

# Philosophy

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## PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

301. Introduction to Philosophy. Credit 3 hours. No prerequisites. An introductory study of philosophy which considers the four basic areas of philosophy-metaphysics (the nature of reality), epistemology (the nature of knowledge), ethics (moral values), and logic (the basic rules for correct thinking).

302. The Great Philosophers. Credit 3 hours. No prerequisites. Introductory readings of the works of great philosophers beginning with the ancient Greeks (e.g., Plato, Aristotle) and proceeding to the modern and contemporary philosophers (e.g., Rene Descartes, David Hume, John Dewey).

310. Critical Thinking. Credit 3 hours. No prerequisites. A study of the methods of understanding, analyzing, and evaluating arguments as found in everyday contexts which require practical reasoning skills, e.g., newspaper editorials, advertising, and political campaigns. Designed to improve analytical and critical skills in thinking, reading, writing, and listening.

313. Ethics. Credit 3 hours. No prerequisites. A study of the major systems of thought focusing on moral values, concepts of good and evil, right and wrong. Designed to introduce students to the various perspectives on these themes as formulated by major philosophers.

314. Special Topics in Philosophy. Credit 3 hours. No prerequisites. Designed to make available philosophy courses not regularly included in the catalogue, e.g., introductory philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, existentialism, etc. Content will vary with each presentation of the course, with no topic presented twice in a row.

315. Philosophy of History. Credit 3 hours. No prerequisites. Especially recommended for history and government majors, but open to all interested undergraduates. A study of the way major philosophers have understood history, usually in terms of their search for patterns and meanings in the movement of history. Special consideration will be given to thinkers such as Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, G.W.F. Hegel, Arnold Toynbee, etc.

320. Philosophy and the Arts (Aesthetics). Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor. A general survey of readings concerned with the question of what makes something beautiful, or what makes something a work of art. Frequent reference to the arts and artistic practice will be made (e.g., as found in film, literature, music, and painting).

321. Existentialism and Contemporary Philosophy. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor. This course will study the writings of some of the major figures in existentialism (e.g., Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus) as well the writings of some of the other important figures in contemporary philosophy (e.g., Wittgenstein, Rorty, Foucault, etc.).

416/516. American Philosophy. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisites: Junior standing or consent of instructor. A study of the major development in American philosophy through a detailed consideration of American thinkers.

417/517. Intellectual History (History of Ideas). Credit 3 hours. Prerequisites: Junior standing or consent of instructor required. A study of the intellectual influences on western thought since the Middle Ages, beginning with Renaissance Humanism and proceeding through Protestantism, Rationalism, the Enlightenment and Romanticism to the dominant scientific and political views of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

418/518. Independent Study in the History of Philosophy. Credit 3 hours. Prerequisites: Junior standing or consent of instructor. Conducted as a tutorial for individual students seeking additional work beyond the introductory level. Readings chosen according to student interest and academic orientation. Evaluations conducted on the basis of discussions and written assignments. Offered at the request of interested students.

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