

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

<https://www.uvm.edu/cas/philosophy> (<https://www.uvm.edu/cas/philosophy/>)

The Philosophy Department offers undergraduate instruction in all major areas of philosophy, including historical and contemporary approaches to the discipline. In addition to an understanding of substantive philosophical issues, a philosophy education provides a student with strong analytical skills, the ability to read complex material critically, and the ability to express oneself clearly, both orally and in writing.

Philosophy is a quest to understand the fundamental truths of life, such as the nature of right and wrong and the relationship between the mental and the physical. The University's Philosophy faculty consistently rates among the nation's top six in schools that do not offer graduate studies in the discipline, according to the Philosophical Gourmet Report, the preeminent ranking of philosophy programs in the English-speaking world.

The Department's strengths include faculty outstanding in their fields; small, discussion-based classes taught by these faculty members; close interactions between students and their professors; and a diverse range of courses and research opportunities. Faculty interests range from metaphysics, medical ethics, feminism and philosophy of law to free will and determinism, Chinese philosophy, and metaethics. Philosophy majors develop skills applicable to professions such as law, medicine, public policy, teaching, business, journalism, politics, and many other fields.

MAJORS

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

Philosophy B.A. (<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/artsandsciences/philosophy/philosophyba/>)

MINORS

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

Philosophy (<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/artsandsciences/philosophy/philosophyminor/>)

Courses

PHIL 013. QR: Introduction to Logic. 3 Credits.

Study of the basic principles of deductive inference.

PHIL 020. Intro Phil-God, Morality, Mind. 3 Credits.

Explores three major topics in philosophy using the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings, and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 021. Intro PHIL-Ethics. 3 Credits.

Explores central themes in ethics, such as what our most fundamental obligations are, using the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings, and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 022. Intro PHIL-Ethics of Eating. 3 Credits.

Explores topics concerning the ethical dimensions of eating, such as the ethical status of contemporary food-production techniques, using the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings, and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 023. Intro PHIL-Environm. Ethics. 3 Credits.

Explores questions about the moral status of the environment, including our obligations regarding it, using the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings, and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 024. Intro Phil-Medical Ethics. 3 Credits.

Treats pressing ethical questions regarding our medical practices, including those concerning medical treatment at the beginning and end of life, using the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings, and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 025. Intro Phil-Death and Dying. 3 Credits.

Explores explores issues concerning death and dying, such as whether it makes sense to fear death, using the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings, and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 026. D2: Intro PHIL-East and West. 3 Credits.

Explores ways in which Eastern and Western philosophical traditions both differ and overlap. Uses the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings, and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 027. Intro PHIL-Art & Aesthetics. 3 Credits.

Explores issues concerning art, such as the meaning of artworks and their significance, using the tools of philosophical argument and analysis. Content, readings and assignments vary by section and instructor.

PHIL 028. D1:Marginalized Ident & Priv. 3 Credits.

Teaches students to harness the power of theoretical scholarship on social marginalization, oppression, and privilege in both understanding and challenging the intersecting systems of social hierarchy operative in contemporary American society.

PHIL 090. Internship. 1-3 Credits.

On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 095. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

PHIL 096. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

PHIL 097. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.

A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 101. History of Ancient Philosophy. 3 Credits.

Study of the works of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, and their successors. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy.

PHIL 102. History of Modern Philosophy. 3 Credits.

Study of works of the major philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, and others. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy.

PHIL 108. The Divine Plato. 3 Credits.

A survey of Plato's works, including the "early," "middle," and parts of the late" dialogues. Emphasis will be laid on reading the dialogues themselves. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy or in Classics (Greek culture or Greek). Cross-listed with: CLAS 161.

PHIL 111. Philosophy of Mind. 3 Credits.

Inquiry into such topics as consciousness, the relation between the mental (beliefs, sensations, etc.) and the physical (chemicals, neurons, etc.) and how minds represent things. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy.

PHIL 112. Philosophy of Science. 3 Credits.

Introduction to major philosophical problems raised by science. Typical topics: the nature of scientific inference, the structure of theories, causation, explanation, and scientific change. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy or two courses in any natural science.

PHIL 113. Intermediate Logic. 3 Credits.

Study of philosophically interesting systems of symbolic logic and their applications. Prerequisite: PHIL 013.

PHIL 117. Philosophy of Language. 3 Credits.

Study of central problems concerning the nature of language and linguistic representation. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy. PHIL 013 recommended.

PHIL 118. Metaphysics. 3 Credits.

A study of such topics as vagueness, the nature of time, persistence of objects and people through change and whether numbers or properties exist. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy.

PHIL 121. D2: Chinese Philosophy I. 3 Credits.

Study of the Classical Schools of Chinese thought, including Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, and Legalism. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy, Religion, or Asian Studies.

PHIL 140. Social & Political Philosophy. 3 Credits.

Examination of some major figures in the history of social and political philosophy, focusing on issues such as political obligation, rights, property, and justice. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy.

PHIL 142. Philosophy of Law. 3 Credits.

Analysis of the nature of law, the relation between law and morality, legal obligation, and the judicial decision. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy or POLS 041.

PHIL 145. Killing Things. 3 Credits.

It is sometimes morally permissible to kill things: you can kill a mosquito biting you, for example. What else is permissible to kill? When? Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy.

PHIL 170. Feminism:Theories and Issues. 3 Credits.

Theories of libertarianism, liberalism, and egalitarianism; application to the analysis and evaluation of social issues of contemporary interest, such as abortion and affirmative action. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy. Cross-listed with: GSWS 120.

PHIL 190. Internship. 1-18 Credits.

On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 191. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.

Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 195. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

PHIL 196. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

PHIL 197. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.

A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 198. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.

Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 205. Seminar:Maj Phil Author/School. 3 Credits.

Study of major philosophical texts by a single author or school of thought. May be repeated for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy at the 100-level.

PHIL 206. Emotions. 3 Credits.

Study of the nature of emotions and related philosophical issues. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy at the 100-level.

PHIL 218. Metaphysics:Advanced Topics. 3 Credits.

In-depth study of such topics as vagueness, the nature of time, persistence of objects and people through change, and whether numbers or properties exist. May be repeated for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy at the 100-level.

PHIL 219. Epistemology:Advanced Topics. 3 Credits.

In-depth study of select topics concerning theories of knowledge and related concepts such as belief, truth, rationality, evidence, perception, and memory. May be repeated for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy at the 100-level.

PHIL 235. Topics in Phil of Religion. 3 Credits.

Advanced study of such issues as the metaphysics of religion, the epistemology of religious belief, philosophy and faith, religion and science, and religion and ethics. May be repeated for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: PHIL 101, PHIL 102.

PHIL 240. Contemporary Ethical Theory. 3 Credits.

In-depth study of metaethics, emphasizing recent work. Topics include moral objectivity, moral language, moral epistemology, and the relationship between morality and reasons. May be repeated for credit with different content. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy at the 100-level.

PHIL 290. Internship. 1-18 Credits.

On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 291. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.

Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PHIL 295. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

PHIL 296. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

PHIL 297. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.

A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisite: an appropriate 200-level course in Philosophy.

PHIL 298. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.

Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisite: an appropriate 200-level course in Philosophy.