

PHILOSOPHY CLASSES, SPRING 2027

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (BHU) (two sections): 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) (two sections): 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 2200: Deductive Logic (QI) (Huenemann T/Th 3:00): 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) (two sections): 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 3020: Survey of Modern Philosophy (CI) (Barrientos T/Th 1:30): This course surveys influential philosophers from 1500-1900, a period marked by foundational and revolutionary developments in thought that continue to shape our modern world. Figures covered may include early moderns such as Descartes, Spinoza, Hobbes, and Locke; Enlightenment and modern thinkers like Hume, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Kant, and Hegel; and 19th century thinkers such as Kierkegaard, Marx, Dostoevsky, and Nietzsche. Together we will examine their contributions to ongoing debates about reality, truth, God, morality, politics, and the meaning of human existence.

PHIL 3500: Healthcare Ethics (DHA) (Ashfield MWF 12:30-1:20): In this course, we'll focus on ethical issues in healthcare, including fundamental principles (such as autonomy and informed consent), ethical issues at the beginning and end of life, the nature of health and wellbeing, and the ethics of healthcare resource allocation. If you want to go into a health-related career, these issues will clearly be important for you to think about. However, regardless of your career, these issues eventually become important to most everyone, because just about all of us end up having to make many decisions related to our healthcare or that of our dependents throughout our lives.

PHIL 3540: Ethics Bowl (Robison and Ashfield MWF 4:30): either for students who competed in fall 2026 and qualified for the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, or for students competing in the 2027 Bioethics Bowl; if you are interested, please see either of the instructors for details.

PHIL 3550: Philosophy in the Public Square: The Philosophy of Free Speech (Ashfield, MWF 1:30-2:20): Explore the philosophical foundations of free speech, beginning with a historical survey of major thinkers on freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, free speech, and the First Amendment. We will consider historical examples of political censorship and laws against hate speech, pornography, blasphemy, and other forms of expression. Then, we turn to contemporary fronts in these debates, investigating "cancel culture," the separation of church and state, challenges arising from online discourse, and more. Students will critically engage with these issues in order to develop their own nuanced understanding of these liberties and their limits.

PHIL 3700: Political Philosophy (DHA) (Ashfield, MWF 10:30): Explore the "Western" tradition of political philosophy, broadly construed, through a survey of major texts and thinkers from antiquity to the late 20th century. We will critically examine concepts of justice, political obligation, the state, liberty, equality, and the justification and proper limits of political power.

PHIL 3810: Philosophy of Art (DHA) (Gentry, T/Th 1:30): Analysis of traditional theories of aesthetics and art criticism. Theories are applied to illustrative examples, including music, painting, photography, sculpture, dance, literature and cinema.

PHIL 4650: Global Philosophy of Religion (DHA) (Barrientos T/Th 12:00) - This course examines topics, questions, and problems of shared interest and importance to religious traditions from across time and around the world, comparing and critically assessing a representative diversity of religious worldviews and practices concerning matters of perennial human concern.

PHIL 4310: Philosophy of Science (DHA) (Gentry, MWF 2:30): This course asks what science is and what it tells us about truth and reality. How do we develop theories about the world and how do we test them? We consider various theories about science and include questions about falsification and verification, realism and anti-realism, as well as the social layers of science such as trust in scientific authority.

PHIL 4400: Metaphysics (DHA) (Robison, MWF 1:30): This course will be a survey of metaphysical issues such as: What is the nature of personal identity? Do we have free will? Does God exist? What is Death? Why is there something rather than nothing? What is the nature of time? Students will consider answers to these questions offered by thinkers across time and cultures.

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 5400: Philosophy and Emerging Technology (DHA) (Sproule T/Th 1:30) - This course introduces students to key ethical frameworks and concepts applied to questions of emerging technology, both by considering macro-level questions of technology and its impact on human flourishing as well as applied tech ethics case studies.

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.