philosophy

Undergraduate Course Offerings

Spring 2020
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  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  5 sections

Philosophy and Film  We will explore the philosophical implications of elements of film art: What does film editing tell us about the nature of perception? What do flashbacks say about memory? What do close-ups reveal about emotion? Are there ethical reasons why some images should not be made or shown, or why other images ought to be preserved? We’ll read philosophers, directors, and film critics, and watch clips for all sorts of films.

PHIL 206  TR 9:25–10:40  Dr Lampert

Political Philosophy  Fundamental political questions are explored through readings from both classical and contemporary sources. The link between philosophy and practical political themes is emphasized. We will focus on topics involving democracy, power, resistance, and pluralism.

PHIL 212  TR 1:40–2:55  Dr Lampert

Christian Philosophy  Christian Philosophy is a 2,000-year tradition of analysis and critique of paths of reflection that engage those committed to the Christian faith. Thus it examines ways in which reason serves to inform dynamic Christian belief and practice. This course examines
early, medieval, modern, and contemporary approaches to this analysis and critique.

PHIL 219  TR 10:50–12:05  Dr Swindal

Philosophy of Death and Living  This course explores the issues of mortality and the destruction of the body and mind. How does our understanding of death affect our philosophy of life? How do philosophers describe death, and what does it mean to be alive? We examine these question through ancient and contemporary readings.

PHIL 220  TR 1:40–2:55  Dr Arenson

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.

PHIL 237  TR 9:25–10:40  Dr Harrington

Exploring Social Justice  Philosophical discussions of social justice inquire into the nature and current state of justice in areas of social concern. This course explores core areas: class, race, immigration, healthcare, the global environment, and gender. At the center of our exploration will be an examination of how the value of human dignity can inform our approach.

PHIL 238W  TR 3:05–4:20;  TR 4:30–5:45  Ms Özkara

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 239  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, consent, euthanasia, and the definitions of health, person, and death.

UCOR 254 2 sections

America and Antiquity  This course begins with the U.S. Constitution and the thinking of the founders who wrote it (especially in the Federalist Papers). It then shows their debt to ancient Greek and Roman authors (Plato, Aristotle, Polybius, Cicero, Plutarch, and Tacitus, among others). One goal is to appreciate the intellectual history that influenced the founders; another is to understand and assess the philosophical principles they sought to enshrine.

PHIL 257 TR 9:25–10:40 Dr Miller

Philosophy and Star Trek  Star Trek has traditionally focused on topics of extreme philosophical interest. We will investigate several in detail: each week, you will watch an episode from one of the television series and read contemporary or historical philosophical texts discussing the issues raised. We will focus primarily on topics in moral philosophy, including social and political philosophy, although we will also consider issues in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and other areas.

PHIL 259 TR 12:15–1:30 Dr Vogelstein

Philosophy of Law  A study of major legal traditions with consideration of such topics as justice, ethics and law, legal reasoning, and philosophical issues in evidence and procedure.

PHIL 260 MWF 1–1:50 Dr Bjalobok

Special Topics: Meaning of Life  A quest to decide what the meaning of our lives should be, in critical dialogue with the visions of a meaningful life given by great books of the Western world.

PHIL 269-B01 TR 3:05–4:20 Dr McCurry
Love & 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

Later Modern Philosophy  A study of the period of philosophy initiated by Kant, this course deals with such crucial thinkers of the late 18th and 19th centuries as Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Marx, Mill, and Nietzsche.

PHIL 304  TR 1:40–2:55  Dr Bates

Thomas Aquinas  An introduction to the philosophical thought of St. Thomas, focusing on such topics as God, nature, knowledge, language, the problem of evil, and the relation between faith and reason. Besides learning where Thomas stood on these matters, you will be equipped to interpret his writings and thereby to explore the full range of his thought.

PHIL 315W  MWF 11–11:50  Dr Bonin

Original Philosophizing  Each student will choose a philosophical problem they find intriguing and important, and write an original paper solving that problem. Together, we will work through the steps original philosophers take: choosing and clarifying a topic, developing deep and precise definitions, brainstorming alternative solutions, researching existing papers on the topic, working out arguments and counter-arguments, synthesizing perspectives whenever possible, organizing ideas into a coherent essay, and writing it out clearly in a way that will interest readers. At each stage, the instructor will present ideas for development, and students will present their week-by-week results to each other. The class will end with a mini-conference at which students present their papers.

PHIL 321  M 12–2:40  Dr Lampert

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**

**Islamic Philosophy** A survey of major philosophers from the classical period of Islamic thought. Among those whose works we will sample are Kindī, Rāzī, Fārābī, Ibn Sinā, Ġazālī, Ibn Rušd, and Ibn Bajja. We will give special attention, as did they, to the relation between philosophy and prophecy and that between philosophy and theology, to Islamic occasionalism, and to the nature and destiny of the soul.

**PHIL 450W MW 3–4:15**
**Dr Bonin**

**Plato and Nietzsche** Each week juxtaposing a Platonic dialogue with excerpts from Nietzsche’s books, this course examines and evaluates the obvious differences between them: on questions of metaphysics, epistemology, psychology, ethics, and aesthetics. But it also considers their remarkable similarities: their philosophical art, their aristocratic politics, and their salvific aspirations, among others. One central concern will be the relationship between love and time; another, the difference between reincarnation and eternal return.

**PHIL 491 W 12:15–2:55**
**Dr Miller**

**Special Topics: Early Modern Women Philosophers** This seminar will engage primary texts by women philosophers (and occasionally their allies and interlocutors) written in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. These philosophers critically engage theories of embodiment, knowledge-production, and politics, establishing rich theoretical models for arraying experience and experiment, reason and passion, intellectual and political equality, as well as simultaneously metaphysical, ‘natural philosophical’ (i.e., scientific), and social accounts of power.

**PHIL 496 W 5–7:40**
**Dr Selcer**

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