PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

PHIL 1050 - Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course will focus primarily on the writings of Plato and Aristotle as central figures in that historical period when Western humanity began to use and to develop reason systematically as an instrument for understanding the world and its place in that world. Students will be introduced to the Greek contributions to logic, metaphysics, and ethics. 
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 1055 - Intro to Phil: Self & Reality
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course will focus primarily on the writings of Plato and Aristotle as central figures in that historical period when Western humanity began to use and to develop reason systematically as an instrument for understanding the world and its place in that world. Students will be introduced to the Greek contributions to logic, metaphysics, and ethics.
Attributes: Prof. Studies Students Only

PHIL 1930 - Special Topics
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 1980 - Independent Study
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 2050 - Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course undertakes a systematic analysis of fundamental problems and issues involved in questioning whether and how moral discourse can be rationally grounded; the utilitarian-deontological debate; questions concerning different levels of moral discourse; competing notions of justice and the relationship between morality and religion.
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 2055 - Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course undertakes a systematic analysis of fundamental problems and issues involved in questioning whether and how moral discourse can be rationally grounded; the utilitarian-deontological debate; questions concerning different levels of moral discourse; competing notions of justice and the relationship between morality and religion.
Attributes: Prof. Studies Students Only

PHIL 2930 - Special Topics
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 2980 - Independent Study
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 3250 - Philosophy of Religion
Credit(s): 3 Credits
What is God’s nature? What reasons are there for believing God exists? In this course, we approach these sorts of questions using tools and methods of philosophical investigation in order to engage students in reasoning about God. The course draws on classic texts of Western thought and on contemporary philosophical discussions.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050 and PHIL 2050
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Service Learning

PHIL 3300 - Philosophy of the Human Person
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Systematic or historico-systematic treatment of main philosophical problems, such as the mind-body problem; the unity of man; survival and immortality; sensation and intelligence; the emotions, their interplay with intelligence and volition; freedom vs. determinism; the person in and with or against society.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Service Learning

PHIL 3365 - Medical Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Ethical problems of medicine, nursing and the life-sciences. Every semester.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Medical Humanities, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Moral/Social Philosophy

PHIL 3410 - Computer Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course examines the moral, legal, and social issues raised by computers and electronic information technologies for different stakeholder groups (professionals, users, business, etc.). Students are expected to integrate moral theories and casuistic analysis to cases. (Offered every Fall.
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Moral/Social Philosophy

PHIL 3420 - Environmental and Ecological Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course will survey a number of environmental problems, looking at philosophical and ecological approaches to the issues. Topics may include: the moral status of animals, plants, ecosystems and species: poverty vs. the environment; global justice; consumerism; motivating people to care for the environment; mass extinctions; global climate change.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Global Citizenship (A&S), International Studies, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Moral/Social Philosophy
PHIL 3430 - Philosophy of Law
Credit(s): 3 Credits
A critical survey of the major Western conceptions on the nature of law and on the relationship between law and morality.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050
Attributes: Global Local Justice-Elective, Law, Religion and Politics, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 3450 - Disaster Narratives
Credit(s): 3 Credits
To help students reflect on the nature and implications of disasters, including disease, climate change, and war. We will consider disasters from the standpoint of their real-life effects upon human beings, both with respect to innocent victims caught by forces beyond their control and with respect to perpetrators of disasters.
Prerequisite(s): (ENGL 1900 or ENGL 1920); (PHIL 1050 or PHIL 2050)
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 3480 - Jewish Life: Bible to Middle Ages
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course offers a study of the concept of peoplehood during the Biblical period, the response to the rise of Christianity, the destruction of the Second Temple and the use of Rabbinic law and lore. Students will also have the opportunity to experience Jewish life through an understanding of the holiday cycle, the life cycle and attendance at a local synagogue for Sabbath worship. (Offered every Fall)
Attributes: Classical Humanities, Middle East Studies, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 3490 - Jewish Life: Middle Ages to Modern Times
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course offers a study of the Golden Age of Spain, Jewish Mysticism, the Enlightenment, 19th century Nationalism, Zionism, the Holocaust and the rise of Modern Israel. Students will examine how these historical phenomena shaped the modern Jewish concepts of Torah, God, Israel and ritual observance. Jewish philosophers from Maimonides to Martin Buber will be studied and students will have an opportunity to attend a local synagogue to experience Sabbath worship. (Offered every Spring)
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Global Citizenship (A&S), International Studies, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 3510 - Philosophy in Film
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course examines the intersection between standard academic treatments of philosophical themes and their representation in film and visual media. Such themes may include, but are not limited to: God and evil; memory and personal identity; the moral burden of history; the nature of reality; the scope and limits of human knowledge; race, ethnicity, gender, and human diversity; angst and anxiety; technology and the human condition; and meaning in life. This course will make use of film and visual media as well as written philosophical texts as a means of engaging students in the life of the mind.
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 3600 - Science and Religion
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course surveys the relationship between scientific and religious thought from the perspective of major developments in the history of science.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 3605 - Science and Religion
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course surveys the relationship between scientific and religious thought from the perspective of major developments in the history of science.
Prerequisite(s): (PHIL 1055 or PHIL 1105); PHIL 2055
Attributes: Prof. Studies Students Only

PHIL 3910 - Internship
Credit(s): 1-6 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 3930 - Special Topics
Credit(s): 3-4 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 3980 - Independent Study
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4040 - Symbolic Logic
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course develops a theory of valid reasoning. The logic (and semantics) of propositions, quantifiers, properties, relations and identity are covered. It also examines the concepts of consistency, logical truth, logical form, logical equivalence, validity, and related notions. The student should emerge more attuned to how deductive arguments work in actual use and able to evaluate them.
Prerequisite(s): (PHIL 1050 and PHIL 2050); ((0 Course from MATH 1200-4999 or Math Waiver per Advisor with a minimum score of 1200); (0 Course from MATH 1200-4999 or Math Waiver per Advisor with a minimum score of 1200))
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4090 - Topics in Advanced Logic
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
This course examines some non-classical systems of logic. Examples include one or many of the following: modal, intuitionistic, paraconsistent, free, fuzzy, and multi-valued logics and their metatheories. The course may cover probability theory, computability theory, or the philosophy of logic. Such topics in the philosophy of logic include possible worlds, necessity, existence, logical consequence, logicism, and theories of conditionals.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 4040

PHIL 4120 - Topics in Epistemology
Credit(s): 3 Credits
In this course we concentrate on an epistemological topic, such as skepticism, contextualism, virtue epistemology, or the value of knowledge.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Medieval (Major) - Philosophy, Medieval (Minor) - Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4130 - Topics in Philosophy of Science
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course explores some of the most prominent themes in recent philosophical studies of the sciences. Students should emerge with a deeper understanding of the meaning and status of scientific research and knowledge. Readings include discussions of particular endeavors from a range of scientific disciplines.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050, PHIL 2050
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4150 - Philosophy of Science Survey
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course surveys the relationship between scientific and religious thought from the perspective of major developments in the history of science.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050 or PHIL 1105; PHIL 2055
Attributes: Prof. Studies Students Only

PHIL 4910 - Internship
Credit(s): 1-6 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 4930 - Special Topics
Credit(s): 3-4 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4980 - Independent Study
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4990 - Honors Thesis
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
PHIL 4160 - Philosophy and Physics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
In this course we will survey the philosophical dimension of physics through its historical development, its methods, and the content of its theories. The course should be accessible to diligent students from both humanities and science backgrounds. The course's mathematical content is self-contained.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4190 - Gender and Science
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course examines science, both as a body of knowledge and as a human enterprise, from historical, social, scientific, and especially from philosophical perspectives. Investigation will center on the ways in which gender concepts and gender beliefs enter into the institutions, processes, and products of scientific activity. Students will strive to become well-informed about and critically reflective on the scientific enterprise as it incorporates but also transforms gender conceptions in the pursuit of knowledge.
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4210 - Topics in Metaphysics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Through an examination of one or more topics in contemporary metaphysics (including but not limited to: universals; individuation of concrete particulars; propositions, facts and events; necessity and possibility; persistence through time; realism versus anti-realism; vagueness; free will; personal identity; material constitution).
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Medieval (Major) - Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4260 - Philosophy of Mind
Credit(s): 3 Credits
In this course, we will survey a range of topics in the philosophy of mind, including: the mind-body problem; physicalism; dualism; mental causation; consciousness; mental representation.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4280 - Biology and Mind
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Courses in physiological psychology say little about higher-level cognitive capacities, whereas cognitive psychology courses often ignore their neural underpinnings. In contrast, Biology and Mind employs a framework that combines neurobiological and cognitive considerations. Employing this framework, we first examine visual perceptual and imaging capacities, after which we explore philosophical issues concerning the conscious, causal, and creative aspects of such cognition.
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4310 - Topics in Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
An in-depth examination of one or more topics in ethics. Topics might include: virtue ethics; metaethics; moral realism and anti-realism; well being; happiness; moral evil; moral responsibility; ethics and human nature; recent work in deontological ethics (and/or consequentialism); theories of practical reason; morality and the emotions; moral relativism; moral psychology; and God and morality.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Classical Humanities, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Moral/Social Philosophy

PHIL 4320 - Feminism and the History of Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
An examination of classic texts in moral philosophy and their authors’ writings on women, with feminist responses to each. A fundamental guiding question is to what extent do views about gender matter for moral theory.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050, PHIL 2050
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Moral/Social Philosophy, Diversity in the US (A&S), Women’s & Gender Studies

PHIL 4350 - Survey of Social and Political Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course will read and consider critically the works of selected major figures in the history of social-political philosophy.
Prerequisite(s): (PHIL 1050 and PHIL 2050)
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4360 - Topics in Social & Political Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course considers in depth selected issues in social-political theory, such as equality, democracy, rights, critical social theory, intersubjective understanding, collective action and solidarity, and social explanation.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Medieval (Major) - Philosophy, Medieval (Minor) - Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Urban Poverty - Social Justice

PHIL 4400 - History of Ancient Greek Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course engages classical philosophical problems through close study of one or more of the main figures or issues in ancient Greek thought.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050
Attributes: Classical Humanities, History of Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4500 - Medieval Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course introduces students to some of the central texts and thinkers of the medieval period (c. AD 400-1500). The aim of the course is to engage students in the scholarly work of reading and interpreting medieval philosophical texts and in the philosophical work of evaluating the arguments and positions such texts contain.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Medieval (Minor) - Philosophy, History of Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4570 - Latin Paleography
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Introduction to palaeographic investigation of ancient and mediaeval manuscripts inscribed in the Roman alphabet. History of book-hands from Mediterranean antiquity to the beginnings of the Renaissance in Europe, with some attention to Tironian Notes. An account will also be given of topics in codicology and of basic principles of textual criticism. Special attention to analytical and editorial techniques for reconstructing texts copies of which have survived in manuscripts that were inscribed at different times and in different locales.
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)
PHIL 4600 - History of Modern Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
A survey of developments in Western philosophy from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. The course examines Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, and Kant, and may cover other figures (e.g. Spinoza, Berkeley, Hobbes, or Hegel) at the instructor’s discretion.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: International Studies, History of Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4720 - Topics Continental Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course takes up major topics discussed within continental philosophy, such as: intentionality; phenomenological methodology; freedom; the life-world; consciousness; intersubjectivity; deconstruction; ethics; the body; death; being; temporality; and transcendental foundations.
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4740 - Philosophy of Karl Marx
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4750 - Latin American Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Survey of Latin American philosophy, with an emphasis on twentieth-century works. Themes include the origins of Latin American thought, the philosophical repercussions of political independence, positivism in Latin America, the question of Latin American identity, and the possibility of a distinctive Latin American philosophy.
Prerequisite(s): (PHIL 1050 and PHIL 2050)

PHIL 4760 - Spanish Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Systematic analysis of two 20th century Spanish philosophers: Ortega y Gasset and Unamuno. Major themes in Ortega: fundamental reality, perspectivism, vital and historical reason, the I and the world. Major themes in Unamuno: the tragic sense of life, the polarities: life vs. death, reason vs. will; and personal immortality. (Offered every Fall)
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050
Attributes: Cultural Diversity in the EU, International Studies, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4800 - Topics and Movements in Contemporary Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Specific theme and focus of course to be determined by instructor. Course offered at Departmental discretion.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4810 - Philosophy of Feminism
Credit(s): 3 Credits
A critical examination of the feminist challenge to traditional conceptions of law, morality and epistemology. The philosophical and methodological assumptions underlying the feminist challenge will be explored.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Global Local Justice-Elective, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Moral/Social Philosophy, Diversity in the US (A&S)

PHIL 4820 - Philosophy and Race
Credit(s): 3 Credits
A critical examination of the philosophical bases of multiculturalism; the biological and socio-cultural significance of race; varied philosophical approaches to racial identity; the epistemic and ethical dimensions of interracial interpretation and prejudice; and the questions posed about the philosophical tradition by its relationship to victims of racial prejudice.
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2050

PHIL 4840 - Catholic Social Thought
Credit(s): 3 Credits
This course focuses on understanding the meaning of social justice as it has developed in the Catholic intellectual tradition, especially as expressed in the social encyclicals of the last 100 years.
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Global Local Justice-Elective, Philosophy Requirement (A&S), Urban Poverty - Social Justice

PHIL 4850 - Topics in Philosophical Anthropology
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
This course is an intensive treatment of a topic or topics within the ongoing discussion about what it means to be a human person. For example: human nature and uniqueness; immortality; embodiment; love and friendship; freedom; and other topics related to the quest to understand what it means to be human.
Prerequisite(s): (PHIL 1050 and PHIL 2050)
Attributes: Catholic Studies-Philosophy, Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4880 - Senior Inquiry: Project
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4910 - Internship
Credit(s): 1-6 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 4930 - Special Topics
Credit(s): 3 or 4 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1050; PHIL 2050
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 4980 - Advanced Independent Study
Credit(s): 0-4 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Attributes: Philosophy Requirement (A&S)

PHIL 5100 - Feminist Epistemologies
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Topics such as the meaning of truth and knowledge, and the diversity of kinds and contexts of knowing.
Attributes: Women's & Gender Studies

PHIL 5200 - Problems in Metaphysics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Topics such as substance, identity, time, space, and being.

PHIL 5300 - Problems in Ethical Theories
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Questions such as how ethical claims are distinctive and whether and how they can be rationally based.

PHIL 5400 - Problems in Social & Political Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Topics such as the state, rights, sovereignty, democracy, freedom, property, and the meaning of justice.
PHIL 5500 - Seminar in Medieval Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable up to 9 credits)
This course introduces students to some of the central texts and thinkers of the medieval period (c.400-1500 AD).

PHIL 5800 - Systematic Synthesis
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Discussions of human nature, knowledge, ethics, and God culminate in individually formulated syntheses of students' views on the fundamental problems of philosophy.

PHIL 5930 - Special Topics in Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 5970 - Research Topics
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 5980 - Graduate Reading Course
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 5990 - Thesis Research
Credit(s): 0-6 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 6000 - Seminar in Major Philosopher in Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits
A philosopher who has made significant contributions to the field of ethics, e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant, Mill, Hare.

PHIL 6200 - Philosophy of Science
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Major figures and issues in the philosophy of science such as the nature of scientific theory, scientific objectivity, relativism in science.

PHIL 6220 - Advanced Logic
Credit(s): 3 Credits
An axiomatic survey of the first-order predicate calculus, and of first-order theories in general, terminating in proofs of Godel's theorems.

PHIL 6250 - Problems in Philosophy of Religion
Credit(s): 3 Credits
Explores problems such as the nature of God, proofs for God's existence, divine properties, etc.

PHIL 6260 - Seminar in Medieval Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
An advanced level seminar in which major figures and topics in the ancient period are examined.

PHIL 6400 - Ancient Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 6450 - Medieval Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable up to 12 credits)

PHIL 6500 - Modern Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Major philosophers and issues of the modern period.

PHIL 6550 - Contemporary Philosophy
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
Major philosophers and issues in contemporary philosophy.

PHIL 6600 - Seminar in Major Philosopher in Ethics
Credit(s): 3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 6700 - Prospectus
Credit(s): 3-6 Credits (Repeatable for credit)
A survey of the area of proposed dissertation research. Research questions are posed. Interest in the topic is focused. Culminates in a written prospectus and its oral defense before the potential dissertation committee.

PHIL 6930 - Special Topics
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 6970 - Graduate Research Topics
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 6980 - Graduate Reading Course
Credit(s): 1-3 Credits (Repeatable for credit)

PHIL 6990 - Dissertation Research
Credit(s): 0-9 Credits (Repeatable for credit)