

Neuroscience 442 (2)—Honors Thesis Proposal

Prerequisite: Honors candidacy. Writing a proposal for honors thesis research, including a clear statement of the problem being studied, a literature review, and a feasible, detailed plan for the research. Taken no later than the winter term of the junior year. *Staff.*

Offered in fall or winter when interest is expressed and departmental resources permit.

Neuroscience 493 (3-3)—Honors Thesis

Prerequisites: Senior standing and honors candidacy. Individual conference. *Staff.*

Fall-Winter

PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

Pierre S. duPont Foundation

PROFESSOR SESSIONS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS COOPER, MAHON

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS BELL, GREGORY,

GOLDBERG, VERHAGE

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JACKSON

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
 - 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, 270, 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 first-year students and sophomores only. An introduction to some of the major ethical, political, and social problems we persistently confront. Selected readings from major philosophers. (HU, GE4c) *Staff.*

Fall, Winter

Philosophy 102 (3)—Problems of Philosophy

Open to first-year and sophomores only. Philosophy 101 is not a prerequisite for this course. An introduction to some of the major problems that arise in inquiry into the nature of knowledge and reality. Selected readings from major philosophers. (HU, GE4c) *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. (HU, GE4c) *Gregory.*

Fall, Winter

Philosophy 108 (3)—Ethics and the Environment

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. (HU, GE4c) Cooper.

Fall

Philosophy 141 (3)—Ancient Philosophy

An examination of the metaphysics of the pre-Socratic philosophers, especially the Milesians, Pythagoras, Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Zeno of Elea, and the Atomists, and the ethics and political philosophy of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Topics include the origin and nature of the *kosmos*, the nature and existence of the god(s), the trial and execution of Socrates, theories of virtue, the nature of knowledge and truth, justice and the ideal state, the nature of *eudaimonia* (happiness, flourishing), and the possibility of *akrasia* (weakness of the will). (HU, GE4c) Mahon.

Fall

Philosophy 142 (3)—Modern Philosophy

An examination of the metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of religion in the rationalist philosophers Rene Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, and Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, and the empiricist philosophers John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume. Topics include skepticism about the external world, mind-body dualism, the existence and nature of God, theories of substance, free will and determinism, personal identity, and causation. (HU, GE4c) Mahon.

Winter

Philosophy 144 (3)—20th-Century Philosophy

An examination of philosophical issues in recent Western thought, from logical atomism to deconstructionism: Husserl, Russell, Heidegger, Dewey, Wittgenstein, Quine, and others. (HU, GE4c) Sessions.

Philosophy 168 (3)—Chinese Philosophy

An introductory course focusing on classical (Zhou period) Confucian and Taoist philosophers. No background in Chinese studies is presupposed. (HU, GE4c) Sessions.

Not offered in 2008-2009

Philosophy 195 (3)—Seminar for First-Years 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. **Topics for 2009: Honor Across Cultures (HU, GE4c) Sessions; Philosophy of Education (HU, GE4c) Bell.**

Winter, Spring

Philosophy 205 (3)—Philosophy of Language

A survey of central topics in the field, including some or all of the following: reference, meaning, truth, analyticity, speech acts, pragmatics, verificationism, indeterminacy,

innateness, metaphor, and development of language in the species and in the individual. (HU, GE4c) Gregory.

Fall

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. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Not offered in 2008-2009

Philosophy 207 (3)—Aesthetics

A consideration of the basic issues in philosophy of art. Selected viewings and readings from contemporary sources. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Spring

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. (HU, GE4c) Sessions.

Fall

Philosophy 215 (3)—Social Inequality and Fair Opportunity

An exploration of the different range of opportunities available to various social groups, including racial, ethnic and sexual minorities, women, and the poor. Topics include how to define fair equality of opportunity; the social mechanisms that play a role in expanding and limiting opportunity; legal and group-initiated strategies aimed at effecting fair equality of opportunity and the theoretical foundations of these strategies; as well as an analysis of the concepts of equality, merit and citizenship, and their value to individuals and society. (HU, GE4c) Bell.

Winter

Philosophy 216 (3)—Feminist Social and Political Philosophy

This course critically examines the gender norms that pervade our identities, govern our everyday behavior, and organize our social life. Questions addressed may include: What is gender? In what ways does it affect the quality of women's and men's lives? Is gender difference natural? Is it valuable? Can it contribute to, or interfere with, human flourishing? Can a gendered society be just? What can any of us do to promote good relations among women and men? (HU, GE4c) Bell.

Fall 2010 and alternate years

Philosophy 221 (Classics 221) (3)—Plato

A close study of one or several dialogues. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Winter

Philosophy 222 (3)—Aristotle

A study of Aristotle's comprehensive philosophy of man and nature, including his logic, physics, metaphysics, psychology, ethics, and aesthetics. (HU, GE4c) Sessions.

Winter

Philosophy 251 (3)—Meaning and Existence

A consideration of the existential philosophies of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and others. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Philosophy 255 (3)—Philosophy of Science

Discussion of philosophical issues raised by the natural 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. (HU, GE4c) Gregory.

Winter

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. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Fall

Philosophy 257 (3)—Philosophy of Biology

An examination of 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 explanation in biology, reductionism, the nature of biological species, individuality, levels of selection, and sociobiology. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Not offered in 2008-2009

Philosophy 258 (3)—Philosophy of Law

An examination of topics in the philosophy of law, such as the concepts of a law and of a legal system; Natural Law theory; legal positivist and legal realist theories of law; the nature of the relationship between law, morality, and religion; civil disobedience; rights in the U.S. Constitution; freedom of speech and pornography; abortion and the right to privacy; punishment and the death penalty; and different forms of legal liability. Readings include United States Supreme Court opinions. (HU, GE4c) Mahon.

Spring

Philosophy 260 (3)—Philosophy of Nature

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. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Not offered in 2008-2009

Philosophy 263 (3)—Kierkegaard

A study of *Philosophical Fragments* and *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* with emphasis on the analysis of the religious and moral life. (HU, GE4c) Sessions.

Fall

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. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Winter

Philosophy 270 (3)—History of Ethics

A close examination of the writings of some of the philosophers who have shaped modern ethical thought, including St. Thomas Aquinas, Niccolo Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, and John Stuart Mill. Topics include theories of Natural Law; the social contract; the origin and nature of justice; morality and reason; morality and Christianity; and individual autonomy and state paternalism. (HU, GE4c) Mahon.

Fall

Philosophy 301 (3)—Metaphysics

An exploration of the aims, methods, and value of metaphysical thinking. Selected readings from various philosophical viewpoints. (HU, GE4c) Sessions.

Winter

Philosophy 305 (Psychology 305) (3)—Speech and Cognition

Prerequisites: Six credits in philosophy and/or psychology. An examination of speech, speech acts, discourse, and understanding. Staff.

Not offered in 2008-2009

Philosophy 310 (3)—Contemporary Ethics

An examination of different metaethical theories including ethical realism, emotivism, error theory, and constructivism, and different normative ethical theories including utilitarianism, Kantian deontology, virtue ethics, and the ethics of care, followed by an application of these normative theories to a selection of ethical problems including famine and world hunger, abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, cloning, suicide, and self-defense. Philosophers include G.E. Moore, W.D. Ross, A.J. Ayer, J.L. Mackie, Bernard Williams, Susan Wolf, Peter Singer, Michael Tooley, Judith Jarvis Thomson, and Shelly Kagan. (HU, GE4c) Mahon.

Winter

Philosophy 311 (3)—Wittgenstein

A close study of Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*. Emphasis on the analysis of language, meaning, and states of consciousness. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Not offered in 2008-2009

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. (HU, GE4c) Gregory.

Winter

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. (HU, GE4c) Gregory.

Fall

Philosophy 314 (3)—Heidegger

A careful reading of Heidegger's *Being and Time* and some later essays. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

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*. (HU, GE4c) Sessions.

Winter

Philosophy 320 (3) - Distributive Justice

Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor. How should the product of social cooperation be distributed in a just society? Is wealth redistribution through taxes fair? Is it a fair distribution of wealth that a just society depends on, or is distributive justice more complicated than that? Should we have welfare programs, and if so, what should they be like? Our studies may include John Rawls' political liberalism, Robert Nozick's libertarianism, Ronald Dworkin's equality of resources, Amartya Sen's capabilities approach, Stuart White's justice as fair reciprocity, and criticisms of the distributive paradigm. (HU, GE4c) Bell.

Fall 2009 and alternate years.

**Philosophy 341 (Interdepartmental 341) (3)—
Medical Ethics**

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. An examination of the issues arising out of the human impact of modern biomedical research and practice. Specific issues are selected from among the following: abortion, contraception, death and dying, experimentation/research, genetics, in vitro fertilization, mental retardation, public health/community medicine, science/technology, transplantation and patients' rights. (HU, GE4c) Cooper.

Winter

**Philosophy 342 (Interdepartmental 342) (3)—
Legal Ethics**

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. An examination of the issues associated with lawyers' roles in society and their impact upon and obligations to the client, the court, and the legal profession. The course also addresses questions of the role and function of law and the adversary system. (HU, GE4c) Cooper.

Winter

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. (HU, GE4c) Staff.

Fall, Winter

**Philosophy 401 (1), 402 (2)—Directed
Individual Study.**

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

Fall, Winter

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.

Fall, Winter

**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