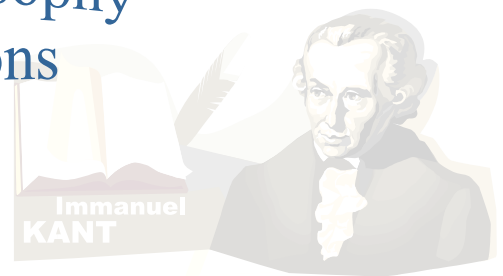


# Department of Philosophy

## Course Descriptions

### Spring 2013



## 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.

<b>PHIL 110</b>	<b>Introductory Philosophy Classes</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
Adrienne Chockley	10:00-10:50 MWF	
George Trey	11:00-12:15 MW	
Michael Waddell	12:30-1:45 TR	
Megan Zwart	9:30-10:45 TR	

<b>PHIL 110W</b>	<b>Introductory Philosophy</b>	<b>4 credits</b>
Patricia Sayre	1:00-1:50 MWF & 2:00-2:50 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

<b>PHIL 230</b>	<b>Socrates to Scholasticism</b>	<b>3 credits</b>	<b>Michael Waddell</b>
<b>9:30-10:45 TR</b>			

Is there such a thing as the soul? Is the soul immortal? Do only humans have souls or do animals have them too? What about plants? Or the universe itself? In this course, we will explore these and other questions about the soul as they are developed in the writings of great philosophers from ancient Greece and the Christian Middle Ages (including Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, St. Augustine, and St. Thomas Aquinas). Class meetings will be comprised primarily of discussion with occasional lectures mixed in to offer clarification of important concepts. Students will be evaluated on class participation, two shorter writing assignments, one longer writing assignment, and two exams. The class is intended primarily for those either pursuing or contemplating a philosophy major/minor, though all students interested in great texts and important ideas are most welcome.

<b>PHIL 235</b>	<b>Existentialism</b>	<b>3 credits</b>	<b>Patricia Sayre</b>
<b>11:00-12:15 MW</b>			

This course will examine the key themes and historical development of the twentieth century movement known as existentialism. As a philosophical movement, existentialism deals with many of the central issues in traditional philosophy--the existence of God, the nature of human freedom, the nature of knowledge, etc.--but it differs from traditional philosophy in dealing with these issues in a way that shows particular concern for their import in the life of the concrete existing individual. The texts for this course include representative works in both literary and philosophical genres by such

authors as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre and Camus. There will be two papers and two exams. *An elective course of special interest to theater and literature majors, but designed for all those interested in thinking hard about the meaning of their lives.*

**PHIL 247**                      **Philosophy of Religion**                      **3 credits**                      **Michael Waddell**  
**3:30-4:45 TR**

This course will examine several problems that have vexed the Jewish and Christian religions, considering these problems from *philosophical* perspectives (i.e., perspectives that begin from reason rather than faith). We will focus on three questions in particular: What, if anything, can we know about God? What is the relationship between faith and reason? And if God is all good, all knowing, and all powerful, then why does evil exist? Popular films will be used to spark discussion and introduce classical readings about these questions. **Note: this course can be taken to satisfy the philosophy general education requirement in the Sophia program (in lieu of Philosophy 110). No prerequisites are required.**

**PHIL 254**                      **Social Justice**                      **3 credits**                      **Megan Zwart**  
**12:30-1:45 TR**

In this course we will pay special attention to the hidden costs of the things we consume daily and ask how our consumption habits can reinforce or reduce degradation of the natural world and oppression of those on the margins of society. We will consider global and local distribution of resources and then turn our attention to the case study: ‘do our food choices matter?’ In addition to lots of discussion, this course will also include **visits by local activists**, and some hands-on learning including a **farm visit** and a **shared meal**.

**PHIL 332**                      **Kant and His Critics**                      **3 credits**                      **George**  
**11:00-12:15 TR**                      **Trey**

Immanuel Kant is arguably the most important Western philosopher in the modern era. His work draws together that of a considerable group of his predecessors, re-conceives it brilliantly, and establishes the parameters within which philosophical debates have developed for what is now over 200 years. His most radical claim: The reality that we know may not be reality as it is in and of itself. This course will be organized around Kant’s provocative proclamation. Students will be exposed to several of Kant’s works on knowledge, ethics and politics. We will address these matters in terms of Kant’s own contextualizing of philosophy within the age of enlightenment.

**PHIL 343**                      **20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy**                      **3 credits**                      **Megan Zwart**  
**2:00-3:15 TR**

In this course, we will investigate various methodologies of 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophical inquiry:

*Analysis:* Philosophy as rigorous comparison and evaluation of accounts of the nature of the world and its contents. (Bertrand Russell)

*Hermeneutics:* Philosophy as interpretation as it occurs in the dialogue between questioner and questioned. (Hans Georg Gadamer)

*Care of the Self:* Philosophy as spiritual and practical exercises aimed at transformation of the individual. (Pierre Hadot)

*Feminist Theory:* Philosophy as tool of critique and inclusion. (Iris Marion Young)

**PHIL 410**                      **Philosopher of Consequence**                      **3 credits**                      **Patricia Sayre**  
**3:00-4:15 MW**

When *Time* magazine published its list, in 2000, of the most influential figures of the previous century, only one philosopher made the list. Bertand Russell described him as “the most perfect example of a traditional genius that I have ever known.” His life has been the subject of countless novels, biographies, and movies; his philosophical work has been the inspiration for plays, poems, and musical scores. Who is he? A cultured Austrian from a wealthy family who gave all his money away. A brilliant undergraduate whose questions about the meaning of language turned into questions about the meaning of life. A foot soldier who smuggled a dazzling treatise solving all the problems of philosophy out of an Italian prison camp. An elementary school teacher who learned from his students how a treatise could go wrong and how to set it right. A mystical visionary with a strong practical bent. A tortured genius and a passionate figure. The greatest philosopher of our times: Ludwig Wittgenstein.

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

## Advising: Spring 2013

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:

**George Trey, Chair**  
Room 160 Spes Unica  
Ph: 284-4547  
Email: gtrey

**Patricia Sayre**  
Room 161 Spes Unica  
Ph: 284-4538  
Email: psayre

**Michael Waddell**  
Room 157 Spes Unica  
Ph: 284-4169  
Email: mwaddell

**Megan Zwart**  
Room 158 Spes Unica  
Ph: 284-4503  
Email: mzwart

