

# 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.

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- 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

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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

*\* 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 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



This course has no prerequisite.

### **PHIL-1033. Atheism: An Introduction to Philosophy**

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 contemporary sources, developing skills of philosophical analysis in connection with a single, hotly disputed topic. This course has no prerequisite.

### **PHIL-1043. Free Will: An Introduction to Philosophy**

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on the problem of free will. Students will be introduced to the current debate, but will also consider what the great minds of the past can tell us about the possibility or impossibility of acting freely. We will draw on both historical and contemporary sources, developing skills of philosophical analysis in connection with a single, hotly disputed topic. This course has no prerequisite.

### **PHIL-1053. Myth and Reason: An Introduction to Philosophy**

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on the opposition between myth and reason. Students learn the skills of philosophical analysis by studying one topic in detail. Questions explored may include: How are myth and reason different? Are they opposed? What are the limits of reason? Can myth help reason? Can reason refute myth? What role does authority play in myth and reason? This course has no prerequisite.

### **PHIL-1063. Life and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy**

This course is an introduction to philosophy focusing on philosophical questions related to life and death. Students learn the skills of philosophical analysis by studying one topic in detail. Questions explored may include: What are life and death? Does anything persist after death? If so, what would this be? Why are some moral questions associated with life and death? This course has no prerequisite.

## **II. H I S T O R Y O F P H I L O S O P H Y**

### **PHIL-2113. Ancient Philosophy: The Presocratics and Plato**

A lecture course surveying ancient philosophy from the Presocratics to Plato. Philosophers covered may include: Anaximander, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus, Gorgias, Protagoras, Socrates and Plato. Through readings of original sources and ancient testimony, the course analyses key questions in ancient philosophy, e.g. what is philosophy and what does it achieve? What is nature? What is the best life? Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-2123. Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle and Hellenistic Philosophy**

A lecture course surveying ancient philosophy from Aristotle to Hellenistic philosophy (Epicurus, the Stoics and the Sceptics). Through readings of original sources and ancient testimony, the course analyses key questions in ancient philosophy, e.g. what can philosophy achieve? What is the nature of reality? What does it mean to live together? Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-2133. Medieval Philosophy: Augustine, Neoplatonism and Arabic Philosophy (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.



## IV. L a a . P o o a P . . . . .

### **PHIL-2313. Western Tradition of Political Philosophy II (POLS 2806)**

This course will introduce students to seminal texts in political philosophy focussing on the medieval, early modern and modern periods. Texts may include: Aquinas' *Treatise on Law*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Locke's *The Second Treatise on Government*, Rousseau's *Discourses*, Hegel's *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*. Prerequisite: POLS 2803.

### **PHIL-3313. Philosophy of Human Rights**

This course will introduce students to philosophical questions concerning the foundation of human rights. What are human rights based on? What makes something a human right? Are human rights universally and permanently valid, or is the notion of human rights merely a construct of modern Western culture? The course will familiarize students with alternative theoretical answers to these and other related questions. Prerequisite: HMRT 2003, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-3343. Human Nature, Society, Justice and Law I: Classical and Christian Theories**

A lecture course concentrating on philosophies of human nature in relation to civil society, justice, and law. Principal question: Is human nature good or bad? pro-social or sociopathic? Applications: competing theories of justice, law, and sanction, including issues of enforcement and correction. Philosophers: Sophists, Plato, Aristotle, Stoics, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke. Prerequisite: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-3353. Human Nature, Society, Justice and Law II: Modern Secular Theories**

A lecture course concentrating on the main contemporary views of human nature, in relation to civil society, justice, and law. Principal issue: Is human nature good or bad? pro-social or sociopathic? Applications: competing theories of justice, law, and sanction, including issues of enforcement and correction. Philosophers: Hume, Rousseau, Hegel, Bentham, Mill, Green, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Freud, Dewey, Sartre.

## V. T . . . . . a . A . . . . .

### **PHIL-2513. Introduction to Logic (MATH)**

A lecture course in which students learn how to identify and evaluate arguments drawn from a wide variety of sources. It will develop informal methods such as the identification of argument structure and informal fallacies. It will also develop formal methods that involve taking arguments in English, symbolizing them in a formal language, and evaluating strengths and weaknesses of the argument forms. Also covered are basic probability theory, inductive logic, and statistical reasoning.

### **PHIL-2523. Introduction to Aesthetics**

In this course, we will investigate and critically assess some of the most influential attempts in the history of philosophy to respond to art and artistic expression. Readings will include selections from a variety of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Heidegger, and Benjamin.

### **PHIL-2533. Minds and Brains**

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. Moral Psychology**

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. Love and Friendship**

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 *Emile*, Descartes' *Passions of the Mind*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006 or GRID 2106, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-3206. Human Nature and Technology**

This course will study the way in which diverse thinkers have considered the question of human nature. This question will be sharpened with a consideration of the way in which human beings considered as natural beings use and are affected by technology. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Grant's *Technology and Empire*, Heidegger's *The Question Concerning Technology*, Fukuyama's *The Posthuman Future*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006 or GRID 2106, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-3413. God in Western Thought**

A survey, through lectures, readings, and discussion, of Western philosophical speculation regarding the divine. Themes: theism and atheism in classical antiquity; demonstrations of God's existence in medieval philosophy; the effect on religious belief of empiricism, idealism, Marxism, and existentialism. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-3443. Hegel's Philosophy of Religion**

This course will involve a consideration of G.W.F. Hegel's philosophy of religion. The primary text will be Hegel's *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, although consideration may be given to other relevant material from the *Phenomenology of Spirit* and the *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences*. Prerequisites: PHIL 2153 and 2163, or PHIL 3623, or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL-3503. Seminar on Plato's Philosophy**

This seminar brings together two questions central to the study of Plato: What is philosophy? and what can it achieve? Through an analysis of primary sources and secondary literature, 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*

*tus, 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. Seminar on Aristotle's Philosophy**

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. The Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas**

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. Thomas Aquinas: Law, Morality, Society**

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. Existential Philosophy**

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. Augustine**

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. Philosophy of Science**

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. Dante's *Divine Comedy* and the Medieval Aristotelian Tradition**

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. Phenomenology**

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 shap-



ing 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. Kant**

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. Hegel**

This course will involve a careful study of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, focusing primarily on the relationships between theory and practice, and truth and history. Prerequisite: PHIL 2153 or 2163, or permission of the instructor.

#### **PHIL-3633. Marx**

This lecture course will involve a close reading of some of Karl Marx's most influential work. As we read through portions of *The German Ideology*, the *Grundrisse*, *The Holy Family* and *Capital*, we will consider: 1) Marx's relationship with and response to his predecessors, and 2) his critical reassessment of philosophical and political practice, human nature, history, and economic theory. Prerequisite: 9 credit hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

#### **PHIL-3643. Kierkegaard and Nietzsche**

This course will engage and critically assess the views of the two leading figures in 19th century existentialism, Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

#### **PHIL-3653. Contemporary Continental Philosophy**

This course will engage and critically assess the views of some of the most important thinkers in recent European philosophy such as Merleau-Ponty, Benjamin, Blanchot, Bataille, Levinas, Foucault, Derrida, Lyotard. Prerequisite: Either PHIL 3653 or PHIL 3583, or permission of the instructor.

#### **PHIL-3663. Analytic Philosophy: Metaphysics and the Linguistic Turn**

This is a lecture course covering topics of current interest in Analytic Philosophy, a movement in, and a style of doing, philosophy that has been prominent in the English-speaking world since the beginning of the 20th century. Topics will vary and will normally be drawn from one or more of the following sub-disciplines: epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science. Prerequisites: Any two of PHIL 1013, 1023, 1033, 1043, 1053, 1063, or permission of the instructor.

#### **PHIL-3673. Analytic Philosophy: Theories of Knowledge and Justification**

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### **PHIL-3763. Martin Heidegger**

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. Epistemology**

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. Introduction to Logic II (MATH 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. T H O M A S U N I V E R S I T Y

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

### **PHIL-4886. Honours Seminar**

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. Independent Studies**

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. Honours Thesis**

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.*