

Philosophy Courses

Spring 2026

PHIL 001

Introduction to Philosophy (4)

Prof. Filippo Casati

MW 9:20-10:35 AM

OR Prof. Paul Musso

TR 1:35-2:50 PM

Philosophy is a broad discipline which critically addresses many different branches of human experience. Aesthetics, politics, ethics, religion and even the structure of the world have all represented great sources of philosophical discussion in both eastern and western traditions. Study of historical and contemporary texts will introduce students to this vast philosophical universe and provide the skills necessary to benefit from its further exploration. Course not open to seniors. (HU, HE)

PHIL/MATH 014

Symbolic Logic (4)

Prof. Aladdin Yaqub

TR 3:00-4:15 PM

This course is an introduction to logical theory. Our primary goal is to study the notions of logical consequence and provability. The central question that we will try to answer is this: What exactly does it mean to say that some conclusion is a logical consequence of or is provable from a certain collection of premises? To answer this question as clearly and rigorously as possible, we will develop three symbolic logical systems: Term Logic, Sentence Logic, and Predicate Logic. (MA, Q).

PHIL/ETH 105

Ethics (4)

Prof. Nathan Schmidt

MW 1:35-2:50 PM

Examination of right and wrong, good and bad, from classic sources such as Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Mill and Nietzsche (CC, HE, HU, W).

PHIL 111

Philosophy and Music (4)

Prof. Nathan Schmidt

MW 3:00-4:15 PM

This course will examine the intersections between philosophy and music, exploring questions like: What is 'music'? What attracts us to it? How does it do what it does? What is it to make a specific style of music? As a means of approaching these questions, we shall focus (though not exclusively) on the 'history' of what is called 'rock and roll.' When one approaches 'music' from a philosophical perspective, there is considerably more than seems to meet the ear. (HE, HU)

PHIL/ETH/REL/HMS 116

Bioethics (4)

Prof. Nathan Schmidt

MW 10:45AM-12:00PM

Moral issues that arise in the context of health care and related biomedical fields in the United States today, examined in the light of the nature and foundation of moral rights and obligations. Topics include: confidentiality, informed consent, euthanasia, medical research and experimentation, genetics, and the distribution of health care. (HU)

PHIL 127

Existentialism (4)

Prof. Paul Musso

TR 9:20-10:35 AM

Investigation of the historical development of existentialism from its origins in the 19th century (Kierkegaard, Nietzsche) through its marriage to phenomenology in the early 20th (Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty), and out the other side as a vigorous dimension of much literary, psychological, and artistic work produced in the last 50 years. (HU, HE, W)

PHIL 135**Modern Philosophy (4)
Prof. Ricki Bliss
TR 9:20-10:35 AM**

Historical survey of selected texts and issues in 17th and 18th century European philosophy with particular emphasis on developments in epistemology and metaphysics. Attention will be given to the relation of the “modern period” to developments in late medieval philosophy and the rise of the experimental sciences. Figures may include Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, and Kant. (HU)

PHIL 196**Religious Existentialism (4)
Prof. Michael Raposa
MW 1:35-2:50 PM**

Existentialism is an important movement within modern philosophy and theology, although its significance has been somewhat muted by the dominance of analytic philosophy in recent decades. This course explores some classic texts associated with that movement, focusing on those that are preoccupied with religious questions. The ideas and perspectives of thinkers like Pascal, Kierkegaard, Buber, Tillich, and Marcel will be examined in the course. An attempt will be made to compare an existentialist approach with other approaches to philosophy and theology, most especially with philosophical pragmatism as another intellectual movement that emphasizes concrete lived situations as the appropriate starting point and context for engaging in reflection and inquiry. (HU, HE)

PHIL/COGS 250**Philosophy of Mind (4)
Prof. Aladdin Yaqub
TR 7:15-8:30 PM**

An exploration of the mind-body problem. Are the body and mind distinct substances (dualism); or is there only body (materialism); or only mind (idealism)? Other views to be considered include behaviorism (the view that behavior can be explained without recourse to mental states), and the view that the mind is a complex computer. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level. (HE, HU)

PHIL 297**Political Theology since 1900 (4)
Prof. Filippo Casati
MW 10:45AM-12:00PM**

Political theology is crucial to understand the world in which we live. From secularized societies to theocracies, the interaction of politics and theology has determined important historical consequences. This course introduces the students to political theology, and it is composed by three parts. In the first part, the students will familiarize ourselves with some pivotal concepts in political theology. In the second part, they will focus on the political theology developed in the 20th century. See, for instance, Karl Schmitt, Jacob Taubes, Leo Strauss and Gustavo Gutierrez. In the third and last part, we discuss how this cluster of authors have shaped our contemporaneity, from Theology of Liberation in South America to the MAGA movement in the United States of America. (HE, HU)

PHIL 298**Philosophy as the Art of Living (4)
Prof. Paul Musso
TR 10:45AM-12:00PM**

This course asks what it means to understand and adopt philosophy as a way of life? What does that require, and what is its significance? Philosophy began in the streets of Athens and was embodied in the life of Socrates, who wrote nothing down. It has since become a creature of the university, where academic writing in the form of books is its primary mode of communication. What does it mean to live philosophically today? What does it mean to develop and practice one's own philosophy? In this writing intensive course, students will learn about different ways of living philosophically through studying various prominent figures such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, The Buddha, Jesus, and Nietzsche (among others). Students will also be guided in developing their own personal philosophy for living through a series of intensive writing exercises. (HE, HU, W, WRIT)