



Introductory Courses

Any section of Philosophy 110: Introduction to Philosophy can be taken to fulfill the college core requirement in philosophy. Only one Philosophy 110 course may be taken for college credit.

PHIL 110	Introductory Philosophy Classes	3 credits
Staff	10:00-10:50 MWF & 2:00-3:15 TR	
Michael Waddell	12:30-1:45 TR	
Megan Zwart	9:30-10:45 TR & 11:00-12:15 TR	

PHIL 110W	Introductory Philosophy	4 credits
Patricia Sayre	11:00-11:50 MWF & 12:00-12:50 W	

Readings and discussions designed to introduce the student to the major areas and problems of philosophy through a study of writings of classical and contemporary thinkers.

Upper Division Courses

PHIL 220	Introduction to Logic	3 credits	Patricia Sayre
2:00-2:50 MWF			

Logic is the study of the methods and principles used to distinguish good, or correct, reasoning from bad, or fallacious, reasoning. Because its methods and principles can be applied to any subject matter, logic is a tool with practical applications in many other disciplines and has played an important role in the development of Western thought in general. In this course, we study not only logical techniques, but also consider the connections between logic and intellectual history. We begin with a unit on argumentation in ordinary language, move on to consider three systems of deductive logic (categorical, propositional, and predicate logic) and conclude with a brief introduction to some cutting edge issues in contemporary logic. *Essential preparation for anyone considering law school or planning to take the GRE's.*

PHIL 255	Medical Ethics	3 credits	Megan Zwart
6:00-8:30 T			

In this course we will investigate ethical issues that arise in the health care professions. We will begin to lay the groundwork for these investigations with attention to some basic ethical theories and principles. Then we will move through the life cycle, considering special ethical topics that arise at specific times of life, including beginning of life questions (abortion, reproductive technologies), issues of childhood (seriously ill infants, children and autonomy), issues surrounding aging (care giving, dementia, allocation of resources to elders), issues at the end of life (active and passive euthanasia, palliative care, discontinuing futile care) as well as those issues that arise

across the life cycle (allocation of scarce resources, paying for health care). Students will be expected to exhibit knowledge of the ethical import of these topics and the relevant policies pertaining to each. Students will also be expected to investigate and clarify their own positions on these issues, including the compatibility of these positions with their broader philosophical commitments (i.e. what is a person, what rights do persons have, what constitutes human flourishing etc.). Students will display their knowledge and views through clear, analytical writing, class discussion, informal journals and an exam.

**This course will also be offered in an online format during Summer Session 2012. Visit <http://www3.saintmarys.edu/philosophy/programs/course-descriptions> for more information.*

PHIL 331 **Descartes to Skepticism** **3 credits** **Patricia Sayre**
1:00-1:50 MWF

Descartes is plagued by evil demons. Spinoza grinds lenses into the night. Locke scribbles on the tabula rasa at a furious pace, only to be met by a Leibnizian monad. Through it all, Berkeley worries about the tree that falls in the forest with no one to hear, and Hume hones his backgammon skills. This course is a study in major themes of 17 and 18th century Western philosophy beginning with Descartes and tracing the development of modern thought up through Hume. Class discussions throughout the semester are grounded in our reading of primary source texts. The focus is on the epistemological and metaphysical dimensions of these works, and on ways they set a problematic in philosophy that is still with us today. Students write three five-page papers and take an exam. Strongly recommended for humanities students who have an interest in the history of ideas.

PHIL 352 **Political Philosophy** **3 credits** **George Trey**
11:00-12:15 MW

A study of theories of society and the state which may include classical, contemporary, feminist, or ethnic visions of real and ideal community.

PHIL 390 **Special Topics: Jewish,** **3 credits** **Michael Waddell**
3:30-4:45 TR **Christian & Islamic Philosophers in Dialogue**

In this seminar, we will study several important Jewish, Christian and Islamic philosophers, and the profound ways in which they influenced one another's thinking. We will pay particular attention to ways in which the Jewish and Christian authors were influenced by the writings of classical Islamic philosophers, as well as to ways in which each philosopher's ideas were shaped by the authoritative texts of his religion (viz., the *Qur'an*, the *Torah*, and the *Bible*).

Our readings will be taken from texts written by some of the greatest philosophers of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic intellectual traditions—including Avicenna, al-Ghazali, Averroes, Maimonides, and Thomas Aquinas—and will explore subjects including the existence and attributes of God, creation, providence, the nature and immortality of the soul, the relationship between philosophy and revelation, prophecy and its relationship with ethics and political leadership, etc.

Students will be assessed on their contributions to class discussion as well as their performance on several written assignments, which will likely include two essays and two exams.

PHIL 495 **Senior Seminar: New Methods** **3 credits** **George Trey**
3:00-4:15 MW **in Philosophy**

An intensive study of new methods and thinkers in philosophy. Both primary and secondary texts may be consulted.

Phil 497.01 Permission	Independent Study	1 to 3 credits	Michael Waddell
Phil 497.02 Permission	Independent Study	1 to 3 credits	George Trey
Phil 497.03 Permission	Independent Study	1 to 3 credits	Patricia Sayre
Phil 497.04 Permission	Independent Study	1 to 3 credits	Megan Zwart
Phil 998.01 Permission	Advanced Writing Proficiency		George Trey
Phil 999.01 Permission	Comprehensive Exam Passed		George Trey

Advising: Fall 2012

For advising regarding course selection you may consult with any member of the Philosophy faculty, or, if you are working on a major or minor in Philosophy Contact:

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