PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

PHIL 102 Reason and Rhetoric
2 credits
Gen Ed: Communication
Form and style of argumentative discourse; development of critical thinking and rhetorical skills as students prepare and deliver written and oral presentations; construction, evaluation, and presentation of arguments; identification of arguments and fallacies to improve abilities to organize thoughts, express them clearly and simply, and judge the suitability of material for the audience.

PHIL 103 Introduction to Ethics
3 credits
Gen Ed: Humanities
Introduction to philosophical reasoning through historical study of moral thought.

PHIL 200 Philosophy of Alcohol
3 credits
Gen Ed: Humanities
This course will introduce students to philosophical analysis through the topic of alcohol. Some issues we will cover are ethical: Can we exercise free will when intoxicated? If not, can we still blame an intoxicated person for their actions? What is the nature of addiction and when are we justified in intervening on someone else’s addiction? Some issues are metaphysical: Are beer styles a natural classification or merely conventional? There are also aesthetic issues: Is taste just subjective, or can we scrutinize taste objectively? Some are historical: What is the role of alcohol in the history of philosophy? This course addresses these and many other philosophical issues that can be presented through the topic of alcohol.

PHIL 201 Critical Thinking
3 credits
Gen Ed: Humanities
Acquiring and improving important skills of thinking, reading, and writing critically; emphasis on avoiding fallacies and mastering forms of valid argument in ordinary language.

PHIL 202 Introduction to Symbolic Logic
3 credits
Development of systematic techniques for assessing validity of arguments; includes categorical logic, propositional logic, and elementary quantificational logic.

PHIL 204 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged

PHIL 205 Topics in Social Philosophy
3 credits
This course will introduce students to topics in social philosophy through historical and contemporary readings. Topics may include (but are not limited to), treatments of race, gender, disability status, human rights, and social and political institutions.

PHIL 208 Business Ethics
3 credits
Gen Ed: Humanities
Introduction to philosophical reasoning through historical study of Western moral thought, with specific application to ethical issues related to business practice and corporate social responsibility.

PHIL 209 Mind and Madness
3 credits
Just exactly what is mental illness? Do all cases of mental illness have some physical underpinning, or is there such a thing as a disorder of thought? What might delusions tell us about the nature and structure of mind? What are the prospects for mind-body medicine? Can we be justified in forcing persons to submit to mental treatment, and under what circumstances? Is mental illness the same across cultures? This course examines these and other questions raised by the study and treatment of mental disorder, as in philosophy of mind, epistemology, action theory, metaethics, and applied ethics. The course also examines the relationship between psychiatric research, clinical practice, and social policy.

PHIL 221 Philosophy in Film
3 credits
This course uses film as a philosophical text, discussing philosophical theories and topics presented in films, both old and new. Topics typically include the nature of existence, the difference between appearance and reality, motivation, memory, personal identity, and/or authenticity. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.

PHIL 240 Belief and Reality
3 credits
Gen Ed: Humanities
Introduction to epistemology (examination of grounds and limits of knowledge) and metaphysics (inquiry into the nature of reality) through historical and contemporary readings.

PHIL 302 Biblical Judaism: Texts and Thought
3 credits
Cross-listed with RELS 302
Analysis of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and related texts with an emphasis on hermeneutics and thought.

PHIL 303 Early Christianity: Texts and Thought
3 credits
Cross-listed with RELS 303
Analysis of the New Testament and other early Christian texts of the first and second centuries C.E. with an emphasis on hermeneutics and thought.

PHIL 307 Buddhism
3 credits
Cross-listed with RELS 307
Philosophy and religion of Gautama Buddha as it developed in India, Tibet, China, and Japan.

PHIL 312 Decision Theory
3 credits
This course is an introduction to decision theory. Students will learn how to model decisions. The models will be used to analyze decisions made under ignorance and under risk (or uncertainty). The course then examines various philosophical aspects of the field, including the nature of utility and probability. Finally, the course examines various applications of decision theory and alternative approaches (some complementary, others rivalry).

PHIL 320 History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
3 credits
Philosophical thought from the early Greeks through the Middle Ages; concentration on metaphysics and theory of knowledge. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.
PHIL 321 History of Modern Philosophy
3 credits
Critical evaluation of the thought of major figures in early modern philosophy, such as Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant; emphasis on metaphysics and epistemology. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.

PHIL 325 (s) Historical Figures in Philosophy
3 credits, max arranged
Study of a major philosophical figure from the history of philosophy. May be repeated for credit. Recommended preparation: one philosophy course.

PHIL 351 Philosophy of Science
3 credits
Gen Ed: Humanities
Introduction to the critical analysis of the aims and methods of science, its principles, practices, and achievements. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.
Prereq: 3 credits of philosophy or 3 credits of natural science

PHIL 352 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
3 credits
Cross-listed with POLS 352
This course will introduce students to the topics and methods of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). The approach will be interdisciplinary, with the aim of investigating and illustrating how and why these three disciplines are indispensable to addressing both the normative and factual issues each poses on its own. The course will cover basic methods in rational choice theory, game theory, social choice theory, and political philosophy to explore problems pertaining to decision-making, coordination, cooperation, and justice. The texts will include both traditional and contemporary writings on these issues.

PHIL 361 (s) Professional Ethics
3 credits, max 6
Gen Ed: Humanities
Study of ethical issues and problems arising in professions. Each section focuses on a specific area of professional ethics including, but not limited to, agricultural ethics, bioethics, business ethics, and engineering ethics.
Prereq: PHIL 103

PHIL 367 (s) Global Justice
3 credits, max arranged
Gen Ed: International
Topical study of issues of justice in the global context.

PHIL 400 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged

PHIL 404 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged

PHIL 408 Feminism and Philosophy
3 credits
An exploration of how feminist philosophies have brought to light gender bias in western philosophy and have (re)constructed theories in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Students will see how these philosophies address the experiences of women and other groups whose interests have been historically neglected and misrepresented.

PHIL 417 Philosophy of Biology
3 credits
Philosophical thinking about meaning, reference, and truth. Additional assignments required for graduate credit.
Prereq: 3 credits of biology and 3 credits of philosophy or Permission

PHIL 426 History of Political Philosophy I
3 credits
Cross-listed with POLS 425
Perennial problems of politics examined through study of seminal authors of classical antiquity (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero); medieval confrontation of theology with classical political philosophy (Augustine, Aquinas, Marsilius).

PHIL 427 History of Political Philosophy II
3 credits
Cross-listed with POLS 426
Foundations and development of modern liberalism; analysis of its characteristic goals, and democratic, socialist, and communitarian critics of the project; study of authors including Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and contemporary theorists such as Rawls.

PHIL 429 Contemporary Political Ethics
3 credits
Cross-listed with POLS 429
Current controversies concerning status and substance of ethical claims about deception, violence, coercion, and economic justice in politics and public action.

PHIL 441 Genes and Justice: Comparative Biotechnology Policy Formation
3 credits
Cross-listed with POLS 441
This course introduces students to the basic theoretical, ethical, and practical issues surrounding the rise and regulation of recent biotechnological and biomedical advances, including genetically modified animals and plants in agriculture, stem cell research and cloning in biomedical research, and reprodogenetics in medically assisted reproductive technology. Students will learn about theoretical and ethical frameworks to investigate questions of domestic and international policy making and the task of governing modern biosciences, including food safety, fair-trade, consumer well-being, informed choice in medical treatment, conservation, biodiversity, and sustainability. Recommended Preparation: PLSC 207 or 3 credits of another science course or 3 credits of political science

PHIL 442 Philosophy of Mind
3 credits
Joint-listed with PHIL 542
Survey of current philosophical theories of the nature of minds and mental states, including forms of dualism, reductive physicalism, functionalism, and eliminative materialism. Additional assignments required for graduate credit. Recommended Preparation: PHIL 202 and PHIL 240. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.

PHIL 443 Philosophy of Language
3 credits
Joint-listed with PHIL 543
Philosophical thinking about meaning, reference, and truth. Additional assignments required for graduate credit. Recommended Preparation: PHIL 202 and PHIL 240. Cooperative: available to WSU degree-seeking students.

PHIL 446 Metaphysics
3 credits
Classical and contemporary readings on such items as realism versus nominalism, free will and determinism, the nature of causality, the existence of God, personal identity, modality. Recommended Preparation: PHIL 202 and PHIL 240. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.
PHIL 447 Theory of Knowledge  
3 credits  
Analysis of the nature of knowledge; survey of various philosophical positions on the sources and extent of what we know. Recommended Preparation: PHIL 202 and PHIL 240. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.

PHIL 450 Ethics in Science  
3 credits  
An investigation of social and ethical issues in scientific research and the place of ethics in a scientific worldview.  
Prereq: PHIL 103, PHIL 201, PHIL 202, or PHIL 240; or Permission

PHIL 452 Environmental Philosophy  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with PHIL 552, Cross-listed with ENVS 552  
Philosophical examination of various ethical, metaphysical, and legal issues concerning humans, nature, and the environment; issues covered may include biodiversity and species protection, animal rights, radical ecology, environmental racism, wilderness theory, population control, and property rights. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

PHIL 460 Ethical Theory  
3 credits  
Critical analysis of classical consequentialist and deontic views as well as one or more recent theories such as emotivism and prescriptivism, feminist ethics, communitarianism, or virtue ethics.

PHIL 469 The Judicial Process  
3 credits  
Judicial and legal processes, court structure, procedures; judicial behavior and decision-making; selection of judges. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

PHIL 470 Philosophy of Law  
3 credits  
Analysis of fundamental philosophical issues in law and legal systems, including the nature of law, relation of law to morality, judicial method, and nature and ascription of rights. Recommended Preparation: PHIL 103. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.

PHIL 490 Senior Seminar  
3 cr  
Gen Ed: Senior Experience  
Required of all philosophy majors; capstone course devoted to mastery of the philosophical essay; topics will vary.  
Prereq: Senior standing or completion of 24 credits in philosophy

PHIL 496 Teaching Methods in Philosophy  
2 credits, max 4  
Learn methods of teaching while assisting in an introductory-level philosophy course. Graded P/F.  
Prereq: Four upper-division courses in philosophy, the introductory course in which the student will participate, and Department Permission

PHIL 498 (s) Internship  
Credit arranged

PHIL 499 (s) Directed Study  
Credit arranged

PHIL 500 Master’s Research & Thesis  
Credit arranged

PHIL 501 (s) Seminar  
Credit arranged  
Graded P/F.  
Prereq: Permission

PHIL 502 (s) Directed Study  
Credit arranged

PHIL 503 (s) Workshop  
Credit arranged

PHIL 504 (s) Special Topics  
Credit arranged

PHIL 543 Philosophy of Language  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with PHIL 443  
Philosophical thinking about meaning, reference, and truth. Additional assignments required for graduate credit. Recommended Preparation: PHIL 202 and PHIL 240. Cooperative: open to WSU degree-seeking students.

PHIL 552 Environmental Philosophy  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with PHIL 452, Cross-listed with ENVS 552  
Philosophical examination of various ethical, metaphysical, and legal issues concerning humans, nature, and the environment; issues covered may include biodiversity and species protection, animal rights, radical ecology, environmental racism, wilderness theory, population control, and property rights. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

PHIL 553 Ethical Practice in Natural Resource and Environmental Science  
3 credits  
This course will investigate some of the ethical dimensions of a life in professional science. While it is open to non-scientists, the course is part of the University of Idaho's Professional Science Master's Program, so it will be addressed directly to professional scientists. As its title indicates, its specific focus will be on natural resource and environmental sciences.

PHIL 599 (s) Research  
Credit arranged