# PHIL 11000/H Intro to Philosophy

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**LLEC:**

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

**Dist Lrng:**

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

**LLEC:** There is probably an explanation for why philosophy majors are among the most cheerful and clever conversationalists-over-a-beer that you'll find anywhere. There is certainly an explanation for why (according to the Educational Testing Service, who keeps tabs on these things) philosophy graduates are at the top of all majors when it comes to the GRE, are perennially among the top five on the GMAT, come in second-highest on the LSAT (physics and mathematics ties for highest), and so on. The full explanation unpacks what starts happening to anyone who takes a good "first course" *Introduction to Philosophy*: basically – skipping the full two-paragraph explanation – what happens is simply that you not-very-simply get a lot smarter while having way more fun than you'd have ever guessed that pondering the most important and fundamental questions could be. The questions, our topics, include (i) what reasoning is and how to do it well while others are making mistakes, (ii) what knowledge is, (iii) what your mind might be if it should turn out to be possible – just possible, is all – that God or angels have minds but no physical bodies; (iv) why it could turn out that God must exist if it's even possible – just possible, is all – that God exists, (v) how you might be morally praiseworthy or blameworthy, for doing things you didn't have to do, even if raising your hand or walking to the movies is governed by laws of nature (over which you have no control), and (iv) a few more surprises thrown in. Miss the class, and you'll miss the chance to set yourself apart from the unfortunate many who never learnt the payoffs of thinking about (i) - (vi).

**Phil 110 Honors. Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the basic problems of philosophy, paying special attention to questions concerning 1) the fundamental nature of reality 2) whether, and how, we should govern our beliefs and 3) the nature of morality and what it requires. The class will explore these themes through attention to some of the writings of historical figures such as Plato and Descartes, as well as a sampling of contemporary philosophy.

## PHIL 11100 Intro to Ethics

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**LLEC:**

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.

**LLEC:** Are there objective standards for human actions? Is there such a thing as moral obligation? What makes a human life good? In this course, we will grapple with these philosophical questions by examining some classical and contemporary attempts to answer them. We will study, and argue with, great philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill. **Fulfills:** CLA Core: Social Ethics; University Core: Humanities.
### PHIL 11400  Global Moral Issues
- **MWF 59273**: 2:30pm-3:20pm BRNG 1230  Staff
- **MWF 65000**: 12:30pm-1:20pm BRNG 1268  Staff
- **MWF 15619(ENG)**: 3:30pm-4:20pm BRNG 1230  Staff

A systematic and representative examination of significant contemporary moral problems with a focus on global issues such as international justice, poverty and foreign aid, nationalism and patriotism, just war, population and the environment, human rights, gender equality, and national self-determination.

### PHIL 12000  Critical Thinking
- **MWF 15147**: 2:30-3:20pm BRNG 1230  Staff
- **Dist Lrng 15173**: Arr hours

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.

### PHIL 15000  Principles of Logic
- **MWF 23997**: 11:30am-12:20pm BRNG 1268  Tulodzieckii, D.
- **MWF 65062**: 10:30am-11:20am BRNG 1268  Tulodzieckii, D.

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of modern logic, with emphasis on the construction and appraisal of complex patterns of reasoning. Some of the things expected will be the recognition and reconstruction of arguments in ordinary language, the symbolization of propositions and arguments from English into logical notation, the testing of arguments for validity, and understanding and constructing proofs. You will be expected to know the notation and the techniques of propositional and predicate logic. Put less formally, you will learn what it means for a claim to follow from others, and to recognise and construct good arguments of your own.

### PHIL 11400  Global Moral Issues
- **MWF 14991**: 8:30am 9:20am BRNG 1268  Staff

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.

### PHIL 219  Intro to Existentialism
- **MWF 15015**: 8:30am-9:20am BRNG 1230  Staff

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

### PHIL 225  Philosophy and Gender
- **TR 59980**: 9:00am-10:15am BRNG 1268  Song, Y.

This course focuses on two questions: What is gender injustice? What should we do about it? We will begin by familiarizing ourselves with some of the central concepts in feminist theory, including gender, oppression, social construction, essentialism, and intersectionality. We will then examine three approaches to understanding sex oppression: the sameness approach, the difference approach, and the dominance approach. Keep in mind that your job is not simply to know what the different theories say, but to think carefully and critically about their strengths and weaknesses, and how they may apply to concrete examples of gender injustice. We will conclude by considering the relationship between feminist theory and potential allies such as postcolonialism, neo-materialism, and queer theory.

### PHIL 23000/REL 23000  Religions of the East
- **MWF 10596**: 3:30-4:20pm HIKS B853  Purpura, A.

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.

### PHIL 23100/REL 23100  Religions of the West
- **MWF 68741**: 11:30am-12:20pm LWSN 151  Ryba, T.

A comparative study of the origins, institutions, and theologies of the three major Western religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
PHIL 240
Social and Political Philosophy
TR 69521 9:00am-10:15am BRNG 1230 McBride, W.
What have been some of the great social aspirations and values of the past, and how are they related to our own? In this course, a number of the major issues and writers in Western social and political thought will be introduced and discussed. There will be “classical” readings from Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Marx, followed by a segment devoted to contemporary writers and issues. During the latter, each student will be asked to select a book to present briefly to the class; this will serve as the basis of a final term paper. (Other requirements, in addition to class participation and meeting with the instructor, will be a shorter paper early in the term and a mid-term and final examination.) text: Michael S. Morgan, ed., Classics of Moral and Political Theory, 5th edition – Hackett paperback, 978-1-60384-442-0.

PHIL 242/AAS373F
Philosophy, Culture and the African American Experience
TR 69521 3:00pm-4:15pm BRNG 1230 Harris, L.
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.

PHIL 260
Philosophy and Law
MWF 14945 1:30pm-2:20pm BRNG 1268 Staff
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.

PHIL 270
Biomedical Ethics
TR 24011 1:30pm-2:20pm ME 1130 Song, Y.
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.

PHIL 290
Environmental Ethics
MWF 24016 2:30pm-3:20pm BRNG 2280 Bernstein, M.
After a general introduction to the field of ethics, we will read primary sources regarding problems specifically in environmental ethics, some of which can be reasonably characterized as contemporary classics in the field. Among other topics, we will discuss the value of nature, the appropriate moral attitudes and practices that we should adopt regarding nature, and identifying the obligations we have (if indeed we have any) toward future generations and non-human animals.

PHIL 301
History of Ancient Philosophy
TR 16146 10:30am-11:45am BRNG 1268 Curd, P.
Thales and his Presocratic counterparts are generally reckoned to be the first western philosophers. This course will trace the development of philosophy in Greece from its beginning in Thales and the Milesian school through to Aristotle. Along the way we shall consider the questions the Greek philosophers asked: What is it to be real? What is the nature of knowledge? Can we explain change? Can I know anything about the ever-changing world of sense-experience? What would such knowledge be like? Is moral knowledge possible? Emphasis will be placed on the works of Heraclitus, Parmenides, Plato, and Aristotle.

PHIL 302
History of Medieval Philosophy
TR 15043 12:00pm-1:15pm BRNG 1230 Brower, J.
This course is survey of some of the main trends and major figures of medieval philosophy. Emphasis will be on close reading and analysis of representative texts in medieval metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics, but some attention will also be given to broader philosophical traditions that develop during the thousand years separating late antiquity from the Renaissance. Readings (in English translation) will include selections from the work of Boethius, Anselm, Abelard, Aquinas, and Scotus.

PHIL 303
History of Modern Philosophy
TR 24019 1:30pm-2:45pm BRNG 1268 Marina, J.
In this course we examine the debate between Continental Rationalists and British Empiricists. We also explore how Kant’s Copernican revolution in philosophy overturned the assumptions grounding the impasse between Rationalists and Empiricists. To this end, we will carefully read key works

**PHIL 350**  **Philosophy and Probability**  
TR 14680  1:30pm-2:45pm  BRNG 1230  Curd, M.

We will explore the role that probability plays in everyday reasoning and in the sciences. Topics include the different kinds of probability: physical (chances), subjective (degrees of belief, credences), and epistemic (degrees of inductive support between propositions) and how they are related; competing interpretations of probability (classical, frequency, propensity); Bayesianism; and some current issues involving probability in the philosophy of science. “But to us, probability is the very guide of life.” (Joseph Butler).

**PHIL 406**  **Intermediate Philosophy of Religion**  
TR 14950  9:00am-10:15am  BRNG 1248  Draper, P.

The following topics will be discussed: religious experience, miracles, faith and reason, religious pluralism, and life after death. Two exams and a term paper will be required.

**PHIL 42400**  **Recent Ethical Theory**  
TR 14953  1:30pm-2:45pm  BRNG 1248  Kain, P.

A philosophical examination of significant issues in recent ethical theory and metaethics, such as the nature of value, obligation, virtue, rationality, moral knowledge, the status of ethical sentences, practical applications, and the relationship between ethics and natural science or religion. This semester we will examine important recent exchanges between prominent defenders of Humeanism, Kantianism, Consequentialism, Aristotelian Virtue Theory, and Natural Law Theory in normative theory. We will also consider exchanges between proponents of naturalism, constructivism, expressivism, sentimentalism, and theism in metethics.

**PHIL 43200**  **Theory of Knowledge**  
TR 14953  3:00pm-4:15pm  BRNG 1268  Jacovides, M.

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.

**PHIL 49000/COM496**  **Ethics and Philosophy of Info**  
MWF 16506  11:30am-12:20pm  BRNG 2291  Illiadis, A.

An introduction to the ethics and philosophy of information. Topics covered include information societies, the information revolution, method of levels of abstraction, information ethics, information infrastructure, critical data studies, information and policy, and informational structural realism.

**PHIL 50100**  **Studies in Greek Philosophy**  
W 14954  2:30pm-5:20pm  BRNG 1248  Curd, P.

For Aristotle what has come to be called _metaphysics_ is the study of being as such (as he calls it) and is the culmination of Aristotle’s system of the sciences (or branches of knowledge). One who has this knowledge has _sophia_, wisdom. The treatise is a collection of books on ‘first philosophy’: the exploration and analysis of the fundamental principles of knowledge and of what there is to be known. In this seminar we will read (carefully) the fourteen books of what we now know as the _Metaphysics_ (drawing on other works of Aristotle as appropriate). We shall pay particular attention to the questions Aristotle asks in beginning his analysis (the problems posed in Book III) and try to see how (in the rest of the _Metaphysics_) Aristotle untangles the puzzles he raises there about the nature of causes and principles, and what turn out to be the causes and principles of being as such (and what he means by this decidedly odd phrase).
PHIL 50700 Recent American Philosophy  
T 15397 6:30pm-9:20pm BRNG 1248 Harris, L.  
A detailed examination of the central doctrines of one or more of the following six American philosophers: Peirce, James, Royce, Santayana, Dewey, and Whitehead.

PHIL 51400 20th Century Analytical Philosophy  
W 14957 11:30am-2:20pm BRNG 1248 Bertolet, R.  
Our focus will be on the rise of so-called analytic philosophy in the early 20th Century, though we will in fact be reading some work from late in the 19th Century. The readings will be drawn from foundational works by Frege, Moore, Russell, and the early Wittgenstein. These tend to be primarily concerned with issues in logic, metaphysics, and the philosophy of language, and so we shall be concerned with those as well: there are also plenty of epistemological issues to engage. We will pursue the readings mostly, though not entirely, in historical order. Course requirements will include some short (ungraded) discussion notes and two or three papers. Texts: Michael Beaney (ed.), The Frege Reader (Blackwell, 1997, ISBN 978-0-631-19445-3), and Ludwig Wittgenstein, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, trans. D. Pears & B. McGuinness (Routledge, second edition 2001, ISBN 978-0-415-25408-3).

PHIL 52500 Studies in Metaphysics  
TR 14958 3:00pm-4:15pm BRNG 1248 Brower, J. Cover, J.  
In this course, we will engage some of the central problems and debates in traditional and contemporary metaphysics. We will begin with some issues in meta-metaphysics, concerning the nature, scope, and proper methodology of metaphysics. We will then examine as many of the following topics as time and student interest permit: existence and nature of properties, accounts of ordinary particulars, metaphysics of modality, parts and wholes, problems of change and persistence, material constitution, and the ontology of stuff vs. things. (Undergraduates who have not taken PHIL 425 must get special permission to take this course.) Required readings will be drawn from M. Loux, Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction, 3rd ed. ( Routlede 2006), as well as from a number of contemporary articles. Students will be required to complete several writing assignments.

PHIL 53500 Studies in Philosophy of Mind  
M 14981 8:30am-11:20am STEW 050B Kelly, D.  
This course will focus on the nature and significance of so-called culture bound syndromes: psychiatric disorders that only exist, or are only recognized as diseases, within a particular culture. Well-known examples of such culture bound syndromes include latah, amok and koro, but other candidates that might fit the description (or once did fit the description) include fugue, multiple personality disorder, and even anorexia nervosa. We will explore what these culture bound syndromes are and what distinguishes them from other psychiatric illnesses. Doing so will require us to take up other philosophically interesting topics as well, including issues related to natural kinds and social kinds, realism and social constructivism, what mental illness and delusion might tell us the structure of the mind and existence of human universals, if and when it may be justified to compel people to submit to psychiatric treatment, and the status of both anthropology and psychiatry as sciences.

PHIL 54000 Studies in Social and Political Philosophy  
M 14980 11:30am-12:20pm BRNG 1248 Frank, D. Yeomans, C.  
In this team-taught seminar in political philosophy we shall focus on the role that religion ought to play in the state. Alliances between Church and State and brutal wars enveloped Europe from the Renaissance through the 17th century, and in the wake of this unease political philosophers from Machiavelli and Hobbes on speculated upon what role, if any, religion ought to play in the political sphere. They wondered whether the institutional religious structures are a help or a hindrance in achieving political and social stability. Issues in social and political philosophy, philosophical anthropology, and legal philosophy will be debated. We shall read and discuss texts by Machiavelli, Hobbes, Spinoza, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Hegel. The period to be covered stretches from the Italian Renaissance to 19th century Prussia. The seminar will be of interest to graduate students and properly-prepared advanced
undergraduates in a variety of disciplines, especially philosophy, history, and political science.

**PHIL 54500**  
Recent Analytical Philosophy  
M 14960 2:30pm-5:20pm BRNG 1248 Steup, M.

**Dogmatic and Non-Dogmatic Theories of Perceptual Justification**

When is a perceptual experience a source of justification? For internalists, there are three main answers to this question. According to dogmatism, perceptual experiences are always (i.e. in all possible cases) a source of justification. Michael Huemer and James Pryor advocate this view, which as also been attributed to H. H. Price and Roderick Chisholm. According to conservatism (to be distinguished from Michael Huemer’s phenomenal conservatism), a perceptual experience is a source of justification unless one has evidence that the experience is unreliable. This view is a relative of belief conservatism, according to which a belief is justified unless one has a reason to reject it. Finally, according to evidentialism (as I would prefer to construe the view), a perceptual experience is a source of justification only if one’s total evidence certifies the experience as reliable. Conservatives and evidentialists both reject dogmatism on the ground that there are counterexamples to the claim that perceptual experiences are always a source of justification. In addition, there are two further important views. Some authors, advocating a hybrid of internalism and externalism, reject dogmatism on the ground that perceptual experiences are a source of justification only if they are reliable. Finally, Crispin Wright, proposing what he calls ‘welfare epistemology,’ rejects dogmatism because he thinks that perceptual experiences are a source of justification only if we have antecedent justification for rejecting skeptical scenarios. For Wright, this antecedent justification cannot be evidential. It is pragmatic, and it is unearned, which is to say that we have it by default. In this seminar, we will begin with a discussion of key papers by Pryor and Huemer and then focus on literature that explores the prospects for various forms of non-dogmatic epistemology.

**PHIL 55100**  
Philosophy of Natural Science  
F 14961 2:30-5:20pm BRNG 1248 Curd, M.

A look at recent work on probability, especially chances and their role in modern science. Topics include the nature of physical chances, whether chances are consistent with determinism, the relation between chances and credences, Lewis’s “principal principle,” probability in statistical mechanics, and probability in interpretations of quantum mechanics (including the debate over the Everett’s “many-worlds” interpretation). Authors include D. H. Mellor, David Lewis, David Z. Albert, Tim Maudlin, David Papineau, Michael Strevens, and Barry Loewer. “Be my guest—posit all the primitive unHumean whatnots you like…. But play fair in naming your whatnots. Don’t call any alleged feature of reality “chance” unless you’ve already shown you have something knowledge of which could constrain rational credence.” (David Lewis)

Please contact Sue Graham (CLA Counseling and Student Services for more information) at 765-49-44976 or sgraham@purdue.edu  
See URL Philosophy Courses for additional information.