

Philosophy

Overview

Undergraduate

The Philosophy Department offers a major and minor in philosophy, as well as a minor in logic. Qualified majors in philosophy have the further option of entering the honors program. Details on the requirements for a major in philosophy (<http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/overview/#major>), minor in philosophy (<http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/overview/#minor>), minor in logic (<http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/overview/#minor-logic>), and honors in philosophy (<http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/overview/#honors>) follow.

Graduate

The graduate program in philosophy at Berkeley offers a first-rate faculty, a stimulating and friendly community of graduate students, and the resources of one of the world's finest research universities.

Two features distinguish our profile from that of other leading graduate programs in philosophy:

- The department has strengths in all the main areas of philosophy, including epistemology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, philosophy of language, logic, ethics, the history of philosophy, and philosophy of science. We aim at diversity and breadth of coverage, rather than concentration on one or two areas of philosophical activity.
- Second, the program at Berkeley is structured to give students a high degree of independence in tailoring their studies to their interests.

Undergraduate Programs

Philosophy (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/philosophy/>): BA, Minor
 Logic (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/logic/>): Minor

Graduate Program

Philosophy (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/philosophy/>): PhD

Philosophy

PHILOS R1B Reading and Composition Through Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Training in writing expository prose in conjunction with reading philosophical texts. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: R1A offered by any department, or an equivalent course

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Alternative to final exam.

PHILOS 2 Individual Morality and Social Justice 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

Introduction to ethical and political philosophy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 3 The Nature of Mind 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session

Introduction to the philosophy of mind. Topics to be considered may include the relation between mind and body; the structure of action; the nature of desires and beliefs; the role of the unconscious.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 4 Knowledge and Its Limits 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2024,
Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session
Introduction to the theory of knowledge.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 5 Science and Human Understanding 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023
Introduction to the Philosophy of Science.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 6 Man, God, and Society in Western Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2016, Fall 2013

Philosophical issues as expressed in poetry, drama, and the novel.

This course will compare and contrast the Greek, Medieval, and modern worlds, as reflected in their greatest literature, with special emphasis on the role of the community in reconciling conflicts between sub-groups in society and the individual's ability to understand and control his own life. We will also follow man's realization that the changing answers to these questions are themselves self-interpretations.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 7 Existentialism in Literature and Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Christian, agnostic, and atheistic existentialism as expressed in the works of Dostoyevsky, Melville, Kafka, Antonioni, Goddard, etc.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 9 Introduction to Feminist Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 1999, Summer 1996 10 Week Session

This course is an introduction to key issues in feminist philosophy. The first part of the course focuses on building up a toolbox of important feminist concepts. In the second unit of the course, we will consider several major approaches to thinking about sex- and gender-based oppression. Finally, we will bring our knowledge of those approaches to bear on a number of special topics. Throughout the course, we will focus on the ways in which questions about the nature, status, rights, and abilities of women intersect with questions about race, class, sexuality, coloniality, and disability.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Philosophy 09

PHILOS 10 Comparative Ethics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015

A comparative study of topics in Chinese and Western ethical traditions. Topics include love, compassion, benevolence; rituals, filial obligations, the individual and the family; pride, shame, guilt; conscientiousness, courage, wisdom; trustworthiness, forms of integrity; concepts of the self; self-cultivation; human nature, destiny, the cosmic order; the concept of morality, morality and tradition. The course will conclude with a discussion of metaethical issues concerning the confrontation between rival ethical traditions and methodological issues in the study of comparative ethics.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Shun

PHILOS 11 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Spring 2016

A survey of basic issues in contemporary philosophy of religion, exploring arguments about God's existence, the status of religious experiences and beliefs, how souls might interact with bodies, and the relationship of God to morality.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 12A Introduction to Logic 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session

Syntax, semantics, and proof theory of sentential and predicate logic.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students can remove a deficient grade in PHILOS 12A by passing PHILOS W12A. Students who pass PHILOS W12A receive no credit for passing PHILOS 12A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS W12A Introduction to Logic 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

Intended as a first course in logic for students with no previous exposure to the subject, the course treats symbolic logic. Students will learn to formalize reasoning in symbolic languages with precisely defined meanings and rules of inference. Symbolic logic is by nature a mathematical subject, but the course does not presuppose any prior coursework in mathematics—only an openness to mathematical reasoning.

The course concentrates on three systems of symbolic logic: propositional logic (or sentential logic); syllogistic logic; and predicate logic (or first-order logic). Students from philosophy, mathematics, computer science, and linguistics will find important connections between symbolic logic and their other coursework.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students can remove a deficient grade in PHILOS W12A by passing PHILOS 12A. Students who pass PHILOS 12A receive no credit for passing PHILOS W12A.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 4 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Holliday

PHILOS 13 Business Ethics 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session

This course addresses the nature of ethical motivation and agency, with special attention to the individual's role in a business organization. Topics include theories of ethical motivation; individual character and organizational culture; personal integrity; corporate agency; corporate responsibility to society.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Merritt

PHILOS 14 Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A tour of metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical issues raised by AI examining questions like: What is intelligence? What is agency? How do we know if machines have either of these? What's the difference between an AI making predictions, yielding explanations, and understanding? What exactly would it take for a machine to understand natural language as human beings do? On the ethical side, questions like: If an algorithm manifests biased behavior, whose fault is it? How applications of AI threaten privacy or manipulate? Do basic questions of morality need to be settled so that we can program autonomous robots and vehicles? Finally, we consider if a superintelligent AI is a thing to look forward to, a grave threat, or a sci-fi fantasy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 16 Introduction to Metaphysics 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2002 10 Week Session, Summer 2001 10 Week Session, Summer 2000 10 Week Session

This course is an introduction to some of the traditional questions in metaphysics--the study of what there is in the world and how what there is is structured. Topics will include free will and determinism, the mind-body problem, and personal identity. If time permits, we will also examine arguments for the existence of God.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 17 Concepts of the Person in Novel, Drama, and Film 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

In any culture, the way we act implies some view of what it is to be a person, and indeed what it is to be a particular kind of person, e.g., black or white, male or female, citizen or non-citizen. This view determines what roles and privileges are available to specific individuals and how these individuals will think of themselves and evaluate their actions and obligations. We will focus on works of philosophy, literature and film which have had a powerful and lasting impact on our culture.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 18 Confucius for Today 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2022

The teachings of Confucius (6th to 5th century B.C.) have had a profound influence on Chinese and East Asian cultures, and have attracted significant interest throughout the world. In what ways are they still of relevance to life in the twenty-first century? The course will consider the contemporary implications of Confucius' teachings for such topics as: family, rituals, life and death, fate, contentment and anxiety, anger and resentment, courage, respectfulness, modesty and humility, trustworthiness, learning, self-cultivation, semblances of virtue. In addition to reading selected passages from the Analects, we will also consider commentaries by later Confucians and read contemporary philosophical articles on the relevant topics.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Shun

PHILOS 19 Introduction to Arabic Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 First 6 Week Session

In this introductory survey of Arabic philosophy, we will focus on the philosophical works of al-Kindi, al-Razi, al-Farabi, Ibn Sina (Avicenna), al-Ghazali, and Ibn Rushd (Averroes) producing during the "Islamic Golden Age," traditionally dated from the 9th to the 12th century CE.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small-seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment is limited to 15 freshmen.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

PHILOS 25A Ancient Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session

The history of ancient philosophy with special emphasis on the Presocratics, Plato, and Aristotle.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 25B Modern Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

The history of modern philosophy from Descartes through Kant.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 39 Freshman Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014

Study of various fields of philosophy of special interest to freshman.

Topics will vary from semester to semester and will be individually announced. Freshman seminars are restricted to fifteen students each.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

PHILOS 84 Sophomore Seminar 1 or 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2014

Sophomore seminars are small interactive courses offered by faculty members in departments all across the campus. Sophomore seminars offer opportunity for close, regular intellectual contact between faculty members and students in the crucial second year. The topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 sophomores.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: At discretion of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3-6 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 1.5-3 hours of seminar per week
15 weeks - 1-2 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-5 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 1.5-3.5 hours of seminar and 2-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

PHILOS 98 Directed Group Study for Lower Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2014

Directed study on special topics.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Lower Division standing

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the section on Academic Policies-Course Number Guide in the Berkeley Bulletin.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 98BC Berkeley Connect 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Berkeley Connect is a mentoring program, offered through various academic departments, that helps students build intellectual community. Over the course of a semester, enrolled students participate in regular small-group discussions facilitated by a graduate student mentor (following a faculty-directed curriculum), meet with their graduate student mentor for one-on-one academic advising, attend lectures and panel discussions featuring department faculty and alumni, and go on field trips to campus resources. Students are not required to be declared majors in order to participate.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 100 Philosophical Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The course is designed to acquaint students with the techniques of philosophical reasoning through detailed study of selected philosophical texts and through extensive training in philosophical writing, based on those texts. Should be taken as early as possible after declaring the major.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two courses from 2, 4, 25A, 25B. Restricted to students in the major

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of tutorial per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 104 Ethical Theories 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The fundamental concepts and problems of morality examined through the study of classical and contemporary philosophical theories of ethics.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: C104

PHILOS 106 Bioethics: Clinical and Population-Level 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 1971

This course aims to introduce you to a range of philosophical debates in clinical and population-level bioethics. Among the topics in clinical bioethics that we will discuss are: abortion; physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia; pre-commitment in bioethics; genetic enhancement; and the Non-Identity Problem. In population-level bioethics, questions we will discuss include: the concept of disability; the measurement and valuation of health; cost-effectiveness and disability-discrimination; Bioethics in a Time of Pandemic: Quarantine, Triage, Drug Trials; health inequalities and justice; personal and social responsibility for health; personal and social responsibility for health; standards of care in clinical trials in the US and abroad.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PHILOS 106 after completing PHILOS 106. A deficient grade in PHILOS 106 may be removed by taking PHILOS 106.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

PHILOS 107 Moral Psychology 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

An investigation of central issues in moral psychology, such as: free will, weakness of will, self-deception, moral motivation, emotions, virtues, moral education.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 108 Contemporary Ethical Issues 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2023 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2020

This course will be devoted to in-depth discussion of a variety of problems in moral philosophy raised by real-life questions of individual conduct and social policy. Its contents will vary from occasion to occasion. Possible topics include philosophical problems posed by affirmative action, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, terrorism, war, poverty, and climate change.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 2 or 104, or two courses in philosophy, or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 109 Freedom and Responsibility 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2016, Summer 2010 First 6 Week Session

A systematic examination of freedom and responsibility. The following topics will be addressed (among others): the relations between freedom of will, freedom of action, and autonomy; moral responsibility and its conditions; naturalism, determinism, and their relevance for human freedom; practical deliberation and the structure of the will; weakness and strength of will. Readings may be drawn from both historical and contemporary sources.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 110 Aesthetics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2024, Fall 2020

Visual arts/literature and music. Form, expression, representation style; interpretation and evaluation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. Majors in literature or the arts

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 112 Special Topics in Aesthetics 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013

This course is intended to allow a more focused exploration of particular topics in aesthetics than is possible in Philosophy 110. Its contents will vary from occasion to occasion. Topics may include philosophical questions arising for particular art forms such as painting, music, or dance; questions about form, expression, representation, and emotion in aesthetic experience; or the ideas of particular aesthetic movements or schools of thought.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 114 History of Political Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012, Spring 2007, Spring 2004

A survey of the major political philosophers, including some or all of Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Bentham, Mill, and Marx.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One course in philosophy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 115 Political Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023

Analysis of political obligation and related problems.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 116 Special Topics in Political Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is designed to deal with a variety of topics in political philosophy. Its contents will vary from occasion to occasion. Possible topics include problems in liberal theory; justice, desert, and responsibility; communitarianism, nationalism, and cosmopolitanism.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 115 or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 117AC The Philosophy of Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course explores philosophical questions of race, ethnicity, and citizenship, with special attention to the experiences of African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and indigenous peoples of the United States. Topics include the meaning of "race," "ethnicity," and "citizenship," border control and immigration, reparations for past wrongs, discrimination and affirmative action, civic obligation and group solidarity, and the right to vote.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Kolodny

PHILOS 119 Feminism and Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Summer 2014 Second 6 Week Session

This course will introduce students to a range of historical and contemporary feminist issues.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Madva

PHILOS 121 Moral Questions of Data Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

This course explores, from a philosophical perspective, ethical questions arising from collecting, drawing inferences from, and acting on data, especially when these activities are automated and at a large scale. Topics include: bias, fairness, discrimination, interpretability, privacy, paternalism, freedom of speech, and democracy. Three hours of lecture and one hour of discussion per week.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Prior coursework in philosophy will be helpful, but is not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 122 Theory of Knowledge 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Summer 2020 First 6 Week Session

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 125 Metaphysics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2021

An advanced introduction to contemporary metaphysics, focusing on the ideas of objectivity, existence, naturalness, identity, time, causation, and possibility.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 126 Philosophy of Physics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is an introduction to various philosophical issues which arise in physics, concerning the nature of motion, laws, forces, space, time, and probability. The first half of the course will be concerned with classical mechanics; the second half will introduce special relativity and quantum mechanics. Questions to be discussed include: Are there instantaneous velocities? Are the laws of physics true, or are they just predictively useful approximations? Are forces like gravity real, or are they just mathematically convenient fictions? Is Newtonian mechanics really deterministic? Is space a thing (and what would that even mean)? What makes time different from space? In what sense does time have a direction? Is the present special?

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: No formal requirements; solid high-school physics and at least one philosophy class are recommended

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PHILOS 126 after completing PHILOS 126. A deficient grade in PHILOS 126 may be removed by taking PHILOS 126.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 127 Rationality and Irrationality in Science 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2004

Science is often regarded as preeminently rational. Yet recent work in philosophy, history and sociology of science suggests that scientific knowledge is no more rationally established than other sorts of knowledge, and that scientists' convictions are driven more by party loyalty and ego than by a pureminded pursuit of truth. This course will consider the case for and against the rationality of science. It will also consider the recent controversy concerning "scientific" creationism.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 128 Philosophy of Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023

A survey of main topics in the logic of science and of other issues coming under the general heading of philosophy of science.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 129 Special Topics in the Philosophy of Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2014, Spring 2002

An in-depth discussion of one or a few special issues in, or approaches to, the philosophy of science. Details of current topics are available in the departmental guide of each semester in which the course is given.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 132 Philosophy of Mind 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Summer 2024 First 6 Week Session

Mind and matter; other minds; the concept "person."

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS C132 Philosophy of Mind 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2008, Fall 2006

Mind and matter; other minds; the concept of "person."

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: L & S C160T

PHILOS 133 Philosophy of Language 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

An introduction to central topics in the philosophy of language, for example the nature of linguistic meaning, the relation of meaning to truth and reference, knowledge of language, the relation of language to thought, pragmatic aspects of linguistic communication, and skepticism about linguistic meaning. Some previous background in philosophy and logic is required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 12A and one other Philosophy course, or consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 134 Form and Meaning 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2015, Fall 2011

How is the meaning of a whole sentence determined by the meanings of its parts, and by its structure? This question is addressed in empirical semantic theories for natural language. The character and content of such theories has been a central concern both of the philosophy of language and of recent linguistics, and it is the central focus of this course.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Eight units of philosophy courses and 12A (or equivalent)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Yalcin

PHILOS 135 Theory of Meaning 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Summer 2023 First 6 Week Session

Language as social behavior. Language compared to other sign systems. The foundations of semantics, truth, meaning, reference. Issues of logical form in belief sentences, indirect discourse, sentences about causality, events, actions. Relations between thought and language.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One course in logic or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 136 Philosophy of Perception 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2024, Fall 2022

This course will cover central questions and debates in the philosophy of perception, examining from various angles the idea that sensory perception is a way of being aware of and obtaining objective knowledge about the world – indeed, that it is in some sense the way of doing so. Students will read primary texts on these issues, and they will practice analyzing arguments and comparing philosophical views. They will also train their argumentative essay writing skills. Class meetings will be partly lecture-based, but there will be time for discussion and other activities as well.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One previous course in philosophy is recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 138 Philosophy of Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

This course deals with the ontology of society and thus provides a foundation for the social sciences. The main questions discussed are: 1) What is the mode of existence of social reality? 2) How does it relate to psychological and physical reality? 3) What implications does social ontology have for social explanations?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 140A Intermediate Logic 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2019

Major concepts, results, and techniques of modern logic. Basic set theoretic tools. Model theoretic treatment of propositional and first-order logic (completeness, compactness, Lowenheim-Skolem). Philosophical implications of these results.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 140B Intermediate Logic 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Major concepts, results, and techniques of modern logic. Turing machines, computability theory, undecidability of first-order logic, proof theory, Godel's first and second incompleteness theorems. Philosophical implications of these results.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Philosophy 12A or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 141 Philosophy and Game Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Summer 2013 10 Week Session, Spring 2013

An exploration of how game theory and rational choice theory shed light on traditional philosophical problems; and of new paradoxes and problems introduced by these theories.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One course in philosophy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 142 Philosophical Logic 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

The course aims at introducing students to the basic topics in philosophy of logic. Among the topics to be treated are the notions of validity, truth and truth functionality, quantification, and necessity.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 143 Modal Logic 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2018

An introduction to the logical study of modality in its many forms: reasoning about necessity, knowledge, obligation, time, counterfactuals, provability, and other modal notions. Covers core concepts and basic metatheory of propositional modal logic, including relations to first-order logic; basics of quantified modal logic; selected philosophical applications ranging from epistemology to ethics, metaphysics to mathematics.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Philosophy 12A or equivalent: or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 144 Social Choice Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

Individuals in a group often have conflicting preferences between alternative courses of action, e.g., concerning the choice of a leader for the group, the choice of public policies, and so on. Moreover, actions often affect individuals differently: some may gain while others may lose, and the magnitudes of gains and losses may be unequal for different individuals.

These observations lead to two of the basic questions of Social Choice Theory. First, what are good methods of group decision making in the face of conflicting preferences? Second, can we evaluate the overall social welfare of some alternative course of action in terms of the welfare of each individual in the group under that alternative?

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Philosophy 12A (or equivalent) or consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PHILOS 144 after completing PHILOS 144. A deficient grade in PHILOS 144 may be removed by taking PHILOS 144.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Holliday

PHILOS 146 Philosophy of Mathematics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Foundations of mathematics: logicism, intuitionism, formalism. Set theoretical paradoxes, definition of numbers, problems of continuum.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 148 Probability and Induction 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2020

Different approaches to the foundations of probability; inductive confirmation of scientific theories.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 149 Special Topics in Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

This course is conceived in analogy with Philosophy 129 (Special Topics in Philosophy of Science). It is supposed to allow the class to focus on more specific problems in philosophy of logic or mathematics than can be treated in a broad introductory course such as Philosophy of Mathematics (Philosophy 146) or Philosophical Logic (Philosophy 142).

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 151 Early Chinese Thought 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2004, Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Spring 1996

An examination of early Chinese thought via a study of representative thinkers and texts. Topics include: pre-Ch'in Confucianism and Taoism, development of Confucian thought in Han dynasty and of Taoist thought in the Wei-Chin dynasties, development of Buddhist thought.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Shun

PHILOS 153 Chinese Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

The course focuses on certain central topics in Chinese philosophy, though a survey of the history of Chinese thought is also included. The topics emphasized vary from occasion to occasion, and may include: the Confucian ethical tradition; classical Chinese philosophy; a comparative study of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 154 Arabic Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022

An examination of philosophy in the Islamic world in the 9th–12th centuries CE, covering topics in metaphysics, natural philosophy, epistemology, and the philosophy of religion.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PHILOS 154 after completing PHILOS 154. A deficient grade in PHILOS 154 may be removed by taking PHILOS 154.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Clarke

PHILOS 155 Medieval Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Fall 2014

A study of some of the major philosophical texts from the medieval period with a focus on issues in metaphysics and epistemology. Topics may include universals, individuation, the nature and existence of God, faith and reason, skepticism, freedom, language, human nature and human cognition.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 156A Foundations of Analytic Philosophy: Frege 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2012

The work of Gottlob Frege with special emphasis on his contributions to logic, the philosophy of mathematics, and the philosophy of language.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Sluga

PHILOS C158 Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023

This is an introduction to Buddhist philosophy, extending from its origins (as preserved in the early s#tra literature), down through its evolution into multiple competing philosophical traditions (Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, Yog#c#ra, Pram##av#da, and so on). We will explore Buddhist approaches to issues in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, language, and ethics. One theme running through the course will be radical skepticism; we will explore how Buddhist philosophers questioned not only the existence of an enduring or essential self but also the existence of an external (mind-independent) world, and how their analyses impacted their understandings of meaning in language, their accounts of the nature and function of consciousness.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: There are no formal requirements, but a prior course in either philosophy or Buddhist studies is recommended

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for BUDDSTD C158 after completing BUDDSTD 158. A deficient grade in BUDDSTD C158 may be removed by taking BUDDSTD 158.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Philosophy C158/Buddhist Studies C158

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C158

PHILOS 160 Plato 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2022 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2016

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 161 Aristotle 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 163 Special Topics in Greek Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2015, Fall 2013

The course is designed to deal with a variety of topics in Greek philosophy. Its contents will vary from occasion to occasion. Possible topics are: the close study of one or more of Plato's dialogues, the reading of one of Aristotle's texts, stoicism, scepticism, and neo-platonism.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Philosophy 25A or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 170 Descartes 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2023

An intensive introduction to Descartes's views on physics, metaphysics and epistemology through examination of Descartes' early works on method, physics and physiology. This includes an in-depth study of the Meditations, focusing on both Descartes' epistemological project and his anti-scholastic metaphysics supplemented by readings from the Objections and Replies, the Principles, and several important pieces of secondary literature. Issues discussed include the method of doubt, the Cartesian circle, Descartes' mode of presentation in the Meditations, the creation and ontological status of the eternal truths, the status of the human being, the nature of substance, mind-body dualism and Descartes' physics as presented in the Principles.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 171 Hobbes 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2001

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 172 Spinoza 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2017

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 173 Leibniz 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2020

This course will be a detailed examination of several central works of the 17th century philosopher G.W. Leibniz, with an emphasis on his metaphysical views. Topics will include Leibniz's views on the relation between mind and body, the nature of space and time, the relation between our representations of the world and the world as it is in itself, the nature of substance and material reality, the relation between God and creation, the nature of inter- and intra-substantial causality, the nature of ideas, and the unity of organic entities.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 176 Hume 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 178 Kant 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 181 Hegel 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2022, Fall 2019

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 183 Schopenhauer and Nietzsche 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2012

An examination of the philosophy of Schopenhauer and Nietzsche.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 184 Nietzsche 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2019

This course is a critical examination of the work of Friedrich Nietzsche.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 185 Heidegger 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2023 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2022

In this course, we will trace the development of Heidegger's philosophical work from his early attempt to work out a "fundamental ontology" to his late projects of formulating a "history of Being" and of elaborating a new, "poetic" way of thinking. Based on close readings of selected texts including "Being and Time", "The Origin of the Work of Art", and "The Question Concerning Technology," we will analyze key concepts such as "Being" and "beings," "temporality" and "historicity," or "enowning" and "enframing." Led by these texts, we will explore how Heidegger seeks to reconceive subjectivity, intersubjectivity, cognition, and language by dissociating his own approach from the philosophical tradition.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 187

PHILOS 186 Merleau-Ponty 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2006, Fall 2002

This is a course on the philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908-1961). Our focus will be on his treatment of perception, consciousness, and embodiment, with an eye to his relevance to contemporary discussions of these phenomena in philosophy and cognitive science. This class is for philosophy majors; History of Modern Philosophy (25B) or an equivalent course is a prerequisite. It will help to have taken Philosophy of Mind (132), Philosophy of Language (133), Theory of Meaning (135), Philosophy of Perception (136), or Kant (178). Philosophy graduate students and students in other departments are welcome to take the class with the permission of the instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: History of Modern Philosophy (25B) or an equivalent course is a pre requisite. It will help to have taken Philosophy of Mind (132), Philosophy of Language (133), Theory of Meaning (135), Philosophy of Perception (136), or Kant (178)

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PHILOS 186 after completing PHILOS 186. A deficient grade in PHILOS 186 may be removed by taking PHILOS 186.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Noe

PHILOS 186B Later Wittgenstein 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2017, Spring 2015

A close reading and extended discussion of central parts of Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 187 Special Topics in the History of Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

The course's specific content will vary from occasion to occasion but will focus on the work of a single philosopher, or several significantly linked philosophers, active before the second half of the twentieth century.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 188 Phenomenology 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Summer 2008 Second 6 Week Session

Backgrounds of phenomenology and existentialism. Husserl and Merleau-Ponty.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 186

PHILOS N188 Phenomenology 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session
Backgrounds of phenomenology and existentialism. Husserl and Merleau-Ponty.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 189 Special Topics in Recent European Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

The course is designed to deal with a variety of topics in recent European philosophy. Its contents will vary from occasion to occasion. Possible topics include: further work in phenomenology and existentialism, the study of a particular text by an important figure in contemporary European philosophy, current French and German philosophy.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PHILOS 190 Proseminar 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

A seminar-style exploration of some topic in philosophy. The students and instructor will investigate the topic in a collaborative way, through discussion rather than lecture. Topics vary from semester to semester. Enrollment is limited to 15 undergraduate philosophy majors.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Philosophy majors who have taken at least two upper-division philosophy courses

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS H195 Philosophy Tutorial 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

The department will designate a tutor, under whose guidance the student will seek to satisfy the thesis requirement of the Honors Program.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students in Honors Program

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of tutorial per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 0 hours of tutorial per week

8 weeks - 0 hours of tutorial per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PHILOS H196 Senior Seminar 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

A collaborative writing workshop. Students in the honors program will develop their thesis, which they will have started to write in the fall in Philos H195. Other students will develop a paper from a previous course into a form suitable for a writing sample for applying to graduate school. Students will present drafts, followed by comments by an assigned respondent, and open discussion. As time permits, philosophical background for the work in progress may be read and discussed.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Philos 100 and senior standing. Students in the honors program must have taken, or be taking, H195. Other students must have consent of the instructor. Preference will be given to students in the honors program

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

PHILOS 198 Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Directed study on special topics.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of directed group study per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 198BC Berkeley Connect 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Berkeley Connect is a mentoring program, offered through various academic departments, that helps students build intellectual community. Over the course of a semester, enrolled students participate in regular small-group discussions facilitated by a graduate student mentor (following a faculty-directed curriculum), meet with their graduate student mentor for one-on-one academic advising, attend lectures and panel discussions featuring department faculty and alumni, and go on field trips to campus resources. Students are not required to be declared majors in order to participate.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2023

Enrollment restrictions apply; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section in this catalog.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PHILOS 200 First-Year Graduate Seminar 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

A combination seminar and tutorial, required of and limited to first year graduate students in philosophy.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PHILOS 290 Seminar 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Advanced study in various fields of philosophy. Topics will vary from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PHILOS 295 Dissertation Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Presentations by graduate students of dissertation research in progress.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Restricted to graduate students who are writing dissertations in philosophy

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Formerly known as: 109

PHILOS 299 Independent Study 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 5-60 hours of independent study per week

6 weeks - 2.5-30 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-23 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PHILOS 301 Professional Preparation: The Teaching of Philosophy 2 - 6 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2014, Spring 2014

Students will work as teachers under the guidance of a faculty member.

They will attend lectures, guide classroom discussion, and participate in a workshop in teaching methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Appointment as a graduate student instructor

Credit Restrictions: Course does not satisfy unit or residence requirements for doctoral degree.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0-0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PHILOS 375 Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Seminar 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

A hands-on training seminar for new philosophy GSIs that addresses both practical and theoretical issues.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admission to Ph.D. program

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Philosophy/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Formerly known as: Philosophy 302