

## Philosophy

PROFESSORS **Meyers** (Interim Chair), **Fuchs** (Emeritus), **Goldman** (Kenan Professor on leave 2008-2009), **G. Harris** (On leave Fall 2008), and **J. Harris** (Haserot Professor) **Lemos** (Legum Professor), and **Radcliffe** (on leave 2008-2009). ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS, **Costelloe** (On leave 2008-2009), **Davies** (On leave Fall 2008), and **Ekstrom**. ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: **Haug**. VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS **Cole**, **Fiedor**, **Honeycutt**, and **Vaida**.

The department, through a varied and extensive program of courses, presents students with past and present attempts to think critically and reflectively about fundamental questions of knowledge and value in order that they will be led to examine their own views. The study of philosophical problems in the spirit of free inquiry requires the student to develop and exercise the powers of precise discrimination, creative imagination, logical organization and evaluative judgment.

Several sections of the introductory course are offered. All use a topical approach to the problems of philosophy. A large number of middle-level courses are offered to meet the needs of students who wish to take courses that might be particularly relevant to their own field or major. Many philosophy courses are particularly suited to the needs of students with interdisciplinary majors. The department also offers specialized and intensive courses of a historical, methodological and systematic character for those students who wish to major in philosophy. A major may serve as a preparation for graduate study, or, as is more usually the case, as a sound foundation for a liberal education. Many majors go into professions such as law, where training in philosophical analysis is particularly advantageous.

### Requirements for Major

**Required Credit Hours:** 30 (Those who wish to prepare for graduate study in philosophy or in a related discipline will normally take more than this required minimum.)

**Major Computing Requirement:** Two 400-level seminar courses with a grade of C- or better, and each student must produce at least one paper for each of these courses by word processor and certify that the paper was produced by the student in that manner.

**Major Writing Requirement:** Successful completion of two 400 level courses

**Core Requirements:** A program for each major will be developed through consultation with a member of the philosophy faculty acting as a major advisor. Each program major must fulfill the following requirements:

1. at least two courses in the history of philosophy, one selected from 231 (Greek), or 232 (Medieval), and another selected from either 252 (17th and 18th Century) or 253 (Kant and his Successors);
2. at least one course in contemporary philosophy, selected from 313 (Science), 321 (Existentialism), 322 (American), 335 (Philosophy of Language), 345 (Philosophy of Mind), or 350 (Theory of Knowledge);
3. a logic course, either 210 (Introduction to Critical Thinking) or 301 (Symbolic Logic). 301 (Symbolic Logic) is especially recommended for those students who contemplate graduate study in philosophy;
4. at least two 400-level seminars (exclusive of 441, 442, 495 and 496);
5. successful completion of the departmental writing requirement, which consists of a grade of C- or better in two 400-level courses.

Majors are strongly encouraged to complete requirements 1, 2 and 3 before the end of the junior year.

### Requirements for Minor

**Required Credit Hours: 21**

#### Core requirements:

1. at least one course in the history of philosophy selected from among Philosophy 231, 232, 252 and 253;
2. at least one course in contemporary philosophy selected from among Philosophy 313, 321, 322, 335, 345, and 350, ;
3. at least one course at the 400 level;
4. Declaration of intention to minor filed with either the chair or secretary of the department.

### Description of Courses

#### 150W. Freshman Seminar in Philosophy.

(GER 7) Fall and Spring (4,4) J. Harris, Cole, Staff.

An introduction to the problems, methods and scope of philosophical inquiry through readings from historical and contemporary sources. This is a writing intensive course; a grade of C- or better satisfies the College Writing Proficiency Requirement.

#### 201. Introduction to Philosophy.

(GER 7) Fall and Spring (3,3) Cole, Fiedor, Haug, Vaida, Staff

An introduction to the problems, methods and scope of philosophical inquiry through readings from historical and contemporary sources. Typically, the readings include at least one dialogue of Plato, the Meditations of Descartes, and usually selections from other philosophers.

**NOTE:** Seniors may take this course only with the permission of the instructor. Students may not receive credit for both 150W and 201.

#### 210. Introduction to Critical Thinking.

(GER 7) Fall and Spring (3,3) Fiedor, Staff.

A survey of formal and informal logical techniques with emphasis on their practical applications and historical significance. Among the techniques studied are syllogistic logic, informal fallacies and induction.

#### 215. Contemporary Moral Issues.

(GER 7) Fall and Spring (3,3) Staff.

A course focused on particular moral issues facing contemporary society and the ethical arguments provoked by them. Topics discussed in the course may include, among others, abortion, euthanasia, hate speech, capital punishment, surrogacy, genetic engineering, war and nuclear arms.

#### 231. Greek Philosophy.

(GER 4A) Fall (3,3) Lemos. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor.

A critical examination of representative Greek philosophers with special emphasis on Plato and Aristotle. (Cross listed with CLCV 331)

#### 232. Medieval Philosophy.

(GER 4A) Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor.

Analysis of selected writings of major medieval philosophers such as Augustine, Erigena, Anselm, Maimonides, Aquinas, Duns Scotus and Occam.

#### 252. 17th- and 18th-Century Philosophy.

(GER 4A) Fall (3) Honeycutt. Prerequisites: PHIL 150W or PHIL 201 or consent of instructor.

An examination of rationalism (e.g., Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz), empiricism (e.g., Hume, Locke, Berkeley) and their culmination in Kant.

**253. Kant and his Successors.**

(GER 4A) Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: PHIL 150W or PHIL 201 or consent of instructor.

An examination of Kant and some of the 19th-century philosophical responses to his philosophy (e.g., Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche).

**263. Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy.**

Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: Introductory course or consent of instructor.

This course examines major figures and themes in the tradition of twentieth century continental philosophy. Figures covered include Heidegger, Sartre, Foucault, Barthes, Derrida, Deleuze, and Lyotard.

**275W. University Seminar.**

Fall and Spring (4) Staff.

A reading-, writing-, and discussion-intensive seminar. Topics vary by semester and by instructor. Restricted to transfer students and co-enrolled students. Students receiving a grade of "C-" or better in the seminar will have satisfied the lower-division writing requirement. This course does not fulfill the Freshman Seminar requirement.

**301. Symbolic Logic.**

Fall (3) Cole, Staff.

An introduction to the principles of valid reasoning. Special emphasis will be given to modern symbolic techniques and some of their applications.

**303. Ethics.**

(GER 7) Fall and Spring (3,3) Fuchs, Lemos, Staff.

An introduction to the problems of ethics and the nature of ethical reasoning. Included are historically important topics such as hedonism, egoism, utilitarianism and relativism, as well as contemporary moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia and civil disobedience.

**304. Aesthetics.**

(GER 7) Fall (3) Staff. Prerequisites: One course in philosophy, extensive experience in/of arts or consent of instructor. (Not offered 2008-2009)

A philosophical examination of aesthetic perception and criteria of value. Special attention will be given to the elements of art and the function of form, symbol, expression and truth in art.

**305. Social and Political Philosophy.**

(GER 7) Spring (3) Staff.

A philosophical examination of major theories dealing with social and political issues such as governmental authority, individual rights, distributive justice, democracy and the importance of community.

**306. Philosophical Problems.**

Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: Variable by topic. (Not offered 2008-2009)

A study of some major philosophical problems such as those concerning knowledge and reality, morality and conduct, and art and beauty. Special attention will be devoted to philosophical method. This course may be repeated for credit. (See cross listed courses in, e.g., Music, Modern Languages, and Literature.)

**310. Philosophy of Law.**

(GER 7) Spring (3) Staff.

A critical examination of the concepts and arguments used in legal reasoning. Questions to be examined include: the nature of law, the grounds for obedience to law, the relationship of law to morality, and the grounds for legal punishment.

**311. Philosophy of Religion.**

Fall or Spring (3) Ekstrom. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor.

A philosophical investigation of the nature of religious experience, activity and belief. The course will also include an examination of such topics as those of God, freedom, immortality, arguments for existence of God and the problem of evil.

**313. Philosophy of Science.**

Fall or Spring (3) Vaida. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor.

A philosophical examination of the nature, validity and significance of scientific inquiry. Special attention will be given to the descriptive, explanatory and predictive aspects of scientific theories.

**320. Philosophy and Feminism.**

(GER 7) Spring (3,3) Staff. (Not offered 2008-2009)

This course examines two ways philosophy and feminism intersect: philosophical arguments are used to support particular feminist theories and to criticize competing theories; and feminist theory is used to criticize traditional philosophical theories of ethics, knowledge, and science.

**321. Existentialism.**

(GER 7) Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor.

An examination of important aspects of existentialism with readings in such philosophers as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre. Some attention will also be given to the impact of these philosophical movements upon contemporary literature, religious thought and psychology.

**322. American Philosophy.**

(GER 4A) (3) Prerequisites: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor. (Not offered 2008-2009)

A study of readings selected from the works of 20th-century American philosophers such as Peirce, James, Dewey, Santayana and Whitehead.

**335. Philosophy of Language.**

Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: PHIL 301 or consent of instructor. (Not offered 2008-2009)

A survey of recent philosophical questions about language and meaning. Topics such as the following will be considered: reference, analyticity, speech acts, and semantic and syntactic theories. Focus will be on such figures as Russell, Austin, Quine, and Wittgenstein.

**345. Philosophy of Mind.**

Fall or Spring (3) Haug. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor.

Critical analysis of contemporary theories concerning the nature of consciousness, the concept of the person and personal identity, and some theories of the relation of the mind to the body.

**350. Theory of Knowledge.**

Fall (3) Staff. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W or consent of instructor.

An examination of contemporary philosophical theories about such topics as the nature of knowledge, criteria for truth, perception, meaning, knowledge, validation of belief and skepticism.

**403. Advanced Ethics and Social Philosophy.**

Fall (3) Ekstrom. Prerequisites: PHIL 303 and three other courses in philosophy or consent of instructor.

A study of selected normative and theoretical problems in moral philosophy, such as the justification of ultimate moral principles, theories of social justice, or freedom and moral responsibility.

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### 415. Advanced Metaphysics and Epistemology.

*Fall and Spring (3). Ekstrom, Haug, Lemos, Staff. Prerequisites: PHIL 201 or PHIL 150W and three other courses in philosophy or consent of the instructor.*

An advanced study of selected topics on the nature of reality and our knowledge of it. Students are expected to write research papers, present material, and discuss course topics in seminar fashion.

### 422. Great Philosophers.

*Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: Variable by topic.*

A systematic study of the thought of a great philosopher such as Descartes, Spinoza, Hume or Wittgenstein. The particular philosopher to be studied is designated each time the course is offered. This course may be repeated for credit.

### 431. Advanced Seminar in Philosophy.

*Fall (3) Staff. Prerequisites: Variable by topic.*

Special advanced topics of interest to faculty and students will be discussed in seminar fashion. Students in the course are expected to write and present papers for discussion. This course may be repeated for credit.

### 432. Advanced Seminar in Philosophy.

*Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisites: Variable by topic.*

Special advanced topics of interest to faculty and students will be discussed in seminar fashion. Students in the course are expected to write and present papers for discussion. This course may be repeated for credit.

### †441. Independent Study in Philosophy.

*Fall (3) Meyers. Prerequisites: Senior standing or eight courses in philosophy and departmental approval prior to registration.*

Individually supervised study of special topics. This course may be repeated for credit. (Detailed description of requirements available from department office.)

### †442. Independent Study in Philosophy.

*Spring (3) Meyers. Prerequisites: Senior standing or eight courses in philosophy or departmental approval prior to registration.*

Individually supervised study of special topics. This course may be repeated for credit. (Detailed description of requirements available from department office.)

### 460. Advanced Logic.

*Spring (3) Staff. Prerequisite: PHIL 301 or consent of instructor. (Not offered 2008-2009)*

Systematic investigation of topics in logic drawn from such areas as system construction, proof theory, modal and deontic logic, and abstract set theory

### †495-496. Honors.

*Fall, Spring (3,3) Meyers. Prerequisite: Departmental approval prior to registration.*

See section on Major Honors program for general requirements and procedures. Students wishing to do Honors work in philosophy should submit a written request to the chair by February 15 of their junior year. Students should see the department chair for a detailed statement of the requirements of the Honors program and the specification of the information that is to be included in the written request for Honors study.