

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY PHILOSOPHY

COURSE OFFERINGS FALL 2025

PHI 100: Intro to Philosophy - Knowledge and Reality

PHI 100 (009): Intro to Philosophy (Honors) - TR 9:30am-10:45am - Batty

An introduction to philosophical studies with emphasis on issues of knowing, reality and meaning related to human existence. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

PHI 120: The Art of Thinking - An Introduction to Logic

A course which treats argumentation, syllogistic, and sentential logic. The focus will be on the use of formal methods in the construction and criticism of actual arguments, the aim being to inculcate standards of good reasoning, e.g., clarity, consistency and validity. Credit is not given to students who already have credit for PHI 320. **UK Core Quantitative Foundations; Logic requirement for philosophy minors.**

PHI 130: Introduction to Philosophy - Morality and Society

An introduction to philosophical studies with emphasis on a critical study of principles of moral action and social and political values. **UK Core Community, Culture and Citizenship in the US.**

PHI 150: A Philosopher's Guide to Conspiracy Theories – MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm - Elmore

Designed as an introduction to philosophical inquiry by way of conspiracy theories, "A Philosopher's Guide to Conspiracy Theories" will aim to equip students with the tools they need to seek out the truth in a "post-truth" world. The course will include a survey the basics of epistemology (the study of knowledge), philosophical argumentation, and good research practices. Over the course of the semester, we will address the following questions: (How) do my beliefs affect others? What is an echo chamber and how is it similar to the psychological practices of cult leaders? What is required to thoroughly test and research a claim? What is a conspiracy theory? Is the world around me exactly as it appears? What can I know about events for which I was not present? How can I question the "official story" in a sophisticated, logically responsible way? **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

PHI 205: Food Ethics

An examination of philosophical issues about food, including whether taste is subjective or objective, why different foods are acceptable to eat in some cultures but not in others, the moral permissibility of eating animals and animal products, and the impact of food production on the environment. **UK Core Community, Culture and Citizenship in the US.**

PHI 260: His.of Phil. I-Greek Beginnings to Middle Ages - TR 9:30am-10:45am – Sanday

Western philosophy from ancient through late medieval times including systematic work in logic, metaphysics, epistemology and ethics by such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

PHI 270: History of Phil. II: Renaissance to the Present - TR 2:00pm-3:15pm - Look

Western philosophy from early modern to recent times including systematic work in logic, metaphysics, epistemology and ethics by such philosophers as Occam, Descartes, Hume and Kant. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

PHI 305: Health Care Ethics

A consideration of the ethical issues and difficult choices generated or made acute by advances in biology, technology, and medicine. Typical issues include: informed consent, healer-patient relationships, truth telling, confidentiality, problem of birth defects, abortion, placebos and health, allocation of scarce medical resources, genetic research and experimentation, cost containment in health care, accountability of health care professionals, care of the dying, and death.

PHI 310: Philosophy of Human Nature

An introductory philosophy course for upper division students that analyzes various ways that philosophers have attempted to define the human individual. It pursues diverse methods of inquiry into questions such as these: Do human beings have a fixed and definable human nature? What differentiates the properly human from the nonhuman? Are human actions free or determined? How are human beings essentially related to history, culture, society and the natural environment? **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

PHI 315: Philosophy and Science Fiction

An examination of fundamental questions in metaphysics, epistemology, and value theory through a comparison of works of philosophy and science fiction. Questions will be discussed such as: Can there be time travel? Can computers think? Can there be non-human persons, and if so how would we identify them? Can there be ways of knowing that are radically different from our own, and what might they be like? How much can a person change while remaining the same person? **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity.**

PHI 320: Symbolic Logic I – MWF 10:00am-10:50am - Loper

A systematic study of sentential logic, elementary quantification, and the logic of identity. The student will acquire specific skills in symbolic methods of analysis which are necessary for further study in logic as well as useful for addressing complex issues in philosophy and other areas.

PHI 334: Business Ethics

An introduction to moral problems that arise in contemporary business practice and the ethical frameworks proposed to resolve them. Topics will include areas such as truth-telling and integrity; social responsibility; property rights and their limitations; and justice in personnel and labor practices.

PHI 335: The Individual and Society – MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm - Sares

An examination of several incompatible views concerning the relation between the individual and society, including radical individualism and collectivism, as well as more moderate theories. Attention will be given to contemporary as well as classical spokesmen for these views and emphasis will be placed upon relating these theories to contemporary social, cultural, and political issues. **UK Core Community, Culture, and Citizenship in the US.**

PHI 336: Environmental Ethics

An introduction to moral problems that arise in human interaction with the natural environment. Topics to be addressed include questions such as: what is man's place in nature? Do nonhuman animals or ecosystems have intrinsic moral worth, and if so, how can it be respected? What problems and ambiguities arise in attempting to live in an environmentally responsible fashion? How can we adjudicate conflicts between social and environmental values?

PHI 337: Introduction to Legal Philosophy - TR 2:00pm-3:15pm - Nenadic

A general introduction to basic concepts, institutions, and mechanisms of law. Understanding of the legal system and its methods is promoted through discussion of topics which include: basic legal reasoning, the function of the legal process, fundamental legal concepts and categories (such as property, crime, and contract).

PHI 340: Introduction to Feminism and Philosophy – MWF 9:00am-9:50am - Sares

Introduction to basic feminist thought from a philosophical perspective explored through topics such as gender roles, images of women in society, violence against women, and male socialization. Emphasis on causes of and solutions to the oppression of women. This course fulfills the UK Core Requirement: Community, Culture, and Citizenship in the USA. **UK Core Community, Culture, and Citizenship in the US.**

PHI 343: Asian Philosophy – MWF 2:00pm-2:50pm - Adam

An introduction to the main concepts, assumptions, problems and texts of one or more Asian philosophical traditions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. **UK Core Global Dynamics.**

PHI 350: Metaphysics and Epistemology - TR 11:00am-12:15pm - Willard-Kyle

An examination of fundamental issues in metaphysics and epistemology, such as causation, the nature of space and time, personal identity, free will, the existence of God, the nature and types of knowledge, the character of human existence, skepticism, and rationality. This course is a Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) course in certain programs, and hence is not likely to be eligible for automatic transfer credit to UK.

PHI 375: Philosophy of Cognitive Science – TR 12:30pm-1:45pm - Batty

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of cognitive science. Cognitive science is the study of how organisms acquire, represent, manipulate, and use information. It is an interdisciplinary field that employs theories and methods from psychology, computer science, neuroscience, linguistics, and philosophy. The philosophy of cognitive science is the field of philosophy that is concerned with foundational questions that arise in cognitive science. Is the mind a computer? If the mind is like a computer, can we understand it without investigating underlying 'hardware' of the brain? Could a robot or artificial intelligence (AI) ever really have beliefs, emotions, or conscious experiences? Is your phone, and all that it can do, an extension of your mind? In this class, we will look at the origins of questions like these, as well as their answers. **UK Core: Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities**

PHI 380: Death, Dying and Quality of Life

A philosophical and interdisciplinary investigation of a cluster of prominent issues about the meaning of life and death, caring for dying persons, and the quality of life of the terminally ill. Among topics included are: death definitions and criteria; allowing to die vs. killing; euthanasia and suicide; life prolongation, ethics of care of the terminally ill; and rights of the dying. **UK Core: Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities**

RS 330: Introduction to Catholicism - MWF 11:00am-11:50am - Rosemann

What does it mean to be Catholic, that is to say, to relate to the world in a Catholic manner? Attempting to answer this question, this course offers a philosophical and theological introduction to the structures of Catholic thinking and being in the world. It falls into three parts. Part I, "Foundations," studies key aspects in the historical and intellectual foundations of Catholicism. Part II, "The Constitution of a Catholic Self in Space and Time," endeavors to understand how in a Catholic world everyday life unfolds from a sacred core. Part III, "Contemporary Issues," explores contemporary challenges, including the collapse of the Catholic Church in some Western countries **UK Core: Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities**

PHI 509: Topics in History of Modern Philosophy - TR 12:30pm-1:45pm - Look

Prerequisites: PHI 270 or the consent of the instructor.

A selective study of representative issues and texts in modern philosophy, with special emphasis upon historical continuity and interrelation of thinkers and problems. Possible topics: British empiricism; Leibniz and Locke; Descartes and his critics; Hobbes and Rousseau; Hume and Kant; philosophy and the rise of modern science. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. **(Group A)**

PHI 520: Symbolic Logic II - TR 9:30am-10:45am – Willard-Kyle

Prerequisites: PHI 320 or consent of instructor.

An intermediate course in symbolic logic which reviews sentential logic, develops further the logic of quantification, and introduces metalogical issues such as the construction, consistency, and completeness of deductive systems. **(Group C)**

PHI 562: Phil. Problems in the Social & Behavioral Sciences - TR 2:00pm-3:15pm - Schatzki

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or instructor permission.

Investigating social life. Why is doing this usually called social science? What does this enterprise study? What does it seek to achieve? What is its role in society? This course will consider these and other philosophical questions about social investigation. Among the topics to be discussed are (a) the nature of social reality, (b) the cognitive and practical aims of social investigation, (c) the determinants of human action (e.g., rationality), (d) biological explanations of action and social phenomena, (f) whether social science is like natural science, and (g) the relation between science, social critique, and social practice. **(Group C)**

PHI 592: Aesthetics – TR 11:00am-12:15pm - Sundell

Problems of method in aesthetics; major types of aesthetic theory. Aesthetic materials of the arts in literature, music, and the space arts. Form and types of form. Meaning in the arts. Interrelations of the arts. Lectures, discussions, reports. **(Group B)**