

Philosophy

Obtain a strong perspective on the importance of ethics, how humans think, and the need for clear and consistent thinking with our Philosophy Degree.

With a faculty of dedicated and experienced professionals, our Philosophy program aims to challenge and improve your logical and critical-thinking skills.

You will learn about historic thinkers and influential writings that have shaped the world, while creatively engaging in solving some of the most significant problems facing contemporary culture. You will develop the skills to understand and evaluate ideas. Through our philosophy courses, you will refine your perspectives on the importance of ethics, how humans think, and the need to think consistently and clearly. A Philosophy degree prepares you for many career opportunities including law, business, and government.

ID	COURSE	CREDITS
PHIL 100	PHIL 100 - Philosophy for Life 2022-2023 Explores philosophy as a way of life accessible to all, in order to think more truthfully, act more justly, and live more faithfully. This course focuses on critical thinking as an invaluable ethical tool for interpreting current events. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate the claims of contemporary culture and religious faith.	3
PHIL 103	PHIL 103 - Introduction to Logic 2022-2023 An analysis of the use of reasoning in ordinary language. Students are introduced to deductive logic by learning how to recognize arguments by identifying some common fallacies and by learning several methods of assessing the quality of arguments. Both traditional and modern methods of determining deductive validity, including a formal theory of inference, are studied.	3
PHIL 105	PHIL 105 - Introduction to Philosophy 2022-2023 This course introduces some of the major questions about existence and what it is to be human while providing some of the foundational philosophical responses to these questions. Topics to be discussed include: the relation between perception and knowledge (appearance and reality); the existence and nature of God; human freedom and determinism; the meaning of human existence; the nature of moral judgments; the mind-body problem; artificial intelligence; feminist philosophy; the problem of suffering; and whether humans are capable of selfless motivation. Students will be encouraged to interpret and reflect upon the meaning of the relation between reason and faith as the joint foundation for addressing these questions in a logical and ethical manner.	3

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PHIL 106	<p>PHIL 106 - Introduction to Philosophy II 2022-2023</p> <p>An historical overview of the western philosophical tradition from Socrates to the present day. Considerable discussion will be devoted to the distinct approaches of ancient, medieval, and modern thinkers to the relation between reason and faith. Additionally, there will be extensive attention devoted to the history of logical and ethical reasoning as we evaluate the impact of these ideas on the present day. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged not only to analyze but also interpret these ideas in a respectful yet critical manner.</p>	3
PHIL 108	<p>PHIL 108 - Philosophy of Society and Law 2022-2023</p> <p>An introduction to the philosophy of society and law in Canada and around the world. In this exploration of the relation between society and the law, the first half of the course begins with an historic survey of the debates over the meaning of the law from antiquity to the present. The second half of the course reviews legal cases which have provoked, or are still provoking, debates over the meaning of law and society.</p>	3
PHIL 109	<p>PHIL 109 - Critical Thinking: Informal Logic 2022-2023</p> <p>An introduction to critical thinking/writing and informal logic in practical settings. This course examines the value of rational thinking in the face of everyday challenges, e.g., problem solving, making informed decisions, and evaluating whether a statement is true. Students dissect examples of good and poor reasoning, analyze informal fallacies, detect hidden assumptions and irrelevant premises in arguments, determine where an argument's burden of proof lies, and practice transferring critical thinking skills to their writing skills. Socratic method and Socratic dialogue is employed as a tool to assist students with their inquiry-based learning.</p>	3
PHIL 111	<p>PHIL 111 - History of Western Philosophy 2022-2023</p> <p>A survey of the teachings of the great philosophers of the West, from the discovery of physics by the Pre-Socratics, to the culmination of medieval Scholasticism (i.e. in John of St. Thomas), with a special emphasis upon developments in the philosophy of religion.</p>	3
PHIL 203	<p>PHIL 203 - Ancient Greek Wisdom 2022-2023</p> <p>An examination of key contributions to Greek philosophy, especially the writings of Plato and Aristotle. In the process of dialoguing about these ideas, we shall also study the importance of ancient Greek philosophy in the history of thought as well as the original intent of the philosophers in question with attention to their historic context. We shall also assess the enduring relevance of ancient Greek philosophy to the modern age.</p>	3
PHIL 210	<p>PHIL 210 - Contemporary Ethical Issues 2022-2023</p> <p>Through readings and class-discussion, this course introduces students to the foundational moral frameworks of western civilization and requires them to bring these frameworks to bear on some of the most important ethical issues arising in contemporary society: consumerism, technoculture, environmental ethics, responsibility to distant peoples, genetic engineering and cloning, and the</p>	3

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	promise and peril of nanotechnology.	
PHIL 220	<p>PHIL 220 - Philosophy of Sex and Gender 2022-2023</p> <p>This course explores questions such as: What is feminism? What are the main schools of feminist thought? What is patriarchy? What is gender and does it differ from sex? Are there only two sexes? Are there only two genders? What is homosexuality? What are the different views on how same-sex attraction arises? Do feminism and Christianity have convergent trajectories? Is there a place in the church for those from the LGBTQ community? What are the cultural forces that format the thinking about these questions?</p>	3
PHIL 231	<p>PHIL 231 - Enviromental Philosophy 2022-2023</p> <p>An overview of the various perspectives put forward in the West on the proper human relationship to the environment. We will investigate the metaphysics behind the fact/value dichotomy, the currently influential views on the human nature relationship, various environmental ethical frameworks, the distinctive characteristics of moral reasoning and argumentation as they bear on the human nature relationship, and the religious, economic, socio cultural, and ideological factors contributory to the rise of the ecological crisis. We conclude by critically interrogating the conceptual substructures of some popular contemporary environmental frameworks.</p>	3
PHIL 303	<p>PHIL 303 - Medieval Philosophy CP 2022-2023</p> <p>This course explores philosophical issues in the West from the second to the 14th century, in particular the impact of Greek philosophy on the development of Christian thought. There are three natural stages of this interaction: 1) Defensive philosophy (apologetics): responses to rational objections brought to bear against Christianity; 2) Methodology: reflection on the interaction between faith and reason, and, in particular, the nature of theology as a science; and 3) Constructive philosophy: struggles from within over a systematic metaphysics and ethics. A central theme of the course is the role of the doctrine of creation in the image of God.</p>	3
PHIL 304	<p>PHIL 304 - Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas 2022-2023</p> <p>This course studies key texts from Thomas Aquinas. The focus is on the Summa Theologiae of Thomas Aquinas, but special attention is paid to his commentaries on Aristotle and on his Christian interpretation of ancient philosophy. The challenge that modern science and modern philosophy presents to Thomistic metaphysics is also discussed, with special attention paid to the highly influential critique made by Immanuel Kant.</p>	3
PHIL 305	<p>PHIL 305 - Philosopy of the Human Person 2022-2023</p> <p>This course addresses what it means to say that human beings are persons having freedom and subjectivity; examines the different powers of the human person, including the powers of understanding, willing, feeling, and loving; studies the difference between body and soul, as well as the unity of the two in humans; and explores the question of the immortality of the soul. Some classic texts from the tradition of Western philosophy are read.</p>	3

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PHIL 310	<p>PHIL 310 - Issues in Social Justice 2022-2023</p> <p>An examination of ethical issues that pertain to social justice, addressing such topics as the distribution of wealth, the difference between equality and equity, the effects of globalization, and the morality of war.</p>	3
PHIL 313	<p>PHIL 313 - British Empiricism 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of British empiricism in the 17th and 18th centuries. Selected writings of Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume are read and discussed.</p>	3
PHIL 314	<p>PHIL 314 - Reason and the Enlightenment 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of rationalist philosophy in the European Enlightenment period of the 17th and 18th centuries. Selected writings of Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz are analysed and interpreted. As we discuss each author's ideas, we will evaluate their positions on: the limits of reason, the intelligibility of revelatory truth, the existence of God, the divisibility of reality, the role of nature, and the ethics and politics of human life. In the process of dialoguing about these ideas, we shall also study the historical importance of the Enlightenment in modernity as well as the original intent of the philosophers in question with attention to their historic context. We shall also assess the enduring relevance of the Enlightenment to the modern age.</p>	3
PHIL 315	<p>PHIL 315 - Kant 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, focusing primarily on Kant's seminal work, Critique of Pure Reason.</p>	3
PHIL 320	<p>PHIL 320 - Social and Political Philosophy 2022-2023</p> <p>An examination of foundational ideas and problems in political life and thought. Both classical and contemporary texts are used. Concepts to be treated include the state, society, the citizen, democracy, liberty, equality, authority, obligation, and disobedience.</p>	3
PHIL 331	<p>PHIL 331 - Environmental Philosophy 2022-2023</p> <p>Explores the theological and philosophical dimensions of the doctrine of creation and from there highlights the various philosophical shifts of outlook that helped usher in modern naturalism and its notions of nature. We will investigate the metaphysics behind the fact/value dichotomy, various environmental ethical frameworks, the case for the moral status of non-human animals and abiotic entities, the evolution of the ecological crisis, the conceptual substructures of some popular contemporary environmental frameworks, and some of the agendas of response to our current ecological crisis.</p>	3
PHIL 333	<p>PHIL 333 - Philosophy and Literature 2022-2023</p> <p>This course surveys major ancient, medieval, modern, and postmodern approaches that attempt a theory of literature. The course places modern and postmodern theories in historical perspective by reading key ancient and medieval authors. In particular, resources from the Latin Scholastic</p>	3

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	tradition most relevant to contemporary debates about literary theory are highlighted.	
PHIL 340	PHIL 340 - Moral Philosophy 2022-2023 The problem of determining standards of right and wrong as well as the problem of determining what is of value in itself. The moral theories of prominent philosophers, both ancient and modern, are examined.	3
PHIL 350	PHIL 350 - Symbolic Logic 2022-2023 A study of the propositional calculus, quantification theory, the theory of definite descriptions, and other topics in modern symbolic logic.NB: Not offered every year See department chair.	3
PHIL 370	PHIL 370 - Aesthetics 2022-2023 This course doesn't merely explore different questions about the nature, value, and meaning of beauty, artworks, and aesthetic experience; its primary goal is to assist students in developing lifestyles that embody the values, pleasures, and risks of moving through the God's creation with deep aesthetic attention coupled to an expansive imagination.	3
PHIL 380	PHIL 380 - Philosophy of Science 2022-2023 An examination of some of the central philosophical issues raised by science. Topics include scientific method, explanations and laws in science, scientific progress, confirmation, and the structure of scientific theories.	3
PHIL 383	PHIL 383 - Reason and Belief in God 2022-2023 A survey of central issues arising from the question, Is belief in God rational? Topics include arguments concerning the existence of God, religious pluralism, natural science and religious belief, religious language, and critiques of natural theology from Kierkegaard and Reformed Epistemology.	3
PHIL 384	PHIL 384 - Suffering and Belief in God 2022-2023 An examination of key issues pertaining to suffering and belief in God. Topics include the problem of evil, arguments from suffering, original sin, everlasting suffering, and providence.	3
PHIL 390	PHIL 390 - Existentialism 2022-2023 Through the profound questions they ask about human life, we explore the verities of human embodiment from the theist (Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Heschel, and Percy) and from the non-theist (Nietzsche, Hesse, Heidegger, Camus, and Sartre) existentialist perspectives: Are there invariants within the human condition? Is human identity essentially tied to its historical-cultural embodiment? Do humans have an essence or nature? Are humans fundamentally different from all other animals? Is there meaning to human life? Are human relationships doomed to failure? Are humans capable of authentic lives? Is the notion of God	3

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	merely a comforting projection arising out of human weakness? Etc.	
PHIL 412	<p>PHIL 412 - Issues in Contemporary Philosophy 2022-2023</p> <p>Central issues arising in 20th century philosophy, particularly within the Anglo-American analytic movement. Recent topics have included the rise and demise of logical positivism, the philosophy of Wittgenstein, Rorty's attack on the Mirror of Nature, and issues raised by continental European philosophy.</p>	3
PHIL 415	<p>PHIL 415 - Contemporary Political Philosophy 2022-2023</p> <p>This course examines the political thought of 20th century political philosophers, primarily from the Western political tradition. Attention is given to selected primary and secondary literature of contemporary political theorists. Systematic examination of different theorists encourages a broader understanding of the rich tradition of political philosophy in the 20th century.</p>	3
PHIL 418	<p>PHIL 418 - Social and Political Concepts of Community in Contemporary Political Theory 2022-2023</p> <p>Provides the student with an in-depth study of the social and political concepts of community. Attention is focused on how recognition of community brings into play the tension between individual and collective/group rights. Course lectures, reading assignments, and in class discussion provide an overview of the following topics: interpretation/hermeneutics of community, roots of community theory, myth of community, quest for community, Chirstian community, recognition of minority communities in politics, problems associated with the concep og community, recognition of group rights, the libral-communitarian debate over community, and the problems associated with communitarian theory.</p>	3
PHIL 420	<p>PHIL 420 - Authors 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of a major philosopher or philosophical system. Involving substantial reading and the writing of a major paper, the course is available by special request to students who already have at least a minor in Philosophy, on a directed study basis.NB:</p>	3
PHIL 421	<p>PHIL 421 - Postmodern Philosophy 2022-2023</p> <p>An in-depth investigation into major postmodern texts. Authors considered include Nietzsche, Foucault, Derrida, and their critics. Both the philosophical and historical foundations of modernism and postmodernism will be explored. The historicist focus on the origins and contexts of these ideas will receive considerable attention.</p>	3
PHIL 430	<p>PHIL 430 - Honours Thesis 2022-2023</p> <p>A 40-60 page paer on a topic of the student's choosing (subject to departmental approval) on a important philosophic issue or thinker. An oral defence and a library-acceptable copy are required. This course is to be taken in the final year by all Honours students in Philosophy.</p>	3

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PHIL 460	PHIL 460 - Philosophy of Language 2022-2023 This course surveys central issues in philosophy of language, including: theories of truth and reference, the relationship between language, thought, and mind, constructivist and structuralist accounts of language. A sub-theme for the course is the relationship between the philosophy of language and other core areas of philosophy.	3
PHIL 470	PHIL 470 - Phil. of Knowledge & Rational Belief 2022-2023 A descriptive and critical inquiry into the theory of knowledge, including such topics as foundationalism, relativism, evidence, warrant, cognitive reliability, skepticism, and the relationship of cognitive science and psychology to philosophical accounts of knowledge and rational inquiry.	3
PHIL 483	PHIL 483 - The Evidential Force of Religious Experience 2022-2023 Examines the place of evidence in religion and assesses the evidential force of religious experience. Such experiences as near-death experiences, visions, conversions, mystical states of consciousness and other topics that have gathered ongoing public attention are discussed.	3
PHIL 490	PHIL 490 - Philosophy of Mind 2022-2023 A study of the mind-body problems through consideration of various philosophical theories on the nature of human consciousness. The relevance of mystical and religious experience, of parapsychological phenomena, and of neurophysiological findings to the mind-body problem.	3

