PHIL – PHILOSOPHY

See end of this document for how these courses fit the Old Core Curriculum requirements.

PHIL 1030  Great Books in Philosophy
This course introduces the student to philosophy using the original writings of several philosophers from the classical to the contemporary periods. The goals of this course include developing the student's capacity for critical reading, writing, and thinking, with a general consideration of the nature, methods, and cultural impact of philosophy. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 1040  Happiness and the Meaning of Life
This course asks the most important question of all: What is the meaning of life and what is the nature of happiness? Philosophers from diverse traditions will be our guides. Their reflections on how to live well and how to think about life and death encourage us to examine our own beliefs and values. The course will explore different paths to meaning and happiness, learn about crises of meaning and their causes, and clarify our own perspective on what it means to live a meaningful, fulfilling, and good life. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 1050  The Quest for Knowledge
This course asks the all-important question: What, if anything, can be known with certainty? Philosophers from diverse traditions, past and present, will be our guides. Their investigations into the acquisition and limits of knowledge will encourage us to examine our own views, and will prepare us to successfully navigate the complex, ever-changing world in which we live. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 1060  Law, Liberty, and Philosophy
This course analyses and critically evaluates distinct and sometimes competing conceptions of civil and political society, focusing on the central role of law and liberty. Primary questions to be addressed include the following: What arguments do philosophers offer to promote these different conceptions? What is the role of nature, economics, and history in these views? How do philosophical arguments on these topics help us think about the meaning of a just and humane society? The course will encourage students to examine their own beliefs about law, liberty, and society, and provide them with the philosophical tools to do so. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 1070  Problems in Philosophy
This course introduces the student to philosophy using the fundamental questions of philosophy as well as some of the most outstanding contributions to their solutions, with a general consideration of the nature, methods, and cultural impact of philosophy. The goals of this course include developing the student's capacity for critical reading, writing, and thinking. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2000  Special Topics in Philosophy
Exploration of special philosophical topics in a manner that is challenging yet accessible to the philosophical novice. Topics vary from one semester to the next. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2011  Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
This course introduces the student to western philosophy by focusing on the writings of several philosophers from the ancient and medieval periods, including Plato and Aristotle. Topics typically covered include the Socratic method of philosophy, the significance of the human soul, teleological approaches to nature, and the role of faith and reason in the pursuit of knowledge. The goals of this course include improving the student's capacity for critical reading, writing, and thinking. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2021  Modern Philosophy
This course introduces the student to western philosophy by focusing on the innovations of the modern age, roughly the period from the mid-17th to the early 19th century. Emphasis will be placed on the philosophical movements known as Rationalism, Empiricism, and Idealism. The goals of this course include improving the student's capacity for critical reading, writing, and thinking. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2031  19th and 20th Century Philosophy
This course introduces the student to western philosophy by exploring some of its major themes from the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics typically covered include: the nature of the self and subjectivity; knowledge; language, meaning, and mind; morality and society; and the future of philosophy. The goals of this course include improving the student's capacity for critical reading, writing, and thinking. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2040  Logic
This course provides a systematic study of propositional (sentential) logic and predicate (quantificational) logic through identity with the aim of learning the formal methods of distinguishing correct from incorrect reasoning and application of these methods to various areas of inquiry. The goals of this course include increasing the student's ability to reason rigorously. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)
PHIL 2045  Ethics: General Principles
This course offers a study of the nature of ethics and the ethical themes and theories that influence modern culture. The goals of this course include improving the student’s capacity for critical reading, writing, and thinking about ethical principles. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2050  Social and Political Philosophy
This course introduces and critically examines ideas that are essential to understanding and fostering a just and humane society. Typical course topics include the relationship between liberty and equality, the meaning and value of democracy and citizenship, the relation of state and civil society, and the complicated relationship between ‘liberalism’ and ‘conservatism.’ Readings will be drawn from both ancient and modern sources. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2070 (THEO 2070)  Introduction to Bioethics
Introduces and provides a foundation for the interdisciplinary study of Bioethics, engaging in particular the disciplines of Philosophy, Biology, Theology, Public Health Sciences, Psychology, and Sociology. This course is designed to give students a broad overview of the methods, core content areas, and central ethical questions in this field. 3 hrs. Pre-Requisites: None. INTERDISCIPLINARY. This course is not eligible as one that fulfills the Essential Core in the older Core Curriculum requirements for Philosophy or Theology, nor toward the Essential Core Natural Science requirement. Similarly, for the newer Core Curriculum, this course is not eligible as one that fulfills the requirements for the Explorations in the Liberal Arts regarding Faith and Society, The Examined Life, nor Scientific Reasoning. (3)

PHIL 2080 (AADS 2080)  African American Philosophy
This course studies philosophical issues associated with the African American experience. This course will increase the student's knowledge of the nature of African American philosophy, the concepts of race and culture, the nature of racism and discrimination, and the justifiability of affirmative action. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2260  Philosophy of Art
This course will increase the student's knowledge of the theories of art, beauty, art criticism, and creativity. It will focus not only on theoretical understanding of art but also on applications of these theories to the major arts. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2270  Philosophy of Religion
This course will increase the student's knowledge of reasons for and against various fundamental religious beliefs, particularly arguments for the existence of God, the nature and significance of religious experience, the nature of religious faith, and the place of religion in culture as a whole. Prerequisite: Completion of any required developmental reading course. (3)

PHIL 2400  Health Ethics
This course will survey a range of ethical issues pertaining to the health professions. Topics to be examined typically include: professional obligations and the physician-patient relationship, abortion, euthanasia, genetic research, experimentation, and the claim to health-care. Classroom time will be devoted to discussion of philosophical essays and case scenarios concerning these topics. Prerequisite: a minimum of 29 total semester hours. (3)

PHIL 2410  Business Ethics
This course will survey a range of ethical issues arising in our contemporary culture that we as individuals will encounter while working in institutions, business organizations, and the professions. Among the ethical issues to be examined typically are: the ethical basis of business, the rights and responsibilities of corporations and their employees, and the relations of business to society and the individual. Prerequisite: a minimum of 29 total semester hours. (3)

PHIL 3000  Special Topics Seminar in Philosophy
Critical exploration and analysis of selected philosophical issues through a seminar format that emphasizes discussion and student participation. Topics vary according to the interests of students and faculty, and change from one semester to the next. Prerequisite: 3 semester hours in Philosophy. (3)

PHIL 3015/XCOR 3010  Aristotle in New Orleans
This course combines traditional classroom learning and service learning. The course is designed around Aristotle’s insight that action and philosophical reflection must inform one another if we are to properly understand ourselves and live well. In the classroom, students will study writings by Aristotle and others on the nature of rhetoric, argument, education, and virtue. Students will also learn the fundamentals of formal debate. Outside the classroom, students will participate in a seven-week service learning project that involves coaching New Orleans middle school debate teams. Prerequisite: XCOR 1011 or 1012; completion of at least 60 hrs. (3)

PHIL 3025(ENGL 3025; THEO 3025)/XCOR 3010  The Ideal Society
This is an interdisciplinary course which employs humanistic methods to explore religious, philosophical and literary conceptions of an ideal society. Students will use literary works to inspire and imagine their own model of an ideal society, while learning to justify its values and structures rationally and with recourse to theological reflection. Prerequisites: ENGL 1010; three semester hours in Philosophy (no Theology prerequisites). (3)
PHIL 3250  Philosophy of Science
This course will increase the student's knowledge of the scientific method, the nature of science, and the relationship of science to other academic disciplines and to culture at large. Prerequisite: 3 semester hours in Philosophy. (3)

PHIL 3260  Philosophy of Law
This course examines the relationship between law and morality, with particular attention to the use of moral principles in the analysis of legal doctrine. Prerequisite: 3 semester hours in Philosophy. (3)

PHIL 3400  Ethical Conduct in Scientific Research
This course is a philosophical examination of ethical issues in scientific research. The students will practice recognizing ethical problems in research and resolving them in a well-reasoned manner. Students will examine the prevailing legal and professional norms of ethical research, as well as the broader values those norms reflect. Research ethics is about not only what a researcher does but also the type of person he or she is. This course thus considers the important roles that virtue and integrity play in research ethics. Specific ethical issues to be examined include: the treatment of data, mistakes and negligence, research misconduct, intellectual property, and the human genome project. Prerequisite: 3 semester hours in Philosophy. (3)

PHIL 4001, 4002, 4003  Directed Reading
This course allows philosophy majors (and other interested students with the consent of the chairperson) to pursue a research project in philosophy. Prerequisite: six semester hours in Philosophy and permission of department head. (1, 2, or 3)

PHIL 4900  Senior Thesis
This course is required of all philosophy majors. The student will pursue a research topic under the guidance of a philosophy instructor. The research will culminate in a scholarly paper. Students should make plans to enroll in this course at least one semester prior to enrollment, including arranging supervision by an instructor with expertise and interest in the student’s area of interest. Prerequisite: senior standing. (3)

PHIL 4999  Senior Comprehensives. (0)

OLD CORE
See above list for course descriptions. All courses are 3 credit hours except where indicated. Expansive Core Curriculum courses are denoted by EXP. Service Learning courses are denoted by SL.

Introductory Courses

A STUDENT MAY NOT TAKE MORE THAN ONE OF THESE COURSES TO SATISFY CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS.

PHIL 1030  Great Books in Philosophy
PHIL 1040  Happiness and the Meaning of Life
PHIL 1050  The Quest for Knowledge
PHIL 1060  Law, Liberty, and Philosophy
PHIL 1070  Problems in Philosophy

THE FOLLOWING COURSES MAY BE TAKEN AS EITHER INTRODUCTORY OR UPPER LEVEL COURSES.

PHIL 2000  Special Topics in Philosophy
PHIL 2011  Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 2021  Modern Philosophy
PHIL 2031  19th and 20th Century Philosophy
PHIL 2040  Logic
PHIL 2045  Ethics: General Principles
PHIL 2050  Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 2070 (THEO 2070)  Introduction to Bioethics
INTERDISCIPLINARY. This course is not eligible as one that fulfills the Essential Core in the older Core Curriculum requirements for Philosophy or Theology, nor toward the Essential Core Natural Science requirement. Similarly, for the newer Core Curriculum, this course is not eligible as one that fulfills the requirements for the Explorations in the Liberal Arts regarding Faith and Society, The Examined Life, nor Scientific Reasoning.

PHIL 2080 (AADS 2080)  African American Philosophy (EXP)

Upper-Level Courses

PHIL 2260  Philosophy of Art (EXP)
PHIL 2270  Philosophy of Religion (EXP)
PHIL 2400  Health Ethics (EXP)
PHIL 2410  Business Ethics (EXP)
PHIL 3000  Special Topics Seminar in Philosophy
PHIL 3015  Aristotle in New Orleans (SL)
PHIL 3250  Philosophy of Science (EXP)
PHIL 3260  Philosophy of Law (EXP)
PHIL 3400  Ethical Conduct in Scientific Research (EXP)
PHIL 4001, 4002, 4003  Directed Reading (1, 2, or 3 credit hours)
PHIL 4900  Senior Thesis
PHIL 4999  Senior Comprehensives (0 credit hours)