

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy program provides a solid foundation in the history of philosophy. In addition, the program involves in-depth study of specific subject areas, including logic, ethics, aesthetics, epistemology, metaphysics, and philosophy of religion. This dual emphasis cultivates students' capacity for critical analysis, stimulates independent thinking, and promotes sound reasoning based on knowledge, moral discrimination, and religious insight.

- Philosophy, B.A. (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/academic-departments/philosophy/philosophy-ba/>)
- Philosophy - Secondary Major (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/academic-departments/philosophy/philosophy-secondary-major/>)
- Philosophy Minor (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/academic-departments/philosophy/philosophy-minor/>)

Philosophy (PHI)

PHI 1301 Research Writing: Introduction to Philosophy (3)

A writing-intensive introduction to the major philosophical topics, themes, and thinkers. The primary aims of this class are two-fold. First, to learn important skills involved in effective writing, and by extension, critical reading, and reflective thinking. Second, to become acquainted with some important figures in the history of philosophy and to evaluate how they wrote as a means of learning the recursive process required to write well. This course may be repeated once if there is substantively different content with departmental approval required.

PHI 1302 Introduction to Philosophy (Non-writing Intensive) (3)

An introduction to the major philosophical topics, themes, and thinkers. Students develop the ability to read texts critically.

PHI 1306 Logic (3)

A study of the basic principles and methods for distinguishing good and bad reasoning across a broad range of contexts, with an emphasis on deductive reasoning. Students develop formal tools to identify, reconstruct, and evaluate arguments, and to compose argumentative essays of their own.

PHI 1307 Critical Thinking (3)

The development of critical, coherent, and creative thinking, including understanding, analyzing, and evaluating the claims of others, organizing ideas clearly, and constructing sound arguments. Development of sensitivity to argumentation technique and to the language in which arguments are expressed, with particular attention to the persuasive techniques of advertising and other controversial issues in the mass media.

PHI 1308 Contemporary Moral Problems (3)

An introduction to philosophical issues and theories associated with the normative assessment of human behavior through engagement with one or more contemporary social issues such as poverty, war, immigration, affirmative action, drug legalization, abortion, sexuality, animal rights, and the environment. This course may be repeated once if there is substantively different content with departmental approval required.

PHI 1309 Introduction to Medical Ethics (3)

Introduction to philosophical reasoning regarding medical ethics, including confidentiality, intervention in the beginning and ending of human life, and just distribution of medical resources.

PHI 1310 Computer Ethics (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Computer Science Data Science majors only
Analysis of ethical problems for information technologies. Topics include ethical implications of new possibilities in information technologies, privacy, ownership, professional codes of conduct as they relate to society, and role of information technologies in shaping morality of government, education, politics, business, and society.

PHI 1311 Engaged Approaches to Ethical Theory (3)

Students are introduced to issues in ethics—the study of how to live well—through participating in local community work and study of philosophical theories. Coursework includes regular engagement with organizations working in areas that impact human thriving such as health, education, environment, inequality, and immigration. Students will integrate reflection on their experiences in the community with people facing barriers to living well with philosophical argument and theory to refine and revise judgments about key ethical issues. This course fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences Engaged Learning requirement.

PHI 1V9R Research (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of the instructor
Undergraduate research undertaken with the supervision of a faculty member. May be taken for a maximum of 6 hours.

PHI 2301 Existentialism (3)

An examination and evaluation of philosophical themes and methods in existentialist writings. Themes such as freedom, anxiety, despair, nothingness, alienation, death, God, the impotence of reason, the conflict between individuality and the dehumanizing tendencies of mass society, and the conflict between authentic self and inauthentic self are considered. Attention is focused upon the work of such thinkers as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Jaspers, Heidegger, Marcel, Sartre, and Camus.

PHI 2303 Philosophy in Literature (3)

A critical engagement of the philosophical ideas represented in selected literary texts, such as science fiction, dystopian fiction, the inklings, or existentialist literature, indicated by course subtitle. Examines a wide variety of philosophical topics with special attention to the role of imagination.

PHI 2305 Philosophy and Religion (3)

A writing-intensive introduction to philosophical issues arising from religious belief and practice. Students develop the ability to read texts critically, and to write clear argumentative essays about such topics as faith and reason, the problem of evil, and the coherence of doctrines like atonement and incarnation.

PHI 2308 Philosophical Texts (3)

A study of central philosophical texts in their historical context and for their enduring philosophical contributions. Possible texts include Plato's Republic; Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, Augustine's Confessions, St. Thomas's Summa, Descartes' Meditations, Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling, and Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra. May be taken a maximum of two times if different topics, not to exceed six semester hours.

PHI 2309 Philosophical Traditions (3)

An introductory study of a central philosophical tradition in its historical context and for its enduring philosophical contribution. Possible traditions include existentialism, feminism, political liberalism, pragmatism, post-modernism, naturalism, positivism, and scholasticism. May be taken a maximum of two times if different topics, not to exceed six semester hours.

PHI 2310 Law, Science and Society (3)

A study of philosophical issues arising at the intersections of law, morality, science, and society. The course will consider such issues as the proper relation between morality and law, civil disobedience, racism, feminism, equal opportunity and justice, abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, punishment, pornography, creationism, and moral aspects of technological development.

PHI 2332 Literary & Philosophical Perspectives on the Environment (3)

Integrates literary and philosophical perspectives on the environment in order to address the ecologic crisis facing humanity in the twenty-first century. Equips students to read the literature from these different perspectives critically and write reflectively upon them. Students will develop creative writing skills, allowing them to express themselves through ecofiction/story/narrative and ecopoetry.

PHI 2370 Business Ethics (3)

An analysis of moral issues that arise within the economic sphere of society and specifically within profit and nonprofit organizations. The nature and justification of moral decision making will be examined. Topics may include moral issues involving the relationships between business and other social organizations, ecology, the social responsibility of entrepreneurs, and personnel and policy decisions.

PHI 2V9R Research (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of the instructor

Undergraduate research undertaken with the supervision of a faculty member. May be taken for a maximum of 6 hours.

PHI 3301 Moral Philosophy (3)

A critical study of problems in moral judgment and evaluation, with analysis of presuppositions and justifications used in moral discourse. Problems such as freedom and determinism, relativism and absolutism, conflicts of duties and ends, grounds of moral obligation, and choices involving personal and social goals are also studied. This course will introduce students to a number of major primary sources in the history of moral philosophy.

PHI 3305 British Philosophy and Culture (3)

This course is designed for Baylor University's study-abroad program. (Note: see section in this catalog regarding foreign study.) While the specific course content will vary with the instructor, attention will be given to the way issues have been addressed by philosophers in the British Isles such as Thomas More, Francis Bacon, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, John Stuart Mill, Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell, and Gilbert Ryle. The philosophical ideas of literary figures such as Jane Austen, Robert Browning, and William Wordsworth may also be considered. Discussions will be developed in the rich settings of cathedrals, theaters, universities, and museums.

PHI 3310 History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy (3)

Historical context in which philosophy developed and how the original issues of philosophy continue to inform historical and contemporary philosophical debate. Emphasizes the reading of primary sources: Homer, Hesiod, the pre-Socratics, the Sophists, Plato, and Aristotle, and the study of Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism.

PHI 3312 History of Philosophy: Modern European Philosophy (3)

A study of the major developments in philosophy from the Renaissance through the first half of the nineteenth century. The demise of late Scholasticism, the rise of modern science, the philosophies of the Continental Rationalists and the British Empiricists, the critical philosophy of Kant, and German Idealism are considered. Philosophers studied include Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche.

PHI 3318 Philosophy and Constitutional Issues (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing

The examination of certain philosophical issues that are raised by the U.S. Constitution, and especially by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

PHI 3320 Philosophical Issues in Feminism (3)

A critical study of philosophical issues in feminism including moral issues of equal rights and justice, sex role stereotypes, equal opportunity and reverse discrimination, equality between the sexes, abortion, and philosophers' theories of feminism. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

PHI 3322 Philosophy and the Arts (3)

Cross-listed as ARTH 3390

A survey of the major contemporary sources in aesthetics. Problems discussed are concerned with the aesthetic experience, the interpretation of art (including the definition of art, the nature of metaphor, the relation of art to knowledge, meaning in art), and criticism in literature and other art forms.

PHI 3339 Law and Religion (3)

Cross-listed as PSC 3339, REL 3339

Relationships between government and religion, especially, United States Supreme Court decisions dealing with prayer and Bible reading in public schools, government aid to church-related schools, and religious liberty rights of individuals and churches. Philosophical debates about the nature of religious free exercise and establishment, their justification, and their relationship to different political theories. Note for undergraduate religion majors: This course will be accepted as three elective hours on a religion major, but will not be accepted for credit on a minor in religion or toward the six hour religion requirement by the University.

PHI 3395 Historiography and the Philosophy of History (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Six semester hours of history or consent of instructor

An introduction to ancient, medieval, and modern historiography and the development of the philosophy of history. Critical consideration will be given to traditional thought about concepts fundamental to history, including the ideas of historical explanation, purpose, cause, and interpretation. Emphasis will be given to methods of historical research and writing.

PHI 3V9R Research (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of the instructor

Undergraduate research undertaken with the supervision of a faculty member. May be taken for a maximum of 6 hours.

PHI 4300 History of Medicine (3)

Cross-listed as HIS 4300, MH 4300

See MH 4300 for course information.

PHI 4301 War and Morality (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing or consent of instructor

An analysis of the moral and philosophical issues arising from military operations around the world, whether formal or informal, historical and contemporary.

PHI 4310 Philosophy of Science (3)

An analysis of philosophical problems about science. Such central concepts as law, causation, induction, hypothesis, theory, verification, and models are studied. Presuppositions and methodologies of different sciences may be examined. The relation of scientific views to moral, social, and metaphysical problems is considered.

PHI 4311 Epistemology (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Two PHI courses or consent of instructor
A critical examination of classical and current problems in theories of knowledge. Attention is given to such problems as meaning, truth, the knowing situation, universals, knowledge of the external world and of other minds, and validation of knowledge claims. The contributions of recent movements such as logical empiricism, linguistic analysis, phenomenology may be studied.

PHI 4314 History of Philosophy: Patristic and Medieval (3)

The history and development of philosophy from 250 to 1400 A.D. Some of the major philosophers studied include Augustine, Boethius, John Scotus Erigena, Anselm, Abelard, Avicenna, Averroes, Maimonides, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, John Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham. Special emphasis will be placed on the significance of pre-Enlightenment thinkers to the development of the Enlightenment and Modernity.

PHI 4317 Philosophy of Mind (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Two PHI courses or consent of instructor
Critical examination of current problems in philosophy of mind, focusing on the relationship between mind and physical world. Central issues include the nature of consciousness, and the nature of mental content; secondary topics may include, reductionism, functionalism, non-reductive materialism, epiphenomenalism, panpsychism, and dualisms of various forms.

PHI 4318 Philosophy of Law (3)

A critical study of historical and contemporary approaches to primary issues in jurisprudence and the philosophy of law, including tort law, criminal law, and Constitutional law.

PHI 4319 Philosophical Writing, Research and Oral Presentation (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing and consent of instructor
Enhancing philosophical writing skills, promoting proficiency with new computer research technologies, and refining oral communication skills.

PHI 4320 The Philosophy of Religion (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Two PHI courses or consent of instructor
A philosophical inquiry into such topics as the existence and nature of God, religious experience, immortality, the problem of evil, the relationship between reason and faith, the meaning of religious language and symbols, and the validity of religious knowledge claims. Methods of contemporary philosophical analysis are used in clarifying religious concepts.

PHI 4321 Metaphysics (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Two philosophy courses or consent of instructor
A critical analysis of classical and contemporary metaphysical systems and problems. These include the world views found in the philosophies of naturalism, idealism, personalism, positivism, pragmatism, organicism, and existentialism. Problem areas considered are mind-body relations, cosmology, ontology, philosophical anthropology, universals, determinism, and freedom. Basic categories such substance, cause, time, space, matter, and form are critically examined. Attention also is focused upon methods and criteria employed in metaphysical study.

PHI 4324 Philosophy in Literature (3)

A critical study of philosophical material in literature, that is, a study of the philosophy to be found in essays, novels, poems, and plays. Among the authors usually studied are Plato, Aristotle, Theophrastus, Lucretius, Voltaire, Goethe, Ibsen, Nietzsche, Kafka, Camus, Sartre, Malraux, Hesse and selected contemporary novelists.

PHI 4325 Literary and Philosophical Perspectives on Medicine (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Open to Philosophy and Medical Humanities majors and minors only; or consent of instructor
Examination of literature dealing with illness, disease, pain, and death in order to understand better how societal perceptions and values of the care-giver affect the patient.

PHI 4331 Latin American Philosophy (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing
Philosophical and intellectual movements in Latin America from the colonial times to the present. These movements include scholasticism, eclecticism, utilitarianism, romanticism, positivism, vitalism, phenomenology, and existentialism and philosophies of liberation. Works of major representatives of these movements (including such men as Bello, Mora, Sierra, Varona, Deustua, Caso, Korn, Vasconcelos, Farias Brito, Vaz Ferreira, and Romero) are studied.

PHI 4340 East Asian Philosophy (3)

Cross-listed as AST 4340
An historical and critical survey of the major movements in Chinese, Indian, or Japanese philosophy. Course may be repeated once with different area of concentration.

PHI 4341 Contemporary Continental Philosophy (3)

A critical study of philosophical movements in Europe during the past one hundred and fifty years. Some of the major philosophers studied include Nietzsche, Husserl, Adorno, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Wittgenstein, Russell, Carnap, Gadamer, Habermas, Lyotard, Foucault, and Derrida. Movements studied include phenomenology, positivism, naturalism, critical theory, existentialism, structuralism, deconstructionism, and post modernism. Course may be repeated once with a different area of concentration.

PHI 4342 Contemporary American Philosophy (3)

A critical study of philosophical movements in the United States during the past one hundred years. Some of the philosophers whose works are studied include Pierce, James, Royce, Dewey, Mead, Lewis, Santayana, Whitehead, and Quine. Recent movements such as critical realism, naturalism, humanism, personalism, logical positivism, and linguistic analysis are also studied.

PHI 4345 Intermediate Logic (3)

Cross-listed as MTH 3345, PHI 3345
Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing
The language of first-order logic as a formal deductive system.

PHI 4353 Philosophy of Language (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Two PHI courses or consent of instructor
Critical examination of the basic problems in general semantics and philosophy of language, giving special attention to the major authors in these fields.

PHI 4360 Contemporary Ethical Theory (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Two philosophy courses or consent of instructor
Major issues in contemporary ethical writings. Course may be repeated once for credit if topic varies.

PHI 4361 Social Philosophy (3)

Cross-listed as PSC 4353
A critical survey of the fundamental concepts and theories used in justifying social institutions. Problems such as authority, law, freedom, rights, equality, responsibility, power, justice, the state, and justification of open societies are considered.

PHI 4363 Philosophy and Medicine (3)

Philosophical approaches to clinical medicine and contemporary health care, focusing on experience as a basis for knowledge.

PHI 4365 Jewish Philosophy (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing or consent of instructor

Jewish philosophy in the twentieth century, with emphasis on the relation between mortality and morality, justice and totalitarianism, faith after the Holocaust, and individualism and revolution.

PHI 4379 Islam and Democracy (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing

Examines the evolution of political philosophy and institutions in Muslim culture.

PHI 4385 Religious Ethics in a Liberal Democracy (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing

Addresses both historical and contemporary arguments about the relationship between religious morality and liberal democracy. Pays particular attention to the debate about the role of religious forms of ethics/morality in public debate, public choices, and the decisions of political actors.

PHI 4V99 Special Topics in Philosophy (1-3)

Pre-requisite(s): Senior or graduate standing and consent of instructor

Faculty-directed individual, group, or class research project. Course may be taken up to three times with a different topic for a maximum of 9 credit hours.

PHI 4V9R Research (3)

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of the instructor

Undergraduate research undertaken with the supervision of a faculty member. May be taken for a maximum of 6 hours.