

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY PHILOSOPHY

COURSE OFFERINGS SPRING 2025

PHI 100: Intro to Philosophy - Knowledge and Reality

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

This course will introduce several topics related to logic and critical thinking. We will discuss the kind of mindset that makes a person better at evaluating their own beliefs, and a range of more specific topics related to this ideal, including the nature of entailment, evidence, different kinds of generalizations, the nature of causation, and the notion of “echo chambers.” **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 135: The Ethics of a Human Life - TR 11:00-12:15pm - Chambers

Ethical questions arise at every stage of a human life, from before a person is born until after she dies. This course will explore the relevant ethical questions: her conception, childhood, adulthood, death, and what happens after death, and the surprising ways philosophers have tried to answer these questions, and how they make can help us better understand the ethical shape of a human life. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

PHI 150: A Philosopher's Guide to Conspiracy Theories- TR 9:30-10:45 – Willard Kyle

An introduction to philosophical inquiry by way of conspiracy theories, this course 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. **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 by-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 11:00-12:15pm - Sanday

The way of life known as “philosophy” arose in the context of profound cultural and social upheaval in the ancient Greek world. As cultural relativism arose in Athens, so too did the Socratic commitment to “the examined life,” followed by Platonic pedagogy and metaphysics, Aristotelian psychology and politics, Stoic freedom, and the Christian conception of grace and the will. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

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

A historical introduction to the Western philosophical tradition of the 17th and 18th centuries, focusing on the metaphysical and epistemological doctrines of four of its major thinkers: Descartes, Spinoza, Hume, and Kant. We will examine the major theoretical texts of these thinkers, and how they understand the fundamental structures of all reality and how—or whether—we can come to know them. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities.**

PHI 300: Special Topics – Magic and Metaphysics- TR 11:00-12:15pm - Leaman

The aim of this course is to investigate the theoretical background of various kinds of magic, including spells, sorcery, potions, games of chance and astrology. We will be spending time studying the Book of Changes (Yijing) and major magical works in a range of world religions. We will discuss how compatible magic is with religion and how far paganism is in its own terms equivalent to religion. The role of magic and superstition in both religion and ordinary life will be examined.

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 - TR 9:30-10:45am - Farr

An introductory philosophy course for upper division students that analyzes various ways that philosophers have attempted to define the human individual. 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 and epistemology through a comparison of works of philosophy and science fiction. 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 317: Existentialist Thought and Literature

A survey of existentialism as a literary movement as well as a philosophical one, with emphasis upon their intersection and interaction. The course will trace the emergence of existentialist themes in modern thought and culture and will analyze and assess the movements' continuing significance.

PHI 320: Symbolic Logic I

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 330: Ethics – TR 12:30-1:45pm- Superson

This course is on theoretical ethics, covering some of the main issues in both normative ethics (ethical theory) and metaethics (abstract issues about ethics) such as: moral and cultural relativism, subjectivism, the connection between morality and religion, ethical egoism, social contract theory, utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, moral nihilism, moral skepticism, among others.

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

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 - MWF 2-2:50pm - Sandmeyer

We'll study the theory of our ethical relation to the nonhuman world, the social and political contexts in which these ethical theories function, and the idea of sustainability. How does an environmental ethic differ from traditional ethical theories? Do nonhuman animals or ecosystems have moral worth, and if so, how can competing moral claims between distinct moral entities be adjudicated? What is the human place in nature? How ought we to conserve the natural world?

PHI 337: Introduction to Legal Philosophy

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.

PHI 340: Introduction to Feminism and Philosophy - TR 11:00-12:15pm - Superson

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. **UK Core Community, Culture, and Citizenship in the US.**

PHI 343H: Asian Philosophy – TR 9:30-10:45am - Sanday

We will be reading major texts from the Hindu, Buddhist (Pali texts), Confucian, Daoist, and Zen traditions and using writing exercises to engage dialogically with each other. Discussions of cultural difference and epochal change will key initially from the overarching theme of “letting be” (*wu-wei*, lit. “in the absence of/without doing or exertion”) as it crops up in these texts. Special attention will also be given to the themes of friendship and duty. **UK Core Global Dynamics.**

PHI 350: Metaphysics and Epistemology - TR 12:30-1:45pm - 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. **(GCCR)**

PHI 375: Philosophy of Cognitive Science - TR 9:30-10:45am - Batty

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, concerned with foundational questions that arise in cognitive science.

UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

PHI 380: Death, Dying and Quality of Life

This course will examine a range of issues that arise when we reflect on our mortality. We will consider some of the understandings of death in a variety of religious philosophies, including immortality, rebirth, the nature of the soul. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities**

PHI 393: Philosophy of Film – TR 12:30-1:45pm – Look

An examination of the aesthetics of film from the early 20th Century to the present, with a focus on how the experience of film as a medium change our relation to the world of objects as well as our relation to other people, and how changes in the medium of film itself have altered aesthetic theories. **UK Core Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity**

PHI 537: Philosophy of Law - TR 11:00-12:15pm - Nenadic

Prerequisites: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor

Concept of law; relations between law and morals; nature of legal reasoning; analysis of legal concepts; justification of punishment. **Group B**

PHI 570: History of Philosophy – TR 9:30-10:45am - Rosemann

Prerequisites: PHI 100, 260 or 270 or the consent of the instructor.

Is history a succession of mere chance events, or does it have a rational structure? If history does follow a certain logic, there is significant disagreement over the nature of that logic. Is it a logic of progress, or decline, or something else? We will reflect on the religious background of modern philosophies of history. The notion that time can be the vehicle of truth is Judeo-Christian in origin: only when God enters history does the latter acquire ontological weight. **Group A**

PHI 575: Philosophy of Mind – TR 12:30-1:45pm – Batty

Prerequisites: PHI 100, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

This course is an examination of many of the central issues in the philosophy of mind. How does the mind fit into the physical world? What is the relation between the mind and the body? Are minds just brains? Or are they non-physical things? What is the nature of our sensory experiences? Can computers think? In examining these questions, we will consider how conceptions of the mind have been influenced by changes in the broader scientific environment. **(Group C)**