and metaphysics as developed in the Critique of Pure Reason. Lesser attention will be paid to Kant's ethics and the principles of judgment as time permits.

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69800 Research in MA Thesis

Research MA Thesis. Permission of instructor required

69900 Research in PhD Thesis

Research PhD Thesis. Permission of instructor required.