PHI 2010. Introduction to Philosophy (3). An introduction to some of the central problems in philosophy. Students will also learn how to construct and criticize arguments and develop their own philosophical positions.

PHI 2100. Reasoning and Critical Thinking (3). An introductory logic course intended to provide students with an understanding of and practice in using reasoning to support conclusions and decisions. The course emphasizes acquisition of the skills necessary to draft clear, persuasive arguments and is particularly useful for those planning to further studies in fields such as law or business.

PHI 2620. Environmental Ethics (3). An examination of environmental issues past and present, and how they have made an impact upon contemporary society. Also analyzes the historical development of environmental perspectives and the ethical theories that have been generated by these approaches.

PHI 2630. Ethical Issues and Life Choice (3). A course that will draw on ethical theories to explore the major ethical issues that one faces as one makes decisions about the kinds of activities to engage in and the kind of life to lead. Issues such as those involving life and death (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, animal rights) and social justice (e.g., discrimination, responsibility to future generations) will be examined.

PHI 2635. Biomedical Ethics (3). This course is an examination of the philosophical foundations of bioethical theory and an exploration of the trenchant issues in contemporary bioethics with a concentration on discussions of race, gender, and vulnerable populations (e.g. the poor, immigrants). We will employ tools of ethical theory, philosophical analysis, and analytic writing to examine a number of moral issues arising in health care including justice in health care, experimentation and research on human subjects, reproductive technology, aging, organ donation, and euthanasia. Throughout the course we will examine assumptions about rights, persons, and ethical principles at work in medical decisions.

PHI 3130. Introduction to Symbolic Logic (3). An examination of the fundamentals of modern symbolic logic (propositional and predicate calculi), with special attention to the evaluation of symbolized arguments using the techniques of natural deduction. Topics include validity, soundness, proof, symbolization, truth-tables, truth-trees, and truth-functional and quantificational inference.

PHI 3162. Logic and the Law (3). This course is an in depth examination of the application of logic in a legal context, with special emphasis on methods of inductive reasoning, such as analogical and causal reasoning. The course focuses on the construction and the presentation of written arguments, and the evaluation of arguments from both historical and contemporary legal decisions.

PHI 3220. Introduction to Philosophy of Language (3). An exploration of major philosophical contributions to the understanding of language and its functions in communication. Discussion of the concepts of meaning, truth, reference, understanding, and interpretation. Readings include classics of 20th century philosophy.

PHI 3300. Knowledge and Belief (3). A critical analysis of contemporary theories about the fundamentals of human knowledge: what ought to count as knowledge; how we get it; the roles of certainty, doubt, and skepticism; and the means by which we might maximize it.

PHI 3320. Philosophy of Mind (3). Analysis of central issues in the philosophy of mind. Topics may include: the mind-body problem, the unity of the mind, the nature of consciousness, artificial intelligence, and free will.

PHI 3400. History and Philosophy of Science (3). A close look at some of the crucial philosophical problems of the sciences as they have developed throughout history, from Aristotle through Galileo, Pasteur, and Einstein, including what methods count as scientific, along with a consideration of how science has changed the world and the role of values.

PHI 3641. Business Ethics (3). An identification and a discussion of defensible solutions for moral and ethical problems as they arise in the conduct of business and economic transactions. International business settings and the ethical problems arising from the need to design products and services that appeal to diverse national and world populations are considered.
PHI 3670. Ethical Theory (3). A study of the nature of morality and moral reasoning through critical analyses of the writings of classical and contemporary ethical theorists directed to answering the questions, “What is good?” and “What ought I do?”

PHI 3700. Philosophy of Religion (3). Analysis of major issues in philosophy of religion. Topics may include the rationality of religious belief, faith, religious experience, religious language, evil, and the relation between religion and morality. Also offered by the Department of Religion.

PHI 3800. Philosophy of the Arts (3). An introduction to central issues in philosophy of the arts and aesthetics. Topics may include the nature of beauty, the nature of art, realism in painting, interpretation in literature, the nature of dance, and expressiveness in music. Readings include both historical and contemporary sources.

PHI 3881. Philosophy of Music (3). An introduction to the contemporary literature regarding the philosophy of music. Questions posed include: What is music? Does music express emotions? How is music to be evaluated? How does one “understand” music? Why can cross-cultural understanding of music be difficult? What constitutes an authentic performance?

PHI 3882. Philosophy in Literature (3). An exploration of how metaphysical and moral ideas function within the structure of selected novels in plays.

PHI 3930r. Selected Topics (1-3). (S/U grade only). May be repeated to a maximum of three semester hours.

PHI 4134. Modern Logic I (3). Prerequisite: PHI 3130 or equivalent or instructor permission. An intermediate course in modern symbolic logic, with special attention to the semantic evaluation of symbolized arguments. Topics include schemata and interpretation, models, satisfiability, normal forms, expressive completeness, proof procedures, metalogical laws, and soundness and completeness theorems.

PHI 4137. Modern Logic II (3). Prerequisite: PHI 4134. An advanced course in modern symbolic logic. Topics discuss include: the compactness theorem, the logic of identity, names and descriptions, second-order logic, type theory, the ancestral, the Frege-Russell definition of natural number, and Gödel’s incompleteness results.

PHI 4500. Metaphysics (3). Critical consideration of recent philosophical work from a variety of points of view on the question of what exists; for example, matter, mind, time, space, universal properties, causes, and essences.

PHI 4905r. Directed Individual Study (1-3). May be repeated to a maximum of six semester hours.

PHI 4912r. Honors Work (3). May be repeated to a maximum of twelve semester hours.

PHI 4930r. Philosophical Problems (3). An examination of selected philosophical problems from an advanced point of view. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

PHI 4938r. Seminar for Majors (3). Variable-content seminar for majors to do in-depth work in selected philosophical topics/areas and to practice writing a substantive philosophical paper. May be repeated once with instructor permission to a maximum of six semester hours.

PHI 4999r. Tutorial in Philosophy (1-3). Critical readings and discussions of important classical and contemporary philosophical texts. Variable content. Variable credit: one to two semester hours for a reading course; two to three semester hours for a reading course with substantial writing. Repeatable with instructor permission to a maximum of twelve semester hours.

History of Philosophy

PHH 3061. Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy (3). A survey of Western philosophy from the third to the 16th century, beginning with the work of Christian, Jewish, and Arabic philosophers, and then turning to the rise of humanism, individualism, and science.

PHH 3130. Plato and His Predecessors (3). Ancient Greek philosophy from its beginnings to the work of one of its greatest practitioners. Questions posed include: What is there? What can I know about it? What should I do?

PHH 3140. Aristotle to Augustine (3). Philosophy from the “Master of Those Who Knew” (Aristotle) through to the end of the ancient world and the dominance of Christianity. Topics include: the structure of the world order, God, man’s place.
PHH 3400. Modern Philosophy (3). A critical study of the theories of 17th- and 18th-century Western philosophers through a careful examination of representative texts from both the empiricist and rationalist traditions.

PHH 3500. 19th-Century Philosophy (3). An exploration of the diverse styles, ideas, and systems of such philosophers as Hegel, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, Marx, Mill, Bradley, and Nietzsche.

PHH 3700r. American Philosophy (3). An examination of major trends in American philosophy from Jonathan Edwards through 19th- and 20th-century American idealism and the pragmatic movement with emphasis on Peirce, James, and Dewey. May be repeated once with the permission of the instructor to a maximum of six semester hours.

PHH 4600r. Contemporary Philosophy (3). The main recent philosophical movements are surveyed through selected central representatives. Those considered may include Frege and his background, Russell and Moore, early Wittgenstein, logical positivists and their successors, Husserl and his phenomenology, Heidegger, Sartre, later Wittgenstein and his successors. May be repeated with instructor permission to a maximum of nine semester hours.

Social and Political Philosophy

PHM 2121. Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender (3). Concentration on contemporary philosophical discussions of race, class, and gender. Topics include the analysis of key institutions (e.g., work, the economy, family, education) and social issues (e.g., identity, sexuality, violence, and social change).

PHM 2300. Introduction to Political Philosophy (3). An introduction to the main issues in political philosophy: the justification of political authority, role of law, political obligation, neocolonialism, disobedience, revolution, rights, the appropriate ends of government, patterns of distribution and justice.

PHM 3123. Philosophy of Feminism (3). A comprehensive survey of the most important schools of thought and issues in feminist philosophy, with emphasis of feminist politics and ethics. Liberal, socialist, Marxist, and radical feminism and their differing views about equality and subjection are discussed. Criticisms of now traditional theories from women of color and of "difference" theorists are analyzed. Also considered are problems of particular concern to feminists: the family, sexuality, occupational freedom, harassment, rape, pornography, and domestic violence.

PHM 3331r. Modern Political Thought (3). Major political ideas of the modern world emphasized through a study of selected political theorists such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hume, Burke, Hegel, Marx, Engels, Bentham, Mill, Jefferson, Madison, Lenin, and Mussolini. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. Also offered by the Department of Political Science.

PHM 3400. Philosophy of Law (3). A comprehensive survey of the most important schools of thought, traditional problems, and current issues in Anglo-American philosophy of law. Chief theories discussed are natural law, positivism, realism (including the law and economics movement), and critical legal studies (including race and gender theory). Also explored are different views about the interpretation of law and the role of the judiciary in American politics. Includes analysis of legal cases and consideration of issues such as justice, equality, liberty, privacy, and punishment.

PHM 4340r. Contemporary Political Thought (3). An exploration of a set of issues, a trend, or a school of thought in contemporary political philosophy. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. Also offered by the Department of Political Science.

Philosophers and Schools

PHP 3510. Introduction to Marxist Philosophy (3). A critical overview of the premises and theses of Marxism concerning the understanding of history, economic realities, political struggles, and ideologies as found in the principle works of its founders.

PHI 3786r. Existentialism (3). An introduction to existential philosophy through detailed and critical analysis of selected major works in the field with special attention to Heidegger and/or Sartre. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

PHP 4930r. Studies in Major Philosophers (3). A detailed study of a major philosopher (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Kant, etc.) or school of philosophy (e.g., the Stoics, the Marxists). May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.