

*philosophy*

φιλοσοφία



Undergraduate  
Course Offerings

Fall 2019

**Basic Philosophical Questions** This prerequisite to all other philosophy courses gives you an initial understanding of what philosophy is, the range of questions philosophers take up, and how they deal with those questions.

UCOR 132

22 sections

**Logic** Valid reasoning, logical fallacies, types of definitions, important informal aspects of arguments in ordinary discourse, and the formal logic of inferences involving simple and compound statements.

PHIL 106

2 sections

**Philosophical Ethics** Ethics deals with questions like: What is happiness? What are virtue and vice? Can virtue be taught? How do we make decisions regarding good and bad, right and wrong? This course is an opportunity to delve into the ethical ideas that inform our lives, by looking at a selection of classic works from the Western philosophical tradition, including texts by ancient, modern, and contemporary thinkers.

UCOR 151

4 sections

**Introduction to Phenomenology** Phenomenology investigates the transcendental structures of experience, synthesizing subjectivity and objectivity. By reading great figures in phenomenology (Husserl, Heidegger, de Beauvoir, Lingis, and others), we investigate a wide range of experience: from perspective to time, from the environment to care, from boredom to the experience of historical destiny, from the experience of prayer to the experience of cultural conflict, from making music to communication with people we have almost nothing in common with.

PHIL 200

TR 1:40–2:55

Dr Lampert

### **Philosophy and Literature: Philosophical Shakespeare**

We'll read and watch Shakespeare's plays with an eye to his philosophical insights, and read philosophical texts about the plays or their themes. Focussing on the Ancient Rome plays (*Coriolanus*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Julius Caesar*), we'll discuss character and identity, Stoicism, Scepticism, power, honor and dishonor, epistemology (i.e., how characters know that what they know is true, and how they can be wrong), and tragedy; we'll discuss Shakespeare's Rome in

light of philosophical accounts of Rome's role in the history of philosophy.

PHIL 204

TR 9:25–10:40

Dr Bates

**Philosophy of Animals** We will examine the moral status of non-human animals in the Western philosophical tradition, through the works of such philosophers as Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant, Bentham, and Singer, and the mercy perspective developed by Primatt and Scully. This course involves community-engaged learning.

*social justice*

PHIL 207

MWF 2–2:50

Dr Bjalobok

**Existentialism** What if there is no meaning in life? What if there is? How do we know what that meaning is? What if there is no God? What if there is? Existentialism takes our pure existence as its starting point, not presuming the necessity of any essential laws, of God, of goodness or evil. But where do we go from here? This class will study several of the most prominent existential philosophers: Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, and de Beauvoir. We will examine how they make their arguments and what they conclude about how one should live.

PHIL 208

T 6–8:40

Dr McCurry

**Philosophy of the Environment** A critical examination of current ways of thinking about the environment. While many of our questions are prompted by environmental damage, evaluating its nature and extent will not be our primary focus. Rather, our orientation will be philosophical: Regardless of how we *have* lived on the earth, how *ought* we to live? How should we go about deciding that question? Do things other than human beings have value in themselves, or only because humans value them? What is the nature of 'Nature'? What, if any, political or cultural factors underlie environmental exploitation? What are some alternative visions of how humans can or should relate to their environments?

PHIL 211

TR 10:50–12:05

Dr Bates

**Yoga Philosophy & Practice** Is the practice of yoga a form of philosophy? How do Western and Eastern traditions understand and make use of the mind and the body?

We will investigate these questions by looking at classical yoga texts and contemporary philosophy of the body, dividing our time equally between classroom discussion and studio practice. No previous experience with yoga is necessary.

*global diversity*

PHIL 237

TR 9:25–10:40

Dr Harrington

**Black Mirror and Philosophy** We will use texts from the history of Western philosophy, and some from recent authors, to understand the deep and timely *Netflix* series, *Black Mirror*. We will also use episodes to illustrate and interrogate the philosophical texts. We will thus learn some of the most interesting and influential philosophical ideas ever conceived, and also how these ideas are as important now as when they were first written. *Black Mirror* presents a dark image of our own times, and philosophy is as urgent a tool for living in them as it always has been.

PHIL 238

TR 10:50–12:05

Dr Miller

**Native American Philosophy** This course will examine the philosophy and the world-view of the Lakota, including their use of vision-questing as an epistemological tool.

PHIL 253

MWF 11–11:50

Dr Bjalobok

**Health Care Ethics** Ethical questions in medical care and research, e.g., doctor–patient relations, informed consent, euthanasia, and the definitions of health, person, and death.

UCOR 254

2 sections

**Philosophy of Technology** Reflection on how our lives are shaped by technology, and on the relation of technology to science, art, and politics.

PHIL 255

MWF 10–10:50

Dr Bjalobok

**Love and Friendship** A philosophical consideration of love and friendship: the nature of love, its causes, its effects, its many manifestations, the mutual love found in friendship, the kinds of friendship, and the importance of friendship in human life.

PHIL 299

MWF 1–1:50

Dr Bonin

**Medieval Philosophy** A sampling of Christian and Islamic thought from late antiquity through the 13th century, with emphasis on the continuity, development, and fruitful interplay of the Platonic and Aristotelian traditions. We will weigh the difficulty of assimilating this complex pagan heritage within the context of revealed religion and consider how medieval thinkers worked toward a solution in connection with such themes as knowledge, God's existence, the problem of evil, the relation between divine and natural causes, and the soul.

*faith & reason*

PHIL 301W

MWF 11–11:50

Dr Bonin

**Early Modern Philosophy** The period from the late Renaissance through the early 18th century saw a dynamic experimental approach to the search for theoretical and practical knowledge, attempts to understand and define the powers and limits of the self, the emergence of new theories of the body and matter, and the foundations of modern political philosophy. We will study its major thinkers.

PHIL 302W

TR 1:40–2:55

Dr Swindal

**Confucianism and Zen** We will explore philosophy as a practice rather than a theory, by investigating these two living philosophical practices. We will then look at the historical Confucians who borrowed from Zen Buddhism even as they criticized it.

PHIL 310W/402W

TR 10:50–12:05

Dr Harrington

**Philosophical Roots of Psychology** Rationalism, empiricism, phenomenology, and genealogy/psychoanalysis are important approaches to understanding the psyche. We will examine each, considering first their philosophical roots and then their psychological incarnations. Once we grasp their philosophical roots, we will be in a better position to understand and evaluate their psychological counterparts.

PHIL 322W

TR 3:05–4:20

Dr Evans

**Philosophy of Crime & Punishment** We will examine various theories of crime and punishment, beginning with the Enlightenment thinker and first criminologist Beccaria, and continuing with such philosophers as Bentham, Romily, Kant, and Foucault. We will address the justification of

punishment and its length and type, including the death penalty.

PHIL 327

MWF 1–1:50

Dr Bjalobok

**Philosophy of Time** A close reading and comparison of some of the more influential philosophical analyses of time and temporality, including those from Aristotle's *Physics*, Augustine's *Confessions*, Husserl's *On the Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time*, and Heidegger's *Being and Time*.

PHIL 354/454W

TR 12:15–1:30

Dr Rodemeyer

**Darwin and Philosophy** We will begin with Darwin's two revolutionary books, *The Origin of the Species* and *The Descent of Man*, in order to appreciate the basics of his evolutionary theory and to begin thinking about its implications for human life and philosophy. We will then turn to recent attempts to update and apply this theory—by Dawkins, Denett, Buss, and Stewart-Williams. Using the Darwinian approach, we will ask, and in some cases answer, questions such as who we humans are, what we want, whether we can know, and how we should live.

PHIL 399

TR 12:15–1:30

Dr Miller

**Phenomenology of Human Understanding** A phenomenology of human understanding aims at detailed, accurate, and precise description of lived experiences of acts of understanding. The focus is not on texts, or theories, or systems of epistemology, but on your own experiences of being puzzled, sorting out data, getting ideas, testing hypotheses, and ending up with a judgment of truth or value. The infinite variety of acts of understanding actually share a common underlying structure. Now you can understand and criticize Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Husserl, Lonergan, and others.

PHIL 496

MW 12–1:15

Fr Cronin



For many courses, more details will be posted outside of the Department (303 College Hall) and at [duq.edu/philosophy](http://duq.edu/philosophy).