

UIC PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

FALL 2019 | COURSE BROCHURE

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PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy

What is philosophy? That is itself a philosophical question, as it turns out. We'll explore it for a while, looking at the first major Western philosopher (Socrates) as a model, then turn to some of the questions philosophers have standardly worried about: Is there a God? Is there a moral principle everyone should use to lead their lives? What is relativism and is it a position we should embrace or reject? Our goal is not just to survey the views of various philosophers, but to do philosophy ourselves. The course will thus be devoted as much as anything to *how* philosophy is done — what methods and tools philosophers use — rather than to *what* it is. (Gen. Ed.: *This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.*)

Prof. Samuel Fleischacker | TR 9:30-10:20AM; F 9, 10, 11 or 12
Graduate Instructor TBD | TR 5-6:15PM

PHIL 101 Critical Thinking

Critical thinking will enable you to better understand, evaluate, and defend the beliefs that make up your worldview, as well as the competing beliefs offered by others. We will learn how to analyze, evaluate and criticize arguments. We will then apply these skills to various forms of reasoning offered in academic and non-academic contexts. These are the skills you need to do well in college and to ace tests like the MCAT and the GRE. (Gen. Ed.: *This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.*)

Professor John Whipple | MW 11-11:50AM; F 10 or 11
Graduate Instructor TBD | W 6PM-8:30PM

PHIL 102 Introductory Logic

Information is all around you, stored in books, computers, the rings of a tree, in your brain. Logic is the study of the most basic property of information: that you can put pieces of information together to make a new piece of information. This process is called inference and it is at the heart of what it means to be a thinker. In logic, we study inference but establishing precise rules for what makes a good inference. In this course you will learn principles of inference that will be useful to you in any activity that requires thought. You will improve your ability to make and evaluate arguments, and you will gain a greater appreciation for precision in language. (Gen. Ed.: *This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.*)

Professor Aidan Gray | MW 12-12:50PM; F 10, 11, 12, or 1
Graduate Instructor TBD | M 6PM-8:30PM

PHIL 103 Introduction to Ethics

Ethics is the study of virtue and vice, good and bad, right and wrong. In this course we will consider the question, "What is the best way to live?" We will explore influential traditions of thought about how to understand and answer this question. (Gen. Ed.: *This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.*)

Graduate Instructor TBD | MW 4:30PM-5:45PM

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**DID YOU KNOW? PHILOSOPHY MAJORS ARE
ACCEPTED AT A HIGH RATE TO MEDICAL SCHOOL!**

PHIL 108 What Is Freedom?

Introduction to philosophy through an investigation of freedom. What is freedom, and why do we value it? Do we have free will? What limitations on individual freedom by society are legitimate? What is a free society? (Gen. Ed.: *This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.*)

Professor Will Small | TR 11AM-11:50AM; F 10 or 11

PHIL 110 Philosophy of Love and Sex

What is it to love someone as a lover rather than a parent, sibling, or friend? What is the nature of sexual desire; how does it relate to love, to sexual activity and sexual pleasure? Among the topics discussed are sexual intercourse, trans-gender identity, homosexuality, prostitution, pornography, incest, and rape. (Gen. Ed.: *This course satisfies the Individual and Society requirement.*)

Professor TBD | MW 12PM-12:50PM; F 10, 12, or 1

PHIL 116 Medical Ethics

Moral issues as they arise in medical contexts, including such topics as abortion, euthanasia, paternalism, allocation of medical resources, and psychiatric issues.

Professor David Hilbert | MW 9AM-9:50AM; F 8 or 9

PHIL 201 Theory of Knowledge

How do we know what we know? What does it take for a belief to constitute knowledge? How are claims to knowledge justified? We will look at various answers to these questions in both historical and contemporary contexts. Course Information: *Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.*

Professor Daniel Sutherland | TR 11AM-12:15PM

PHIL 202 Philosophy of Psychology

Almost everyone agrees that we have minds and we have bodies. What's less clear is exactly how our minds and bodies are related. Is there really just one thing with two ways of describing it? Or are there two very different things that may or may not interact with each other? We will look at a range of answer to questions concerning the relation between mind and body. We will also focus on questions concerning individual senses from both a scientific and a philosophical perspective. *Prerequisite(s): One course in philosophy; or junior or senior standing in the physical, biological, or social sciences.*

Professor Rachel Goodman | MW 9AM-9:50AM; F 8 or 9

PHIL 204 Philosophy of Science

Science is our best source of knowledge of the world and how it works, but what is the nature of that knowledge and its reliability? We will address questions like: What is science? What is the scientific method? How reliable is the knowledge granted by science? How do fallible, sometimes irrational scientists generate reliable knowledge? *Prerequisite(s): One course in philosophy; or junior or senior standing in the physical, biological, or social sciences.*

Professor Nick Huggett | MW 10AM-10:50AM; F 9 or 10

Need advice about philosophy courses?

Contact:

-Your favorite teacher

-Director of Undergraduate Studies

Professor John Whipple jwhipple@uic.edu

-Departmental Advisor Albert

Hernandez ahern093@uic.edu

PHIL 210 Symbolic Logic

The focus of this course will be first-order quantification theory. We will begin by reviewing truth-functional logic, treating it in a somewhat more abstract and rigorous way than in PHIL 102. We will then introduce quantifiers and their use to symbolize English sentences. We will set up a natural deduction system for first-order logic and consider meta-theoretical questions that arise about such a system—in particular, its soundness and completeness. *Prerequisite: PHIL 203. Recommended background: Grade of B or better in PHIL 102. (Gen. Ed.: Natural World - No Lab course.)*

Professor Peter Hylton | TR11AM-12:15PM

PHIL 223 History of Modern Philosophy I: Descartes and His Successors

The philosophy of Rene Descartes marks the advent of the Modern Period. Although it attracted devoted followers, Cartesians were criticized by a diverse group of thinkers: Idealists (Leibniz), Materialists (Hobbes), and Empiricists (Locke) alike. This class introduces students to Descartes' most important ideas and some of his most formidable critics. *Prerequisite(s): One course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.*

Graduate Instructor TBD | MW 3PM-4:15PM

PHIL 230 Actions, Outcomes, and Morality

Can the prospect of a good outcome (e.g. saving the lives of many) justify — or even require — doing something that would be considered morally impermissible (e.g. killing an innocent person)? Do the ends always justify the means? According to some philosophers (“consequentialists”) they do. We will consider some varieties of — and objections to — consequentialism in order to determine whether it can provide an acceptable theory of morality. *Prerequisite(s): One course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: PHIL 103, PHIL 112, or PHIL 116.*

Professor Will Small | TR 9:30AM-10:45AM

National statistics show that philosophy students outperform all others on the LSAT, GRE, and GMAT!

PHIL 241 Philosophy of Religion

We will explore the themes of God, freedom, and evil. What, for example, is the nature of God? How might one go about trying to prove or disprove the existence of God? What is the value, if any, of faith and revelation, miracles and prophecy in religion? Readings will be from classic and contemporary sources. *Prerequisite(s): 1 course in philosophy/the consent of instructor.* Professor Georgette Sinkler | TR 3:30PM-4:45PM

PHIL 300 Fundamentals of Philosophical Discourse

Do you ever feel, while writing a paper, that you don't really know what you are doing, or what, exactly, your teachers are looking for? Then this course is for you. Learn to write with purpose and confidence. Learn to present abstract ideas and arguments with clarity. Get detailed weekly feedback and coaching on your writing, and all aspects of writing philosophy papers. *Prerequisite(s): Major in philosophy; junior standing or above or departmental approval.*

Professor Aidan Gray | MW 9:30AM-10:45AM

PHIL 402 Topics in Philosophy of Mind

This course is about the nature of our minds, and their relationship to our bodies and to the world around us. We'll ask the following questions: 'what is a mind?', 'what is the relationship between our minds, our brains and our bodies?', 'what is consciousness, and what is its role in our minds?', and 'how do our minds represent the world around us?'. *Prerequisite: PHIL 202. Recommended background: PHIL 102 or PHIL 210.*

Professor Rachel Goodman | R 3:30PM-6PM

PHIL 422 Medieval Philosophy

The course will provide an overview of philosophy as it was practiced during the Middle Ages in the Latin-speaking West. The work of authors such as Augustine, Anselm, and Aquinas will be explored on topics ranging from the nature of change to the compatibility of reason and religion. *Prerequisite(s): PHIL 221 or 421, or consent of the instructor.*

Professor Georgette Sinkler | TR 12:30PM-1:45PM

PHIL 432 Topics in Ethics

Selected topics in ethics. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated up to 1 time(s) with approval. Approval to repeat course granted by the department. *Prerequisite(s): One 200-level course in philosophy or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Credit in a course in moral, social, or political philosophy.*

Professor TBD | MW 9:30AM-10:45AM

Faculty Highlight: Professor Rachel Goodman

Professor Rachel Goodman joins the UIC Philosophy Department as Assistant Professor this Fall 2019!



Professor Goodman grew up and received her undergraduate education in Australia, and received her PhD in Philosophy from the University of Chicago. Her research interests lie mainly in the philosophy of mind, with a particular interest in the nature of representation and the question of what is distinctive about mental states that represent particular objects, rather than properties or generalities. Since completing her PhD, she has been an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Nebraska, and a post-doc at the University of Leeds, in the United Kingdom. She also taught for a term at UIC in 2018. She is delighted to be returning to Chicago to join the Philosophy Department at UIC.

Professor Goodman will be teaching **PHIL 202: Philosophy of Psychology** and **PHIL 402: Topics in Philosophy of Mind** for the Fall 2019 semester.