

# PHILOSOPHY

Pierre S. duPont Foundation

PROFESSORS SESSIONS, BOGGS, ELROD,  
PEMBERTON  
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS MAHON, WILSON

## MAJOR

A major in **philosophy** leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree requires completion of 42 credits including the following:

1. At least 30 credits in philosophy, exclusive of Philosophy 473 and 493, and including
  - a. Philosophy 106;
  - b. at least 21 credits chosen from philosophy courses numbered 200 and above; and
  - c. four courses in the history of philosophy or major figures chosen from among the following: Philosophy 141, 142, 144, 221 (Classics 221), 222, 263, 265, 311, 314, 316, and 195, 395, and 403 when the topics are appropriate
2. At least nine credits chosen from offerings in philosophy or related disciplines, with the approval of the department head
3. Philosophy 473 (3) or 493 (3-3). The thesis is prepared under the supervision of an adviser and is presented for evaluation in the student's final term, normally the spring term of the senior year

*HONORS: An Honors Program in philosophy is offered for qualified students; see department head for details.*

### ★PHILOSOPHY 101 (3)—Problems of Philosophy

*Open to freshmen and sophomores only.* An introduction to some of the major ethical, political, and social problems we persistently confront. Selected readings from major philosophers. *Staff.*

*Fall, Winter*

### ★PHILOSOPHY 102 (3)—Problems of Philosophy

*Open to freshmen and sophomores only.* An introduction to some of the major problems that arise in inquiry into the nature of knowledge and reality. Selected readings from major philosophers. *Staff.*

*Fall*

### ★PHILOSOPHY 106 (3)—Introduction to Logic

The study of argumentation and modern formal logic. This course explores the basic principles of deductive and inductive reasoning. Students learn to symbolize and evaluate natural language arguments. Topics covered include the study of formal and informal fallacies, propositional and predicate logic, scientific induction and probabilities. *Wilson.*

*Winter*

### ★PHILOSOPHY 108 (3)—Ethics and the Environment

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* An exploration of one's responsibilities to the natural world through the writings of Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and others and analysis of patterns of land use in the United States since the colonial period. *Boggs.*

*Fall, Winter*

★**PHILOSOPHY 141 (3)—Ancient Philosophy**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* An examination of philosophical issues as formulated in ancient Greece. The works of Plato and Aristotle are emphasized. *Mahon.*

*Fall*

★**PHILOSOPHY 142 (3)—Modern Philosophy**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* An examination of philosophical issues in modern thought: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, and some more recent philosophers. *Mahon.*

*Winter*

★**PHILOSOPHY 144 (3)—20th-Century Philosophy**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* An examination of philosophical issues in recent Western thought, from logical atomism to deconstructionism: Husserl, Russell, Heidegger, Dewey, Wittgenstein, Quine, and others. *Sessions.*

*Winter 2002 and alternate years*

★**PHILOSOPHY 152 (3)—The Republic**

A consideration of Plato's major work with special attention to contemporary issues in morality, politics, science, and art. *Pemberton.*

*Not offered in 2001-2002*

★**PHILOSOPHY 168 (3)—Chinese Philosophy**

An introductory course focusing on classical (Zhou period) Confucian and Taoist philosophers. No background in Chinese studies is presupposed. *Sessions.*

*Winter 2003 and alternate years*

★**PHILOSOPHY 195 (3)—Seminar for Freshmen and Sophomores**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* A consideration of selected issues in philosophy. May be repeated for degree credit with permission and if the topics are different. *Staff.*

*Spring*

★**PHILOSOPHY 205 (3)—Philosophy of Language**

A study of such topics as logical positivism, speech acts, ordinary language philosophy, the analytic-synthetic distinction, indeterminacy of translation, and ontological commitment. *Wilson.*

*Spring*

★**PHILOSOPHY 206 (3)—Problems in Logic**

*Prerequisite: Philosophy 106 or permission of the instructor.* An inquiry into formal logic and philosophical issues related to logic. The course includes a study of truth and meaning, vagueness, the revisability of logic, and Gödel's theorem. It also extends propositional and predicate logic to include topics such as the logic of identity, fuzzy logic, many-valued logic, mereology and modal logic. *Wilson.*

*Not offered in 2001-2002*

★**PHILOSOPHY 207 (3)—Aesthetics**

A consideration of the basic issues in philosophy of art. Selected viewings and readings from contemporary sources. *Pemberton*

*Winter*

★**PHILOSOPHY 212 (Religion 212) (3)—Philosophy and Religion**

An exploration of selected issues such as mystical and numinous experiences and doctrines, theistic arguments, faith and reason, religion and morality and science and religion. *Sessions.*

*Winter 2002 and alternate years*

★**PHILOSOPHY 221 (Classics 221) (3)—Plato**

A close study of one or several dialogues. *Pemberton.*

*Spring (This course will be taught in Greece.)*

★**PHILOSOPHY 222 (3)—Aristotle**

A study of Aristotle's comprehensive philosophy of man and nature, including his logic, physics, metaphysics, psychology, ethics and aesthetics. *Staff.*

*Fall 2002 and alternate years*

★**PHILOSOPHY 251 (3)—Meaning and Existence**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* A consideration of the existential philosophies of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and others. *Pemberton.*

*Winter*

★**PHILOSOPHY 255 (3)—Philosophy of Science**

Discussion of philosophical issues raised by the modern physical and social sciences. Topics include the nature of scientific theories, evidence, and explanation, the demarcation of science from non-science, scientific revolutions, the unity of science, and scientific realism. *Wilson.*

*Fall*

★**PHILOSOPHY 256 (3)—Philosophy and Literature**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* A consideration of philosophical themes in the writings of some 19th- and 20th-century authors, including Dostoevsky, Melville, Hemingway, Percy, and Solzhenitsyn. *Boggs.*

*Fall*

★**PHILOSOPHY 257 (3)—Philosophy of Biology**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* An examination of some of the philosophical issues raised by biology, with an emphasis on current evolutionary theory. Topics include the structure of the theory of evolution by natural selection, an examination of the concepts of fitness and adaptation, the role of teleological and teleonomic explanation in biology, reductionism, the nature of biological species, individuality, levels of selection and sociobiology. *Wilson.*

*Winter*

★**PHILOSOPHY 258 (3)—Philosophy of Law**

An examination of topics in jurisprudence such as the concepts of a law and of a legal system; the legal positivist, legal realist, and natural theories of law; the nature of the relationship between law and morality; civil disobedience; freedom of speech; and the justification of punishment. Readings taken from Plato, Thomas Aquinas, Henry David Thoreau, John Stuart Mill, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Martin Luther King, Jr., John Rawls, Ronald Dworkin, and Catharine MacKinnon. *Mahon*

*Winter*

**★PHILOSOPHY 260 (3)—Philosophy of Nature**

*Prerequisite: Philosophy 108 or permission of the instructor.* An examination of various understandings of nature and the natural from the ancient Greeks to the present. The course includes exploration of basic philosophical issues regarding the concepts “nature,” “wild” and “wilderness.” The focus is on the relationship between landscapes and conceptualizations of time, self, and community. *Boggs.*

*Spring*

**★PHILOSOPHY 263 (3)—Kierkegaard**

A study of *Philosophical Fragments* and *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* with emphasis on the analysis of the religious and moral life. *Boggs.*

*Not offered in 2001-2002*

**★PHILOSOPHY 265 (3)—Nietzsche**

An examination of Nietzsche's central philosophical conceptions—revaluation of values, genealogy of morality, self-overcoming, eternal recurrence—through selected readings from various periods in Nietzsche's authorship. *Boggs.*

*Not offered in 2001-2002*

**★PHILOSOPHY 266 (3)—Ethics**

An examination of fundamental issues in the theory of morality by comparing different approaches such as Kantian, utilitarianism, virtue and feminist ethics. *Mahon.*

*Fall*

**★PHILOSOPHY 267 (3)—Personal Identity and Physical Identity**

A study of the concept of a person and its relationship with those of physical identity and death. *Wilson.*

*Not offered in 2001-2002*

**★PHILOSOPHY 301 (3)—Metaphysics**

An exploration of the aims, methods, and value of metaphysical thinking. Selected readings from various philosophical viewpoints. *Sessions.*

*Winter 2003 and alternate years*

**PHILOSOPHY 305 (Psychology 305) (3)—Speech and Cognition**

*Prerequisite: Six credits in philosophy and/or psychology.* An examination of speech, speech acts, discourse, and understanding. *Elmes.*

*Not offered in 2001-2002*

**★PHILOSOPHY 311 (3)—Wittgenstein**

A close study of Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*. Emphasis on the analysis of language, meaning, and states of consciousness. *Boggs.*

*Winter*

**★PHILOSOPHY 312 (3)—Theory of Knowledge**

An examination of the basic problems in epistemology with an emphasis on contemporary discussions. Topics include skepticism, knowledge, justification (foundationalism, coherentism, reliabilism), relativism and rationality. *Staff.*

*Not offered in 2001-2002*

**★PHILOSOPHY 313 (3)—Philosophy of Mind**

A consideration and assessment of dualism and materialism and of various theories of the relation between the mental and the physical such as the identity theory, functionalism, and supervenience. *Wilson.*

*Fall*

**★PHILOSOPHY 314 (3)—Heidegger**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.* A careful reading of Heidegger's *Being and Time* and some later essays. *Pemberton.*

*Winter*

**★PHILOSOPHY 316 (3)—Kant**

An exploration of the full sweep of Kant's *Critical Philosophy*, with special attention to the *Critique of Pure Reason*. *Sessions.*

*Fall 2001 and alternate years*

**★PHILOSOPHY 395 (3)—Advanced Seminar**

*Prerequisites: Six credits in philosophy and permission of the instructor.* An intensive and critical study of selected issues or major figures in philosophy. May be repeated for degree credit with permission and if the topics are different. *Staff.*

*Spring*

*Offered when interest is expressed and departmental resources permit.*

**PHILOSOPHY 403 (3)—Directed Individual Study**

*Prerequisite: Permission of the department.* May be repeated for degree credit with permission and if the topics are different. *Staff.*

**PHILOSOPHY 473 (3)—Senior Thesis and Philosophical Topics**

*Prerequisites: Senior standing and major in philosophy.* Seminars devoted to philosophical issues in conjunction with which each major will prepare and present a senior thesis. *Staff.*

*Winter*

**PHILOSOPHY 493 (3-3)—Honors Thesis**

*Prerequisites: Honors candidacy and senior standing.*  
*Fall-Winter*