

# PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

## FALL 2026 COURSES



### PHI 100: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY - KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Sections 001-009 & 011-015: An introduction to philosophical studies with emphasis on issues of knowledge, reality, and meaning related to human existence.

Section 010 (HONORS) Dr. Batty, TR 12:30-1:45: Are you the same person you were years ago—or someone new? What makes you you: your memories, your body, your story? How do other people’s beliefs about you shape who you are? This introduction to philosophy explores the self and its place in the world, showing how identity, narrative, and belief—your own and others’—shape who you are and who you will become.

### PHI 120: THE ART OF THINKING – AN INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

UK Core Requirement Quantitative Foundations

Credit is not given to students who already have credit for PHI 320.

Sections 001-008 & 201: How can you tell when an argument really supports its conclusion—or only sounds like it does? This course introduces the tools of logic and critical thinking for analyzing everyday reasoning, scientific inference, and public debate. We’ll explore what makes arguments valid or strong, how evidence and probability guide belief, and how clear, strategic thinking can cut through confusion, bias, and misinformation. Highly recommended for LSAT prep.

### PHI 130: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY – MORALITY AND SOCIETY

UK Core Requirement Community, Culture, and Citizenship in the US

Sections 001-004: How should we treat other people? What does justice require of our government? We will explore these and related questions through a mix of traditional class discussion and D&D style role playing.

Sections 005-006: An introduction to philosophical studies with emphasis on a critical study of principles of moral action and social and political values.

Section 201: This course will cover issues in ethics such as euthanasia, abortion, eating animals for pleasure, climate change, gun control, and why be moral.

## PHI 135: THE ETHICS OF A HUMAN LIFE

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Section 001: Have you ever wondered whether being born was really a good thing? Or, when you were a child, did you ever think adults didn't really take you seriously but should have? Have you ever loved someone, but not been able to say why you kept loving them after you've met a more attractive or more charming stranger? Have you ever worried about whether having casual sex with someone means you're taking advantage of them, or them you? Are you afraid to grow old? To die? Or have you ever worried about what will happen to everyone you love after you die? Chances are that you've faced some of these questions. In this discover seminar, we will look at the surprising ways that moral philosophers have tried to answer these questions, and we will think about how the arguments they make can help us better understand the ethical shape of a human life as a whole.

## PHI 150: A PHILOSOPHER'S GUIDE TO CONSPIRACY THEORIES

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Sections 001-002: 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 of 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?

## PHI 205: FOOD ETHICS

UK Core Requirement Community, Culture, and Citizenship in US

Section 001: 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.

Section 002: This version of the course will focus on the ethical dilemmas that arise from animal and human labor in food production. We often look at our food without considering all the processes that it took to create it, but complex webs of animal and human labor went into what lies on your plate. By bringing attention to the labor that goes into your food, we will consider what should count as food and how it should be produced. As such, this course aims to give students an understanding of the ethics of our acts of eating as well as an understanding of the nature and structure of the food systems which condition these actions. Considering this theme, we seek in this class to understand how our individual food choices define us as responsible members of local communities existing in broader national and global contexts.

## PHI 245: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Section 001: An introduction to the philosophical study of religion, with attention to issues such as the nature of religious language, religious experience, concepts of God, science and religion, religious pluralism, miracles and revelation, death and the afterlife, and the problem of evil.

## PHI 260: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I - FROM GREEK BEGINNINGS TO THE MIDDLE AGES

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Section 001: 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.

## PHI 270: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II - FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT ERA

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Section 001: This version of the course focuses on the question of the subject in modern philosophy. What does it mean to be a rational subject—a subject who uses their reason well? What are rational beliefs, and how can we distinguish them from irrational ones? What is the structure and content of the mind, and how does it relate to the body? Does our reason grasp reality as it truly is? We will show how the greatest modern philosophers—Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant provide still living answers to these questions.

## PHI 300: SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY

Section 003 - **PORNOGRAPHY, TECHNOLOGY, and LAW:** In recent history, pornography has become widespread, altering the world and associated with harms that, as a society, we're just beginning to understand. Powerful technologies such as the Internet, our digital devices, and now Artificial Intelligence (AI) have played a central role in pornography's reach and impact. We seek to understand this shift by investigating what pornography is, in contrast with long-standing popular perceptions of it, and by questioning the assumptions at work here about human nature, freedom, sexuality, and human relations. We examine the distinctive role of technology in creating this new cultural, social, and political phenomenon. And we consider the role of law in mitigating harms, focusing on a civil rights approach and on how it may aid us in addressing harms associated with new technologies such as AI deepfake pornography.

Section 004 - **THE PHILOSOPHY OF (BAD) ART--GOOD TASTE, GUILTY PLEASURES:** Many of us enjoy art that we happily admit is "bad": We all have our favorite bad movie, trashy show, cheesy song, or campy artist. But what does that admission actually mean? If a work is genuinely bad, that suggests there is a standard by which it falls short. But if our enjoyment is real, can the work really be bad after all? In this course we examine some central issues in aesthetics and the philosophy of art through the lens of standards and subjectivity. We'll explore whether there are genuine standards of taste, how to understand persistent disagreement about art, and the role of expertise and snobbery in criticism. Along the way, we'll discuss topics like guilty pleasures, ironic enjoyment, mass art, aesthetic "vibes," and the enduring appeal of art that's so bad it's good.

Section 005 - **AI ETHICS**: What does it mean to be a responsible designer or user of AI? How are unjust biases spread through AI, and can we stop them? How can we assess whether an AI is trustworthy, and how does AI change what information we know or are responsible for? What is our responsibility to the planet and its peoples in light of server farms and AI-assisted social inequities? Can we be in meaningful relationships with AI? This introductory course in the ethics of AI investigates these questions and more.

### PHI 305: HEALTH CARE ETHICS

Sections 001-002 & 201: This survey course will evaluate theories, topics, and controversies from all levels of contemporary health care ethics. While much of the discussion will be centered around the ethical obligations that one has as a healthcare provider, we will also assess the ethical dilemmas that a patient or their family may face as they navigate the complex landscape of the healthcare system. We will broadly explore the key philosophical arguments and general positions for the main theories in health care ethics. We will also demonstrate how these concepts can be effectively translated to the clinical or “real-world” setting as we discuss real and hypothetical cases.

### PHI 310: PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Sections 001-002: 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?

### PHI 315: PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE FICTION

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry Arts & Creativity

Sections 001 -002: In this class we will use the possible futures portrayed in science fiction stories to consider questions like whether we have free will, what we can know, and what goals we should try to steer society towards. We shall pay special attention to what we can learn about the good aspects and shortcomings of our own society by comparing it to fictional societies as well as to what we can learn about developing technologies such as AI from stories about more advanced versions of these technologies.

Section 201: 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?

## PHI 320: SYMBOLIC LOGIC I

Recommended for Law and Justice Students

Section 002: 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

Section 001: An examination of fundamental issues in ethics, such as duty, character, virtue and vice, evil, moral responsibility, free will, the good life, the emotions, skepticism, and rationality.

## RS 330: INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

Section 001: The Christian faith involves a number of startling claims. One of these is that God is Word, and that this Word became flesh, that is to say, entered human history. The Greek term which the New Testament uses to talk about this "Word" is Logos. So, then, God is claimed to be the "logic" of the world, and this logic clothed itself in a human person to become accessible. This course asks questions such as these: How can God speak in the Scriptures? Is it possible to speak something into existence? What is the Word Incarnate? The goal of the course is for students to walk away with a good grasp of spirit of Catholicism.

## PHI 334: BUSINESS ETHICS

Section 001: 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.

Section 002 (HONORS) Dr. Chambers, TR 12:30-1:45: This course is an honors introduction to business ethics. We will examine some of the ethical issues that arise through commercial activity. We will ask questions like: What is the purpose of work? To whom or to what do corporations have duties? Is deception permissible in negotiation? What responsibilities, if any, do business have to addressing inequalities in the workplace or in the global market?

Section 201: What can philosophy tell us about the practical world of business, finance, and economics? Quite a bit! In business ethics, we'll consider various ethical theories and develop simple methods for applying them to practical situations that regularly arise in business exchanges. We'll consider questions involving fair pay, employee safety, environmental protection, and truth in advertising among others. We'll also consider the pros and cons of government regulation and intervention in specific business environments, and the effects these can have on our rights and freedoms as both producers and consumers.

## **PHI 335: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY**

UK Core Requirement Community, Culture, and Citizenship in US

Section 001: 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.

## **PHI 336: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**

Sections 001-002: 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**

Section 001: How should a judge decide what the law says in a particular case? What is "law" anyway? What is the relationship between law and morality? In this class we will explore these and other questions in the philosophy of law.

## **PHI 340: INTRODUCTION TO FEMINISM AND PHILOSOPHY**

UK Core Requirement Community, Culture, and Citizenship in US

Section 001: This mid-level course explores feminist philosophy through the lens of phenomenology, that is, the philosophical study of experience. In this class, we will ask how we experience sex and gender given the problem that we cannot have an experience of sex and gender outside of a cultural context. Readings will engage with key debates on embodiment, exploring how essentialist and anti-essentialist accounts of sex and gender navigate this problem. Through phenomenological and feminist texts, we will rethink bodily materiality as both an active and passive site of meaning-making, interrogating how lived experience shapes and is shaped by broader social structures, especially as it concerns gender- and sex-based power and oppression.

## **PHI 343: ASIAN PHILOSOPHY**

UK Core Requirement Global Dynamic

Section 001: An introduction to the main concepts, assumptions, problems and texts of one or more Asian philosophical traditions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism.

## PHI 375: PHILOSOPHY OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Section 001: If AI can play chess, paint portraits, and give us advice, does it have a mind or just mimic one? What is intelligence—and how do we determine what has it? Are we just biological computers or something more? This introduction to the philosophy of cognitive science asks how thought occurs—whether in neurons or in code—and considers what our answers reveal about the nature of mind and, ultimately, ourselves.

## PHI 380: DEATH, DYING, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Sections 001-004: 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.

## PHI 393: PHILOSOPHY OF FILM

UK Core Requirement Intellectual Inquiry Arts & Creativity

Section 001: Beyond the screen lies the theory. Instead of using philosophy to explain film, we'll use film to rewrite philosophy. This course explores the aesthetics of cinema not as a set of static rules, but as an ever-evolving discourse that creates its own language and critiques its own history. From the formal constraints of montage to the possibilities of the depth-of-field shot, you will learn to analyze how films generate new theoretical understandings at every turn. A practical filmmaking component will put your theories to the test in a collaborative, hands-on workshop.

## PHI 513: NINETEENTH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY

Section 001: This course is a reading of the most important work of 19th century philosophy: Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit. In this text, Hegel traces the experience of consciousness as it rises to philosophical science, encountering and overcoming deficient ways of knowing and being along the way. Our reading will not simply be a historical analysis of the text. Instead, we will follow Hegel's lead--his call that we each be the site of the "little research," that is, that we each test his work against the evidence of our own experience--to see for ourselves how his work still matters for us today and how phenomenology still "lives" as a way of doing philosophy today. Particular emphasis will be placed on Hegel's discussions of: time and space; perception; the limits of natural science; intersubjectivity; sexual difference; social domination; morality; and what makes philosophy, philosophy. Prereq: PHI 270 or consent of instructor.

## PHI 516: CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY: PHENOMENOLOGICAL DIRECTIONS

Section 001: A study of 20th century philosophies represented by the works of thinkers such as Husserl and Heidegger, Gadamer and Ricoeur, Habermas and Apel. Generally based in a reflection on human experience, these philosophies undertake a radical criticism of common conceptions of human nature while variously emphasizing rationality, ontology, language, or social and historical context. Prereq: PHI 270 or consent of instructor.

## PHI 520: SYMBOLIC LOGIC II

Section 001: This is an advanced course in symbolic logic. The primary aim is to introduce students to non-classical logics, including extensions of classical bi-valent logic, as well as rival non-bivalent systems. We will begin with a quick review of classical propositional logic, then introduce and explore possible world semantics, setting us up to learn various normal and non-normal systems. We will explore systems with truth-value gaps (sentences that are neither true nor false) and gluts (sentences that are both true and false). We will also investigate meta-theory involving soundness and completeness, time permitting. Prereq: PHI 320 or consent of instructor.

## PHI 530: ETHICAL THEORY

Section 001: A study of main ethical theories, including Hobbes, utilitarianism, Kant, and maybe Hume, along with some contemporary articles on topics relating to these theories. Prereq: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor.