

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- PHIL 300A Philosophy Now 4 CREDITS**
The course examines current trends in philosophy by reading and discussing contemporary articles and books. Students will help determine areas of focus.
- PHIL 300P Harry and Buffy At the Abyss 2 CREDITS**
Harry Potter(HP) and Buffy the Vampire Slayer (BtVS), acting in two different imagined worlds, are alike engaged in a battle against evil adversaries in order to save their respective worlds. This course is an extended comparison and contrast of HP and BtVS as agents of good and their opponents as agents of evil. Taking into account the importance of their friends in the battles against evil, we address the following questions, among others: why are friends and friendship an essential element of HP and BtVS battle against their evil opponents?; what sort of evil does each agent for the good confront and where does it come from?; Is evil or good in both storylines relative or absolute in nature?; and how close do HP and BtVS, and their friends, come to becoming what they so relentlessly oppose?
- PHIL SET1 Lower Division Elective 3 CREDITS**
- PHIL SET2 Upper Division Elective 3 CREDITS**
- PHIL 102 Critical Thinking 4 CREDITS**
Teaches the skills involved in clear thinking and intelligent reading applicable to all studies. Includes identification of fallacies in argumentation, a short treatment of deductive logic, and exercises in textual interpretation necessary for approaching the diverse genre of an educated person. An emphasis is placed on sound decision-making in life.
- PHIL 129 Race, Power, and Privilege 4 CREDITS**
No one lives as just an individual but rather all of us live within and interact with systems of identity, oppression, and privilege. Many people find solidarity, belonging, and pride in our relationships with categories such as race but these categories are also sites of oppression and privilege. In this course we will look at how systems of racism and privilege contribute to how we define ourselves, how we are defined by society, and how the world we know is defined. We will do this from a philosophical perspective. This means that while we will occasionally discuss concrete issues such as affirmative action and equal pay laws we will concentrate on theories of oppression, privilege, intersectionality, and resistance. This means that we will do a lot of abstract thinking in this course. While the topics that we will investigate in this class are different than what you would find in most philosophy courses we will be learning how to think philosophically about important issues that are part of who we are. We will read a wide variety of sources written by living philosophers of race, some sources from philosophers working in the early twentieth century, as well as quite a bit of work from theorists working in literature and sociology. Looking at sources from different time periods and disciplines will highlight how concepts related to race and power change significantly over time, as well as reflecting that "Philosophy of Race" as a subfield is always interdisciplinary. Assignments and discussions will encourage students to complicate the ways they view their own identity, question the simplified accounts of power that they encounter from the media, engage in social justice work, and reflect upon that work in meaningful ways. (WCORE: WCAFAH, DE)
- PHIL 131 Philosophy of Gender and Power 4 CREDITS**
The term "feminist" has almost as many meanings as it has both advocates and detractors. For some, the "feminism" means a radical shift in language, politics, and economics. For some, the term simply means equality. And still for others, the term means witchcraft, sexual deviancy, and the death of the American family. This semester, we will examine how contemporary theorists (many of whom call themselves "feminist") argue the world needs to change in order to make a more just environment for women. In the process, we will read about, write about, and discuss a wide range of issues including structures of power, sexuality and sexual violence, race, masculinity, and beauty norms. The goal for this class is not to decide on one solitary definition of "feminism" but instead to force ourselves to think more critically about how gender structures the world around us and how we can change our future. (WCORE: WCAFAH, DE)
- PHIL 134 Philosophy, Identity, and the Self 4 CREDITS**
When we begin to look at the world philosophically, we begin to question the basic assumptions in our lives that we used to ignore. This forces us to start to live in our world with shakier scaffolding than before. However, while this can be uncomfortable and often downright annoying, it also allows us to reflect on what we truly find valuable and encourages to build more meaningful relationships with ourselves, our loved ones, and our world. Throughout this course, we will read philosophical reflections on five core questions in philosophy. Moreover, we will write about and discuss how these questions enter into our own lives and how the ideas of fellow philosophers shake or stabilize our own scaffolding. (WCORE: WCAFAH, WE)
- PHIL 201 History of Philosophy I 4 CREDITS**
A treatment of ancient and medieval philosophy.
- PHIL 202 History of Philosophy II 4 CREDITS**
A treatment of modern and contemporary philosophy.
- PHIL 208 Philosophy of Love and Sex 4 CREDITS**
Love and sexuality are two of the most crucial and complex aspects of our identities. Moreover, these concepts are often intertwined and sometimes pitted against one another. In this class, we will examine different approaches to this topic from a wide selection of philosophical traditions. Furthermore, we will supplement traditional philosophical readings with analyses of artifacts from popular culture, such as music, movies, and television. All of this will prepare us to ask and respond to various questions, such as "what is love, what is sex, and how are they related?" "In what ways does who and how we love make us who we are?" "How is sexuality a personally and politically important construct?" and "How can love change the world?" (WCORE: WCAFAH, WE)
- PHIL 209 Poverty and Global Justice 3 CREDITS**
Poverty is examined in this course as an ethical issue of the most pressing sort. Reviewing various ethical theories and conducting a survey of some of the most commonly used definitions of poverty, we focus on this question: what justifies, ethically, politically and economically, if at all, allowing so many human beings to remain mired in extreme conditions of deprivation (i.e. poverty that kills)? Arguably, we could act in such a way as to change such conditions to the benefit of the humans who are otherwise the victims of these unchanged, impoverished conditions. (WCORE: WCAFAH)
- PHIL 216 Ethical Issues in Health and Healthcare 4 CREDITS**
The basic or human right to life enjoys widespread endorsement, though just what sort of life is considered a basic right may vary from one society to another. While exploring some of these varieties of the conception of "life" which all human beings putatively have a right to (and thus someone or other has a duty to support such a claim), we will focus in this course on the role which health and adequate health care play, anywhere, as necessities, for human beings who are trying to enjoy the substance of such a basic right to life. Other necessities for a substantive life as a matter of right will be discussed as well. (WCORE: WCAFAH)
- PHIL 221 Ethics of Diversity 4 CREDITS**
In the context of philosophy, ethics is the study of moral decisions and moral actions. To put it more simply, the aim of this course is to ask the question "What ought I do?" Throughout this term, we will ask this question again and again, sometimes in the context of concrete decisions and sometimes in the context of more abstract theories of right and wrong. In the process, we will read the work of authors who are trying to answer the same questions, investigate their works thoroughly, and analyze their ideas and our own through writing and class discussion. (WCORE: WCAFAH, DE)
- PHIL 302 Philosophers in Focus 4 CREDITS**
A concentrated study of one or two related philosophers and the major themes of their important works.
- PHIL 303 Formal Logic 4 CREDITS**
Introduction to modern sentential and predicate logic. The nature of deductive and inductive argument, truth, validity and soundness, and the relationship between formal expression and natural language, with an emphasis on the application of formal logic to the analysis of arguments in ordinary language.
- PHIL 307 Environmental Ethics 4 CREDITS**
An examination of moral issues resulting from human use of the natural environment. Focuses on future responsibility as it results from action in the present, an examination of traditional secular and religious conceptions of morality which may have contributed to the "environmental crisis,"

and a consideration of alternative views such as zoocentrism, biocentrism, ecocentrism, ecofeminism, the "land ethic," and ecojustice.

PHIL 311 God, Evil, and Us 4 CREDITS

Philosophical issues in religion, including the nature of God, religious belief, the problem of evil, the prospect of immortality, and religious experience and its interpretation. Particular attention paid to the relationship between science on the one hand and monotheistic religions and theologies on the other.

PHIL 312 Applied Ethics 4 CREDITS

Analysis of specific contemporary issues via amoral lens. In some cases the course will focus on a specific field such as medicine, business, or sexual ethics; in other cases the course will focus on a range of fields or issues. Depending on the focus, this course may be taken more than once for credit.

PHIL 330 Feminist Issues in Philosophy 4 CREDITS

Examines feminist theory, feminist criticism or feminist approaches to philosophical inquiry.

PHIL 365 Economic Justice 4 CREDITS

The importance of economic justice stems from the scarcity of resources: how should society allocate resources to achieve the social good? Invariably, questions of justice involve tradeoffs between fairness and efficiency. Such questions are inextricably related to religion, class, gender, poverty, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and so on. The course examines the concept of justice from the points of view of pre-market economies, classical liberalism, neo-classical economics, heterodox economics, Kenneth Arrow, John Rawls, Amartya Sen, among others. Same as JUST/PHIL 365.

PHIL 370 Philosophy and the Arts 4 CREDITS

Explores the interplay between Philosophy and various forms of art. Thematic variations include: Philosophy and Literature; Philosophy and Film; Philosophy and the Visual Arts; and Philosophy and Music.

PHIL 390 Thesis Research Preseminar in Philosophy 4 CREDITS

A required seminar for senior philosophy majors, focusing on research, analysis, and writing techniques aimed at a particular topic or question in philosophy, in preparation for the production of a senior thesis in PHIL 490. Majors and minors should take this class during the fall semester of their senior year. (WCore: SC)

PHIL 401 Directed Studies 1 to 4 CREDITS

A tutorial-based course used only for student-initiated proposals for intensive individual study of topics not otherwise offered in the Philosophy Program. Requires consent of instructor and school dean. This course is repeatable for credit.

PHIL 440 Internship 1 to 8 CREDITS

Offers students the opportunity to integrate class room knowledge with practical experience. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing (for transfer students, at least 15 hours completed at Westminster or permission of instructor), minimum 2.5 GPA, completion of the Career Resource Center Internship Workshop, and consent of program director and Career Center Internship Coordinator. This course is repeatable for credit. REGISTRATION NOTE: Registration for internships is initiated through the Career Center website and is finalized upon completion of required paperwork and approvals. More info: 801-832-2590 https://westminstercollege.edu/internships

PHIL 490 Research Seminar in Philosophy 4 CREDITS

A required seminar for Philosophy majors, continuing the work begun in PHIL 390. Students produce a substantial piece of original scholarship in Philosophy. Philosophy majors should take this class during the spring semester of their senior year. (WCore: SC)