

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

341 O'DOWD HALL

(248) 370-3390

Fax: (248) 370-3144

Chairperson: *John F. Halpin*

Professors emeriti: *David C. Bricker, Richard W. Brooks, Richard J. Burke*

Associate professors: *Paul R. Graves, John F. Halpin, Mark A. Rigstad, Phyllis A. Rooney, Elysa R. White*

Assistant professors: *Eric La Rock, Fritz McDonald, Mark Navin*

Adjunct instructor: *Patricia Trentacoste*

Associated faculty: *Professor Ronald M. Swartz (Education and Philosophy)*

Special lecturers: *John Burn, Nancy McClellan, Grant Yocom*

Chief adviser: *Fritz McDonald*

Philosophy is one of the oldest yet often least understood of the liberal arts. The philosopher is interested in all aspects of human life, searching for the greatest possible clarity concerning the most fundamental questions. There is no one kind of philosophy; rather, there are many kinds, each with its own value.

Philosophy has always served two functions. The first is speculative, the attempt to formulate illuminating generalizations about science, art, religion, nature, society and any other important topics. The second is critical, the unsparing examination of its own generalizations and those of other fields to uncover unfounded assumptions, faulty thinking, hidden implications and inconsistencies. The study of philosophy is designed to encourage a spirit of curiosity, a sensitivity toward the uses of words, and a sense of objective assessment toward oneself as well as others. Competence in philosophy is solid training for advanced study in such fields as law, government and public administration, as well as the ministry and teaching.

The Department of Philosophy offers programs of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in philosophy, a modified major in philosophy with an international studies minor (South Asian studies program) or a concentration in linguistics or religious studies, and a minor in philosophy.

Requirements for the liberal arts major in philosophy, B.A. program

To earn the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in philosophy, a student must complete a minimum of 40 credits in philosophy, including:

1. One semester of logic (PHL 102, 107 or 370; PHL 107 is strongly recommended, especially for those considering graduate work in philosophy).
2. One semester of ethics (PHL 103, 313 or 314).
3. Two semesters in history of Western philosophy (PHL 204 and 206).
4. One semester of recent American philosophy (PHL 308, 329, 333, 437 or 475).
5. At least 20 credits in PHL courses numbered 300 or above.
6. PHL 465 satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone course in the major.

A student may substitute other courses for any of the above with the permission of the department chairperson. Students planning to apply for graduate work in philosophy should meet with a faculty member to discuss additional appropriate course work.

Departmental honors

Departmental honors in philosophy are based upon three criteria: (a) general performance in philosophy courses, (b) written work in philosophy and (c) the ability to articulate philosophical ideas orally. First, students must achieve at least a 3.50 grade point average in philosophy courses. Second, those who do so and want to be considered for departmental honors should submit an example of their philosophical writing to the department chairperson early in the semester in which they expect to graduate. Normally this would be a substantial paper written in PHL 395, but two or three papers written in other philosophy courses will be acceptable. Third, if this work is judged to be of sufficiently high quality, it will be read by the rest of the department, and a conference with the student will be arranged to give him or her an opportunity to discuss the paper (or papers) further with the faculty. The decision to award honors will then be made by the faculty based on all three criteria. Deadlines for submission: October 15 for the fall semester, February 15 for the winter semester.

Requirements for a modified major in philosophy with a concentration in linguistics, B.A. program

Students with this modified major in philosophy must have a minimum of 24 credits in philosophy, including PHL 475, and 20 credits in linguistics including:

1. One semester of logic: PHL 102, 107 or 370.
2. One semester of ethics: PHL 103, 313 or 314.
3. One semester of metaphysics/epistemology: PHL 204, 205, 206, 308, 329, 333, 340, 401 or 437.
4. 20 credits in LIN or ALS courses, including: LIN 201, 303, 304 and either 403 or 404.
5. LIN 307 or 407.

Requirements for a modified major in philosophy with a minor in South Asian studies or a concentration in religious studies, B.A. program

Students with either of these modified majors in philosophy must have a minimum of 24 credits in philosophy including 12 credits in courses numbered 300 or above:

1. One semester of logic: PHL 102, 107 or 370.
2. One semester of ethics: PHL 103, 313 or 314.
3. One semester of metaphysics/epistemology: PHL 204, 205, 206, 308, 329, 333, 340, 401 or 437.

For a modified major in philosophy with a minor in South Asian studies, students should see the *Center for International Studies* section of the catalog for the minor requirements. For a modified major in philosophy with a concentration in religious studies, students must include PHL 325 and are encouraged to take PHL 350. They should also consult *Other Academic Options, Concentration in Religious Studies* for the concentration requirements.

Requirements for the liberal arts minor in philosophy

To earn a minor in philosophy, students must complete a minimum of 20 credits in philosophy, including:

1. One semester of logic: PHL 102, 107 or 370.
2. One semester of ethics: PHL 103, 313 or 314.

3. One semester of metaphysics/epistemology: PHL 204, 205, 206, 308, 329, 333, 340, 401, 437 or 475.
4. At least 8 credits in courses numbered 300 or above.

Course Offerings

The department offers selected courses from this catalog as warranted by student needs and availability of faculty. Specific offerings for each term may be found in the *Schedule of Classes*.

Course prerequisites

Except where noted, 100-and 200-level courses have no prerequisites. Advanced courses (numbered 300 to 499) have a general prerequisite of writing proficiency, plus any special requirements listed with the course description.

PHL 101 Introduction to Philosophy (4)

Study of the main types and problems of Western philosophy. Readings are chosen to illustrate the development of Western thought from the ancient Greeks to the present. Offered every semester. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the Western civilization knowledge exploration area.*

PHL 102 Introduction to Logic (4)

The relationship between conclusions and statements given in support of them. In addition to elementary deductive and inductive logic, topics may include analysis of ordinary arguments, argument by analogy and informal fallacies. Offered every semester. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the formal reasoning knowledge foundation area.*

PHL 103 Introduction to Ethics (4)

Major ethical analyses of right and wrong, good and evil, from the ancient Greeks to the present. Appeals to custom, theology, happiness, reason and human nature will be examined as offering viable criteria for judgments on contemporary issues of moral concern. Offered every semester. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the Western civilization knowledge exploration area.*

PHL 107 Introduction to Symbolic Logic (4)

Formal or symbolic logic is a study of what makes deductive arguments valid, employing symbols to represent sentences, words, phrases, etc. in order to reveal the formal structure of the arguments. Offered every year. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the formal reasoning knowledge foundation area.*

PHL 204 Ancient Greek Philosophy (4)

The development of philosophical thought in Greece, from its beginning around 600 B.C.E., to the Hellenistic period. Emphasis on Plato and Aristotle. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration: completion of the university general education requirement in the Western civilization knowledge exploration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PHL 101 or 103.

PHL 205 Medieval Philosophy (4)

The development of Christian philosophical thought in Europe, from the first to the 15th centuries. Emphasis on Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration: completion of the university general education requirement in the Western civilization knowledge exploration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PHL 101 or 103.

PHL 206 Early Modern Philosophy (4)

The development of philosophical thought in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. Emphasis on Descartes, Locke, Hume and Kant. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration: completion of the university general education requirement in the Western civilization knowledge exploration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PHL 101 or 103.

PHL 300 Topics in Philosophy (4)

One philosophical topic or problem at an intermediate level of difficulty. Topic to be announced in the Schedule of Classes for each semester. May be repeated for additional credit under different subtitle.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course.

PHL 305 Philosophy of Gender (4)

Philosophical issues relating to gender are explored. Different approaches toward dealing with sexism will be examined, as part of an ongoing analysis of what constitutes human nature, freedom, equality and the relationship between the individual and the state. Identical with WGS 307.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or in women and gender studies.

PHL 307 European Philosophy since Kant (4)

Among the major philosophers included are Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche and Sartre. Several types of Marxism and existentialism will be distinguished and their influence in this country will be discussed. Offered every two years.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course.

PHL 308 Twentieth Century British and American Philosophy (4)

The issues that have dominated Anglo-American philosophy in the 20th century. The course will trace the history that has led Americans and Britons to look at philosophy in a new way, appropriate to our scientific world-view.

Prerequisite: one course in logic (PHL 107 recommended) or PHL 206.

PHL 309 Philosophy of Sexuality (4)

Philosophical issues related to sex, including ethical issues and clarification of contested concepts such as homosexuality, consenting adults, and pornography.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course.

PHL 311 Philosophy of International Relations: Law, War and Peace (4)

Considers competing theories of global ethics, diplomacy, international law, just warfare, nationalism, military duty, disarmament, pacifism, non-violent resistance, civil strife and terrorism. Offered every two years.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or political science, PHL 103 recommended.

PHL 312 Aesthetics (4)

The nature of aesthetic experience and aesthetic judgment in the appreciation of nature and art. Major theories of the creation and structure of works of art, and the logic and semantics of aesthetic judgment. Offered every other year.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course, or a course in art, music or literature.

PHL 313 Social Good and Respect in Moral Theory (4)

Nature and relationship between means and ends in moral theory are considered. When, if ever, do the ends justify the means? Considers potential conflict between social good and the rights of individuals in this light. Examines attempts to reconcile these important aspects of moral theory.

Prerequisite: junior standing. PHL 103 strongly recommended.

PHL 314 Ethics, Language and Reality (4)

Considers competing theories about the nature, meaning and reality of moral terms. What do moral terms mean? Do they refer to properties? Alternatively, do moral terms refer to emotional states of a person who uses such terms? What is the role of identity or human nature in moral language?
Prerequisite: PHL 103 or 102 or 101 strongly recommended.

PHL 316 Ethics in Business (4)

Review of basic ethical theory, and application to typical moral problems in business practices and institutions.
Prerequisite: junior standing, PHL 103.

PHL 318 Ethics and the Health Sciences (4)

Central ethical issues in modern health care and research. Included are the distribution and allocation of health resources, the right to life and death, "informed consent" and eugenics. Offered every other year.
Prerequisite: junior standing, PHL 103.

PHL 319 Philosophy of Law (4)

The nature of law and legal obligation, with emphasis on the relation of law, coercion and morality. Attention is also given to such issues as the nature of legal reasoning, the justifiability of civil disobedience and the justification of punishment. Offered every other year.
Prerequisite: junior standing, PHL 103 or PS 241.

PHL 321 Political Philosophy (4)

The meanings of central concepts in political philosophy, such as justice, freedom and authority, are examined through readings in classical political philosophers and crucial problems. Offered every other year.
Prerequisite: one philosophy course or junior standing, PHL 103 strongly recommended.

PHL 325 Philosophy of Religion (4)

Examination of arguments for and against the existence of God, the nature of religious language, and relations between religion and philosophy. Offered every other year. Identical with REL 325.
Prerequisite: one philosophy course or junior standing.

PHL 329 Philosophy of Science (4)

Philosophical problems arising from critical reflection on the sciences. Typical topics: the structure of scientific explanation, the nature of scientific laws and theories, causality and confirmation. Offered every other year.
Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or one in natural science.

PHL 330 Topics in the Philosophy of Science (4)

Specialized topics such as philosophy of biology, philosophy of the social sciences, philosophy of technology, or the history and philosophy of science will be offered periodically. Topic to be announced in the *Schedule of Classes*.
Prerequisite: junior standing and one course in philosophy or consent of instructor.

PHL 331 Philosophy of Biology (4)

Philosophical examination of issues arising out of modern biology such as the nature of species, the mechanisms of natural selection, and the implications of evolutionary theory for topics such as philosophy of mind, epistemology, social and political theory, ethics and medicine.
Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or one course in biology; PHL 329 recommended.

PHL 333 Theories of Knowledge (4)

Critical examination of knowledge claims and of the types of justification given in their support. Typical topics: skepticism, empiricism, rationalism, believing and knowing, intuition and limits of knowledge. Offered every other year.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course; PHL 206 recommended.

PHL 335 Consciousness and Persons (4)

Exploration of central questions about the nature of consciousness and persons. What is consciousness? How does consciousness relate to the physical world? What are persons? How do persons relate to bodies? Do persons persist over time? Can persons survive biological death?

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or consent of instructor.

PHL 340 Metaphysics (4)

Study of selected influential attempts to characterize the basic features of the world. Emphasis on reformulations of metaphysical problems in the light of modern advances in scientific knowledge. Offered every other year.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course; PHL 204 recommended.

PHL 345 Theories of Truth (4)

Theories of the nature of truth. Does truth exist? Is truth entirely a matter of perspective? Is the truth of a belief resemblance to reality? Are all true beliefs useful? Is truth always a good quality?

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy (PHL 107 recommended) or consent of instructor.

PHL 350 Philosophies and Religions of Asia (4)

The major religions of India, China and Japan with emphasis on their philosophical significance. The course will cover Hinduism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, both the ancient traditions and some modern developments. Identical with REL 350.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course or junior standing.

PHL 352 Indian Philosophy (4)

The presuppositions and doctrines of India's major philosophic systems. Realistic, idealistic, pluralistic, dualistic and monistic systems will be considered, with some reference to contemporary developments.

Prerequisite: PHL 350 or IS 240.

PHL 370 Advanced Symbolic Logic (4)

Standard first-order symbolic logic, emphasizing quantification theory and including identity theory and logical semantics. The logical system is approached both as a formal system and as a theoretical analysis of human reasoning. Offered every other year.

Prerequisite: PHL 102 or PHL 107 or CSE 130 or MTH 012 or equivalent.

PHL 390 Directed Readings in Philosophy (2)

Tutorial on a topic not included in regular courses, primarily (but not exclusively) for majors. Students should consult with the department chairperson before approaching a faculty member with a topic. Graded S/U.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course at Oakland and written permission of instructor, junior standing.

PHL 395 Independent Study in Philosophy (4)

Tutorial on a topic not included in regular courses, primarily (but not exclusively) for majors. In addition to reading and consultation, the student will write a substantial term paper. Cannot be repeated or counted toward any major or minor requirement other than degree credit without prior written approval from department chairperson.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course at Oakland and written permission of department chair, form available in 341 ODH; junior standing.

PHL 401 Study of a Major Philosopher (4)

A study of the works of one major philosopher. The specific philosopher will vary, but courses on Plato, Aristotle and Kant will be offered every few years. May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite: one philosophy course; PHL 204, 205, 206, 307 or 308 recommended, whichever is relevant.

PHL 437 Philosophy of Mind (4)

Selected topics or works in the philosophical literature about mind. Some topics are: the nature of psychological explanation, the relation of mind and body, thinking, emotions, concepts, consciousness and remembering. Offered every other year.

Prerequisite: one philosophy or one psychology course; junior standing.

PHL 465 Seminar on a Philosophical Topic (4)

One philosophical topic or problem at an advanced level of difficulty, normally requiring considerable background in philosophy. Topic and prerequisites to be announced in the *Schedule of Classes* for each semester. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: 28 credits in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHL 475 Philosophy of Language (4)

Philosophical theories of natural language structure. Emphasis on views about what meaning is and how we are to explain our ability to communicate with one another. Offered every other year. Identical with LIN 475.

Prerequisite: junior standing, LIN 207 or one course in logic (PHL 107 strongly recommended).

PHL 497 Apprentice College Teaching (4)

Open to a well-qualified philosophy student who is invited by a faculty member to assist in a regular college course, usually as preparation for a career as a professor of philosophy.