

PHILOSOPHY CLASSES, FALL 2026

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (BHU) (TBA MWF 9:30, 10:30; Barrientos T/Th 10:30): One of the timeless questions of human life is, “What makes for a good life?” How do things like education, science, mathematics, music, beauty, art, morality, religion, philosophy, contribute to that kind of life? How do our views about personal responsibility, free will, soul, God, afterlife, pain, love, and nature inform the lives we lead? How does careful thinking contribute to living a good life? We are going to consider thinkers across thousands of years who have struggled with these questions and arrived at different answers.

PHIL 1120: Social Ethics (BHU) (Robison T/Th 9:00): Conversation in a democracy involves listening carefully to, fairly evaluating, and critically engaging with arguments made by others. This class provides practice in the skill of democratic conversation as we discuss contemporary ethical conflicts together.

PHIL 1130: Brave New World (BHU) (Robison T/Th 1:30): In this course, students explore the philosophical implications of technology. Challenges posed by the internet and social media, art, creativity and meaning in life, technology and the environment, technology in the criminal justice system, and technology and warfare are discussed.

PHIL 2200: Deductive Logic (QI) (Huenemann T/Th 9:00): We will learn methods to determine whether a claim follows from some given information, including syllogistic logic, propositional logic, truth tables, and predicate logic. We will also explore the role logic plays in philosophical arguments and problems.

PHIL 2400: Ethics (BHU) (Ashfield MWF 10:30, 11:30): How should we live our lives? How should we treat other people? What makes an action good, bad, right or wrong? And what makes a person virtuous or vicious? We’ll explore these questions and others through the lenses of virtue ethics, duty-based ethics, and utilitarianism, covering foundational figures, like Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill, as well contemporary exponents and critics of these views.

PHIL 2600: Intro to Philosophy of Religion (BHU) (Barrientos T/Th 1:30): This class will introduce philosophical questions within the context of world religions. Why do human beings suffer? Why is there evil in the world? How can we achieve peace—both across communities and within the human heart? What is the “self” and what is our ultimate purpose? Do supernatural beings exist, and if so, what is their relationship to us? What do salvation and liberation mean for humanity? Throughout history, diverse cultures and traditions have proposed answers to these questions. Our goal in this course will be to critically engage with these perspectives, examining their insights and implications for our own understanding of the world.

PHIL 3010: Survey of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (CI) (Otteson MWF 12:30-1:20): This course covers the history of Western philosophy from its inception in Ancient Greece through Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. We will begin by sampling the works of Plato and

Aristotle, and then trace their influence through the works of later philosophers such as Augustine and Boethius. We will then read selections from Muslim and Christian philosophy in the Middle Ages which built upon the work of the older philosophical tradition.

PHIL 3530: Environmental Ethics (DHA) (Barrientos T/Th 3:00): Key issues in the treatment of nature, such as: the value of wilderness, animal rights, comparative views of nature, and moral issues in economic approaches to the wilderness.

PHIL 3540: Ethics Bowl (Robison and Ashfield MWF 4:30): This class is for students who will compete in the Fall 2026 Intermountain Regional Ethics Bowl; if you are interested, please see either of the instructors for details.

PHIL 3580: Ethics and Economic Life (DHA) (Otteson, MWF 2:30): The course will examine various ways to organize our political economy. The question is being asked philosophically, so we will engage the question in view of various theories of the human person and the human good. Questions considered along the way will include the moral limits of markets, the relationship between love and exchange, ownership and estrangement, individual and communal goods, and the nature and place of work in a well-lived life.

PHIL 3600: Philosophy of Religion (DHA) (Ashfield, MWF 2:30): In this course, we'll examine the content and rationality of some paradigmatic examples of religious attitudes and practices. We'll begin with a brief consideration of how terms like 'religion,' 'theism,' and 'atheism' are defined. We'll then examine the development of classical theism, perfect being theology, natural theology, arguments for and against (belief in) the existence of God, arguments for and against other expressions of religious faith, and the philosophical significance of religious disagreement, agreement, and persuasion. Along the way we'll compare a number of different religious and philosophical traditions, including classical Greek, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, Hindu, Buddhist, Animist, Atheist, Agnostic, and other perspectives. Ultimately, the course aims to give students a sense of the diversity of (non)religious views in our society, the wider world, and the many interesting questions these perspectives invite us to consider.

PHIL 4300: Epistemology (DHA) (Robison T/Th 12:00): In this course, we'll consider a wide range of questions related to knowledge such as: What is knowledge and how is it different from mere true belief? What are the limits of our knowledge? How ought we to respond to various forms of skepticism? What counts as justification? Does justification require reasons that are reflectively accessible to the knower or is it sufficient to have arrived at one's beliefs via a reliable process? What is epistemic injustice? How do knowledge claims get abused in pursuit of power? How should we respond to the treacherous online epistemic environment and what unique problems does it pose? We'll consider answers to these questions offered by both historical and contemporary figures.

PHIL 4410: Philosophy of Mind (DHA) (TBA, MWF 1:30): What is required for consciousness? Is a functioning brain (or some other cognitive system) enough, or must there also be nonphysical elements present? What (if anything) must be added to a physical system in order

for it to be like something to be that system? Other topics may include artificial or animal intelligences.

PHIL 4910: Readings and Research - by arrangement with individual instructors. Majors who have completed more than half of their coursework and would like to study a topic more deeply are welcome to meet with instructors to see if a readings & research course can be scheduled, subject to faculty availability.

PHIL 4990: Capstone seminar (Huenemann T 4:30-5:20): This course is required for philosophy majors near the completion of the degree. Students will reflect on their philosophical education and begin to prepare for what comes next.

PHIL 5430/KIN 5430: History and Philosophy of Physical Activity and Sport (CI) (Lopez Frias Th 3:00-4:15; **online**): This course explores historical and philosophical aspects of physical activities popular in today's culture, particularly sports. Students examine these practices within historical and social contexts, understanding their evolution and significance, alongside related philosophical and ethical issues like doping and sex categorization.