

Philosophy

College of Arts & Humanities

Department of Philosophy

227 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2012

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Like no other discipline, through its methodical scrutiny of the entire network of our beliefs, philosophy reveals and clarifies our fundamental ideas and principles. Recognizing that anyone who systematically searches for knowledge may be considered a philosopher, the highest degree in the sciences and humanities which the modern university grants is the Ph.D. - the doctor of philosophy.

Because it engages in a comprehensive analysis of the theoretical foundations of other disciplines, philosophy serves as an excellent pre-professional major. The study of philosophy provides the student with a wealth of analytical skills, making it one of the preferred pre-law and pre-med majors. The insights and perspectives of philosophy prepare leaders of industry, politicians, theologians, and comedians alike. Through philosophy, the continued conversation that constitutes our culture is kept alive.

Minnesota State Mankato's philosophy program provides general education courses, electives, and minors supporting concentrations in other fields. A philosophy major is both for those who want to become professional philosophers and those who want a general liberal education. It traverses other disciplines, providing the ability to deal with such problems as the nature of values and knowledge, and studies the development of ideas and their impact on the arts, religion, and social institutions.

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Minimum university admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.

- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 ("C").

Contact the department for application procedures.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. None.

P/N Grading Policy. The P/N grading system applies to all courses, but majors and minors may take 300- or 400-level courses in philosophy for P/N credit only with the consent of the department.

PHILOSOPHY BA

Major Common Core

PHIL 110 Logic and Critical Thinking (3)

PHIL 311 Symbolic Logic (3)

PHIL 334W History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy (3)

PHIL 336W History of Philosophy: Renaissance & Modern Philosophy (3)

PHIL 495 Senior Thesis I (2)

PHIL 496 Senior Thesis II (1)

Major Restricted Electives

Historical Period (Choose 3 credits from the following)

PHIL 337 19th Century Philosophy (3)

PHIL 338 American Philosophy (3)

PHIL 358W Eastern Philosophy (3)

PHIL 400 Philosophy of Kant (3)

PHIL 437 Contemporary Philosophy (3)

PHIL 455 Existentialism & Phenomenology (3)

Values (Choose 3 credits from the following)

PHIL 120W Introduction to Ethics (3)

PHIL 205W Culture, Identity, and Diversity (3)

PHIL 222W Medical Ethics (3)

PHIL 224W Business Ethics (3)

PHIL 226W Environmental Ethics (3)

PHIL 240W Law, Justice & Society (3)

PHIL 321 Social & Political Philosophy (3)

PHIL 322W Ethical Theory (3)

PHIL 440 Philosophy of Law (3)

PHIL 460 Philosophy of the Arts (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives (Choose 15 credits)

Choose 15 credits from the following list. At least 12 credits must be upper division (300-400 level).

PHIL 100W Introduction to Philosophy (3)

PHIL 101W Philosophical Problem: The Mind-Body Problem (3)

PHIL 112 Logic of Scientific Method (3)

PHIL 115W Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender (3)

PHIL 120W Introduction to Ethics (3)

PHIL 205W Culture, Identity, and Diversity (3)

PHIL 222W Medical Ethics (3)

PHIL 224W Business Ethics (3)

PHIL 226W Environmental Ethics (3)

PHIL 240W Law, Justice & Society (3)

PHIL 321 Social & Political Philosophy (3)

PHIL 322W Ethical Theory (3)

PHIL 337 19th Century Philosophy (3)

PHIL 338 American Philosophy (3)

PHIL 358W Eastern Philosophy (3)

PHIL 361 Philosophy of Religion (3)

PHIL 400 Philosophy of Kant (3)

PHIL 410 Philosophy of Language (3)

PHIL 420 Epistemology (3)

PHIL 430 Metaphysics (3)

PHIL 437 Contemporary Philosophy (3)

PHIL 440 Philosophy of Law (3)

PHIL 445 Feminist Philosophy (3)

PHIL 450 Special Topics (3)

PHIL 455 Existentialism & Phenomenology (3)

PHIL 460 Philosophy of the Arts (3)

PHIL 465 Philosophy of Film (3)

PHIL 474 Philosophy of the Mind (3)

PHIL 475 Philosophical Issues in Cognitive Science (3)

PHIL 480 Philosophy of Science (3)

PHIL 481 Philosophy of Biology (3)

PHIL 490 Workshop (1-6)

PHIL 491 In-Service (1-6)

PHIL 499 Individual Study (1-6)

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY: Language (8 credits)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

PHILOSOPHY BS

Major Common Core

PHIL 110 Logic and Critical Thinking (3)

PHIL 311 Symbolic Logic (3)

PHIL 334W History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy (3)

PHIL 336W History of Philosophy: Renaissance and Modern Philosophy (3)

PHIL 495 Senior Thesis I (2)

PHIL 496 Senior Thesis II (1)

Major Restricted Electives

Historical Period (Choose 3 credits from the following)

PHIL 337 19th Century Philosophy (3)

PHIL 338 American Philosophy (3)

PHIL 358W Eastern Philosophy (3)

PHILOSOPHY

- PHIL 400 Philosophy of Kant (3)
 PHIL 437 Contemporary Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 455 Existentialism & Phenomenology (3)

Values (Choose 3 credits from the following)

- PHIL 120W Introduction to Ethics (3)
 PHIL 205W Culture, Identity, and Diversity (3)
 PHIL 222W Medical Ethics (3)
 PHIL 224W Business Ethics (3)
 PHIL 226W Environmental Ethics (3)
 PHIL 240W Law, Justice & Society (3)
 PHIL 321 Social & Political Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 322W Ethical Theory (3)
 PHIL 440 Philosophy of Law (3)
 PHIL 460 Philosophy of the Arts (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives (Choose 15 credits)

Choose 15 credits from the following list. At least 12 credits must be upper division (300-400 level).

- PHIL 100W Introduction to Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 101W Philosophical Problem: The Mind-Body Problem (3)
 PHIL 112 Logic of Scientific Method (3)
 PHIL 115W Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender (3)
 PHIL 120W Introduction to Ethics (3)
 PHIL 205W Culture, Identity, and Diversity (3)
 PHIL 222W Medical Ethics (3)
 PHIL 224W Business Ethics (3)
 PHIL 226W Environmental Ethics (3)
 PHIL 240W Law, Justice & Society (3)
 PHIL 321 Social & Political Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 322W Ethical Theory (3)
 PHIL 337 19th Century Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 338 American Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 358W Eastern Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 361 Philosophy of Religion (3)
 PHIL 400 Philosophy of Kant (3)
 PHIL 410 Philosophy of Language (3)
 PHIL 420 Epistemology (3)
 PHIL 430 Metaphysics (3)
 PHIL 437 Contemporary Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 440 Philosophy of Law (3)
 PHIL 445 Feminist Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 450 Special Topics (3)
 PHIL 455 Existentialism & Phenomenology (3)
 PHIL 460 Philosophy of the Arts (3)
 PHIL 465 Philosophy of Film (3)
 PHIL 473 Knowledge and Reality (3)
 PHIL 474 Philosophy of the Mind (3)
 PHIL 475 Philosophical Issues in Cognitive Science (3)
 PHIL 480 Philosophy of Science (3)
 PHIL 481 Philosophy of Biology (3)
 PHIL 490 Workshop (1-6)
 PHIL 491 In-Service (1-6)
 PHIL 499 Individual Study (1-6)

PHILOSOPHY MINOR (18 credits)

Required for Minor (Core, 9 credits)

- PHIL 334W History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 336W History of Philosophy: Renaissance and Modern Philosophy (3)

(Choose one course from the following)

- PHIL 337 19th Century Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 338 American Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 358W Eastern Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 437 Contemporary Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 455 Existentialism and Phenomenology (3)

Required Electives (9 credits)

(Choose a minimum of 9 additional Philosophy credits from the following)

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|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| PHIL 100W | PHIL 110 | PHIL 112 | PHIL 115W | PHIL 120W |
| PHIL 205W | PHIL 222W | PHIL 224W | PHIL 226W | PHIL 240W |
| PHIL 311 | PHIL 321 | PHIL 322W | PHIL 337 | PHIL 338 |
| PHIL 358W | PHIL 361 | PHIL 410 | PHIL 437 | PHIL 440 |
| PHIL 450 | PHIL 455 | PHIL 460 | PHIL 474 | PHIL 480 |
| PHIL 490 | PHIL 491 | PHIL 499 | | |

ETHICS

Ethics is concerned with some of our deepest values and commitments. Considerations of right and wrong, of good and bad, permeate our public and private lives. The Ethics Minor provides the opportunity to investigate theoretical and applied ethics in a rigorous and deep way. This minor will be of special interest to students planning careers in the professions, including business, medicine, law, and others. Students completing the minor will develop a deeper reflective understanding of ethical values, an awareness of the history of ethical thought, an enhanced sense of our shared human values, and the ability to understand and critically evaluate the complex ethical issues of our time.

Required CORE (6 credits)

- PHIL 120 Introduction to Ethics (3)
 PHIL 322 Ethical Theory (3)

(Choose one from the following 3 credits)

- PHIL 115W Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender (3)
 PHIL 205W Culture, Identity and Diversity (3)
 PHIL 222W Medical Ethics (3)
 PHIL 224W Business Ethics (3)
 PHIL 226W Environmental Ethics (3)
 PHIL 240W Law, Justice & Society (3)

(Choose two of the following 6 credits)

- PHIL 321 Social & Political Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 334 History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 337 19th Century Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 358 Eastern Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 361 Philosophy of Religions (3)
 PHIL 440 Philosophy of Law (3)
 PHIL 445 Feminist Philosophy (3)
 PHIL 455 Existentialism & Phenomenology (3)
 PHIL 450 Special Topics (1-3)
 PHIL 460 Philosophy of the Arts (3)

(Choose one elective from list below)

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|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| PHIL 115W | PHIL 205W | PHIL 222W | PHIL 224W |
| PHIL 226W | PHIL 321 | PHIL 334 | PHIL 337 |
| PHIL 358 | PHIL 361 | PHIL 440 | PHIL 445 |
| PHIL 455 | PHIL 450 | PHIL 460 | |

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 100W (3) Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to the nature of philosophy and specific, basic problems.
 Fall, Spring
 GE-1C, GE-6

PHIL 101W (3) Philosophical Problem: the Mind-Body Problem

This course considers historical and contemporary analyses of the mind in relation to the body and the connection of the mind-body problem to other issues concerning both religion and science.
 Fall, Spring
 GE-1C, GE-6

PHIL 110 (3) Logic and Critical Thinking

Traditional syllogistic logic and an introduction to the elements of modern symbolic logic.
 Fall, Spring
 GE-2, GE-4

PHIL 112 (3) Logic of Scientific Method

Inductive logic, formation of hypotheses, scientific explanation, definition, classification, probability, analogy.

Variable

GE-2, GE-4

PHIL 115W (3) Philosophy of Race, Class and Gender

To what extent do the differences among races and between genders represent biological differences, and to what extent are they constructed by society? Is racism best conceptualized as an additional burden to sexism or as one different in kind?

Variable

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-7

PHIL 120W (3) Introduction to Ethics

Discussion of theories of value and obligation.

Variable

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-9

PHIL 205W (3) Culture, Identity, and Diversity

Discussion of the ways that a culture both creates human community and shapes self-identity. Exploration of similarities and differences between and interdependence among cultural traditions, and of vocabularies for assessing traditions.

Variable

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-8

PHIL 222W (3) Medical Ethics

Ethical perspectives relevant to issues such as euthanasia, genetic engineering, organ transplant, patients' rights, abortion, etc.

Variable

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-9

PHIL 224W (3) Business Ethics

Introduction to ethical theories and concepts and their application to specific cases in the world of business.

Variable

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-9

PHIL 226W (3) Environmental Ethics

Questions about human responsibilities to other animals and the environment gain urgency as environmental crises become more prevalent, and animal species continue to be eliminated. Learn about, critique, and apply the principles underlying evaluations of human environmental conduct.

Variable

GE-1C, GE-9, GE-10

PHIL 240W (3) Law, Justice & Society

Consideration of the basic philosophical approaches to the idea of justice and how this idea relates to other fundamental ideas in political philosophy, ethics, and law.

Variable

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-9

PHIL 311 (3) Symbolic Logic

Study of the elements of first order symbolic logic, i.e., the propositional calculus and the predicate calculus, and its applications to ordinary language and mathematics.

Spring

GE-2, GE-4

PHIL 321 (3) Social & Political Philosophy

Human rights and responsibilities in relation to the organization of society and government.

Variable

GE-6, GE-9

PHIL 322W (3) Ethical Theory

Topics in normative, meta-ethical and applied ethical theory.

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-9

PHIL 334W (3) History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy

Philosophers of Ancient Greece, Rome and the early middle ages: The presocratics, Plato, Aristotle, Hellenistic and Roman philosophers, St. Augustine.

GE-1C, GE-6

PHIL 336W (3) History of Philosophy: Renaissance and Modern Philosophy

Late Medieval Philosophy and its influence on the Renaissance, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz and Continental Rationalism, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and British Empiricism, and Kant.

GE-1C, GE-6

PHIL 337 (3) 19th Century Philosophy

Philosophers and philosophies of the 19th century.

Variable

GE-6

PHIL 338 (3) American Philosophy

Colonial times to the present.

Variable

PHIL 358W (3) Eastern Philosophy

Survey of principle philosophical doctrines of ancient Chinese philosophers and a survey of Indian philosophical speculation.

Variable

GE-1C, GE-6, GE-8

PHIL 361 (3) Philosophy of Religion

Structure and logic of religious belief. Problems such as the existence of God, evil, immortality, miracles, and religious language.

Fall

PHIL 400 (3) The Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

This course will undertake a close reading and study of Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason and other texts.

Variable

PHIL 410 (3) Philosophy of Language

Theories of meaning, speech acts and semantics, relation of language to the world.

Variable

PHIL 420 (3) Epistemology

Theories of knowledge and justification, skeptical attacks on the possibility of knowledge, and anti-skeptical defenses.

Variable

PHIL 430 (3) Metaphysics

An investigation of the most fundamental concepts of reality, including the nature of things, identity over time, modality, causation, free will, space and time, and universals and particulars.

Variable

PHIL 437 (3) Contemporary Philosophy

Major philosophers and philosophies of the late 20th Century.

Variable

PHIL 440 (3) Philosophy of Law

Discussion of philosophical issues in law by way of connecting legal problems to well-developed and traditional problems in philosophy, e.g., in ethics, political philosophy, and epistemology, and investigates the philosophical underpinnings of the development of law. The course takes an analytical approach to law (as opposed to historical sociological, political, or legalistic approaches) and devotes a substantial part of the semester to a major work on law written by a philosopher.

PHIL 445 (3) Feminist Philosophy

Study of philosophy done from a feminist perspective in areas such as metaphysics, epistemology or ethics.

Fall

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 450 (1-3) Special Topics

Intensive study of a single philosopher or topic.

Variable

PHIL 455 (3) Existentialism & Phenomenology

In-depth analysis of major European existentialists such as Kierkegaard, Heidegger, and Sartre.

Variable

PHIL 460 (3) Philosophy of the Arts

Aesthetic principles, theories, and the creative process. Theories of visual arts, music, literature, dance, etc.

Spring

PHIL 465 (3) Philosophy of Film

This course investigates some of the central philosophical issues in our thinking about film, including questions about narrative, ontology, ethical criticism of film, the role of artistic intentions in interpretation, artistic medium, and the art/entertainment distinction.

Spring

PHIL 474 (3) Philosophy of the Mind

The nature of consciousness, mind and body relations, freedom of action.

Variable

PHIL 475 (3) Philosophical Issues in Cognitive Science

This course examines the conceptual and philosophical complexities of efforts to understand the mind in science. Topics include the differences and similarities between humans and other animals, the nature of psychological explanation, and reductive strategies for explaining consciousness, intentionality and language.

Fall

PHIL 480 (3) Philosophy of Science

Nature of explanations, causality, theoretical entities, and selected problems.

Variable

PHIL 481 (3) Philosophy of Biology

The course examines conceptual and philosophical issues in biology, the nature and scope of biological explanation and conflicts between evolutionary and religious explanations for the origin of life.

PHIL 490 (1-6) Workshop

Special event of less than semester duration.

Variable

PHIL 491 (1-6) In-Service

Variable

PHIL 495 (2) Senior Thesis I

The nature of the topic of the senior thesis is jointly determined by the student and Philosophy Department faculty members. Philosophy majors should enroll in this course in the first semester of their final year of undergraduate studies. By the end of the first semester of the final year, the student will have completed a substantive draft of their senior thesis. The thesis will be completed during the final semester of the student's undergraduate studies.

PHIL 496 (1) Senior Thesis II

The senior thesis begun in Philosophy 495 will be completed. A core goal of the philosophy major is that students be able to engage in sustained development and analysis of an important philosophical topic. The senior thesis serves as a culminating exercise in a student's undergraduate career that hones those skills central to the subject of philosophy. The senior thesis will also serve as a tool for assessing the major.

PHIL 499 (1-6) Individual Study

Individual study of a philosopher or problem.

Variable