

# PHIL - PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

## PHIL 107 Introduction to the Health Humanities

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Introduction to the methods and approaches of the health humanities; exposure to key scholarship in this field as well as major methods and approaches; application of such skills to the analysis of cultural case studies such as illness narratives or contemporary debates in scientific bioethics.

**Cross Listing:** COMM 107, ENGL 107, and HHUM 107.

## PHIL 111 Contemporary Moral Issues

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

(PHIL 2306) Contemporary Moral Issues. Representative ethical positions and their application to contemporary social problems; also taught at Galveston campus.

## PHIL 205 Technology and Human Values

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Interaction of personal and societal values with technology and man's self-image, the future and value change.

## PHIL 208 Philosophy of Education

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Basic social ideas and concepts of human nature in Western civilization; their implications for theories of education.

## PHIL 240 Introduction to Logic

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

(PHIL 2303) Introduction to Logic. Introduction to formal methods of deductive and inductive logic including, but not limited to, truth-tables, formal deduction and probability theory; also taught at Galveston campus.

## PHIL 251 Introduction to Philosophy

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

(PHIL 1301) Introduction to Philosophy. Perennial problems of philosophy such as the existence of God, the mind/body relationship, the limits of knowledge, the foundations of moral judgment, man and the state; also taught at Galveston campus.

## PHIL 252/AFST 252 Introduction to Hip-Hop Philosophy

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Introduction to philosophy by way of the major themes and subjects of Hip-Hop; critical advocacy of various philosophical ideals.

**Cross Listing:** AFST 252/PHIL 252.

## PHIL 282 Ethics in a Digital Age

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Exploration of the intersection between ethical and social theories, principles, and values and the interconnected digital world; examination of the interplay between these domains for topics such as cybercrime, privacy, surveillance, security, intellectual property rights, artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, internet governance, computing professionalism, and cyber policy and law.

## PHIL 283 Latin American Philosophy

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Major philosophers in the history of Latin American philosophy, such as Unamuno, Ortega y Gasset, Vasconcelos, Caso and Gutiérrez.

## PHIL 285 Directed Studies

**Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.**

Directed studies in specific problem areas of philosophy.

**Prerequisite:** Approval of department head.

## PHIL 289 Special Topics in...

**Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.**

Selected topics in an identified area of philosophy. May be repeated for credit.

**Prerequisite:** Approval of instructor.

## PHIL 291 Research

**Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.**

Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in the department of philosophy and humanities. May be taken two times for credit.

**Prerequisites:** Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of department head.

## PHIL 305 Philosophy of the Natural Sciences

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Critical analysis of scientific methods and achievements; the nature and types of explanation, discovery and confirmation, models and theories.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

## PHIL 307 Philosophy of the Social Sciences

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Nature and objectivity of the social sciences, their paradigms and patterns of explanation.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

## PHIL 314 Environmental Ethics

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Moral basis of duties to preserve or protect plants, animals and environmental systems; foundations of environmental law and policy; the idea of nature in philosophy; critique of social and economic analyses of environmental values.

**Prerequisite:** Sophomore classification or approval of instructor; also taught at Galveston campus.

## PHIL 315 Military Ethics

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Major ethical issues in modern military practice: ethics of leadership, just war theory, killing of the innocent and the moral status of the rules of war.

## PHIL 320 Philosophy of Mind

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Relation of mind to body, nature of thought and knowing, the free will problem, death and immortality.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

## PHIL 330 Philosophy of Art

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Theories of artistic creation and aesthetic response as exemplified in art forms such as painting, music, poetry, architecture, dance, theater, sculpture and motion pictures.

## PHIL 331/RELS 331 Philosophy of Religion

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Philosophical problems of Western religion such as the existence of God, the problem of evil, types of theism, rational, empirical and mystical approaches to God.

**Cross Listing:** RELS 331/PHIL 331.

## PHIL 332 Social and Political Philosophy

**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Metaphysical commitments and political theory, the nature and proper ends of the state, freedom, equality, authority, and justice, considering such writers as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Dewey.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

**PHIL 334 Philosophy of Law****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Traditional legal issues such as definitions of law, relationship between law and morality, and punishment considered from a legal perspective.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 336 Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Law****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Focused study of a specific topic in philosophy of law; critical engagement with conceptual and normative questions; sample topics include First Amendment debates, professional ethics in law, legal restriction of immigration, environmental law and privacy.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification, or approval of instructor.**PHIL 341 Symbolic Logic****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Elementary symbolic logic beginning with propositional calculus and first order predicate logic, and their applications.

**Prerequisite:** PHIL 240.**PHIL 342 Symbolic Logic II****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Advanced topics in logic such as the theory of identity, higher order logics, logic of sets, elements of modal logic.

**Prerequisite:** PHIL 240 or PHIL 341, or approval of instructor.**PHIL 351 Theory of Knowledge****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Major topics in epistemology such as the problem of induction, perception theory, memory and the problem of other minds.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 352/AFST 352 Africana Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Presentation of the seminal ideas of several influential Africana thinkers; recovery of the neglected traditions in which these thinkers locate themselves.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**Cross Listing:** AFST 352/PHIL 352.**PHIL 353/AFST 353 Radical Black Philosophies of Race and Racism****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Critical evaluation of white supremacy, colonialism and the modern construction of race; examination of the historical background for contemporary theories of race.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**Cross Listing:** AFST 353/PHIL 353.**PHIL 361 Metaphysics****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Topics concerning the fundamental nature of reality such as what exists, the mental and the physical, universals and individuals, space and time, God.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 371 Philosophy of Literature****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Philosophical analysis of the major recurrent themes in world literature including fate, the meaning of tragedy, death, odyssey, good and evil, time and eternity, hope and salvation; works selected from a variety of cultures and historical periods.

**PHIL 375 Philosophy of the Visual Media****Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.**

Aesthetic, ethical and epistemological issues of photography, cinema and video.

**PHIL 376/FILM 376 Philosophy, Film and Evil****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Application of philosophical methods and analyses to the medium of film; survey of various depictions and treatments of evil within the genre of science fiction; investigation of depictions and treatments of evil arising from consideration of human encounters with alien others.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**Cross Listing:** FILM 376/PHIL 376.**PHIL 381 Ethical Theory****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Values and conduct such as moral relativism, self-interest, utilitarianism, rules, nature of valuation, ethical language and argumentation.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor; also taught at Galveston campus.**PHIL 409/WGST 409 Studies in Gender and Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Analysis, from a gender-studies perspective, of a single figure or concept in the history of philosophy. May be repeated 1 time for credit with a different focus.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**Cross Listing:** WGST 409/PHIL 409.**PHIL 410 Classical Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Major philosophers from 600 B.C. to the end of the third century A.D. including the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Hellenistic and Roman philosophy and the Neo-Platonists.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 411 Medieval Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Major philosophers from the early Christian centuries through the 14th century, emphasizing such writers as Augustine, Aquinas, Duns Scotus and William of Ockham.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 412 Seventeenth-Century Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Significant seventeenth-century texts in metaphysics, epistemology, moral psychology, and political philosophy; authors such as Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Leibniz, and Locke.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 413 Eighteenth-Century Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Significant eighteenth-century texts from philosophers such as Berkeley, Rousseau, Hume, and Kant.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 414 Nineteenth Century Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Contributions of such philosophers as Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Husserl, Mill and Bradley.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 415 American Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

The thought of philosophers such as Peirce, James, Royce, Santayana, Mead, Dewey and Whitehead.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

**PHIL 416 Recent British and American Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Major philosophers in contemporary Anglo-American thought such as Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Quine, Austin and Ryle.

**Prerequisites:** PHIL 240.**PHIL 417 Phenomenology****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Phenomenology from its nineteenth-century origins to the present; authors such as Brentano, Husserl, Scheler, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Levinas, Henry, Marion.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 418 Existentialism****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Existentialism from its nineteenth-century origins to the present; philosophers such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Buber, Rosenzweig, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Camus.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 419 Current Continental Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Major thinkers concerned with "postmodern" topics in hermeneutics, poststructuralism, critical theory, deconstructionism, contemporary Marxist strategies, semiotics and feminist theory.

**Prerequisite:** Junior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 424 Philosophy of Language****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

The nature of language; the various uses of language and their philosophical import; the nature of meaning, truth, reference and issues surrounding formal representations of natural languages.

**Prerequisites:** PHIL 240 and junior or senior classification; or approval of instructor.**PHIL 425 Philosophical Inquiry in Schools****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

In-depth engagement with the theory and practice of pre-college (K-12) philosophy.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**PHIL 451 Probability, Decision Theory and Game Theory - How Should I Choose****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Formal epistemology, including the relation between full and partial belief, Bayesian and other interpretations of probability, and confirmation theory; decision theory and game theory, including topics such as risk vs uncertainty; utility and expected utility; causal and evidential decision theory; zero sum and nonzero sum games such as prisoner's dilemma.

**Prerequisite:** 3 hours of core MATH and 3 hours of PHIL.**PHIL 452 Social Choice, Polarization and Democracy - How Should We Choose****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Social choice theory; strategic voting, gerrymandering; Arrow's impossibility theorem; Gibbard-Satterthwaite theorem; interpersonal utility comparison; the Rawls-Harsanyi debate; political polarization; echo chambers.

**Prerequisite:** 3 hours of core MATH and 3 hours of PHIL.**PHIL 464/RELS 464 Modern Jewish Thought and Philosophy****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

An overview of modern Jewish thought and philosophy spanning Jewish European thinkers from the 18th century to the 20th century.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.**Cross Listing:** RELS 464/PHIL 464.**PHIL 465 Ethics After the Holocaust****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Analysis of the Holocaust as a challenge to previous ethical theories; ethical theories developed in response to the Holocaust.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification, or approval of instructor.**PHIL 470 Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Key conceptions of animal welfare; approaches to animal ethics; analysis of important ideas in animal law; consideration of animal contexts such as agricultural, experimental, wild, companion and zoo animals.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification, or approval of instructor.**PHIL 480 Medical Ethics****Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**

Critical analysis of major ethical issues in medicine including truth-telling, confidentiality, paternalism, genetics, abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and social justice in health care.

**PHIL 482/ENGR 482 Ethics and Engineering****Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.**

Development of techniques of moral analysis and their application to ethical problems encountered by engineers, such as professional employee rights and whistle blowing; environmental issues; ethical aspects of safety, risk and liability and conflicts of interest; emphasis on developing the capacity for independent ethical analysis of real and hypothetical cases.

**Prerequisite:** Junior classification.**Cross Listing:** ENGR 482/PHIL 482.**PHIL 484 Professional Internship****Credits 0 to 6. 0 to 6 Other Hours.**

Practical experience in an institutional or organizational setting appropriate to analysis and understanding of issues in some area of applied philosophy. May be taken five times for credit.

**Prerequisite:** Approval of instructor and department head.**PHIL 485 Directed Studies****Credits 0 to 6. 0 to 6 Other Hours.**

Directed studies in specific problem areas of philosophy.

**Prerequisite:** Approval of department head.**PHIL 489 Special Topics in...****Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 4 Lab Hours.**

Selected topics in an identified area of philosophy; also taught at Galveston campus. May be repeated for credit.

**PHIL 491 Research****Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.**

Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in the department of philosophy and humanities. May be taken two times for credit.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification and approval of dean of college.**PHIL 497 Independent Honors Studies****Credits 1 to 3. 1 to 3 Other Hours.**

Directed independent studies in specific philosophical problems.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior classification either as Honors students or with overall GPR of 3.25; letter of approval from head of student's major department.