PHL - PHILOSOPHY (PHL)

PHL 201. Introduction to Philosophy. (3 Credits)
An examination of humanity’s quest for wisdom. Emphasis is placed on
the ideas, methodologies, and problems of classic and contemporary
philosophy. Topics of study include the nature of human agency and
freedom, how meaning and value are derived and justified, threats to a
meaningful life, and how these threats might be ameliorated.

PHL 201H. Introduction to Philosophy - Honors. (3 Credits)
This course is an introduction to philosophy that provides a rigorous
intellectual environ¬ment for honors students. The course balances a
generally historical approach to the philosophical tradition of the West
with a topical treatment of important aspects of philosophy such as logic,
metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics, aesthetics, and religion.

PHL 202. Logic. (3 Credits)
A study of the methodology of reasoning. Special attention given to
understanding argument structure, recognizing various fallacies, and
constructing good arguments.

PHL 205. Ethics. (3 Credits)
A study of the nature of morality. Emphasis is placed on the analysis
of traditional ethical theories and their application to contemporary moral
problems.

PHL 250. Business Ethics. (3 Credits)
This course will explore the nature of business ethics. We will begin by
examining the importance of rational justification in the establishment
of ethical belief and how the creation of a rationally informed moral
point of view can help us to navigate the various moral challenges
encountered in business practices. Specifically, we will explore the nature
of ethical justification by looking at various philosophical attempts
to ground ethical thought (e.g. Utilitarianism, Social Contract Theory,
Deontology, and Virtue Ethics). Once we have addressed the nature
of ethical justification sufficiently, we will examine specific issues in
business ethics. This will include a detailed look at several moral issues:
justice and economic distribution, the nature of corporate moral agency
and responsibility, civil liberties in the workplace, workplace privacy
and autonomy, working conditions, ethical choices in the workplace
(e.g. bribes, loyalties, whistleblowing), discrimination and harassment,
consumers and truth telling, and environmental concerns. Emphasis
will be placed on evaluating these issues critically, highlighting the
strengths and weaknesses of various positions and exploring how
insights from each of these might help us to address the ethical problems
we encounter.

PHL 303. Philosophy of Religion. (3 Credits)
A philosophical examination of religion. Topics covered include
arguments for and against the existence of God, the nature of religious
experiences, the problem of evil, characteristics of divine nature religious
belief and moral justification, and the relationship between faith and
knowledge. Also listed as RE 303 but creditable only in the field for which
registered.

PHL 331. History of Western Philosophy I. (3 Credits)
A survey of major philosophers and philosophical concepts from the
ancient Greeks to the Renaissance. Also listed as HI 331 but creditable only
in the field for which registered. (Offered on sufficient demand)

PHL 332. History of Western Philosophy II. (3 Credits)
A survey of major philosophers and philosophical concepts from the
Renaissance to the present. Also listed as HI 332 but creditable only in
the field for which registered. (Offered on sufficient demand)

PHL 340. Metaphysics. (3 Credits)
A study of the nature of reality. Topics of study may include Time, Identity,
Mind, and Free Will. The course highlights both classic and contemporary
approaches to these topics. (Offered on sufficient demand)

PHL 415. Ethics in Administrative Leadership. (3 Credits)
This course examines major ethical issues that arise in public
administration. Theoretical justification and application for ethical
problems that arise in leadership positions will be explored. The course
will be offered in the Spring of even numbered years.

PHL 430. Existentialism. (3 Credits)
This course examines various philosophical theories of Existentialism.
It explores the 19th Century response to German Idealism (particularly
Hegel) in the thought of Soren Kierkegaard, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and
Friedrich Nietzsche. From there, we explore the development of ideas
in the works of Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir,
Albert Camus, and the religious thought of Martin Buber. While this
approach highlights a historical approach to the tradition, we will also
give specific attention to the significant themes and issues that unify
the diverse thinkers. In particular, the course explores what it means to
live authentically, the nature of subjectivity, the human condition as it
relates to anxiety, despair, freedom, alienation, and the human
confrontation with nothingness, nihilism, and absurdity. Also listed as
RE 430 but creditable only in the field for which registered.

PHL 450. Contemporary Political Philosophy. (3 Credits)
A study of current themes and trends within contemporary political
philosophy. Topics of study may include issues of justice, liberty, equality,
alienation, recognition, and the politics of difference. Readings are often
selected from both the Analytic and Continental philosophical traditions.
Also listed as PS 450 but creditable only in the field for which registered.
(Offered on sufficient demand)

PHL 484. Philosophical Borderlands of Science and Religion. (3 Credits)
An interdisciplinary course concerning the "Demarcation Question",
where do the borders of science end and religion begin? Both critical
reasoning and historical analysis of those areas that have been perceived
on the fringes of science, including Alchemy, Astrology, Atlantis, Galileo
and the Church, Mesmerism, Spiritualism, Theosophy, ESP, Near-Death
Experiences, UFO’s and Alien Abductions, Eugenics, the New Age
Movements, and the Tao of Physics. A strong philosophical component
is included, particularly the application of logical fallacies. Also listed as
HI 484 and RE 484 but creditable only in field for which registered.
(Offered upon sufficient demand)

PHL 490. Special Topics. (1-3 Credits)
A study of one or more carefully selected topics in philosophy. The length
of time and amount of study will determine the amount of credit earned.
(Offered on sufficient demand)

PHL 499. Independent Study. (3 Credits)
Open to students on approval of the department chair. Provides for
independent study; exceptions may be made with departmental approval.
Supervision, and evaluation. Students may complete up to six hours of
independent study or research under departmental determination.

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