

# Philosophy

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## College of Arts & Sciences

### Admission Requirements

It is expected that candidates admitted to the graduate program in philosophy will: (1) provide proof of completion of a B.A., B.S., or M.A.; (2) have given evidence of superior skills on the GRE; (3) have achieved an overall grade-point average of at least 3.2 (4.0 scale) in all undergraduate course work; and (4) have achieved an overall grade-point average of at least 3.5 in all graduate course work.

### Degree Requirements

The Department of Philosophy offers programs of study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy and the Master of Arts degrees. Ordinarily, applicants for graduate study in philosophy at the University of Kentucky will enter the Ph.D. program. The purpose of the Ph.D. program is to develop the student's ability to do serious, advanced research in philosophy. The program is designed to accommodate the needs of individual students at an advanced level to pursue a traditional degree in philosophy, engage in interdisciplinary research to prepare for professions outside of philosophy itself, or prepare for the profession of teaching philosophy. The Ph.D. program requires the completion of 66 hours of course work, or 36 hours of course work beyond course work done for an M.A. in philosophy at the University of Kentucky or elsewhere. Normally, 18 of the 36 required post-M.A. hours will be taken for writing the dissertation, leaving 18 of the required hours for non-dissertation course work. Students will need to demonstrate reading competence in at least one foreign language, as well as competence in logic. They will also complete a three course requirement in 20th century philosophy. In their first year in the program, all students will complete two proseminars, one in metaphysics and epistemology and one in value theory. A Qualifying Examination in each student's area of specialization precedes the writing of the dissertation. Students entering the Ph.D. program without an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Kentucky are expected to complete their degree work within five years. Every effort will be made to see that all students entering the Ph.D. program without an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Kentucky are offered five years of financial support (teaching assistantships and/or fellowships), with ongoing funding for those years contingent on the availability of funds and the student's continuing satisfactory progress through the program. Ph.D. students who have completed all requirements for the M.A. in philosophy at the University of Kentucky will be eligible to receive the M.A. in philosophy *en passant*.

### Course Descriptions

#### PHI 503 TOPICS IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY. (3)

A study of representative texts and issues in Ancient Philosophy with special attention to historical continuity and the interrelations of thinkers and problems. Possible Topics: Pre-Socratic Philosophers, Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism, Epicureanism, Scepticism. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: PHI 260 or consent of the instructor.

#### PHI 504 ISLAMIC AND JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND THE CLASSICAL TRADITION. (3)

A study of representative texts and issues in Islamic and Jewish philosophy with special attention to the historical continuity with the Greek philosophical tradition and the interrelations of thinkers and problems. Possible topics: the commensurability of philosophy and (revealed) law, the creation or eternity of the world, the nature of prophecy, the human good, the nature of God and divine language. Prereq: PHI 260 or consent of instructor.

**PHI 506 TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY. (3)**

An investigation of issues in Medieval Philosophy. Topics will be chosen which illustrate continuity both with Ancient Greek Sources and with problems in Modern Philosophy. Possible Topics: Neo-Platonism, Faith and Reason, Freedom and Determinism, Universals, the Existence of God, Renaissance reactions. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: PHI 260 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 509 TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY.**

A selective study of representative issues and texts in modern philosophy, with special emphasis upon historical continuity and interrelation of thinkers and problems. Possible topics: British empiricism; Leibniz and Locke; Descartes and his critics; Hobbes and Rousseau; Hume and Kant; philosophy and the rise of modern science. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: PHI 270 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 513 NINETEENTH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY. (3)**

An examination of the major topics and trends in 19th century philosophy. Prereq: PHI 270 or consent of instructor.

**PHI 514 AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY. (3)**

A study of the development of philosophy in America from colonial to recent times with attention to religious, political, literary and scientific influences on American thought. The focus will be on the pragmatic spirit that was the moving force from 19th century idealism to 20th century naturalism, with emphasis on the works of such thinkers as Royce, Peirce, James and Dewey.

**PHI 515 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY: THE ANALYTIC TURN. (3)**

A survey of several 20th century philosophical movements, such as logical positivism and ordinary language philosophy, whose members agree that careful attention to language is one of the keys to the resolution of philosophical problems. The works of representative thinkers such as Moore, Russell, the Vienna Circle, Wittgenstein and Austin will be studied. Prereq: PHI 320 or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 516 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY: PHENOMENOLOGICAL DIRECTIONS. (3)**

A study of 20th century philosophies represented by the works of thinkers such as Husserl and Heidegger, Gadamer and Ricoeur, Habermas and Apel. Generally based in a reflection on human experience, these philosophies undertake a radical criticism of common conceptions of human nature while variously emphasizing rationality, ontology, language, or social and historical context. Prereq: PHI 270 or consent of instructor.

**PHI 517 EXISTENTIALISM. (3)**

A systematic study of the fundamental concepts and problems of existentialism. Readings selected from such philosophers as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Marcel, Heidegger, and Jaspers. Prereq: PHI 270 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 519 CRITICAL SOCIAL THOUGHT. (3)**

This course provides a pluralistic introduction to major 20th-century paradigms of critical social thought. Critical social thought in philosophy comprises those authors and schools that focus philosophical methods and questions on the analysis of social conditions and/or focus sociocultural methods and questions on the study of philosophy. These include feminist philosophy, Marxist-influenced social theory, poststructuralism, critical race theory, and post-analytic philosophy. Prereq: For undergraduates, PHI 270, 335, or 340 or consent of instructor. For graduate students outside the philosophy department, permission of the instructor.

**PHI 530 ETHICAL THEORY. (3)**

A study of ethical theories by detailed examination of a few selected works. Theories considered may include naturalism, intuitionism, noncognitivism, utilitarianism, universalizability, and natural law. Prereq: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 531 ADVANCED TOPICS IN ETHICS (Subtitle required). (3)**

A topical study in ethics, emphasizing, but not restricted to, contemporary issues. Topics may include the nature of practical reason, justification of moral theories, moral luck, amorality and immorality, moral language, and weakness of will. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different subtitles. Prereq: One of the following: PHI 130, 305, 330, or 530; or graduate standing.

**PHI 535 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. (3)**

A critical examination of some philosophical problems concerning the nature and evaluation of social and political organizations. For example, questions concerning the nature, justification, and limits of political power may be explored in connection with a study of important classical positions. Prereq: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 537 PHILOSOPHY OF LAW. (3)**

Concept of law; relations between law and morals; nature of legal reasoning; analysis of legal concepts; justification of punishment. Pass/ fail basis only for law students. Prereq: PHI 130, 330, or 335 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 540 FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY.**

An introduction to feminist philosophical theory, including feminist treatments of various questions in metaphysics, epistemology, logic, and value theory, such as: the nature (if any) of the self; the role of perspectives in knowledge; the nature of reason and the criteria for justification in argumentation; feminist theories of morality and feminist theories of social justice.

**PHI 545 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. (3)**

An analysis of the philosophical issues raised by religion, such as the problem of religious knowledge, the nature of religious language, science and religion, concepts of God, death, and evil. Prereq: PHI 100, 260, or 270 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 592 AESTHETICS. (3)**

Problems of method in aesthetics; major types of aesthetic theory. Aesthetic materials of the arts in literature, music, and the space arts. Form and types of form. Meaning in the arts. Interrelations of the arts. Lectures, discussions, reports. (Same as A-H 592.)

**PHI 550 PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS IN KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY. (3)**

Critical examination of issues regarding the foundations of knowledge, the nature of reality and the relation between the two. Evidence, belief, certainty, perception and justification will be among problems considered. Understandings of truth, existence, causality, freedom, time, space and matter will also be attended to. Prereq: PHI 100, 260, 270, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 560 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENTIFIC METHOD. (3)**

An examination of the logical and epistemological foundations of empirical science, including fundamentals of concept formation, criteria of cognitive significance, issues of explanation, interpretation, and prediction, and testing and confirmation of theories and laws. Prereq: PHI 100, 120, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 561 PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES (Subtitle required).(3)**

A systematic examination of selected conceptual and/or metaphysical problems in the natural sciences. Possible topics include: reductionism, teleology, causality and determinism, the structure of space-time, and the “anthropic principle” in cosmology. Prereq: PHI 100, 120, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 562 PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS IN THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES.(3)**

An examination of various methodological issues and broader philosophical questions of special concern in the social sciences. Among the topics to be studied: the structure of theories and the roles of mathematics and experimentation in the social sciences, the possibility of an objective or value free social science, and the conceptions of human nature presupposed by different schools of social science. Prereq: PHI 100, 120, or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 565 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE. (3)**

An investigation of problems current in the philosophy of language such as meaning and reference, the nature of analysis, linguistic relativity and the relation of linguistics to philosophy. Prereq: PHI 320 or 350 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 570 PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY. (3)**

An examination of the theories and methods utilized by historians with special attention to the problems of laws and explanations in history, the nature of historical knowledge and narrative, and the roles of causal judgments and historical understanding. Attention will also be given to theoretical interpretations of history as offered by Marx, Hegel, Toynbee and others. Prereq: PHI 100, 260, or 270 or the consent of the instructor.

**PHI 575 PHILOSOPHY OF MIND.(3)**

An examination of problems current in the philosophy of mind, such as the concept of person, the relation of mind and body, the relation of minds and machines, knowledge of other minds, and the roles of dispositions and volitions in human action. Attention will be given to the philosophical analysis of such psychological categories as consciousness, feeling, emotion, perception, imagination, thinking and will. Prereq: PHI 100 or 350 or the consent of the instructor.