

# PHILOSOPHY (PL)

## PL-101 Introduction to Philosophy

Credits: 3

Term Offered: All Terms

Course Type(s): None

A historico-critical inquiry into the nature of the philosophical enterprise; the meaning of existence; knowledge and truth; and values in their religious, ethical, and aesthetic significance.

## PL-104 Ethics

Credits: 3

Term Offered: All Terms

Course Type(s): SJL

Theoretical ethics and its application to enduring and contemporary moral issues. Thorough examination of the basic principles of a rational, humane, and practical moral system. Also listed as RS-104.

## PL-106 Elementary Logic

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

A consideration of valid reasoning as it relates to language and definition. Primary attention is given to discerning and identifying informal fallacies, techniques for determining the validity of inference, and the evolution of symbolic systems. Recommended for students preparing to take the GRE or LSAT.

## PL-198 Special Topics in Philosophy (100 Level)

Credits: 1-3

Course Type(s): None

An intensive study of a particular subject or problem in philosophy to be announced prior to registration. May be conducted on either a lecture-discussion or a seminar basis. If a prerequisite is required it will be announced in the course schedule.

## PL-201 Philosophy of Religion

Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s): PL-101

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

An examination of certain salient features of Western religious thought, emphasizing the problems of religious language, the nature and validity of religious experience, traditional and contemporary ideas of God, morality, death, and evil. Also listed as RS-201.

## PL-202 Great Issues in World Philosophy

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

An examination of great philosophical works from several cultural traditions. The course uses original works from Western, Indian, and Chinese civilizations to focus on philosophical approaches to a cluster of "great issues" while putting the philosophers and their works in historical context.

## PL-202H Great Issues in World Philosophy

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): HO

Critical investigation of some of the critical ideas and arguments that have been defended and promoted by thinkers in a variety of cultures. Open only to students in the Honors Program.

## PL-203 Philosophy of Language

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

Investigation of questions about the concepts of language, meaning, and understanding. Consideration of some of the major contributions on these and related concepts.

## PL-204 Existentialism

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

Existentialism is about what it means to be an individual who has to create a meaning for his or her own life. Establish the context for existentialism within the history of philosophy as a whole, but also consider the impact that existentialist ideas have generally had in literature, art, and culture.

## PL-205 Ethics and Literature

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

Explore the nature of ethical problems and theories through philosophy and literature.

## PL-210 Philosophy in Film

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

An introduction to philosophy using films in conjunction with traditional readings. Study some of the most important questions in the history of philosophy, such as: the nature of reality and its relationship to appearances, the nature of the self, human and artificial intelligence, the possibility of freedom, the nature of ethics, and the theory of meaning.

## PL-211 Social and Political Philosophy

Credits: 3

Course Type(s): None

Comparative study of the philosophical assumptions underlying significant Western conceptions of social order and community.

## PL-212 The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

Students will explore the history of Christianity through some of its most provocative and significant "turning points." They will study both the historical context and the intellectual particulars of theological and philosophical debates over the origins of the universe, the humanity of Jesus Christ, the formation of the biblical canon, the nature of religious reformation, the nature of God, and the role of religion in public life. Also listed as RS-212.

## PL-216 Religions and Philosophies of India

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): BI.EL, CD, CC

Introduction to the fundamental elements of the orthodox and non-orthodox philosophical and religious systems of India. Highlights plurality of timeless distinct gnostic systems that, having discovered the "Self," search for liberation from the stream of time. Also listed as RS-216.

## PL-222 Philosophy of Love and Friendship

Credits: 3

Term Offered: Spring Term

Course Type(s): None

A study of philosophical theories of love and friendship from the time of classical Greece to the twentieth century.

## PL-250 History of Philosophy I

Credits: 3

Course Type(s): None

The beginning of philosophical speculation in Ionia, its golden age in Athens, the Roman interlude, and the flourish and decline of medieval philosophy.

## PL-260 Informal Logic

Credits: 3

Term Offered: All Terms

Course Type(s): RD

An introduction to some of the most important principles of informal logic. Topics include: concepts, classification, definitions, propositions, argument structure, diagramming arguments, explanation, and fallacies.

<p><b>PL-277 Comparative Religions</b>            Term Offered: All Terms            Course Type(s): BI,EL, GU, RE            Students are introduced to the fundamental differences and similarities of world religions that, throughout history, were and are at war with each other. Highlights a plurality of distinct creeds that, postulating an Absolute Truth, search to regain that Ultimate Reality through various ways of life or moral codes. Also listed as RS-277.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>	<p><b>PL-324 American Political Thought</b>            Prerequisite(s): PS-102 or PS-103            Course Type(s): PSAM            The development of political thought in the United States with emphasis on the late nineteenth- and twentieth-century philosophers and statesmen, along with the development of ideology of groups in American politics. Also listed as PS-324.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p><b>PL-298 Special Topics in Philosophy (200 Level)</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): None            An intensive study of a particular subject or problem in philosophy to be announced prior to registration. May be conducted on either a lecture-discussion or a seminar basis. If a prerequisite is required it will be announced in the course schedule.</p>	<b>Credits: 1-3</b>	<p><b>PL-340 Plato's Dialogues</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): RD            A critical study of Plato's dialogues, with a particular emphasis on the role that reasoned oral discourse plays in these texts.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p><b>PL-298H Special Topics in Philosophy (200 Level)</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): HO            An intensive study of a particular subject or problem in philosophy to be announced prior to registration. May be conducted on either a lecture-discussion or a seminar basis. Only open to students in the Honors Program. If a prerequisite is required it will be announced in the course schedule.</p>	<b>Credits: 1-3</b>	<p><b>PL-350 Multicultural Ethics</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): CD, RE            A study of some of the most influential authors in the history of ethical history, and also feminist and multicultural criticism of those classic sources.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p><b>PL-299 Independent Study in Philosophy</b>            Term Offered: All Terms            Course Type(s): None            Guided research on selected topics; conference with sponsoring professor. Prior permission of the directing professor and department chair is required to take this course.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>	<p><b>PL-360 Philosophy and Literature</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): RD            An exploration of the intersections of philosophy and literature with a particular focus on questions concerning the nature of authorship and moral authority.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p><b>PL-305 Philosophy of Art</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): None            Place of beauty and art in human life; standards of taste and aesthetic experience; classical and contemporary theories.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>	<p><b>PL-370 Multicultural Social and Political Philosophy</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): CD, RE            A study of some of the most influential authors in the history of social and political philosophy, and also feminist and multicultural criticism of those classic sources.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p><b>PL-307 American Philosophy</b>            Prerequisite(s): PL-101            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): None            Classical and contemporary philosophical theories developed in the United States by such philosophers as Jonathan Edwards, Emerson, Royce, Santayana, James, Dewey, and Whitehead.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>	<p><b>PL-398 Special Topics in Philosophy (300 Level)</b>            Course Type(s): None            An intensive study of a particular subject or problem in philosophy to be announced prior to registration. May be conducted on either a lecture-discussion or a seminar basis. If a prerequisite is required it will be announced in the course schedule.</p>	<b>Credits: 1-3</b>
<p><b>PL-309 Seminar in Plato</b>            Prerequisite(s): PL-101            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): None            Against the background of pre-Socratic problems, the intensive study of selected dialogues with emphasis upon Plato's lasting contributions to Western philosophy.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>	<p><b>PL-420 The Philosophy of Speech and Writing</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): RD            An investigation of several philosophical theories concerning the nature of speech and writing, and an exploration of how theories of speech and writing have affected both contemporary philosophy and contemporary culture.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p><b>PL-316 The Modern Mind: From Descartes to the Present</b>            Prerequisite(s): 3 credits in Philosophy            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): None            A systematic study of the central theses of philosophers and philosophical schools from early Continental Rationalism and British Empiricism to the contemporary patterns of philosophical thought.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>	<p><b>PL-490 Seminar in Philosophy</b>            Course Type(s): None            Selected topics in which participating students present and discuss research papers. Approval of the philosophy faculty at the recommendation of the instructor is required for the student to take this course.</p>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
		<p><b>PL-498 Special Topics in Philosophy (400 Level)</b>            Term Offered: Spring Term            Course Type(s): None            An intensive study of a particular subject or problem in philosophy to be announced prior to registration. May be conducted on either a lecture-discussion or a seminar basis. If a prerequisite is required it will be announced in the course schedule.</p>	<b>Credits: 1-3</b>

**PL-499 Individual Studies in Philosophy Credits: 3**

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing, twelve credits of Philosophy, and prior permission of the directing professor and department chair

Term Offered: All Terms

Course Type(s): None

Guided research on selected topics; conference with sponsoring professor. Junior standing, twelve credits of Philosophy, prior permission of the directing professor and department chair is required to register for this class.