

# Φ The Department of Philosophy

336 ten Hoor Hall • 348-5942 • [philosophy.ua.edu](http://philosophy.ua.edu)

## FALL 2015 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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**PHL 100.001**                      **INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**                      **DR. CHASE WRENN**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 191 (Honors Introduction to Philosophy).*

Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 191 (Honors Introduction to Philosophy).

**Course Description:** In this course, you will learn about what philosophy is and how philosophers apply the tools of logic and reason to philosophical problems. We will explore a variety of issues, including (but not limited to) the question of God's existence, the relationship between mind and body, and the nature of right and wrong.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Tentative Course Requirements:** Careful reading, attendance, participation, pop quizzes, and four exams (quizzes and exams are true/false, multiple choice).

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

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**PHL 100.002**                      **INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**                      **DR. JUSTIN KLOCKSIEM**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 191 (Honors Introduction to Philosophy).*

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to philosophy by way of a discussion of three central philosophical problems—the problem of free will and determinism; the problem of the existence and nature of God; and the “mind-body problem”. Along the way, other important topics in philosophy will be discussed.

In each case, the focus is on careful formulation of doctrines and arguments. The goals are (i) to understand the doctrines and arguments; (ii) to develop the ability to evaluate the doctrines and arguments; and (iii) to begin to develop the ability to extract well-formulated, interesting arguments from philosophical texts.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

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**PHL 100.003 & 005                    INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR:                            DR. BENJAMIN KOZUCH**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 191 (Honors Introduction to Philosophy).*

**Course Description:** The discipline of philosophy aims to answer the hard questions: Does God exist? Could there be an afterlife? Is there such a thing as objective right and wrong? Does a mechanistic physics allow for free will? These are questions that philosophers have toiled for hundreds of years trying to answer. This course surveys the fruits of their labor, looking at and evaluating the more notable answers offered to these questions. The goal of the course is to help the student form well-founded opinions as to how these questions should be answered.

**Tentative Course Requirements:** TBA

**Prerequisites:** None

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

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**PHL 100.004                            INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR:                            DR. H. SCOTT HESTEVOLD**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 191 (Honors Introduction to Philosophy).*

**Course Description:** The course offers an introduction to philosophical methodology by way of studying five classic philosophical problems: (1) Is any form of government justified, or should we be anarchists? (2) Are there objective facts about right and wrong, or is the moral standing of homosexuality or abortion merely a matter of opinion? (3) Do you have free will, or are your actions all causally determined by your genetic predisposition, biochemistry, and various environmental stimuli? (4) What sort of thinking thing are *you*? Are you a soul that inhabits your body? Or, are you identical with brain? (5) Does the existence of God explain why there exists something rather than nothing or why there exist complex life forms? Or, is the existence of evil compelling evidence that a perfectly good God does *not* exist?

**Tentative Course Requirements:** Four multiple-choice/short-answer examinations; short homework or in-class assignments; attendance.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

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**PHL 100.006 & 007: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. TORIN ALTER**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 191 (Honors Introduction to Philosophy).*

**Course Description:** In this course, you will learn about what philosophy is and how philosophers apply the tools of logic and reason to philosophical problems. We will explore a variety of issues, including (but not limited to) the question of God's existence, the relationship between mind and body, and the nature of right and wrong.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Requirements (tentative):** Careful reading, attendance, participation, pop quizzes, and four exams (quizzes and exams are true/false, multiple choice).

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

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**PHL 100.008 & 009: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. VINCENT PICCIUTO**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 191 (Honors Introduction to Philosophy).*

**Course Description:** This course is centered on three main topics.

- 1) The nature of knowledge. What is knowledge? Can we have any? How is that possible?
- 2) The questions of God's existence. What do we think are God's central properties? Can we know about God? If so, how? Are the only reasons for believing in God evidential, or might there be other kinds of reason?
- 3) The question of how we ought to live. What makes an action right or wrong? How can we know? What do we owe each other? Is the government legitimate or not?

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Requirements (tentative):** Attendance and participation (15%); weekly quizzes (20%); 2 multiple choice, T/F exams (20% ea.); final exam (25%)

Attendance and participation are required. There will usually be a group work/discussion period during each class. Students will be graded on their participation.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

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**PHL 104.001**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**

**CRITICAL THINKING**  
**TBA**

**Course Description:** Arguments pervade our daily life: We decide which products to buy on the basis of advertising claims, vote for political candidates on the basis of their campaign promises and arguments for their proposed policies, debate our friends about silly and serious topics, serve on juries to determine the guilt of those accused of crimes, and argue for philosophical conclusions.

These arguments can often influence us to make decisions on extremely important practical and theoretical matters: e.g., Is this defendant guilty of first-degree murder? Is abortion immoral? Is this candidate well qualified for the presidency of the U.S.? Do we have free will?

In this course, we will use example arguments from all of these domains. The goal of the course is to better understand the structure of arguments and know how to critically assess them. This course will cover both inductive and deductive arguments and will instruct you in identifying major fallacies, including ad hominem arguments, straw man arguments, appeal to irrelevant reasons, false dilemmas, etc. (see schedule for class meetings for more topics to be covered). Acquiring these skills will help you both better assess others' arguments and better construct your own.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Tentative Course Requirements:** TBA

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Philosophy and Medicine** Specializations, and it fulfills requirements for the **Jurisprudence** Specialized Minor.*

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**PHL 104.002**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**

**CRITICAL THINKING**  
**TBA**

**Course Description:** Whether you are watching television, reading a book or newspaper, or attending a class, some person or institution is attempting to influence your beliefs, attitudes, or actions. Such influence takes various forms. We shall focus on attempts to influence you via claims and arguments.

Our concern will be to understand and hone those critical reasoning skills each of us needs to make good decisions about what to believe and what to do, so that you may better respond to these influences.

As such, in this class we will pursue a general study of the appropriate standards for determining what to believe. This will require an exploration of the nature of justification and the giving of reasons. Questions we will consider include, but will not be limited to: When is an argument persuasive? How do we develop and present reasons for a conclusion? How do we evaluate the reasons that others present to justify their beliefs? When should we evaluate beliefs that we have held for some time?

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Requirements:** TBA

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Mind & Brain** Specialization, and it fulfills requirements for the **Jurisprudence** Specialized Minor.*

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**PHL 106.001: HONORS INTRODUCTION TO DEDUCTIVE LOGIC**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. CHASE WRENN**

*Open to Honors students only. Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 195 (Introduction to Deductive Logic).*

**Course Description:** What is the difference between a good argument and a bad one? This course examines some of the formal techniques developed by philosophers and mathematicians to answer that question. It will also cover more advanced topics (but not meta-logic). It is a self-paced course using both computer-aided learning techniques and one-on-one guidance from the instructor and the teaching assistants.

**Prerequisites:** Admission to UA Honors or 28 ACT, and a C or better in Math 100 or the equivalent.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance is mandatory, but students take tests when they feel they have mastered the material the tests cover. Final grades are determined by the number of tests passed and the number of test attempts made.

**Core Curriculum:** None

*This course is included in the **Mind & Brain** Specialization, and it fulfills requirements for the **Jurisprudence** Specialized Major and Minor.*

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**PHL 195.001: INTRODUCTION TO DEDUCTIVE LOGIC**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. CHASE WRENN**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 106 (Honors Introduction to Logic).*

**Course Description:** What is the difference between a good argument and a bad one? This course examines some of the formal techniques developed by philosophers and mathematicians to answer that question. It is a self-paced course using both computer-aided learning techniques and one-on-one guidance from the instructor and the teaching assistants.

**Prerequisites:** A grade of C or above in Math 100 or equivalent.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance is mandatory, but students take tests when they feel they have mastered the material the tests cover. Final grades are determined by the number of tests passed and the number of test attempts made.

**Core Curriculum:** None

*This course is included in the **Mind & Brain** Specialization, and it fulfills requirements for the **Jurisprudence** Specialized Major and Minor.*

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**PHL 211.001: ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. SETH BORDNER**

**Course Description:** This course will focus on the major themes of ancient Greek philosophy, from the earliest pre-Socratic philosophers, through Plato and Aristotle, to the later Epicureans, Stoics, and Skeptics. We will proceed chronologically and pay special attention to the systematic connections between metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics in each school of thought, as well as the development of later views in light of criticisms of earlier ones. The aim of this course is to provide students a reasonably comprehensive introduction to the main areas of Western analytic philosophy through an examination of some of the earliest systematic philosophies.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Requirements:** There will be three exams throughout the course; two mid-term exams and one final exam. In addition, there will be periodic, unannounced quizzes given in class to test your comprehension of the readings. These quizzes will be graded on a High Pass/Low Pass/Fail scale.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

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**PHL 221.001: HONORS INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. STUART RACHELS**

*Open to Honors students only. Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 292 (Introduction to Ethics).*

**Course Description:** This course will focus on a dozen or so matters of personal and social importance. Topics include abortion, pornography, famine relief, affirmative action, gay rights, and the death penalty. We'll concentrate on the reasons that bear on these issues. Our approach to these issues will serve as a model for critical thinking in general.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Course Requirements:** Grades will be based on four exams. Attendance will be taken each class, and an attendance policy will be enforced.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** Specialization.*

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**PHL 223.001: MEDICAL ETHICS**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. STUART RACHELS**

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to some of the ethical issues involved in medicine. Topics include: physician-assisted dying; the allocation of organs and other scarce resources; abortion; stem cell research; and patient autonomy. Our main text will be Lewis Vaughn, *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

**Schedule:** This is a large lecture course that meets three days per week.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Requirements:** There will be three exams. Students will be required to attend every class meeting.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Philosophy and Medicine** Specialization.*

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**PHL 234.001 & 002                      SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY**  
**INSTRUCTOR:                              DR. REKHA NATH**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 222 (Social Philosophy).*

The government intrudes in the lives of citizens in many ways, and some of these intrusions seem legitimate while others do not. We will consider some of the following issues concerning the legitimacy of government interference. Should citizens have an unrestricted right to bear arms, or are some gun control policies imposed by society justified? Should society ban or heavily regulate the use of drugs and other addictive substances? Should consenting adults be permitted to freely enter into prostitution and commercial surrogacy arrangements? What role if any should the government play in defining who may legally marry whom? A different topic we will investigate is whether citizens, in virtue of participating in social practices, incur obligations that go above and beyond that which is legally required of them. In particular, we will consider what responsibilities individuals might have concerning what they eat and how they affect the natural environment. In addressing a range of controversial social and political issues, our focus in this course is normative. Through the careful consideration of different philosophical frameworks, our aim is to make progress in arriving at well-reasoned positions about how our society ought to be organized as well as what it means for individuals to live ethical lives.

**Pre-requisites:** None. This course is *not* open to students who have taken PHL 222

**Core curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

**Tentative course requirements:** class participation and writing assignments

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** and **Philosophy and Medicine** Specializations.*

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**PHL 240.001                              PHILOSOPHY AND THE LAW**  
**INSTRUCTOR:                              DR. KENNETH EHRENBERG**

**Course Description:** This course is a survey of major issues in the philosophy of law including the main theories of general jurisprudence, the relation of legal obligation to moral obligation, the nature and limits of legal responsibility, adjudication and legal reasoning, constitutions, and issues in legal interpretation.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Tentative course requirements:** reading quizzes, two exams, and online discussion

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** specialization.*

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**PHL 260.001: MIND AND NATURE**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. BENJAMIN KOZUCH**

**Course Description:** Philosophers have long struggled to give an adequate account of the mind. The first part of this course conducts a historical survey of accounts that have been offered, pointing out a steady progression toward “materialist” (rather than “dualist”) accounts. The second part of the course looks at two aspects of the mind that have proven resistant to materialist explanation, the first being consciousness, and the second being the way that mental states can be *about* things (e.g., a thought *of* Paris). The third part of the course covers philosophical problems associated with free will and ethics, with a focus on recent experimental results that are thought to shed light on these issues.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Tentative Course Requirements:** TBA

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is part of the **Mind & Brain** and **Philosophy and Medicine** specializations.*

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**PHL 292.001 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**  
**INSTRUCTOR: TBA**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 221 (Honors Introduction to Ethics).*

**Course Description:** This course is centered on three main topics.

- 1) Realism v. relativism. Are there moral truths independently of humans or is morality "subjective" in some sense. If the former, how so? If the latter, in what sense?
- 2) Systematizing morality. What are the possible ways that moral standards might be systematized to regulate right and wrong actions? Is any such systematization possible?
- 3) Contemporary moral issues. i) The relation between persons (moral agents) and neural processes. How can we rectify these two seemingly distinct levels of description to make sense out of moral claims? ii) Should there be restrictions on enhancement? If so, what are they, and how is the distinction between treatment and enhancement best drawn?

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Requirements:** TBA

Attendance and participation are required. There will usually be a group work/discussion period during each class. Students will be graded on their participation.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** and **Philosophy and Medicine** specializations.*



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**PHL 292.002, 003 & 004 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** TBA

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 221 (Honors Introduction to Ethics).*

**Course Description:** This course is intended to introduce students to the basic elements of ethics. In the first part of the course we will consider some historic and contemporary ethical theories: (1) Consequentialism, (2) Deontology, and (3) Virtue Ethics. We will also explore topics in ethics from a naturalized and descriptive perspective. In the second part of the course, we will then investigate a number of topics in applied ethics (abortion, moral status of animals, human starvation and poverty), often through the lens of the ethical theories we have previously covered. The third section of the course will focus on a particular set of “hot topics” in applied ethics, those that fall under the umbrella of neuroethics. Here we will look at questions like the following: What restrictions, if any, should we put on the use of advancements in neuroscience? Are we morally obligated to enhance our cognitive abilities if the benefits of doing so far outweigh the costs? What bearing do advancements in neuroscience have on ethical concepts, such as moral responsibility?

**Tentative Course Requirements:** TBA

**Prerequisites:** None

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** and **Philosophy and Medicine** specializations.*

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**PHL 292.005 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** TBA

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 221 (Honors Introduction to Ethics).*

**Course Description:** This course is centered on three main topics.

- 1) Realism v. relativism. Are there moral truths independently of humans or is morality "subjective" in some sense. If the former, how so? If the latter, in what sense?
- 2) Systematizing morality. What are the possible ways that moral standards might be systematized to regulate right and wrong actions? Is any such systematization possible?
- 3) Contemporary moral issues. i) The relation between persons (moral agents) and neural processes. How can we rectify these two seemingly distinct levels of description to make sense out of moral claims? ii) Should there be restrictions on enhancement? If so, what are they, and how is the distinction between treatment and enhancement best drawn?

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Requirements:** TBA

Attendance and participation are required. There will usually be a group work/discussion period during each class. Students will be graded on their participation.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** and **Philosophy and Medicine** specializations.*

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**PHL 292.006**                      **INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**                      **DR. SETH BORDNER**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 221 (Honors Introduction to Ethics).*

**Course Description:** This course is designed to give the students a broad introduction to the field of philosophical ethics. The primary aim is to acquaint students with the basic subject matter of ethics as it is studied within philosophy, a few central authorities and positions, and a feel for how philosophers engage with contemporary ethical issues in light of some of the historical influences on the discipline. We will read a variety of texts ranging from historical works on ethics generally to contemporary works focusing on specific moral issues. The hope is that students will develop an understanding and appreciation of how different ethical theories apply to particular cases, and how they might begin to engage in genuine ethical debates.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Requirements:** There will be three exams throughout the course; two mid-term exams and one final exam. In addition, there will be periodic, unannounced quizzes given in class to test your comprehension of the readings. These quizzes will be graded on a High Pass/Low Pass/Fail scale.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** and **Philosophy and Medicine** specializations.*

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**PHL 292.007 & 008**                      **INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**                      **TBA**

*Not open to anyone who has taken PHL 221 (Honors Introduction to Ethics).*

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to contemporary moral issues. Students will be introduced to basic methods and principles for moral reasoning, and various theories of what morality is and what the fundamental principles of ethical conduct may be, as well as some common challenges to these positions. Part of the course will also be devoted to applying this background to some of the most difficult and controversial issues in our society, for example abortion, same-sex marriage, euthanasia, and affirmative action. Which topics we cover will be partially up to the students, and the discussions are meant to train the student in the application of moral theory and enable them to extend these analytic and critical skills to other relevant moral issues as well.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Tentative Course Requirements:** TBA

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries an *HU* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** and **Philosophy and Medicine** specializations.*

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**PHL 362.001**                      **MIND, LANGUAGE & REALITY**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**                      **DR. TORIN ALTER**

**Course Description:** This course is about the nature of meaning and its connection to metaphysics and epistemology. We will study classic works by Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell, Saul Kripke, and others. Then we will study more recent work in philosophical semantics and its application to arguments in the philosophy of mind.

**Prerequisites:** Deductive logic (PHL 195 or 106 or equivalent) and one other philosophy course, or instructor's permission.

**Requirements** (tentative): two five-to-ten page papers, at least one additional short writing assignment, regular reading quizzes, and a final.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries a *W* designation.

*This course is included in the **Mind & Brain** and **Jurisprudence** Specializations.*

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**PHL 366.001:**                      **METAPHYSICS**  
**INSTRUCTOR:**                      **DR. H. SCOTT HESTEVOLD**

**Course Description:** The course offers for the advanced philosophy student rigorous study of classic problems in metaphysics, which will likely include the following:

1. *Objects.* Objects apparently persist through time, but they undergo various changes. Sculptors change the form of hunks of clay; chefs turn black skillets red hot, an aging car undergoes a gradual replacement of parts. Do objects survive such changes? Is Leonardo's portrait of Mona Lisa hanging in The Louvre really more than three-hundred years old?
2. *Persons.* Just as cars undergo replacements of parts, your body has undergone a gradual replacement of cells. Have *you* persisted through time if your body has undergone a replacement of cells? Are *you* identical with the person to whom your mother gave birth on your birthday? If not, then when did the person to whom your mother gave birth cease to exist? If Fred is told that he will die of Alzheimer's within a decade, will it be *Fred* who dies with Alzheimer's?
3. *Actions.* Does determinism preclude the possibility that humans act freely? Is there good reason to believe that humans *can* act freely? Or that they can't?
4. *Time and Space.* (a) Some philosophers believe that time is dynamic -- that persons and events undergo temporal passage, moving from the future, to the present, and into the past. Others argue that time is static -- that persons and events are "frozen" across spacetime. Does time flow, or is it static? (b) Is time travel possible? (c) Is there such a thing as *time*? If so, what *is* it? (d) Is there such a thing as *space*, or is it false that there are places that objects do or could occupy?

**Prerequisites:** at least two philosophy courses.

**Tentative course requirements:** (a) Two philosophical essays of at least five substantial, double-spaced pages [50%], (b) three multiple-choice/short-answer examinations [40%], and (c) occasional homework assignments [10%].

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries a *W* designation.

*This course is included in the **Mind & Brain** Specialization.*

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**PHL 448.001: PHILOSOPHY OF LAW: HART'S *CONCEPT OF LAW***  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. KENNETH EHRENBERG**

**Course Description:** This class will begin with a close reading of H.L.A. Hart's *Concept of Law*, the book that revitalized modern legal philosophy in the Anglo-American tradition. We will focus on four key theses in the book and students will write an initial reaction paper to one of those theses. Then students will plumb the superabundant literature that it has spawned, crafting a research paper that addresses the current status of some part of Hart's philosophical legacy.

**Prerequisites:** B or better in a 200-level course from the jurisprudence list\* or instructor's approval, or an A- or better in any PHL class with a writing designation.

\* PHL 292, PHL 221, PHL 230, PHL 234, PHL 240, PHL 241, PHL 242, PHL 243 or PHL 256

**Tentative Course Requirements:** Two papers and two presentations.

**Core Curriculum:** This course carries a *W* designation.

*This course is included in the **Jurisprudence** Specialization.*

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**PHL 489.001: PHILOSOPHY AND MEDICINE**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. RICHARD RICHARDS**

**Course description:** It is difficult to overstate the significance of medicine, in that it affects each of us from birth through death; or the complexity of medicine, in that it involves scientific, conceptual, economic, ethical and philosophical issues. We will here look at some of these issues from a philosophical standpoint, including: the ways that we conceptualize health and disease; the relation between medicine and science; the patterns of reasoning associated with medical thinking; and the challenge posed by evolution to how we think about medicine, health and disease. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

**Prerequisites:** None, but a background in philosophy, science or medicine will be helpful.

**Tentative course requirements:** A midterm and final exam, two papers, attendance and participation.

**Core curriculum:** This course carries a *W* designation.

*This course is required for the **Philosophy and Medicine** specialization.*

# Φ The Department of Philosophy

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<b>Advisors:</b>	Dr. Torin Alter	<a href="mailto:talter@ua.edu">talter@ua.edu</a>	325 ten Hoor Hall
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**Requirements for the Major\*:** The **major** in philosophy requires 30 hours, including PHL 195, PHL 211, PHL 212, and 12 hours of philosophy courses at the 300 or 400 levels. Any Blount course taught by a member of the philosophy faculty may be counted towards completion of the major in philosophy, except for BUI 101 and BUI 102. The twenty-one hours of PHL electives must include at least three hours from each of the following areas:

1. *Value:* PHL 221, PHL 223, PHL 230, PHL 231, PHL 234, PHL 240, PHL 241, PHL 242, PHL 243, PHL 256, PHL 291, PHL 292, PHL 332, PHL 333, PHL 341, PHL 343, PHL 420, PHL 440, PHL 448, PHL 455.

2. *Language, Epistemology, Mind, Metaphysics:* PHL 260, PHL 264, PHL 281, PHL 286, PHL 360, PHL 362, PHL 364, PHL 366, PHL 370, PHL 381, PHL 387, PHL 428, PHL 489.

\* The new requirements for the major printed in this Course Description Booklet also appear in UA's current online catalog. Students who enrolled at UA when the previous requirements were in effect may satisfy either the new requirements or the older requirements for the major: thirty PHL hours, including Introduction to Deductive Logic, Ancient Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, and at least twelve hours at or above the 300-level.

**Requirements for the Minor:** The **minor** in philosophy requires 18 hours, including 6 hours at the 300 or 400 levels.

**Honors in Philosophy:** Designed for the exceptional student, regardless of whether the student intends to do graduate work in philosophy, this program offers the opportunity to pursue a philosophical topic further than the seminar format permits. It also provides recognition for having done a greater proportion of one's classes at the advanced level and for having sustained outstanding achievement in all courses.

Those who graduate with Honors in Philosophy must meet the following requirements:

- Complete 36 hours in philosophy,
- Complete at least 18 of those hours at the 300 or 400 level,
- Achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all courses in philosophy and at least 3.3 overall, and
- Write and defend orally a Philosophy Honors Thesis. Typically, Honors candidates begin preliminary work on the thesis in their junior year by identifying a topic and arranging with a faculty member to serve as adviser. This allows the candidate to complete most of the writing by the end of the Fall semester of the senior year, which can be done for course credit (PHL 409: Research). Students also enrolled in the University Honors College can count their senior essays in philosophy as completing the honors thesis in that college.

Students may enroll for the Honors track by informing their departmental undergraduate adviser that they wish to do so.

# Specializations in Philosophy

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The Philosophy Department has three specializations emphasizing particular areas of philosophy. A minor can be completed in either by taking any 6 courses, including 2 courses at or above the 300-level. Most of the requirements for a major can be completed through courses exclusively in a specialization. The three specializations are:

- ***Mind & Brain.*** The mind and brain concentration is designed for students who are interested in philosophical questions about thought, consciousness, knowledge, and the relationship between the mind and the physical world. Students in psychology, communication, English, computer science, and anthropology will find that the mind and brain specialization makes philosophy an attractive minor or second major.

Completion of the mind and brain specialized major will be noted on the student's transcript.

For more information about the mind and brain specialization, contact Professor Chase Wrenn, [chase.wrenn@ua.edu](mailto:chase.wrenn@ua.edu).

## **Requirements for Completing the Specialized Major**

- PHL 195 or PHL 106: Introduction to Deductive Logic
- PHL 260: Mind and Nature
- Take any four of the following:
  - PHL 360: Philosophy of Mind
  - PHL 362: Language, Mind and Reality
  - PHL 364: Philosophy of Cognitive Science
  - PHL 366: Metaphysics
  - PHL 370: Epistemology
  - PHL 387: Evolution and Philosophy
  - Other designated upper level PHL courses
- PHL 211: Ancient Philosophy
- PHL 212: Early Modern Philosophy
- Any additional six hours of PHL courses that include at least one Value course.

## **Requirements for Completing the Specialized Minor**

- PHL 195 or PHL 106: Introduction to Deductive Logic
- PHL 260: Mind and Nature
- Take any four of the following:
  - PHL 360: Philosophy of Mind
  - PHL 362: Language, Mind and Reality
  - PHL 364: Philosophy of Cognitive Science
  - PHL 366: Metaphysics
  - PHL 370: Epistemology
  - PHL 387: Evolution and Philosophy

# Specializations in Philosophy

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- ***Jurisprudence.*** These courses are designed to enhance preparation for the LSAT and to provide an opportunity to explore deeper questions about the law. It is directed by Professor Kenneth Ehrenberg. For more information, see its website at <http://philosophy.ua.edu/home/student/jurisprudence>, or contact Professor Ehrenberg directly at [kmehrenberg@as.ua.edu](mailto:kmehrenberg@as.ua.edu).
  
- ***Philosophy and Medicine.*** The Philosophy and Medicine Specialization/Minor is a series of courses introducing topics, issues, questions and problems associated the practice of medicine. While this concentration is designed for those who are planning for a career in the medical fields, it is open to any student with an interest in medicine. Completion of the concentration will satisfy the requirements for the Philosophy Minor. Completion of the Philosophy Major will require PHL 195 Introduction to Deductive Logic, PHL 211 Ancient Philosophy and PHL 212 Early Modern Philosophy in addition to the courses satisfying the Pre-Med Concentration. Other courses required for the Major will depend on other coursework for the Pre-Med concentration. To complete this concentration, you must take the following courses:
  - PHL 223 Medical Ethics
  - PHL 286 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science
  - PHL 489 Philosophy of Medicine
  - Any three of the following:
    - PHL 104 Critical Thinking
    - PHL 221/292 Honors Intro to Ethics/Intro to Ethics
    - PHL 230 Political Philosophy
    - PHL 234 Social Philosophy
    - PHL 260 Mind and Nature
    - PHL 264 Introduction to Metaphysics
    - PHL 360 Philosophy of Mind
    - PHL 364 Philosophy of Cognitive Science
    - PHL 387 Philosophy and Evolution

For more information, see its website at <http://philosophy.ua.edu/philosophy-and-medicine> or contact Professor Richard Richards at [rrichard@ua.edu](mailto:rrichard@ua.edu).

In some cases, other courses may be substituted. Contact the relevant specialization director for details or with question

# Our Awards

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## The Philosophy Department Confers A Series Of Awards Each Spring

The **Marten and Marie ten Hour Prize**, which is named for a distinguished former Professor in the Department and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and for his wife. It is awarded each Honors Day to the winner of an essay contest. Submitted essays may be on any topic in philosophy and may be of any length. They must be double-spaced and submitted to the departmental secretary in 336 ten Hour Hall no later than noon on the third Friday of January. Only one paper may be submitted by each entrant, and anyone submitting a paper who is eligible will automatically be considered for the **ten Hour Prize** and for the **Iredell Jenkins Endowed Memorial Scholarship**.

The **ten Hour Prize** carries a cash award of more than \$200, and the name of the winner is inscribed on a plaque permanently displayed on the third floor of ten Hour Hall. **The 2015 winner was Mitchell Dykstra.**

The **Iredell Jenkins Endowed Memorial Scholarship**, which is named after the late and beloved Iredell Jenkins, who chaired our department and graced the University for more than thirty years. It is awarded each Honors Day to the single most outstanding student of philosophy at the University. Those who wish to be considered for the award are urged to apply by submitting one or more (maximum of three) philosophical essays, of any length and on any topic, double-spaced. Students submitting an essay must provide it to the departmental secretary in 336 ten Hour Hall no later than noon on the third Friday of January.

The **Iredell Jenkins Endowed Memorial Scholarship** carries with it a substantial cash award that may exceed \$1500, and the names of the winners are inscribed on a plaque permanently displayed on the third floor of ten Hour Hall. **The 2015 winner was Mitchell Dykstra; Second Place was awarded to Kelsey Curtis and Hannah R. Darby.**

The **Norvin Richards Award in Philosophy and the Law** is given in honor of Professor Richards's distinguished career as a member of the Department's faculty. The award is given to a maximum of two students majoring in philosophy and intending a career in the law, on the basis of performance in one or more of the courses making up the Department's Jurisprudence specialization. No application is needed; winners will be notified.

The **Norvin Richards Award in Philosophy and the Law** carries with it a substantial cash award of more than \$2000, and the name of the winner is inscribed on a plaque permanently displayed on the third floor of ten Hour Hall. **The 2015 winner was Hannah R. Darby**