

# Philosophy

College of Arts and Humanities

## Department of Philosophy

Robert D. Maldonado, *Chair*

Music Building, Room 102

(559) 278-2621

## B.A. in Philosophy

Options:

- Prelaw
- Religious Studies

## Minor in Philosophy

## The Department

Philosophy is one of the fundamental domains of human thought. It grows out of basic life questions, including questions of ethics, religion, politics, and science. The study of philosophy has had an historic role in the core of sound education, because it helps sharpen skills of careful, independent thinking and aids people of all ages in defining their most important values and beliefs. The examination of great philosophical ideas, and the emphasis on clear reasoning and personal development that are involved in philosophy serve as a strong foundation for life, regardless of one's career objectives.

The Department of Philosophy offers students the following opportunities for a rich and rewarding undergraduate experience: the traditional B.A. philosophy major, the prelaw option, the religious studies option, and the philosophy minor. The department provides ample opportunity for individual attention and student participation in its activities, e.g., Philosophy Club, symposia, colloquium, etc.

The Prelaw Option emphasizes analytical skills, ethics, and values courses. Law schools seek a broad general education background and do not recommend any specific major. Students who enjoy philosophy and are interested in law should find this option an excellent way to combine their interests.

The Religious Studies Option offers objective methods for exploring the vast and complex human experience known as religion. This study is done with an appreciation for the variety and diversity of religious beliefs and expressions. This option provides students with an academic approach to religion in personal, social, historical, and global contexts.

## Faculty and Facilities

The department has a diverse and well-trained faculty with special interests ranging from logic and scientific method to existentialism and philosophy of religion. All members of the department share the conviction that the best way to teach philosophy is through an intense but sympathetic interchange between the teacher and the student. Our conference room is a pleasant and frequently used meeting place for students and faculty.

## Career Opportunities

The undergraduate major provides an excellent foundation for a variety of professional careers as well as for graduate study in philosophy. Students who complete a major in philosophy develop analytical, critical, and communicative skills which are demanded by law schools, seminaries, and training programs in government and business. Thus, graduating majors are often in a competitive position for occupations that at first glance are not obviously related to the study of philosophy. In fact, people who have majors or minors in philosophy can be found in almost all areas of endeavor, from medicine, law, and the ministry, to teaching, social work, and fine arts.



**Faculty**

Robert D. Maldonado, *Chair*  
 Terry R. Winant, *Adviser*  
 Karen Bell, *Prelaw Adviser*  
 Ann E. Berliner,  
*Religious Studies Adviser*  
 Pedro Amaral  
 Donald N. Blakeley  
 Otávio Bueno  
 Warren L. Kessler  
 James Slinger

**Bachelor of Arts  
 Degree Requirements  
 Philosophy Major**

Students must select from the Philosophy Major, the Prelaw Option, or the Religious Studies Option.

*Units*

**Philosophy Major requirements..... 32**

- PHIL 25, 45 or 145 ..... (3)
- PHIL 101 and 103 ..... (6)
- Select 2: PHIL 105, 146, 150, 156, or 157 ..... (6)
- Select 1: PHIL 115 or 118 ... (3)
- Select at least 2: PHIL 190 and/or 192 ..... (3)
- PHIL 170T ..... (3)
- Approved philosophy electives ..... (8)

**Prelaw Option requirements..... 33**

The Prelaw Option emphasizes critical thinking and analytical skills, as well as ethics and issues related to law. It also includes a law-related intern experience. Law schools do not prefer any specific major, but emphasize critical thinking and general education. (See *Preprofessional Preparation*). Students with a strong interest in philosophy as well as law may find this option valuable. Depending upon the interests of the student, courses or minors in political science, business, criminology, and a variety of social sciences would be useful electives for the Prelaw Option.

- PHIL 25 or 45 ..... (3)
- PHIL 101 or 103 ..... (3)
- PHIL 115 or 118 ..... (3)
- PHIL 120 or 122 ..... (3)
- PHIL 121 or 127 ..... (3)
- Select two: PHIL 146, 150, 156 or 157 ..... (6)

- PHIL 170T ..... (3)
- PHIL 199 ..... (3)
- Electives: ANTH 119; CRIM 20; AF AM 146; B A 18, 120; PL SI 110, 111, 170, 171; COMM 105, 149, 163, or other approved courses ..... (6)

**Religious Studies  
 Option requirements ..... 32**

The department has prepared a special program for those who wish to engage in a combined study of philosophy and religion. This option emphasizes the comparative and ecumenical study of religion. Students with a general interest in religion might consider this option. Those who wish to pursue a religious vocation or do graduate work in religious studies will find it especially valuable.

- PHIL 25, 45, or 145 ..... (3)
- PHIL 130, 131 ..... (6)
- PHIL 133W and/or 134 ... (3-7)
- PHIL 136, 137, 138 ..... (3-6)
- PHIL 170T or 172T ..... (3)
- Select one: PHIL 101, 103, 105, 107 ..... (3)
- Select one: HIST 103, 116, ANTH 116W or other approved courses outside the Philosophy Department ..... (3)
- PHIL 190, 192, or approved philosophy electives ..... (3-4)

**General Education ..... 51**

**Electives and remaining degree requirements\* ..... 40-47**  
 (see *Degree Requirements*); may be used toward a dual major or minor

**Total ..... 124**

\* It is anticipated that the following courses within the department will also meet General Education requirements: PHIL 1, 2, 10, 20, 25, 31, 45, 110, 120, 132, 150.

**Advising Notes**

1. *CR/NC* grading is not permitted in courses used to fulfill the philosophy major requirements.
2. General Education and elective units may be used toward a dual major or minor (see *Dual Major* or departmental minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty adviser for further information.

3. Students intending to pursue graduate study in philosophy, law, or religious studies should seek a faculty adviser's help in planning adequate preparation.
4. Visit the Philosophy Department office or your faculty adviser for the list of approved *T* classes for the major.

**Philosophy Minor**

The Minor in Philosophy consists of 15 units in philosophy, of which at least 9 units must be upper division.

**COURSES**

**Philosophy (PHIL)**

**1. Introduction to Philosophy (3)**  
 Introduction to the basic issues, disputes, and methods of traditional and contemporary philosophy, including theory of knowledge, ethics, metaphysics, religion, and social theory. Development of skills in analysis, logical thinking, and self-expression. G.E. Breadth C2. (CAN PHIL 2)

**2. Exploring Religious Meaning (3)**  
 Introduction to exploration of the many dimensions of religions. Topics include tools and resources of the academic study of religion, the sacred/holy, symbolism, myth, ritual, religious origin, and destiny. G.E. Breadth C2.

**10. Self, Religion, and Society (3)**  
 Conceptions of human nature; nature and varieties of religion; personal and social implications and values of religion. G.E. Breadth C2.

**20. Moral Questions (3)**  
 Introduction to ethics and its place in human experience. Ethical theory; methods of reasoning about values. Typical issues include euthanasia, privacy, work ethics, sex, happiness, capital punishment, censorship, social justice, and environment. Non-Western perspectives; materials from arts and humanities (e.g., literature, film). G.E. Breadth C2.

**25. Methods of Reasoning (3)**  
 Principles and methods of good reasoning. Typical topics: identification of argument structure, development of skills in deductive and inductive reasoning, assessing observations and testimony reports, language and reasoning, common fallacies. (PHIL 25 and PHIL 45 cannot both be taken for credit.) G.E. Foundation A3.

## 26. Reasoning and Religion (3)

No credit if taken after PHIL 25, 27, or 45. An introduction to principles and methods of critical thinking utilizing as source material the claims, arguments, and theories of major Western and non-Western religious traditions.

## 27. Reasoning About Values (3)

No credit if taken after PHIL 25, 26, or 45. An introduction to principles and methods of critical thinking, utilizing as source material claims and arguments concerning values, ethics, social, and political issues.

## 31. World Faiths (3)

A survey of the major world religions, their historical development, and their aesthetical expression. Studies selections of primary texts. Emphasis is given to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

## 45. Introduction to Logic (3)

Basic concepts and methods of logic; development of skills in deductive and inductive reasoning, with emphasis on deduction. Elementary formal techniques for propositional logic; categorical logic, fallacies, and language. (PHIL 25 and PHIL 45 cannot both be taken for credit.) G.E. Foundation A3.

## 101. Ancient Philosophy (3)

Development of Western Philosophy from its beginning; the emergence of critical theory, doctrines, and schools of thought in Greek culture. Topics typically include: Presocratics, Sophists, Socrates, and the works of Plato and Aristotle.

## 103. Bacon to Kant (3)

Development of early modern philosophy: the search for new scientific methods — Bacon, Descartes, Spinoza, Newton, and Locke; empiricism and skepticism — Berkeley and Hume; rationalist metaphysics — Leibniz; influences on moral and political thought — the Enlightenment; Rousseau; Kant's critical philosophy.

## 105. Twentieth Century Philosophy (3)

Principal developments in philosophy after 1900. Figures and movements include: logical atomism, logical positivism, linguistic analysis, pragmatism, phenomenology, existentialism, G. E. Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Whitehead, Dewey, Santayana, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Austin, Ryle, Strawson, Carnap, and Ayer.



## 107. Existentialism (3)

Examination of roots of existentialism in Kierkegaard and Nietzsche; study of such 20th century existentialists as Sartre, Heidegger, Jaspers, Buber. Typical problems examined: nature of mind, freedom, the self, ethics, existential psychoanalysis.

## 108. Roman Philosophy (3)

Study of major figures and schools of philosophy in the Roman world. Special emphasis upon Epicurean, Stoic, and Sceptic traditions, with consideration of other major contributions.

## 110. Feminist Philosophy (3)

Introduction to feminist approaches to philosophy and to specifically philosophical approaches to gender. Several philosophical issues will be explored at some depth. These might be drawn from the following areas: personal identity; values and society; political authority; knowledge and reality.

## 115. Ethical Theory (3)

Introduction to the fundamental concepts and problems of moral theory. Examination of various ethical theories, including relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, intuitionism, and non-cognitivism; the meaning of ethical terms.

## 118. Social and Political Theory (3)

Examination of traditional and contemporary theories of society and government. Analysis of basic concepts such as the common good, social contract, authority, justice, and natural rights.

## 120. Contemporary Conflicts of Morals (3)

(Same as A ETH 100.) Introduction to ethical theory and its application to contemporary moral problems. Discussion to include: business ethics, medical ethics, sexual morality, abortion, mercy killing; drugs, and alcohol; crime and punishment, civil disobedience, revolutionary violence, rights of women and minorities.

## 121. Ethics in Criminal Justice (3)

Philosophical issues concerning society's treatment of criminal behavior. Topics discussed include: morality and law; punishment or rehabilitation; safe vs. repressive society, and what types of deviant behavior should be regarded as criminal?

## 122. Introduction to Professional Ethics (3)

(Same as A ETH 101.) Survey of ethical issues and standards facing a range of professionals in their careers, including engineering, law, medicine, the media, science, agriculture, education, and business. Introduction to basic ethical theories and methods of reasoning about moral dilemmas.

## 125. Issues in Political Philosophy (3)

Not open to students who take PHIL 118. Examination of prominent political philosophies and contemporary issues of politics and public policy. Policy issues may include the scope and limits of government authority, the role of government in the economy, foreign policy, health care, education, agriculture, and the environment.

## 127. Philosophy of Law (3)

Nature and functions of law; methods of justifying legal systems; logic of legal reasoning; analysis of fundamental legal concepts.

## 129. Marxism (3)

Examination of basic ideas of Marx inherent in his writings and a consideration of later developments now called "Marxist."

## 130. Philosophy of Religion (3)

The nature and function of religious faith, belief, and practice; relations between religion and morals; existence of God; problem of evil; nature and significance of religious experience.

## 131. Comparative Religion (3)

Survey of the major religions of the world; their history and teachings with emphasis on Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

**132. Religion and the Margin (3)**

Exploration of elements facing religious studies that have been historically moved from the center to the side (marginalized), such as women's experience, ethnicity, gender, and class. Focus will include how religion has both supported and resisted this move. G.E. Multicultural/International MI.

**133W. Literature of the New Testament (3)**

(Same as ENGL 115W.) Prerequisite: satisfactory completion (C or better) of the ENGL 1 graduation requirement. Discussion and close written analyses of selected texts from the New Testament. Meets the upper-division writing skills requirement for graduation.

**134. Literature of the Old Testament (4)**

(Same as ENGL 116.) Discussion and written analyses of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible. Special attention to the sources and styles of biblical literary techniques.

**135. Asian Religious Traditions (3)**

A study of the major beliefs and values of the Asian religious traditions, including an examination of some of the classical texts central to Asian religions.

**136. Buddhism (3)**

Introduction to Buddhism. Life and teachings of Gautama Siddhartha Buddha; development of Buddhism after death or mahanirvana of the Buddha.

**137. Hinduism (3)**

Introduction to the development and ideas of Hinduism, including an examination of classical scriptural texts, e.g., Upanishads, Bhagavad-gita, as well as modern Hindu writings.

**138. Chinese Thought (3)**

Introduction to the development of major ideas and systems of thought in China; emphasis on Confucian, Taoist, and Chinese Buddhist traditions.

**140. Advanced Reasoning Skills (3)**

Development of skills in the analysis of arguments, thinking clearly, and reasoning well. Emphasis on problems and skills involving language (e.g., clarifying meaning,

handling vagueness, handling verbal component of disputes), and on inductive inferences in everyday life.

**145. Symbolic Logic (3)**

(Similar to MATH 110; consult department.) Prerequisite: PHIL 25 or 45 or permission of instructor. Theory of deductive inference; includes propositional logic, predicate logic, relations, identity, definite description, nature of axiom systems.

**146. Philosophy of Language (3)**

Nature and uses of language; theories of meaning; concepts of reference, predication, truth, name, ambiguity, vagueness, definition, metaphor; relationships between methodology in philosophy and theories of language.

**150. Foundations of Knowledge (3)**

Prerequisite: satisfaction of G.E. Core/Foundation critical thinking requirement. Nature, sources, and limits of human knowledge; roles of perception, reason, testimony, and intuition in acquiring rational beliefs; e.g. science, mathematics, values, the arts, religion, social issues, psychological states. G.E. Integration IC.

**151. Cognitive Science: Mind (3)**

The interdisciplinary study of cognition and mind: cognition includes mental states and processes such as thinking, reasoning, remembering, language understanding and generation, visual perception, learning, consciousness, emotions, self-awareness, and our place in the world. G.E. Integration IC.

**156. Philosophy of Mind (3)**

Analysis of problems concerning the nature of mind and mental phenomena: relation between mind and body, nature of the self and personal identity, free will, action and behavior, thinking machines, knowledge of other minds; concepts of mind, intention, desire, emotion.

**157. Freedom, Fate, and Choice (3)**

Nature of human action, free will and determinism, free will and moral responsibility; analysis of basic concepts; for example, will, action, freedom, determinism, fatalism, chance, choice, decision, intention, reason, desire, belief; implications for everyday life.

**165T. Special Topics**

(1-3; max total 9 if no topic repeated)

Topics of current or interdisciplinary interest or requiring special background.

**170T. Seminar in Philosophical Issues (1-4; max total 12 if no topic repeated)**

Prerequisite: one upper-division philosophy course. Intensive investigation of selected problems, major figures, or a historical period in philosophy. Extensive writing and supervised research.

**172T. Seminar in Religious Issues (1-4; max total 12 if no topic repeated)**

Prerequisite: one upper-division philosophy course. Intensive investigation of selected problems, major works, or specific traditions; may involve comparative perspective. Extensive writing and supervised research.

**190. Independent Study (1-3; max total 6)**

See *Academic Placement — Independent Study*. Approved for *SP* grading.

**192. Directed Reading (1-3; max total 6)**

Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Supervised readings in a selected philosopher or field of philosophy. Combined units of PHIL 190 and 192 may not exceed 6 units.

**198. Applied Ethics Internship (3)**

Prerequisite: junior standing, PHIL 120, 122, or applied ethics courses and permission of instructor. Workstudy experience in community service, with a focus on ethical analysis and understanding.

**199. Fieldwork in Philosophy and Law (3)**

Prerequisites: senior standing, permission of instructor. Practical community workstudy experience in legal or paralegal setting. Student works under sponsorship of a law firm or law-related agency, meets periodically with instructor, and submits a written report on relevant issues in ethics, jurisprudence, or philosophy.