

Philosophy Courses – Fall 2026

PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy

3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the study and the practice of philosophy. Through the analysis of historical and contemporary texts, class discussions and lectures students gain an understanding of philosophy both as a discipline and as a way of asking – and attempting to answer – fundamental questions about ourselves and the world. The emphasis is both on learning about philosophy and on doing philosophy.

Open to first- and second-year students or by permission of instructor.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirements.

PH 101-001 T/TH 12:40 – 2:00

TBD

PH 101-002 W/F 3:40 – 5:00

TBD

PH 101-003 M/W 2:30 – 3:50

R. Lilly

PH 110W Political Philosophy: An Introduction

4 Cr.

Which Regime Is Right? Recently, political rhetoric uses the words that describe the basic forms of regimes as pejoratives, as taboos, or as accusations. New forms of nationalism are described as "fascist." Anyone challenging these movements are labeled "socialist" or "communist." "Liberal" has become an epithet to both the right and to the left. Have these terms lost their meaning? In the course of providing an introduction to philosophy, that is, by learning how to ask and answer philosophical questions on these topics, we will seek to recover these meanings. We will also try to discover which regime is the right regime for us, today. Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Expository Writing requirements

M/W 10:10–12:00

W. Lewis

PH 203 Ancient Greek Philosophy

4 Cr.

This course offers an introduction to ancient Greek philosophy through the study of its major thinkers, especially Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. We will examine their sustained dialogues about fundamental questions: What does it mean to live a good life? How can we prepare ourselves to live well? What kind of community best supports human flourishing? These inquiries will lead us to consider further questions about truth, self-knowledge, love, and friendship.

Our focus will be on both the power and the limits of these texts. Ancient Greek philosophers developed ideas that remain deeply influential, yet they wrote from particular social positions that shaped what they saw – and what they overlooked. By situating their work in context, we will explore how their insights might speak to concerns that are still pressing today, while also asking whose perspectives remain absent and what those missing voices might add to the conversation.

Class discussions will draw on the spirit of Athenian public life – deliberation, discussion, and community friendship – inviting you to enter into dialogue with these thinkers and with your peers about what it means to live well.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement. Counts toward Classics.

T/TH 9:10–11:00

S. Carli

PH 207 Introduction to Logic**4 Cr.**

An introduction to the basic concepts and methods of modern symbolic logic, with a focus on their application to proper reasoning. Students learn how to represent sentences in logical notation, to reconstruct arguments in that notation, to assess arguments for validity and soundness, and to prove conclusions from premises using a system of natural deduction. Students also learn to recognize common argument forms and common mistakes in reasoning (fallacies), are introduced to philosophical issues related to logic, and learn how symbolic logic is the basis for the digital computer.

Fulfills philosophy major requirement; satisfies prerequisite for CS 106; counts toward Computer Science and Biology (courses outside of the major).

M/W 2:30–4:20

P. Murray

PH 226 AI, Vulnerability, and Rights**4 Cr.**

An examination of artificial intelligence (AI) in relation to human rights. Students learn how modern AI systems work, how they reflect existing structures of power, and also how those structures of power are often reshaped through the use of AI into increasingly dehumanizing forms. Our particular focus will be on how already vulnerable and marginalized populations are at risk of being further disadvantaged by the insufficiently critical adoption of these technologies. Students will also learn about the successes and failures of ongoing regulatory and legislative efforts to ameliorate violations of these populations' human rights, particularly in the United States but also in the European Union.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Bridge Experience requirements.

T/TH 9:10 – 11:00

P. Murray

PH 230 Understanding Human Behavior**3 Cr.**

Aristotle claimed that the way humans behave is too variable to establish a science of it, like one can with astronomy. In the early 19th Century, however, an astronomer used statistics to predict the numbers of suicides and murders that would occur in Paris the next year. Since then, the human sciences or those knowledges that attempt to understand, explain, and predict human behavior have grown enormously in influence, number, and scope. This class will look at various attempts to understand human behavior scientifically as well as critics of this sort of knowledge.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

T/TH 12:40 – 2:00

W. Lewis

PH 230 Madness and Philosophy**3 Cr.**

Is it a mark of the most exalted spiritual and intellectual life, or a definitive sign of the collapse that places a person on the margins of human existence? This course considers madness with regard to its history, its representations in the arts and literature, and its contemporary treatment in philosophy, psychology and film.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

T/TH 11:10 – 12:30

R. Lilly

PH 316 AI: Metaphysics of Mind and Ethical Issues

4 Cr.

An examination of the conceptual foundations of artificial intelligence (AI) and the moral dimensions of our increasing reliance on it. Issues we address in this course include: What is intelligence, and what makes an AI "artificially" intelligent? What is the relation between intelligence and the other aspects of psychology, e.g., sensations, emotions, moods, beliefs, desires, etc.? Could an AI system come to have rights and duties, or will AIs always just be tools? If AI systems cannot be morally or legally responsible for what they do, who should be? What ethical principles should we program into AI systems to avoid the perpetuation of historical injustices and structural inequities in our society? Is ethical decision-making programmable at all?

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement

Prerequisites: One course in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

T/TH 3:40-5:30

P. Murray

PH 327 Nietzsche

4 Cr.

Nietzsche, one of the most controversial philosophers in Western history, is also one of the most influential thinkers, not only for philosophy, but for all of the humanities, the arts, the social sciences and even the natural sciences. This course will closely examine his most important and influential texts as well as other materials that will convey Nietzsche's influence on Western civilization.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement and the 300-level history of philosophy for the major.

Prerequisites: One course in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

W/F 10:10 - 12:00

R. Lilly

PH 330 Ideology

4 Cr.

One answer to the question posed by La Boetie in 1558 of "how it happens that so many men, so many towns, so many cities, so many nations at times tolerate a single tyrant who has no other power than what they grant him?" is "ideology." This is the claim that illusions or false consciousness about their real conditions of existence keep those who would otherwise be free enslaved and dominated. This seminar will look at the history of this idea in de Tracy, Marx, Lafont and Althusser as well as at current debates about ideology's existence and efficacy.

Fulfills Humanistic Inquiry requirement.

Prerequisites: One course in Philosophy or permission of the instructor

M/W 12:20 - 1:40

W. Lewis