

Spring 2023 Department of Philosophy Course Descriptions

Listed below are the Philosophy courses being offered at Purdue University in Spring 2023. The courses are listed by their five-digit course number and course title, followed by a brief description. The tables below each description also include information on the course type (e.g., lectures = 'LEC'), the enrolment limit of the course, the day(s)/time of the course or each section of it, the classroom in which the course will be taught, and the instructor(s) for the course. Courses that include a recitation section are marked in the tables below as type 'LEC/REC.' Details of the recitation sections are not listed. The type 'DIST' indicates a fully asynchronous, online course. 'Grad' indicates that a graduate student will be the instructor of record. PHIL courses that are cross-listed with other courses are marked as such (e.g., 'c/1 DEPT 10000').

Note that in the Spring 2023, there will also be some hybrid modalities of instructional delivery. Section types that have an * after them (e.g., 'LEC*') include notes below the information tables describing the method of delivery for those courses/sections for Spring 2023.

Have questions about specific philosophy courses, philosophy major plans of study, or the new BA in AI plan of study? You can contact our Academic Program Manager, Samantha Ooley, via email at swalker@purdue.edu, by phone at 765-496-3495 and she is happy to answer any questions you have or to schedule an in-person meeting, or [virtual meeting via WebX](#).

100 LEVEL COURSES

11000 The Big Questions: Introduction to Philosophy

The basic problems and types of philosophy, with special emphasis on the problems of knowledge and the nature of reality.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 11000	LEC/REC	150	MW 5:30-6:20pm	WTHR 172	MARIÑA
PHIL 11000	DIST	100	asynchronous online		DE ARAUJO

DR. MARIÑA'S 11000 SECTION DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to some basic problems in philosophy. We will conduct our investigation into these problems through both lectures and discussion of the readings. Our class will proceed through careful analysis of classical and contemporary philosophical texts. Topics covered include a) God and Evil, b) Knowledge and Reality, c) Freedom and Determinism, and d) Ethics and Society. We will be examining texts from Descartes, Hume, and Kant, and numerous other more contemporary authors.

11005 Introduction to Philosophy Through Video Games

The basic problems and types of philosophy, with special emphasis on the problems of knowledge and the nature of reality.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 11005	LEC	35	MWF 12:30-1:20pm	BRNG 1268	GRAD
PHIL 11005	LEC	35	MWF 2:30-3:20pm	BRNG 1268	GRAD

11005 SECTION DESCRIPTION:

PHIL 11005 is designed to introduce students to central figures and problems of Western philosophy *through video games!* As an introductory philosophy course, it aims to expose students to some of the big questions and problems that have permeated philosophical inquiry over the past 2,000+ years. We will explore, and inquire systematically about, the following areas of philosophy and the questions they pose:

- **epistemology** (what is knowledge? how can we know there's an external world and that I'm not a brain in a vat?);
- **free will** (do we have free will or is everything determined?);
- **ethics** (are 'right' and 'wrong' objective, relative, or something else? if "the good" exists, then, what is it?);
- **personal identity, and the meaning of life** (what is the self and how do I identify it? how do we "make" our own self? is there a meaning to our lives, and if so how do we define it?)

This course assumes that had Socrates been a gamer, his famous line about the value of examining our lives might have gone something more like this: "The unexamined *game* is not worth playing!" As a course that explores philosophy through video games, it will achieve some of its learning objectives by looking at and analyzing video games that demonstrate, portray, or represent neatly the philosophical questions and problems being addressed. The basic structure of the course will be for students to read selections from the history of philosophy to identify and understand a fundamental philosophical problem. Then, when we meet in class, we will be watching walkthroughs, or gameplays, of these video games to facilitate our discussion of the readings and to better visualize the philosophical problems at hand. To reduce cost to students beyond the required textbook, the walkthroughs, or gameplays, will be accessed on YouTube and other free access gaming platforms. The instructor will also do some live demonstrations of certain games in class. But of course, this is a philosophy course with video games. Thus, students will occasionally be required to actively play certain video games in class! When active learning through in-class gaming is required, every effort will be made to provide free access to the games for all registered students in the class. And of course, students are welcome to play the games at their leisure if they have access to them – but the required *reading* will always be prerequisite to playing the games!

11100 Introduction to Ethics

A study of the nature of moral value and obligation. Topics such as the following will be considered: different conceptions of the good life and standards of right conduct; the relation of nonmoral and moral goodness; determinism, free will, and the problem of moral responsibility; the political and social dimensions of ethics; the principles and methods of moral judgment. Readings will be drawn both from contemporary sources and from the works of such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Butler, Hume, Kant, and J. S. Mill.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 11100	LEC/REC	225	TR 1:30-2:20pm	FRNY G140	KAIN

DR. KAIN'S 11100 SECTION DESCRIPTION:

Are there objective standards for human actions? Is there such a thing as moral obligation? What makes a human life good? In this course, we will grapple with these philosophical questions by examining some classical and contemporary attempts to answer them. We will study, and argue with, great philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill, and some of their recent interlocutors.

11400 Global Moral Issues

A systematic and representative examination of significant contemporary moral problems with a focus on global issues such as international justice, poverty and foreign aid, nationalism and patriotism, just war, population and the environment, human rights, gender equality, and national self-determination.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 11400	LEC/REC	150	TR 9:30-10:20am	WTHR 172	DAVIS

DR. DAVIS'S 11400 SECTION DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this course is to provide a general introduction to the field of global ethics. This actually involves three introductions at once: one to the methods of philosophy in general, a second to ethics as a subfield of philosophy, and a third to a sample of ethical issues that are specifically global. We'll begin by discussing the nature of arguments, which are the basic methodology of philosophy. We'll then examine the nature of ethical claims and the scope of ethical obligation, before studying a range of ethical theories. Finally, we'll consider what we owe to distant strangers from different cultures, the ethical value of patriotism, and the ethics of climate change.

11500 Philosophy: What Are You Going to Do with That? (1 cr. hr.)

A 1 credit course for philosophy majors designed to help them navigate their progress toward the PHIL degree and what they will eventually apply it to doing. Students will gain an understanding of what the different branches of philosophy explore, plan a path of study through the major requirements, and develop a portfolio of professional documents toward applying to internships and jobs. PHIL majors are encouraged to take this course in the spring of their first or second year.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 11500	LEC	20	MW 10:30-11:25am	BRNG 1248	OOLEY

15000 Principles of Logic

[Note: This course fulfills UCC quantitative reasoning/math requirements.] This course is an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of modern logic, with emphasis on the construction and appraisal of complex patterns of reasoning. Some of the things expected will be the recognition and reconstruction of arguments in ordinary language, the symbolization of propositions and arguments from English into logical notation, the testing of arguments for validity, and understanding and constructing proofs. You will be expected to know the notation and the techniques of propositional and predicate logic. Put less formally, you will learn what it means for a claim to follow from others, and to recognize and construct good arguments of your own.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 15000	LEC*	40	TR 3:00-4:15pm	see note below	TULODZIECKI

*PHIL 15000 will be delivered by synchronous Zoom lectures. Students will not have to be in a classroom to participate in the lectures.

200 LEVEL COURSES

20700 Ethics for Technology, Engineering, And Design

This course focuses on a specific form of professional ethics, which addresses the obligations of engineers and designers in industries and environments that are increasingly international and cross-cultural. The goal of the course is to apply a general conceptual framework to the specific facts of new and unique situations, including those arising from the global context of modern engineering. The course first covers what this ethical framework is, and then provides practice in applying it to concrete cases. The readings, case studies, and exercises will culminate in a detailed ethical case study that will be presented both orally and in writing.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 20700	LEC/REC	75	TR 8:30-9:20pm	WTHR 104	DAVIS

22100 Introduction to Philosophy of Science

We believe science is a very special discipline, capable of answering intriguing questions about the universe, and also capable of creating technologies that profoundly affect our lives. But, what exactly is science and how is it different from things such as astrology or numerology? How do scientists actually confirm or reject their theories? How can social and political issues affect science? In this introductory course to the philosophy of science, we will study these and other questions about the scope and methods of science and the theories of its historical development.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 22100	LEC	35	TR 4:30-5:45pm	BRNG 1230	RAMÍREZ

22300 Fate and Free Will

This is an introductory-level course focused on a fascinating set of topics related to the question of whether we have free will. Many reasons have been proposed for thinking that our fate is determined: arguments from logic, from science, and from theology have been employed with the aim of showing that our fate is already sealed. But has our fate been sealed? And if so, what does that imply about freedom and responsibility? We will be examining and evaluating arguments for determinism and fatalism and considering their implications in connection with questions such as whether we have free will, whether we are morally responsible for anything, and whether we can make good sense of human actions such as deliberating, planning, punishing, praising, and blaming. Most of our readings will be from contemporary philosophers. The assignments will include three non-cumulative exams and several short writing assignments.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 22300	LEC	35	TR 10:30-11:45am	BRNG 1230	BERGMANN

22700 Science and Religion

Is science irrelevant to religion? Or can it challenge, support, shape, presuppose, explain—or explain away—religion? This course examines how science in general, as well as specific scientific disciplines such as evolutionary biology, physical cosmology, and cognitive science, are related to religion in general, and to particular religious traditions like Christianity.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 22700	LEC	35	TR 3:00-4:15pm	BRNG 1268	DRAPER

23000 Religions of the East (c/I REL 23000)

A study of the history, teachings, and present institutions of the religions of India, Southeast Asia, China, and Japan. This will include Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, and Zoroastrianism.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 23000	LEC	18	TR 10:00-11:45am	REC 302	PURPURA
(REL 23000)	LEC	17	TR 10:00-11:45am	REC 302	PURPURA

23100 Religions of the West (c/I REL 23100)

A comparative study of the origins, institutions, and theologies of the three major Western religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 23100	LEC	18	MWF 12:30-1:20pm	REC 308	RYBA
(REL 23100)	LEC	17	MWF 12:30-1:20pm	REC 308	RYBA

24200 Philosophy, Culture, and the African American Experience (c/I AAS 37300F)

The course will introduce students to major philosophic arguments in favor of competing goals (non-racial egalitarianism and racial pluralism), conceptions of racism, and conceptions of dignity. The course will also encourage students to consider controversial arguments and acquire an appreciation of the complexity and diversity within the history of African American philosophy. Argumentative papers will be features of the course intended to strengthen argumentative ability, critical reasoning skills and techniques of logical and philosophical reasoning.

There are four major background views that dictate the organization of the course:

- that history shapes the character of philosophic issues
- that a tremendous motivation to change the material and social conditions of life is a central feature of the African American resistance tradition, a tradition of major importance in the history of African Americans
- that a coherent and historically continuous arena of debate exists over a set of philosophical issues germane to the African American resistance tradition
- that competing philosophies enliven African American history, particularly its resistance tradition, are valuable intellectual resources

Authors from radically different backgrounds, however, offer controversial concepts supported by equally controversial arguments from competing philosophic foundations.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 24200	LEC	17	TR 3:00-4:15pm	BRNG 1230	HARRIS
(AAS 37300F)	LEC	18	TR 3:00-4:15pm	BRNG 1230	HARRIS

26000 Philosophy and Law

We'll examine some of the central questions of philosophy of law: How ought judicial decisions be decided? What are laws? What's the relation between law and morality? Under what conditions do laws have authority over us? To what extent is it proper for laws to limit freedom? What constitutes a just system of punishment? Three papers will be assigned, along with a requirement to write a question or comment on the reading for most classes.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 26000	LEC	35	TR 1:30-2:45pm	BRNG 1230	JACOVIDES

28000 Ethics and Animals

We investigate one question: What is the nature and extent of our moral obligations to animals. To conduct this inquiry, we will survey typical scenarios of moral concern regarding our treatment of animals: factory farming, captivity, eating animals, animal experimentation.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 28000	LEC/REC	75	TR 12:30-1:20pm	BRWN 1154	GRAD

29000 Environmental Ethics

An introduction to philosophical issues surrounding debates about the environment and our treatment of it. Topics will include degradation of the environment in late capitalism, over-consumption and its consequences, and the necessity of responsible stewardship of the natural environment for future generations.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 29000	LEC	90	TR 10:30-11:45am	SC 239	PARRISH

300 LEVEL COURSES

30100 History of Ancient Philosophy

A survey of Greek philosophy from its beginning in the Milesian school through the Presocratics to Plato and Aristotle.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 30100	LEC	25	TR 4:30-5:45pm	BRNG 1268	JACOVIDES

DR. JACOVIDES 30100 SECTION DESCRIPTION:

The course is a history of philosophy as it was practiced in Ancient Greece, with an emphasis on arguments of enduring philosophical interest. We'll spend most of our time on Plato and Aristotle, the two towering figures of the period, but we'll also read fragments from Parmenides and Democritus, their influential predecessors. The questions we'll examine include: what is the nature of being? What is the best cognitive grip we can have on things, and how can we acquire it? How, generally speaking, are natural phenomena to be explained? What is the nature of the soul? What is the best human life and how can we lead it? Three papers will be assigned, along with a requirement to write a question or comment on the reading for most classes.

30200 History of Medieval Philosophy

A survey of the main trends and figures of medieval philosophy, with an emphasis on metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Readings (in English translation) may include Augustine, Boethius, Avicenna, Anselm, Abelard, Maimonides, Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham and Suarez.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 30200	LEC	35	TR 12:00-1:15pm	BRNG 1268	BROWER

30300 History of Modern Philosophy

The history of philosophy, like logic and ethics and epistemology and metaphysics, is a traditional area of academic philosophy with a history of its own. As practiced in the past, and as we'll pursue it in this course, it isn't *history* (of a certain subject) but *philosophy* (with a certain focus). The focus is the content of historically important philosophical texts. The contents of texts we examine will be approached not out of special respect for the past, nor for the purpose of uncovering broadly social currents influencing the central figures of early modern philosophy, but simply out of a desire to discover fundamental truths about the world. *That is what philosophy is*, according to those thinkers most influential in European philosophical thought during the so-called early modern period (roughly 1600-1800). They made claims about how the world is; these claims are either true or false – true if the world *is* the way they claimed it to be, false if the world *isn't* the way they claimed it to be. Of these influential thinkers we shall, time permitting, examine selected writings of five: Descartes, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Readings and lectures will focus primarily on metaphysical and epistemological topics, since those are the philosophical topics of central concern to these thinkers. It's all fun stuff: a bit of history and philosophy of science, a bit of reflection about God, some puzzles about what it takes to know something, some stuff about the nature of minds (safely from our arm-chairs without doing a stitch of neuro-physiology), a bit more about God again, a surprising treatment of "What is a physical object?" (leaving you at least a little worried about how you could have been so...*gullible*), some knotty thoughts about causation and knowledge (again), and some stray thoughts about vision (i.e. *seeing*).

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 30300	LEC	25	TR 9:00-10:15am	BRNG 1268	COVER
PHIL 30300	LEC	25	TR 1:30-2:45am	BRNG 1268	COVER

30600 20th Century Philosophy

This class will be an exploration of some of the major philosophical themes and figures of the twentieth century. We will be reading parts of five of the most significant books written in the twentieth century, as well as several highly influential articles in the analytic tradition. While the course is intended as an introduction to twentieth-century philosophy, it is not for the faint of heart. Both analytic and continental traditions will be covered and reasons underlying the Analytic/Continental split will be explored, as well as common themes underlying both traditions. Figures to be covered are Husserl, Heidegger, the early and later Wittgenstein, Russell, Frege, and Sartre.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 30600	LEC	35	MWF 1:30-2:20pm	BRNG 1268	MARIÑA

400 LEVEL COURSES

41100 Modern Ethical Theories

A philosophical examination of the major controversies in the history of modern ethics, including the place of reason in ethics, the basis of moral obligation, and the relation between science and ethics. We will study Hobbes, Leibniz, Hume, Kant, Mill, Nietzsche, and others; paying particular attention to the work of Hume and Kant.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 41100	LEC	20	TR 9:00-10:15am	BRNG 1230	KAIN

42100 Philosophy of Science

In this course, we will explore debates in contemporary philosophy of science. Specifically, we will consider the following questions: What is a law of nature? What, if anything, makes a scientific explanation different from other types of explanations? What are scientific models and what do they tell us about the world? What, if anything, do theories tell us about the fundamental structure of the world? And what is the influence of socio-political values in the production of scientific knowledge? In considering these topics, students will come to a clearer understanding of the scope and methods of science.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 42100	LEC	20	TR 1:30-2:45pm	BRNG 1248	RAMÍREZ

46500 Philosophy of Language

Language is our main tool for representing the world and communicating our beliefs about it to others. How is this possible? How do the marks and sounds that constitute languages enable us to gain and share knowledge about the world? This course will explore some fundamental questions about the nature of languages: What are they? How do words and sentences become meaningful? What is it for sentences to be true? What are the major functions of languages? How can languages be abused, or used to further or remedy injustice?

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 46500	LEC	20	TR 10:30-11:45am	BRNG 1248	ASAY

49000 Fun & The Meaning of Life

Philosophic discussion of what gives a life meaning or makes it worth living tend to veer into heavy and even morose territory pretty quickly. In this class we'll go in the opposite direction. We'll explore the nature of fun, the metaphysics and value of games, and a host of related topics like play, sports, humor, collective ritual, awesomeness, and happiness. We'll think about how these are related to each other, to some of the less paradigmatically fun elements of life like work and reflection, and how they each might best contribute a life worth living.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 49000	LEC	20	TR 12:00-1:15pm	BRNG 1230	KELLY

500 LEVEL COURSES

50600 Advanced Philosophy of Religion

This seminar addresses the issue of whether what we know about the quality of conscious life on Earth provides the resources for a good argument, not just for the probable truth of atheism, but for atheism itself. The main reading for the course will be a preliminary draft of a book manuscript written by the course instructor called *Atheism and the Problem of Evil*. Class meetings will be informal and discussion-based.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 50600	LEC	10	W 2:30-5:20pm	BRNG 1248	DRAPER

51500 20th Century Analytical Philosophy II

This course is an exploration of some major developments within analytic philosophy between roughly 1930 and 1970. Movements covered will include logical positivism, logical empiricism, ordinary language philosophy, pragmatism, and others.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 51500	LEC	10	TR 12:00-1:15pm	BRNG 1248	ASAY

52000 Existentialism

This course will combine historical survey with in-depth analysis of a few major works in the existentialist tradition. It will consider individual works by Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, essays by Heidegger in the volume edited by David Krell, and by Simone de Beauvoir in a volume edited by Margaret Simons, and sections of Sartre's *Being and Nothingness*. Each participant will be asked to give a class presentation on a work that is not part of the common readings, and to write a term paper..

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 52000	LEC	10	TR 9:00-10:15am	BRNG 1248	MCBRIDE

53200 Studies in Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology)

The focus of the course will be contemporary analytic epistemology. The four main topics we will look at are:

1. the foundationalism-coherentism debate;
2. the internalism-externalism debate;
3. radical skepticism and responses to it;
4. the epistemology of testimony.

Course requirements: keeping up with the reading, a short paper, a long paper, a class presentation, and several shorter written assignments (no exam).

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 53200	LEC	10	TR 3:00-4:15pm	BRNG 1248	BERGMANN

55300 Mathematical Logic

An introduction to metatheoretic studies of formal axiomatic systems. Basic set theory is developed for use as a tool in studying the propositional calculus. Further topics may include many-valued logics and basic (metatheory for) modal or predicate logic.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 55300	LEC	10	M 2:30-5:20pm	see note below	TULODZIECKI

*PHIL 55300 will be delivered by synchronous Zoom lectures. Students will not have to be in a classroom to participate in the lectures.

58000 Nature of Philosophy

What is the nature of philosophy? Why is it distinct from theology or mythography? We have a fairly clear picture of the history of the term ‘philosophy’ in a large number of languages and cultures. We also have a fairly clear picture of what persons do that describe themselves or are described as philosophers in different cultures at different times in history. What, then, should be what philosophers do? Responses to that question has generated radically different answers. The course will focus on two lines of debate: epistemology (what is knowledge) and ontology (competing theories of the self – the type of entity that can be knowledgeable).

Students taking the course for a Department of Philosophy requirement of either Epistemology for Value Theory, please advise.

Sample of key authors:

Martin Heidegger, *What is Philosophy?*, Gilles Deleuze & Felix Guattari, *What is Philosophy?*, Giorgio Agamben, *What is Philosophy?*, Enrique Dussel, *Beyond Philosophy*, Bertran Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy*, José Ortega y Gasset, *The Modern Theme*, Leonard Harris, *Philosophy Born of Struggle*, Al-Ghazoli, (al-Ġaz(z)ālī) *The Incoherence of the Philosophers*

Sample of key reference texts:

Classical Philosophy, Peter Adamson

Taking Back Philosophy, Bryan W. van Norden

The Philosopher: A History in 6 Types, Justin E.H. Smith

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 58000	LEC	10	T 6:30-9:20pm	BRNG 1248	HARRIS

600 LEVEL COURSES

68000 Seminar in Philosophy

Each week we will read parts of students’ dissertations and provide constructive criticism. The goals are for students to gain feedback on their dissertations and practice commenting constructively on others’ work, while also imposing some external pressure to keep the writing process moving forward.

Course	Type	Enrolment	Time	Bldg/Rm	Instructor
PHIL 68000	LEC	15	W 11:30am-2:20pm	BRNG 1248	DAVIS



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