Department of Philosophy

Ron Bombardi, Chair
James Union Building 302

Hinz, Johnson, Magada-Ward, Principe, Purcell

The Department of Philosophy offers courses intended to acquaint students with philosophical methods, systems, and problems, as well as supply a philosophical background for graduate study in philosophy or related areas. Courses in religious studies are intended to acquaint students with the history and the beliefs of the major religions of the world. Programs in the department lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Philosophy. Minors are offered in Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Curricular listings include General Education requirements in Communication, History, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social/Behavioral Sciences categories as outlined on pages 64–67.

Major in Philosophy

The major in Philosophy consists of 30 semester hours of philosophy courses including PHIL 2110, 4010, and 4020.

All students pursuing a major within this department must complete the General Education requirements. Following is a suggested pattern of study for the first two years; however, consultation with the assigned advisor is necessary before each registration.

Recommended Curriculum

FRESHMAN		**SOPHOMORE**	
ENGL 1010, 1020 (Comm)	6	ENGL 2020 or 2030 or HUM 2610 (Hum/FA)	3
Natural Sciences (2 prefixes)	8	HIST 2010, 2020, or 2030	6
PHIL 1030 (Hum/FA)	3	Social/Behavioral Sciences (2 prefixes)	6
Major/minor electives as advised	10	PHIL 2110, 3150	6
COMM 2200 (Comm)	3	Major/minor electives as advised	9
	30		**30**

Minor in Philosophy

A minor in Philosophy consists of 18 semester hours of philosophy courses.

Minor in Religious Studies

A minor in Religious Studies consists of 18 semester hours of courses in religious studies. PHIL 3200, 3300, and ANTH 4750 may be counted in the 18 hours.

Courses in Philosophy [PHIL]

1030 Introduction to Philosophy. Three credits. Basic philosophical problems suggested by everyday experience integrated into a coherent philosophy of life through comparison with solutions offered by prominent philosophers.

2110 Elementary Logic and Critical Thinking. Three credits. Principles of deductive and inductive reasoning, problem solving, and the analysis of arguments in everyday language.

3150 Ethics. Three credits. Major ethical theories, the moral nature of human beings, the meaning of good and right.

3200 Asian Thought. Three credits. The origins, development, essence, and implications of leading philosophical-religious traditions originating in Asia.

3300 Philosophy of Religion. Three credits. Problems of religious experience, religious knowledge, the existence and nature of God, evil, and immortality.

3400 Symbolic Logic. Three credits. (Same as MATH 3400.)

3500 Philosophy and the African American Experience. Three credits. Examines sociopolitical and existential concerns of African Americans, especially in respect to issues of justice, equality, and the very meaning of life in a world of anti-black racism, against the backdrop of "enlightenment" philosophical discourse on race and personhood.

3600 Philosophy and Film. Three credits. Examination of the cinematic expression of philosophical issues and development of philosophical issues in cinema.

3690 Social Philosophy. Three credits. The main problems of social philosophy are surveyed: the distinctive nature of social reality and the nature of social knowledge and how they relate to value theory.

4010 History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. Three credits. Prerequisite: PHIL 1030 or permission of instructor. The development of philosophical thought from Thales to Occam.

4020 History of Modern Philosophy. Three credits. The development of philosophical thought from Hobbes to Hegel.

4050 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy. Three credits. Emphasis on movements such as German idealism, the rise of the philosophy of the social sciences, historical materialism, utilitarianism, and early critiques of modernism.

4100 Aesthetics. Three credits. The nature of art, aesthetic experience, and artistic creation.

4150 Formal Logic. Three credits. The nature and methods of formal deductive logic, truth functional logic, quantification theory, identity relations, propositional calculus.

4200 Existentialism. Three credits. The nature, significance, and application of the teachings of several outstanding existential thinkers.

4240 Recent Continental Philosophy. Three credits. The critical examination of various movements and key figures in recent European philosophy.

4300 American Philosophy. Three credits. Development of American thought with emphasis on naturalism, idealism, and pragmatism.

4350 Philosophy of Language. Three credits. Prerequisite: PHIL 2110 recommended. Introduces students to the most influential analyses of meaning, reference, and truth of early twentieth-century Anglo-American philosophy; explores how the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein transforms canonical accounts of language; considers the role of metaphor in human communication and understanding.

4400 Analytic Philosophy. Three credits. Logical empiricism, recent realism, and ordinary-language philosophy, as well as the nineteenth-century backgrounds of these movements.

4450 Marx and Marxism. Three credits. An examination of the development of Marxist philosophy up to and including the present.

4500 Philosophy of Science. Three credits. The methods, problems, and presuppositions of scientific inquiry.

4550 Philosophy of Mind. Three credits. Classical philosophy of mind (emphases: the mind-body problem, theories of consciousness) and contemporary applications of philosophy to psychology (emphases: logic and cognition, emotion and reason, artificial intelligence).

4600 Philosophy of History. Three credits. Nature of historical knowledge and problems of historical inquiry; meaning and value of history; reality of the past; historical determinism and human freedom.

4800 Readings in Philosophy. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Directed study concerning a particular philosophical problem or thinker.

Courses in Religious Studies [RS]

3010 The Bible: Its Origin and Content. Three credits. How the Bible came into being, including the origin of manuscripts, principles of textual criticism, inspiration, inerrancy, history, and translations. An introduction to the individual books of the Bible.

3020 Comparative Religion. Three credits. The meaning of religion in life, both ancient and modern. The impact of intellectual and emotional commitment upon conduct is emphasized through a study of world religions.

3040 The History of Christianity. Three credits. Main developments in the doctrinal affirmations of the Christian church and their Biblical background.

4020 Jesus of Nazareth. Three credits. The life of Jesus presented against the historical, religious, geographical, and archaeological background of the world of the first century A.D. and in light of recent discussions, movements, and books.

4050 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Three credits. Historical development of the idea of one God through Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; their relation to other religions of the world.

4800 Readings in Religious Studies. Three credits. Directed study concerning a particular problem or thinker within religious studies.

Honors College

PHIL 1030 is offered periodically.