

Department of Philosophy

"*The unexamined life is not worth living.*" These words of Socrates, spoken 2400 years ago, have inspired philosophers of western civilization ever since. Our Department also is engaged in the pursuit of the life worth living and of the knowledge born of wonder about the human condition.

Courses offered by the Department are intended to acquaint students with the historical development of philosophical questions and their proposed solutions in western culture. In particular, we wish to consider the contributions of thinkers within the Christian (and especially Roman Catholic) tradition to philosophical dialogue. The Honours Programme is designed and recommended for those students contemplating graduate studies in philosophy.

The Department's offerings may, with appropriate permission, be complemented by the resources of the Department of Philosophy of the University of New Brunswick.

Honours in Philosophy may be taken in accordance with general university and departmental regulations. Students *honouring in philosophy* must include a minimum of 54 credit hours in philosophy in their programme of studies, among which must be:

1. PHIL 1013 Introduction to Western Philosophy I
PHIL 1023 Introduction to Western Philosophy II
2. the equivalent of *six (6) credit hours* from among:
PHIL 2213 Introduction to Moral Philosophy
PHIL 2233 Contemporary Moral Philosophy
PHIL 2243 Current Issues in Ethics
3. the equivalent of *twelve (12) credit hours* from among:
PHIL 2113 Classical Western Philosophy I
PHIL 2123 Classical Western Philosophy II
PHIL 2133 Medieval Christian Philosophy I
PHIL 2143 Medieval Christian Philosophy II
PHIL 2153 Modern Philosophy I
PHIL 2163 Modern Philosophy II
4. PHIL 2513 Introduction to Logic
5. *six (6) credit hours* from between:
PHIL 4886 Honours Seminar
PHIL 4996 Honours Thesis

Students *majoring in philosophy* must include a minimum of 36 credit hours in philosophy in their programme of studies, among which must be:

1. PHIL 1013 Introduction to Western Philosophy I
PHIL 1023 Introduction to Western Philosophy II

2. the equivalent of *six (6) credit hours* from among:
 - PHIL 2213 Introduction to Moral Philosophy
 - PHIL 2233 Contemporary Moral Philosophy
 - PHIL 2243 Current Issues in Ethics
3. the equivalent of *twelve (12) credit hours* from among:
 - PHIL 2113 Classical Western Philosophy I
 - PHIL 2123 Classical Western Philosophy II
 - PHIL 2133 Medieval Christian Philosophy I
 - PHIL 2143 Medieval Christian Philosophy II
 - PHIL 2153 Modern Philosophy I
 - PHIL 2163 Modern Philosophy II
4. PHIL 2513 Introduction to Logic

Any *18 credit hours* in philosophy suffice to constitute a *Minor in Philosophy*.

Each student honouring or majoring in philosophy is required to choose a member of the Department as Programme Adviser.

The Department's course offerings are listed according to areas within the discipline as follows:

- I. Introductory Courses
- II. History of Philosophy
- III. Moral Philosophy
- IV. Legal and Political Philosophy
- V. Philosophy of Religion
- VI. Themes and Authors
- VII. Tutorials and Independent Studies

I. Introductory Courses

1013. Introduction to Western Philosophy I

An introduction, through lecture, reading of original sources, and discussion, to the origins and development of western philosophy from its beginnings in ancient Greece through the Christian Middle Ages. Authors read include Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, and St. Thomas Aquinas. Themes: the nature of reality, the nature of human being and human knowledge; moral and political philosophy; the existence and nature of God. 3 credit hours.

1023. Introduction to Western Philosophy II

A continuation of the survey of developments in western philosophy, through lecture, reading of original sources, and discussion, from the early modern period to contemporary discussion. Focus: rationalism, empiricism, idealism, and the reactions these provoked. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013, or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

II. History of Philosophy

2113. Classical Western Philosophy I

A lecture course concentrating on Classical Greek philosophy, from its origins in the earliest Ionian cosmologists up to the Sophists, Socrates, and Plato. Thematic focus: the nature of nature, the nature of knowledge, the nature of being, the nature of the human being, as well as moral, social, and political philosophy. 3 credit hours.

2123. Classical Western Philosophy II

A lecture course covering the history of Greek philosophy from Aristotle, through the Epicurean and Stoic schools, up to Plotinus. The course also includes a treatment of some of the great Roman philosophers. Thematic focus: moral and political philosophy, philosophy of law. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2133. Medieval Christian Philosophy I

A lecture course covering Christian philosophy from its earliest origins in the sub-apostolic era through the patristic period, culminating in the Christian platonism of St. Augustine, Boethius, John Scotus Eriugena, and St. Anselm. Thematic focus: the relation of reason and revelation. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023, or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2143. Medieval Christian Philosophy II

A lecture course continuing the coverage of the confluence of Christian theology and philosophy, culminating in the great syntheses of the thirteenth century, especially that of St. Thomas Aquinas; the collapse of the Thomistic synthesis in fourteenth century philosophy, and the beginning of the modern outlook. Thematic focus: the relation of reason and revelation. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2153. Modern Philosophy I

A study, through reading, lecture, and discussion, of Descartes, Spinoza, Malbranche, Leibnitz, and the early British empiricists. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2163. Modern Philosophy II

A study, through reading, lecture, and discussion, of the later British empiricists, Kant, and Hegel. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2173. Introduction to Christian Philosophy: Early and Medieval

This course will involve a close reading of the works of a number of early and medieval Christian thinkers. The focus will be on the relation of Christian thought to the tradition of classical philosophy and the development of a distinctively Christian philosophical approach. Authors studied will include Tertullian, Augustine and Aquinas. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2183. Introduction to Christian Philosophy: Modern and Contemporary

This course will involve a close reading of selected works of the most influential Christian thinkers from the end of the Middle Ages to the contemporary period. Authors studied will include Descartes, Hooker, Hegel, Newman and Lonergan. Prerequisite: PHIL 2173 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours

III. Moral Philosophy**2213. Introduction to Moral Philosophy**

An examination, through readings, lectures, and discussion, of some important attempts to ground ethical judgments. Themes: relativism, egoism, values, and sentiment; values and consequences; the determination of duty. 3 credit hours.

2233. Contemporary Moral Philosophy

An investigation, through readings, lectures, and discussion, of contemporary issues and authors in moral philosophy. Topics include: Nietzsche and the transvaluation of values, existentialist ethics, emotivism, Marxism and ethics, the natural law debate, situation ethics, the logic and meaning of ethical discourse. Prerequisite: PHIL 2213 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2243. Current Issues in Ethics (CRIM)

A discussion, through lectures and student presentations, of ethical theory through its application in the consideration of such contemporary issues as: pornography and censorship, euthanasia, abortion, punishment, justice and welfare, sexual and racial discrimination.

Prerequisite: Phil 2213 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

IV. Legal and Political Philosophy**3306. The Western Tradition of Political Philosophy (POLS 2806)**

This course will introduce students to the following seminal texts in the Western political tradition: Plato, *The Republic*; *The Apology of Socrates*; Aristotle, *The Politics*; Machiavelli, *The Prince*; Hobbes, *Leviathan*; Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*; Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*; Marx, *1884 Manuscripts*; *Communist Manifesto*; Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*. Six credit hours. Note: this course may be taken for philosophy credit hours only by those students who are honouring or majoring in philosophy.

3313. Philosophy of Human Rights (CRIM 3313; HMRT 3033; POLS 2703)

This course will introduce students to philosophical questions concerning the foundation of human rights. What are human rights based on? What makes something a human right? Are human rights universally and permanently valid, or is the notion of human rights merely a construct of modern Western culture? The course will familiarize students with alternative theoretical answers to these and other related questions. Prerequisite: HMRT 2003, or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3343. Human Nature, Society, Justice and Law I: Classical and Christian Theories

A lecture course concentrating on classical and Christian philosophies of human nature in relation to civil society, justice, and law. Principal question: Is human nature, in itself and/or in its essential inclinations, good or bad? salutary or perverse? pro-social or sociopathic?

Applications (as anchored upon alternative answers to the above issues): competing theories of justice, law, and sanction, including issues of enforcement and correction. Philosophers: Sophists, Plato, Aristotle, Stoics, St. Augustine, St. Thomas, Luther, Kierkegaard. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 or 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3353. Human Nature, Society, Justice, and Law II: Modern Secular Theories (CRIM)

A lecture course concentrating on the main modern secular philosophies of human nature, in relation to civil society, justice, and law. Principal issue: Is human nature, in itself and/or in its essential inclinations, good or bad? salutary or perverse? pro-social or sociopathic?

Applications (as anchored upon alternative answers to the above issues): competing theories of justice, law, and sanction, including issues of enforcement and correction. Philosophers: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Rousseau, Bentham, Mill, Nietzsche, Freud, Dewey, Sartre. 3 credit hours.

3973. Christian Political Thought I

A survey, through lectures and readings of original sources, of major Christian authors from late antiquity to the Middle Ages on the issue of the origin, nature and purpose of the state.

Authors studied include Irenaeus, Augustine, Gelasius, Grotius, and the early political writings of Thomas Aquinas. Pre-requisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023, or permission of the instructor.

3983. Christian Political Thought II

A survey, through lectures and readings of original sources, of major Christian contributions to political thinking in the later medieval, Renaissance, Reformation, and early modern periods.

Authors studied include the later Aquinas, Calvin, and the Jesuit writers of the counter-reformation. Pre-requisite: PHIL 3973, or permission of the instructor.

V. Philosophy of Religion

3413. God in Western Thought

A survey, through lectures, readings, and discussion, of Western philosophical speculation regarding the divine. Themes: theism and atheism in classical antiquity; demonstrations of God's existence in medieval philosophy; the effect on religious belief of empiricism, idealism, Marxism, and existentialism. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3423. Reason and Religion

A survey of issues and authors, both classical and contemporary, in the philosophy of religion. Consideration will be given to the following: defining religion, religious experience and faith, the problem of evil, the meaning of religious language, the question of life beyond death. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3433. Varieties of Religious Experience

An examination, through lecture, readings, and student presentations, of the American philosopher William James' religious philosophy, as found especially in *The Varieties of Religious Experience*; and of the sympathetic but critical counter-position offered by his Harvard colleague, Josiah Royce. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023, or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

VI. Themes and Authors

2513. Introduction to Logic

A lecture course in which students learn how to identify and evaluate arguments drawn from a wide variety of sources. It will develop informal methods such as the identification of argument structure and informal fallacies. It will also develop formal methods that involve taking arguments in English, symbolizing them in a formal language, and evaluating strengths and weaknesses of the argument forms. Also covered are basic probability theory, inductive logic, and statistical reasoning. 3 credit hours.

2523. Introduction to Aesthetics (FNAR)

In this course, we will investigate and critically assess some of the most influential attempts in the history of philosophy to respond to art and artistic expression. Readings will include selections from a variety of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Heidegger, and Benjamin. 3 credit hours.

3106. Love and Friendship (GRID 3106)

This course will explore the interrelated themes of friendship, love and beauty. Each theme will be examined separately and as connected to the others. Ancient and modern texts will be used to examine the ways that different ages have addressed these fundamentally personal and yet common human experiences. Texts will vary from year to year but may include works such as Plato's *Symposium* and *Lysis*, Rousseau's *Emile*, Descartes' *Passions of the Mind*. Prerequisite: GRID 3006 or permission of the instructors. 6 credit hours.

3206. Human Nature and Technology (GRID 3206)

This course will study the way in which diverse thinkers have considered the question of human nature. This question will be sharpened with a consideration of the way in which human beings considered as natural beings use and are affected by technology. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*, Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Grant's *Technology and Empire*, Heidegger's *The Question Concerning Technology*, Fukuyama's *The Posthuman Future*. Prerequisite: GRID 2012 or permission of instructors. 6 credit hours.

3503. Plato

This course will involve a close reading of a number of dialogues representing diverse aspects of the Platonic corpus. These will include *Laches*, *Lysis*, *Ion*, *Philebus*, and others. Prerequisite: PHIL 2113 and 2123 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3513. Aristotle

This course will involve a close reading of several Aristotelian works. Particular attention will be paid to the *Nicomachean Ethics* and the *Politics*. Prerequisite: PHIL 2113 and 2123 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3523. St. Thomas: Knowledge, Being, and Human Being (CATH)

A lecture course covering the Christian philosophy of Aquinas and its relation to the previous history of philosophy, and to the historical context of St. Thomas' own time and venue in thirteenth-century Christendom. Thematic focus: philosophy of knowledge, of being, and of human nature. Prerequisite: PHIL 2113, 2123, 2133, 2143, or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3533. St. Thomas: Law, Morality, Society

A lecture course covering the fundamentals of the legal, moral, and political philosophy of Aquinas and its relation to the previous history of philosophy and to the historical and cultural context of the high middle ages. Prerequisite: PHIL 3523 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3543. Existential Philosophy

A study of existential thinking, its fundamental structure, and its importance for a contemporary understanding of the human situation. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 and 1023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3553. St. Augustine

This course will involve a close reading of the major works of St. Augustine, among which will be *The Confessions*, *The Trinity*, and *The City of God*. Prerequisite: PHIL 1013 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3563. Philosophy of Science (STS)

This course will examine science from the perspective of philosophy. Topics will include the historical relation between science and philosophy, the differences between the social and the physical sciences, the nature of scientific change in history, the role of values in science, the reality of "theoretical" objects of science, and feminist alternatives to traditional scientific research. Examples will be drawn from both the physical and the social sciences. Presupposes no previous exposure to any particular areas of science. 3 credit hours.

3613. Kant

In this course, we will focus primarily on Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* as we work through the implications his position has for both theoretical and moral philosophy. Prerequisite: PHIL 2153 or 2163 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3623. Hegel

This course will involve a careful study of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, focusing primarily on the relationships between theory and practice, and truth and history. Prerequisite: PHIL 2153 or 2163 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3653. Contemporary Continental Philosophy

This course will engage and critically assess the views of some of the most important thinkers in recent European philosophy such as Merleau-Ponty, Benjamin, Blanchot, Bataille, Levinas,

Foucault, Derrida, Lyotard. Prerequisite: PHIL 3543 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

3763. Martin Heidegger

In this course, we will engage in a close reading of selected works by Martin Heidegger. We will consider Heidegger's attempt to raise anew the urgent "question of being;" specifically, how his development of this question demands a radical assessment of many of our most dearly-held assumptions about truth, human nature, knowledge and reality, freedom and responsibility, history and time. Prerequisite: PHIL 3543 or permission of instructor. 3 credit hours.

VII. Tutorials and Independent Studies

NOTE: The courses listed in this section are normally intended for students capable of independent work at an advanced level.

4706. Tutorial in the Philosophy of Plato

A directed examination of some of the major works of Plato. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. 6 credit hours.

4713-4836. Tutorial in Selected Catholic Thinkers

The following courses on positions and contributions of selected Catholic thinkers are offered on a tutorial basis to advanced students capable of independent research. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. 3 or 6 credit hours.

4713-4716. St. Thomas Aquinas

4723. Bernard Lonergan

4886. Honours Seminar

Directed by a Department member on a topic approved by the Department, this seminar for Philosophy Honours students in their final year will involve, among other requirements, the preparation and presentation of a major essay. Normally, this option will not be available when PHIL 4996 Honours Thesis is offered.

4983-4986. Independent Studies

Special courses in philosophical reading and writing under the direction of members of the Department of philosophy may be permitted by the Chair of the Department. 3 or 6 credit hours.

4996. Honours Thesis

Students honouring in philosophy will submit, normally in the final semester of their BA Programme, in an extended paper resulting from independent research, and written under the guidance of a Director chosen from among the members of the Department. 6 credit hours.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.