

# Department of Philosophy

"The unexamined life is not worth living." These words of Socrates, spoken 2400 years ago, have inspired and shaped not only all subsequent lines of philosophical inquiry, but also all critical and scientific discourse through the course of Western history. Our Department embraces this maxim, both in the research work of our faculty members and in our teaching: we strive to familiarize our students with the various ways philosophers throughout history have affirmed and responded, concretely, to Socrates' claim; and we also strive to help our students engage these various philosophical positions and approaches critically and rigorously, on their own terms.

Courses offered by the Department are intended to acquaint students with both the historical development of philosophical questions and problems and with the ways these are taken up in contemporary philosophical discourse. The Honours Program is designed and recommended for those students contemplating graduate study in philosophy.

- PHIL 1053 Life and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 1063 Myth and Reason: An Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 1073 Robot & Animal Ethics: An Introduction to Philosophy

*\* Students may take no more than two of the six introductory courses in philosophy. These two courses will count toward the honours degree and fulfill the prerequisites for upper-level courses.*

2. the equivalent of *six (6) credit hours* from among:

- PHIL 2213 Introduction to Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 2233 Contemporary Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 2243 Current Issues in Ethics
- PHIL 2253 The Ethics of Sustainability: Thinking, Acting Green
- PHIL 2263 The Art of Living: Ancient Greek Strategies for Happiness in the XXIst Century

3. the equivalent of *twelve (12) credit hours* from among:

- PHIL 2113 Ancient Philosophy: The Presocratics and Plato
- PHIL 2123 Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy
- PHIL 2133 Medieval Philosophy: Augustine, Neoplatonism and Arabic Philosophy (RELG 2143)
- PHIL 2143 Medieval Philosophy: Pre-Modern Modernity and the Rise and Fall of Scholasticism (RELG 2153)

- PHIL 2153 Early Modern Philosophy: Rationalism and the Supremacy of Reason
- PHIL 2163 Early Modern Philosophy: Empiricism and the Priority of Sensation
- 4. PHIL 2513 Introduction to Logic
- 5. the equivalent of *three (3) credit hours* from among:
  - PHIL 3663 Analytic Philosophy: Metaphysics and the Linguistic Turn
  - PHIL 3673 Analytic Philosophy: Theories of Knowledge and Justification
  - PHIL 3683 Epistemology
- 6. the equivalent of *three (3) credit hours* from among:
  - PHIL 3543 Existential Philosophy
  - PHIL 3583 Phenomenology
  - PHIL 3653 Contemporary Continental Philosophy
  - PHIL 3763 Martin Heidegger
- 7. *six (6) credit hours* from between:
  - PHIL 4886 Honours Seminar
  - PHIL 4996 Honours Thesis

## Major

Students majoring in philosophy must include a minimum of 36 credit hours in philosophy in their program of studies. These 36 credit hours must include:

1. the equivalent of *six (6) credit hours\* of introductory courses* from among:
  - PHIL 1013 Introduction to Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval
  - PHIL 1023 Introduction to Philosophy II: Modern and Contemporary
  - PHIL 1033 Atheism: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1043 Free Will: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1053 Life and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1063 Myth and Reason: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1073 Robot & Animal Ethics: An Introduction to Philosophy

*\* Students may take no more than two of the six introductory courses in philosophy. These two courses will count toward the major degree and fulfill the prerequisites for upper-level courses.*

2. the equivalent of *six (6) credit hours* from among:
  - PHIL 1013 Introduction to Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval
  - PHIL 1023 Introduction to Philosophy II: Modern and Contemporary
  - PHIL 1033 Atheism: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1043 Free Will: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1053 Life and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1063 Myth and Reason: An Introduction to Philosophy
  - PHIL 1073 Robot & Animal Ethics: An Introduction to Philosophy



**PHIL-1033. A : A I P**

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on atheism. Students will be introduced to the current debate, but will also consider what the great minds of the past can tell us about the existence or non-existence of God. We will draw on both historical and contem-

**PHIL-2133. M P : A , N A P  
(RELG 2143)**

A lecture course covering Medieval philosophy from its earliest origins, culminating in the Platonism of Augustine, Boethius, John Scotus Eriugena, and Anselm. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-2143. M P : P -M M R F S -  
(RELG 2153)**

A lecture course covering the Medieval philosophy of the 13th century (especially St. Thomas Aquinas), the collapse of the Thomistic synthesis in fourteenth century philosophy, and the beginning of the Modern outlook. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-2153. E M P : R S R**

A study of the 17th and 18th century rationalist philosophers. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-2163. E M P : E P S**

A study of the 17th and 18th century British empiricists. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

### III. Moral Philosophy

**PHIL-2213. I M P (HMR 2253)**

An examination, through readings, lectures, and discussion, of some important attempts to ground ethical judgments. Themes: relativism, egoism, values, and sentiment; values and consequences; the determination of duty. Prerequisite: This course has no prerequisite.

**PHIL-2233. C M P (HMR 2263)**

A lecture course examining a specific topic in contemporary moral philosophy. Topics vary from year to year and may include: virtue ethics, metaethics, contemporary deontology, contemporary utilitarianism, emotivism, relativism, the is-ought debate, and others.

**PHIL-2243. C I E (HMR 2273)**

A discussion, through lectures and student presentations, of ethical theory through its application in the consideration of such contemporary issues as: pornography and censorship, euthanasia, abortion, punishment, justice and welfare, sexual and racial discrimination. Prerequisite: Phil 2213, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-2253. E S : , A G (EN 5, HMR )**

An historically-conscious analysis of various normative stances in environmental ethics integrated with a sustained consideration of how to apply this ethical theory to modern life. Topics may include deep and shallow ecology, biocentrism, eco-feminism, environmental justice, environmental virtue ethics, the ambiguous role of technology in the environmental crisis, the ethics of the green economy, the ethics of green public policy, a survey of various locally-employed environmental initiatives. Recommended preparation: PHIL 2213.

**PHIL-2263. A L : A G S H I C**

Can Greek philosophers help us live a fulfilling life? This course examines a rich tradition known



**PHIL-2533. M B**

What is a mind? Is the mind reducible to the brain? If not, how are they related? Various answers to these questions will be considered in the course. Topics will normally include: behaviourism, functionalism, dualism, identity theory, representational theory, consciousness, the intentional stance, eliminativism, property dualism, non-reductive physicalism. The course presupposes no background in philosophy and may be of interest to students in psychology and the life sciences, as well as philosophy.

**PHIL-2543. M P**

Are moral judgements grounded in emotion or reason? Under what conditions are people morally responsible? Why should I be moral? Are all moral decisions motivated by self-interest? Do moral reasons depend on desires? How does virtue relate to moral motivation? These questions are central to moral psychology. The course presupposes no background in philosophy and may be of interest to students in psychology and the life sciences, as well as philosophy. This course will not count toward credits in Psychology (i.e. a Major). Prerequisites: none.

**PHIL-3106. L F**

This course will explore the interrelated themes of friendship, love and beauty. Each theme will be examined separately and as connected to the others. Ancient and modern texts will be used to examine the ways that different ages have addressed these fundamentally personal and yet common human experiences. Texts will vary from year to year but may include works such as Plato's *Symposium and Lysis*, Rousseau's

the seminar assesses various answers provided by Plato. Texts covered may include selections from the dialogues of definition (*Apology*, *Euthyphro*, *Gorgias*), from the metaphysical dialogues (*Phaedo*, *Republic*), and from the dialogues on language (*Theaetetus*, *Parmenides*, *Sophist*). Prerequisite: Any six (6) credit hours in the History of Philosophy (PHIL 2113, 2123, 2133, 2143, 2153, and 2163), or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3513. S A P**

This seminar examines key topics in Aristotle's logic, physics and metaphysics. More specifically, through a systematic reading of passages in foundational texts such as (for example) the *Posterior Analytics*, the *Categories*, *De interpretatione*, the *Topics*, the *De anima*, the *Physics*, and the *Metaphysics*, the seminar examines and assesses Aristotle's philosophy and its contribution to central debates in the history of philosophy. Prerequisite: Any six (6) credit hours in the History of Philosophy (PHIL 2113, 2123, 2133, 2143, 2153, and 2163), or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3523. P A**

A seminar course covering the philosophy of Aquinas and its relation to the previous history of philosophy, and to the historical context of St. Thomas' own time. Thematic focus: philosophy of knowledge, of being, and of human nature. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 or PHIL 1023 or permission of instructor.

**PHIL-3533. A :L , M , S**

A lecture course covering the fundamentals of the legal, moral, and political philosophy of Aquinas and its relation to the previous history of philosophy and to the historical and cultural context of the high middle ages. Prerequisite: PHIL 3523, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3543. E P**

A study of existential thinking, its fundamental structure, and its importance for a contemporary understanding of the human situation. Prerequisite: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3553. A**

This course will involve a close reading of the major works of St. Augustine, among which will be *The Confessions*, *The Trinity*, and *The City of God*. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3563. P S**

This course will examine science from the perspective of philosophy. Topics will include the historical relation between science and philosophy, the differences between the social and the physical sciences, the nature of scientific change in history, the role of values in science, the reality of theoretical objects of science, and feminist alternatives to traditional scientific research. Examples will be drawn from both the physical and the social sciences. Presupposes no previous exposure to any particular areas of science.

**PHIL-3573. D Divine Comedy M A**

This course will involve a close reading of the major works of Dante Alighieri, especially *The Divine Comedy*. Attention will be directed to Dante's synthesis of Aristotelian philosophy and the theology and philosophy of Thomas Aquinas. Prerequisites: PHIL 1013 or PHIL 1023 or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3583. P**

A lecture course introducing students to phenomenology, a late 19th century and early 20th century mode of philosophical inquiry that has played a major role in informing and shaping much contemporary philosophy. The primary focus of the course will be the work of Edmund Husserl (1859-1938), though other thinkers will likely be discussed. Prerequisite: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3613. K**

In this course, we will focus primarily on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason as we work through the implications his position has for both theoretical and moral philosophy. Prerequisite: PHIL 2153 or 2163, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3623. H**

This course will involve a careful study of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, focusing primarily BDC BT710.1

**PHIL-3763. M H**

In this course, we will engage in a close reading of selected works by Martin Heidegger. We will consider Heidegger's attempt to raise anew the urgent "question of being", specifically, how his development of this question demands a radical assessment of many of our most dearly-held assumptions about truth, human nature, knowledge and reality, freedom and responsibility, history and time. Prerequisite: Either PHIL 3653 or PHIL 3583, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3683. E**

This course is devoted to a topic of current interest in contemporary epistemology. The topic for any particular year may be selected from: skepticism, *a priori* justification, internalism and externalism, epistemic duty, epistemic justification, the definition and conditions of knowledge, sources of knowledge, explanation, knowledge and natural science, naturalized epistemology, analyticity. The text for the course will be either a recent monograph or a collection of articles. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

**PHIL-3813. I L II (MA H 3813)**

This is a course in first-order symbolic logic in its second main branch (predicate logic). The aim is to acquaint students with the formal language of modern deductive logic and to develop the basic techniques of good deductive reasoning. The course will be of interest to philosophy Majors in particular (especially those who are planning to do graduate work in philosophy), but will benefit anyone who wants to acquire skills in abstract thinking. A good grounding in sentential logic is presupposed. Prerequisite: PHIL 2513, or permission of the instructor.

## VI. Tutorials and Independent Studies

*NOTE: The courses listed in this section are normally intended for students capable of independent work at an advanced level.*

**PHIL-4886. H S**

Directed by a Department member on a topic approved by the Department, this seminar for Philosophy Honours students in their final year will involve, among other requirements, the preparation and presentation of a major essay. Normally, this option will not be available when PHIL 4996 Honours Thesis is offered.

**PHIL-4983. I S**

Special courses in philosophical reading and writing under the direction of members of the Department of Philosophy may be permitted by the Chair of the Department.

**PHIL-4996. H**

Students honouring in philosophy will submit, normally in the final semester of their Bachelor of Arts Program, an extended paper resulting from independent research, and written under the guidance of a director chosen from among the members of the Department.

*NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.*