

# Philosophy Degree Programs

## **Undergraduate Course Requirements for a Major in Philosophy**

In addition to meeting the general University degree requirements, the philosophy major must take a minimum of **56 credits** in philosophy courses. Specific requirements are:

- PHL 201 Introduction to Philosophy (4 credits)
- PHL 301 Ancient Philosophy (4 credits)
- PHL 303 Early Modern Philosophy (4 credits)
- PHL 308 Elementary Ethics (4 credits)
- PHL 324 Introduction to Formal Logic I (4 credits)
- PHL 380 Philosophical Writing (4 credits)
- Two "historical figures" courses from the following: 451, 452 (8 credits)
- Four "thematic" courses from the following: PHL 423, 424, 432, 433, 445, 446, 447, 470, 471, 474 (16 credits)
- Philosophy electives (8 credits)
- Total = 56 credits

A maximum of 8 credits of philosophy taken under the undifferentiated grading option (pass/no pass) is acceptable toward fulfilling department major requirements.

## **Requirements for a Minor in Philosophy**

To earn a minor in philosophy a student must complete 28 credits (8 credits must be taken in residence at PSU), to include the following:

- PHL 201 Introduction to Philosophy (4 credits)
- PHL 301 Ancient Philosophy (4 credits)
- PHL 303 Early Modern Philosophy (4 credits)
- PHL 308 Elementary Ethics (4 credits)
- Philosophy electives (to include a minimum of 8 credits in upper-division courses) (12 credits)
- Total = 28 credits

A maximum of 4 credits of philosophy taken under the undifferentiated grading option (pass/no pass) are acceptable toward fulfilling department minor requirements.

## **Guidelines for Philosophy Honors Option**

The Philosophy Department's honors option is designed to challenge and enrich the educational experience of superior philosophy majors and, with a successful completion, recognize and honor their achievements. The requirements to qualify for departmental honors include: an accepted honors application; at least Junior standing; completion of at least 20 credits of philosophy (including at least one 400-level course); minimum GPA of 3.5 in philosophy courses; writing sample.

In addition to the completion of at least 60 credits in philosophy and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in philosophy courses at graduation, the student must complete the Honors Seminar (PHL 485) and Honors Thesis (PHL 403) with receipt of A- or above in both courses.

For further details on requirements, expectations, and for an application, please see the Department website: [pdx.edu/philosophy/honors-option](http://pdx.edu/philosophy/honors-option)

Course	Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>PHL 201: Introduction to Philosophy</b>	Wichowski-Hill	Wichowski-Hill	Wichowski-Hill
<b>PHL 201: Introduction to Philosophy</b> Online	Spencer	Gillis	
<b>PHL 212: Philosophy in Literature</b>			Elliott
<b>PHL 301U: History of Philosophy (Ancient)</b>	Berman		Berman
<b>PHL 301U: History of Philosophy (Ancient)</b> Online		Berman	
<b>PHL 303: History of Philosophy (Modern)</b> Online	Coventry	Seppalainen	Coventry
<b>PHL 306U: Science &amp; Pseudoscience</b>	Gillis		
<b>PHL 306U: Science &amp; Pseudoscience</b> Online		Seppalainen	Goldman
<b>PHL 308U: Elementary Ethics</b>	Weber		Weber
<b>PHL 308U: Elementary Ethics</b> Online	Gillis	Jokic	Jokic
<b>PHL 309U: Business Ethics</b> Online	Cohen	Hamington	Hardy
<b>PHL 310U: Environmental Ethics</b>	Elliott		Hiller
<b>PHL 310U: Environmental Ethics</b> Online	Cohen	Cohen	Mueller
<b>PHL 311U: Morality of Punishment</b> Online	Jokic		Jokic
<b>PHL 312U: Feminist Philosophy</b>		Mueller	
<b>PHL 312U: Feminist Philosophy</b> Online	Hamington		
<b>PHL 313U: Life &amp; Death Issues</b>		Berman	
<b>PHL 313U: Life &amp; Death Issues</b> Online			Jokic
<b>PHL 314U: Computer Ethics</b> Online	Patrick		Patrick
<b>PHL 315: Existentialism</b>	Mueller		
<b>PHL 316U: Social &amp; Political Philosophy</b>			Gillis
<b>PHL 316U: Social &amp; Political Philosophy</b> Online		Cwik	
<b>PHL 317U: Philosophy of Art</b> Online			Elliott
<b>PHL 318U: Philosophy of Medicine</b> Online	Gillis		
<b>PHL 319U: Introduction to Asian Philosophy</b> Online	Komito		Komito
<b>PHL 320U: Critical Thinking</b>			
<b>PHL 320U: Critical Thinking</b> Online	Seppalainen	Sharpsteen	Sharpsteen
<b>PHL 324U: Intro to Formal Logic I</b>	Weber		
<b>PHL 324U: Intro to Formal Logic I</b> Online	Hiller	Weber	Weber
<b>PHL 331U: Philosophy of Education</b>			Elliott
<b>PHL 333U: Philosophy of Law</b>			Wichowski-Hill
<b>PHL 341U: Latinx Philosophy</b> Online			Spencer
<b>NAS 351: Indigenous Philosophy</b> Online		Spencer	
<b>PHL 350U: Morality and World Politics</b> Online	Jokic		
<b>PHL 351U: Philosophy of Int'l Human Rights</b> Online		Jokic	
<b>PHL 352U: Philosophy of International Law</b> Online			Jokic
<b>PHL 355U: Morality and Healthcare</b> Online		Gillis	Gillis
<b>PHL 367U: Philosophy of Sport</b> Online	Spencer		Spencer
<b>PHL 369U: Philosophy of Sex &amp; Love</b>	Sharpsteen		
<b>PHL 369U: Philosophy of Sex &amp; Love</b> Online		Mueller; Spencer	Spencer
<b>PHL 370U: Philosophy of Work &amp; Leisure</b> Online	Mueller; Elliott		
<b>PHL 373: Queer Philosophy</b>			Mueller
<b>PHL 399: Philosophy of Disability</b>			
<b>PHL 399: Latinx Philosophy</b>			Spencer
<b>BST: 378: Philosophy of Race</b>	Mueller		
<b>PHL 379: Feminist Care Ethics</b> Online			Hamington
<b>PHL 380: Philosophical Writing</b>	Berman		
<b>PHL 380: Philosophical Writing</b> Online		Coventry	
<b>PHL 424/524: Epistemology</b> Online		Hamington	
<b>PHL 432/532: Philosophy of Mind</b> Online	Seppalainen		
<b>PHL 433/533: Philosophy of Language</b> Online			Hiller
<b>PHL 449/549: Philosophy of Sustainability</b>		Elliott	
<b>PHL 451/551: Major Figures: Jane Addams</b>	Hamington		
<b>PHL 451/551: Major Figures: Kierkegaard</b>	Wichowski-Hill		
<b>PHL 451/551: Major Figures: Marx</b>		Wichowski-Hill	
<b>PHL 451/551: Major Figures: Stoics</b>			Berman
<b>PHL 470/570: Philosophy of Science</b> Online			Seppalainen
<b>PHL 485: Honors Seminar</b>			Seppalainen

## **General Requirements for Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science**

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**-28 total credits (may be more depending on foreign language placement).

- 12 credits in arts/letters (4 credits must be in fine and performing arts)
- 12 credits in sciences/social sciences (4 credits must be in science/math)
- 4 credits in foreign language numbered 203 or higher (Conducted in the target language; for students with no prior language training, this will require completion of 101-103 and 201-203.)

**Bachelor of Science (B.S.)**-28 total credits

- 12 credits in sciences (not including math/statistics; 8 of the 12 science credits must be coursework with lab or fieldwork)
- 12 credits in arts/letters and/or social sciences
- 4 credits in college-level math/statistics (not Math 70, 95)

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### ***Academic Distribution Areas***

<b>Arts and Letters</b>	<b>Sciences</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>
American Sign Language, Applied Linguistics, Architecture*, Art*, Arts & Letters, Black Studies (221, 252-3, 421, 424-427 only), Communication, Conflict Resolution, Dance, English/Writing, Fine & Performing Arts*, Foreign Languages & Literature, Humanities, Music*, Philosophy, Speech & Hearing Sciences, Theater Arts*	Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Geology, Math/Statistics <sup>1</sup> (except Math 70, 95), Physics, Science Education (SCI)	Criminology & Criminal Justice (220 & 330 only), Anthropology, Black Studies (except 221, 351-3, 421, 424-427), Chicano/Latino Studies, Child & Family Studies, Economics, Geography, History, International Studies, Native American Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Social Science, Sociology, Urban Studies & Planning, Women's Studies
<i>*Fine and Performing Arts</i>		

<sup>1</sup>*Math/Statistics can be used to meet the Science requirement for the BA only, not the BS. The BS has a separate Math requirement.*

## General Requirements for Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)** – 28 total credits (may be more depending on foreign language placement)

- 12 credits in arts/letters (4 credits must be in fine and performing arts)
- 12 credits in sciences/social sciences (4 credits must be in science/math)
- 4 credits in foreign language numbered 203 or higher (conducted in the target language; for students with no prior language training, this will require completion of 101-103 and 201-203)

**Bachelor of Science (B.S.)** – 28 total credits

- 12 credits in sciences (not including math/stats; 8 of the 12 science credits must include lab/fieldwork)
- 12 credits in arts/letters and/or social sciences
- 4 credits in college-level math/stats (excluding Math 70, 95)

## Requirements for the University Studies (UNST) Program

**FRINQ** – 1 year-long UNST 100-level class with 2 mentored inquiry sessions (15 total credits; transfer: 0-29 credits)

**SINQ** – 3 four-credit UNST 200-level classes with 1 mentored inquiry each (12 total credits; transfer: 30-59 credits = 1 course, 60-74 credits = 2 courses, 75-89 credits = 3 courses)

**Junior Cluster** – 3 four-credit 300-level classes from a single theme (12 total credits, theme must be chosen from one of the three SINQ courses taken; transfer: 90+ credits)

**Senior Capstone** – 1 six-credit UNST 421-level community based class (6 total credits, no connection to past UNST classes or major required)

## Resources and Contact Information

### **Advising Contacts**

▪ Major Advising	Angela Coventry, Chair	coventry@pdx.edu
▪ Major Advising	Noah Sharpsteen, Manager	nesharps@pdx.edu
▪ Graduate School in Philosophy	Dr. Angela Coventry	coventry@pdx.edu
▪ Health and STEM-related fields	Dr. Bryan Cwik	bcwik@pdx.edu
▪ Careers in Law	Dr. R. Kevin Hill	hillrk@pdx.edu
▪ LCM Pathway Adviser	Martha Dyson	mdyson@pdx.edu
▪ LCM Pathway Adviser	Leo Perez Lopez	lperez2@pdx.edu
▪ LCM Pathway Adviser	Karen Kennedy	klkenned@pdx.edu
▪ LCM Pathway Adviser	Sam Peters	sapeters@pdx.edu

All department information (including this packet) can be found on our department website: [pdx.edu/philosophy](http://pdx.edu/philosophy).

Visit [pdx.edu/advising](http://pdx.edu/advising) for information on degree requirements.

Visit [pdx.edu/unst](http://pdx.edu/unst) for information on the University Studies Program.

# Science, Technology, and Society Interdisciplinary Minor



## Requirements:

The interdisciplinary Minor requires 24 credits distributed as follows:

Three core courses (12 credits) chosen from:

HST 387U	History of Modern Science
NAS 392	Indigenous Ways of Knowing
PHL 470	Philosophy of Science
SCI 347U/WS 347U	Science, Gender, and Social Context
SCI 359U	Biopolitics

Three elective courses (12 credits) chosen from:

Any course from the core list after the 12-credit core requirement has been completed:

ANTH 325U	Culture, Health, and Healing	HST 490	Comp World Hst: Empires of Knowledge
ANTH 414	Culture and Ecology	HST 490	Comp World Hst: Global Health
BI/WS 346U	Genes and Society	MTH 486	Topics in the History of Mathematics
COMM 416	Environmental Controversies	PHL 301U	Ancient Philosophy
CS 345	Cyberculture	PHL 303	Early Modern Philosophy
CS/SYSC 346U	Exploring Complexity in Sci and Tech	PHL 306U	Science and Pseudoscience
EC 460	History of Economic Thought	PHL 307U	Science and Society
ENG 307U	Science Fiction	PHL 318U	Philosophy of Medicine
ENG 397U	Digital Literary Studies	PHL 355U	Morality and Healthcare
ENG 498	Ecology, Criticism, and Culture	PHL 470	Philosophy of Science
ESM 330	Environmental and Ecological Literacy	PHL 471	Topics in Philosophy of Science
G 340U	Life of the Past	PS 319	Politics of the Environment
GEOG 366U	Historical Geography of North America	SCI 321U	Energy and Society
GEOG 347U	Environmental Issues and Action	SCI/WS 348U	Science, Gender, and Social Context II
HST 339	Environment and History	SCI 355U	Science through Science Fiction
HST 427	Topics in the History of Science	SCI/WS 386	Science and Gendered Bodies
HST 440	American Environmental History	SOC 459	Sociology of Health and Medicine
HST 460	Topics in European Intellectual History		

HST 427 with different topics, may be repeated for credit

HST 460 with different topics, may be repeated for credit

Students should take note of any prerequisites established by the respective departments.

For advising concerning the Minor, consult the History Department office.

## Philosophy Department Groups and Events

### **PSU Philosophy Club**

The Portland State University Philosophy Club is an student-run, university-recognized student organization with the focus of bringing together those interested in philosophical ideas as well as the discipline. Events take place during the Fall, Winter, and Spring terms and range from student presentations, guest lectures, movie/media nights, information for prospective graduate students, and much more. We strongly encourage you to get involved with the club, and even consider participating in club leadership.

Events are posted on our website at [pdx.edu/philosophy/philosophy-club](http://pdx.edu/philosophy/philosophy-club), and reminders are sent out to majors.

You can contact the philosophy club if you need information or have questions at [philclub@pdx.edu](mailto:philclub@pdx.edu).

### **PSU Socratic Society**

The Portland State University Socratic Society is a faculty-run lecture series that brings guest speakers from other universities to PSU to present their research. In the recent past, speakers have presented on the Philosophy and Physics of Time, Care Ethics, Sustainability, the concept of Number in Plato, Racial Equality, and the question “What is Philosophy?”. All students are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Socratic Society events.

Events are posted on our website at [pdx.edu/philosophy/socratic-society](http://pdx.edu/philosophy/socratic-society), and reminders are sent out to majors.

### **Oregon High School Ethics Bowl**

The Oregon High School Ethics Bowl is a competition hosted by the PSU Department of Philosophy each year, where teams prepare, discuss, and present positions on ethically-relevant current events. PSU students and faculty serve as team coaches for area high-schools, as well as organize and administer the event. This event is connected with a Senior Capstone taught each Fall Term – UNST 421: Philosophy for Children. We strongly encourage students interested in teaching philosophy and philosophical outreach to get involved.

More information about the event can be found at the OHSEB website at [oregonethicsbowl.org](http://oregonethicsbowl.org).

Please contact Alex Sager ([asager@pdx.edu](mailto:asager@pdx.edu)) or Dave Weber ([dweber@pdx.edu](mailto:dweber@pdx.edu)) if you are interested in participating.

### **Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference**

The Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference is an annual, two-day conference held each Spring. Hundreds of undergraduate students present and attend each year, often from all 50 states as well as other countries. Keynote speakers are always some of the top figures in our discipline and have included Hilary Putnam, John Searle, Paul Churchland, Alvin Plantinga, Jerry Fodor, and Daniel Dennett. Pacific University also publishes some of the top undergraduate submissions in their online journal *Res Cogitans*. There are consistently at least 5-10 student presenters, chairs, and commenters from PSU. We strongly encourage all students to prepare and submit work to this conference if possible, as well as attend. It is an unmissable opportunity for any students looking to continue studying philosophy after their undergraduate career, and is a thoroughly enjoyable weekend where one can meet others, discuss philosophical issues, and build our philosophical community.

More information on this event can be found at [www.pacific.edu/about/events/camps-conferences-workshops/undergraduate-philosophy-conference](http://www.pacific.edu/about/events/camps-conferences-workshops/undergraduate-philosophy-conference)

## **Tenured Faculty**

**Dr. Angela Coventry (coventry@pdx.edu, 5-9893, CH 241H)**

**Professor**

**Ph.D. 2004, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Philosophy)**

Angela's major area of research includes the History of Modern Philosophy (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Continental and British). She is the author of two books: *Hume's Theory of Causation: A Quasi-Realist Interpretation* (Continuum, 2006) and *Hume: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Continuum, 2007). In addition she has published several articles and book reviews in journals such as *Hume Studies*, *Locke Studies*, *Logical Analysis and History of Philosophy*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Mind*, and *The European Legacy*. She has also served as the Vice President and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of The Hume Society and as co-editor of the journal *Hume Studies*. Most recently in the summer of 2022 Angela co-hosted a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Professors at PSU titled *David Hume in the Twenty-First Century: Perpetuating the Enlightenment*. Currently Angela is preparing an edition of Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature* for Broadview Press.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 303 Early Modern Philosophy

PHL 317 Philosophy of Art

PHL 451 Major Figures: Hume, Spinoza, Descartes, etc.

**Dr. Brad Berman (bberman@pdx.edu, 5-9574, CH 241N)**

**Associate Professor**

**Ph.D. 2011, University of Pennsylvania (Philosophy)**

Brad specializes in the history of ancient Greek philosophy. His research engages the Presocratics, Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics, and pays special attention to how their thought bears on contemporary metaphysical debates, specifically mereology, essentialism, grounding, and causal powers.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 301 History of Ancient Philosophy

PHL 451 Major Figures: Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics

**Dr. Maurice Hamington (maurice4@pdx.edu, CH 241J)**

**Professor**

**Affiliate Faculty, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

**Ph.D. 2001, University of Oregon (Philosophy)**

**Ph.D. 1994, University of Southern California (Religion and Social Ethics)**

**M.B.A. 1983, University of Southern California (Organizational Behavior)**

Maurice is a care ethicist interested in both the theory and application of care. He has authored or edited twelve books including *Care Ethics and Poetry* (Palgrave MacMillan 2019) authored with Ce Rosenow, *Care Ethics and Political Theory*, edited with Daniel Engster (Oxford University Press 2015), *Applying Care Ethics to Business*, edited with Maureen Sander-Staudt (Springer 2011), *Socializing Care*, edited with Dorothy C. Miller (Rowman & Littlefield 2006) and *Embodied Care* (University of Illinois Press 2004). For more information on his other works see <https://pdx.academic.edu/MauriceHamington>

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 309U	Business Ethics
PHL 312U	Feminist Ethics
PHL 379/WS 379	Feminist Care Ethics
UNST 239	KVR (SINQ)

**Dr. R. Kevin Hill (hillrk@pdx.edu, 5-3954, CH 241T)**

**Pre-Law Adviser, Professor**

**Ph.D. 1992, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (Philosophy)**

**J.D. 2004, Chicago – Kent, College of Law**

Kevin's interests include philosophy of law, Kant, and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century Continental philosophy. He is the author of *Nietzsche's Critiques: The Kantian Foundations of His Thought* (Oxford, 2003), *Nietzsche: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Continuum, 2007), the editor and co-translator of Nietzsche's *Will to Power* (Penguin, 2017), as well as the editor/translator of Nietzsche's *Joyous Science* (Penguin, 2018). He is currently working with Matthew Stahlman on a new translation of Nietzsche's *Human, All Too Human*, for Oxford World Classics, forthcoming in 2023.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 333	Philosophy of Law
PHL 451	Major Figures: Kant, Nietzsche, Foucault, Heidegger, etc.



**Dr. Avram Hiller (ahiller@pdx.edu, 5-3507, CH 241U)**

**Associate Professor**

**Ph.D. 2005, Duke University (Philosophy)**

Avram specializes in philosophy of language and analytic approaches to epistemology and metaphysics. He is also interested in environmental ethics.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 310      Environmental Ethics  
PHL 324      Introduction to Logic I  
PHL 423      Metaphysics  
PHL 424      Epistemology  
PHL 433      Philosophy of Language

**Dr. Aleksandar Jokic (d8aj@pdx.edu, 5-3503, CH 241Q)**

**Professor**

**Ph.D. 1991, University of California, Santa Barbara (Philosophy)**

Aleksandar's main research interests are in philosophy of time, applied ethics, and political philosophy, particularly the ethics of international affairs.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 350      Morality and World Politics  
PHL 351      Philosophy of International Human Rights  
PHL 352      Philosophy of International Law  
PHL 446      Topics in Ethics: International Ethics

**Dr. Tom Seppalainen (seppalt@pdx.edu, 5-3519, CH 241R)**

**Associate Professor**

**Ph.D. 1999, University of Pittsburgh (History and Philosophy of Science)**

Tom teaches the component of the curriculum dealing with history and philosophy of science and philosophy of mind. His research concerns philosophy of perception, including the research methodologies of sensory and cognitive neuroscience.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 306      Science and Pseudoscience  
PHL 432      Philosophy of Mind  
PHL 470      Philosophy of Science

**Dr. Bryan Cwik (bcwik@pdx.edu, 5-3552, CH 241I)**

**Associate Professor**

**Ph.D. 2013, University of Virginia (Philosophy)**

Bryan works in bioethics and philosophy of medicine, and has interests more generally in applied moral and political philosophy, history and philosophy of science, and environmental philosophy. His research interests include, and he has published papers on, emerging technologies (esp. biotechnology), intellectual property, global health, and climate change.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 318      Philosophy of Medicine

PHL 355      Morality and Healthcare

PHL 481      Biomedical Ethics

## **Full Time Faculty**

**Dr. Brian Elliott (elliott3@pdx.edu, 5-2689, CH 241P)**

**Associate Professor**

**Ph.D. 1998, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg im Breisgau (Philosophy)**

Brian Elliott's research explores interconnections between contemporary social and political theory and ecology, architecture, literature, and culture.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 310      Environmental Ethics

PHL 316      Social and Political Philosophy

PHL 317      Philosophy of Art

PHL 331      Philosophy of Education

PHL 371      Philosophy and the city

PHL 460      Contemporary European Philosophy

**Dr. Robert Gillis (gillis@pdx.edu, 5-3520, CH 241G)**

**Teaching Assistant Professor**

**Ph.D. 2018, University of California, San Diego (Philosophy)**

Bob specializes in social and political philosophy. He also teaches courses in philosophy and medicine, elementary ethics, and the history of philosophy.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 303      History of Early Modern Philosophy

PHL 308      Elementary Ethics

PHL 316      Social and Political Philosophy

PHL 318      Philosophy of Medicine

**Dr. Monica Mueller (mueller24@pdx.edu, 5-9932, CH 241M)**

**Teaching Assistant Professor**

**Ph.D. 2009, Binghamton University (Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy)**

Monica specializes in Ethics with a focus in Virtue Theory. She teaches a variety of courses that aim to promote reflective engagement with ethical, social, and political problems.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 312 Feminist Philosophy

PHL 315 Existentialism

PHL 369 Philosophy of Sex & Love

UNST 239 KVR (SINQ)

**Dr. Albert R. Spencer III (aspencer@pdx.edu, 5-3532, CH 241R)**

**Teaching Assistant Professor**

**Ph.D. 2007, Baylor University (Philosophy)**

Spencer specializes in Inter-American Philosophy, specifically Pragmatism, Indigenous, and Latinx Philosophy. He also reaches a variety of courses in the Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement (RESR), UNST Junior Cluster, and asynchronous online courses in applied ethics.

**Representative Courses:**

NAS 351 Indigenous Philosophy (RESR)(Online)

PHL 341 Latinx Philosophy (Online)

PHL 360 American Philosophy (Online)

PHL 367 Philosophy of Sport (Online)

PHL 369 Philosophy of Sex & Love (Online)

**David Weber (dweber@pdx.edu, 5-3518, CH 241O)**

**Senior Instructor II**

**M.A. 1990, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Philosophy)**

David specializes in logic and classes introducing students to the practice of philosophy.

**Representative Courses:**

PHL 300 Philosophical Methods and Concepts

PHL 320 Critical Thinking

PHL 324&5 Introduction to Formal Logic I & II

PHL 474 Philosophy of Logic

UNST 239 KVR (SINQ)

## Philosophy Department Courses

### **PHL 201 Introduction to Philosophy (4)**

General introduction to philosophy; its practice and major areas of study.

### **PHL 210 Philosophy of Religion (4)**

Examination of philosophical questions involved in the study of religion, e.g., the meaning of "God," or "gods;" the traditional arguments for the existence of a God; the meaning of faith and the question of its connection to reason; the problem of evil. *Note: this is not a class in comparative religion or the history of religion.*

### **PHL 212 Philosophy in Literature (4)**

An introduction to traditional philosophical issues as they appear in literature, especially in fiction. The specific philosophical problems and the literary works will vary from term to term and from instructor to instructor.

### **PHL 300 Philosophical Methods and Concepts (4)**

A survey of the major strategies of proof and disproof central to philosophical reasoning, and of the fundamental concepts and distinctions employed in current philosophical discourse. *Not recommended as a first course in philosophy.*

### **PHL 301 Ancient Philosophy (4)**

Study of Ancient Greek philosophy with a primary focus on the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle. May include topics in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of science, human flourishing, and political philosophy.

### **PHL 302 Medieval Philosophy (4)**

Study of philosophy during the Medieval period. Topics include developments in logic, role of faith and reason in knowledge, and use of Platonic and Aristotelian philosophy. Course readings include Christian, Jewish, and Islamic authors.

### **PHL 303 Early Modern Philosophy (4)**

An introduction to seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy. May include topics in epistemology, metaphysics, mind and religion with readings by major thinkers such as Descartes, Spinoza, Conway, Locke, Cavendish, Leibniz, Berkeley, Shepherd, Amo, Hume, and Reid.

### **PHL 304 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (4)**

Study of continental European philosophy from Hegel to Nietzsche. Topics include post-Kantian idealism, the "social turn" in epistemology, communitarian ethics, reactions to the crisis in Christianity, and the radical critiques of modern social and political institutions.

### **PHL 305 Analytic Philosophy (4)**

Examination of the analytic philosophical tradition from Frege and Russell through early Wittgenstein and the Logical Positivists to Quine. Major topics include theories of meaning and the interrelationships among language, logic, and knowledge.

### **PHL 306 Science and Pseudoscience (4)**

An examination of basic issues in philosophy of science through an analysis of creation science, faith healing, UFO abduction stories, and other pseudosciences. Some of the questions addressed: What distinguishes science from pseudoscience? How are theories tested? When is evidence reliable? Must we invoke the supernatural to explain certain aspects of reality?

### **PHL 307 Science and Society (4)**

Introduction to the philosophy of social science including social epistemology. Topics include the nature of explanation in social science, the role of normative and hermeneutical principles in it, and the influence of social processes on scientific knowledge.

## Philosophy Department Courses

### **PHL 308 Elementary Ethics (4)**

General introduction to ethical theories and topics such as whether there are objective moral distinctions, what makes right acts right and wrong acts wrong, and how we know (if we do) that actions are right or wrong, and how we know (if we do) that actions are right or wrong. (relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, and Kantianism).

### **PHL 309 Business Ethics (4)**

Study of the ethical aspects of practices and organizational structures in the business world. The bulk of the course is devoted to specific contemporary topics, for example: the moral status of corporations; the concept of work place rights; responsibility in advertising; environmental constraints on business; affirmative action in hiring; the social roles of profit and private property; role of work in the life of the individual.

### **PHL 310 Environmental Ethics (4)**

Study of our moral responsibilities with respect to the environment (e.g., treatment of non-human animals, rights of animals, trees, rivers and possibly our planet) in light of some of the central environmental problems (e.g., population growth, global warming, and endangered species).

### **PHL 311 The Morality of Punishment (4)**

Nature and proper aims of punishment; moral considerations that bear on the justice and wisdom of punishment. Consideration will be given to the main theories of punishment: retributionism, utilitarianism, paternalism, and the view that punishment should be replaced by therapy.

### **PHL 312 Feminist Philosophy (4)**

Critical examination of classical philosophical schools of thought and methodologies from a feminist perspective which emphasizes the importance of external context in all intellectual pursuits and underscores the interconnections between theory and practice including values.

### **PHL 313 Life and Death Issues (4)**

Study of moral problems dealing with life and death issues including abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, starvation, and war.

### **PHL 314 Computer Ethics (4)**

Examines the moral principles and judgments relevant for computer-related practices. Topics include: ethical aspects of new information technologies; are technologies value-laden; freedom, privacy and control; security, reliability, and professional responsibilities;; piracy and ownership; ethics of hacking; ethics of virtual environment; and international aspects of new technologies.

### **PHL 315 Existentialism (4)**

Introduction to a number of philosophers and literary figures gathered together under the name "existentialism." Authors include Dostoyevsky, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Rilke, Kafka, Ortega y Gasset, Jaspers, Heidegger, Sartre and Camus. Topics include consciousness, (in)authenticity, alienation, death, anxiety, freedom, time, nihilism, historical meaning and religion.

### **PHL 316 Social and Political Philosophy (4)**

Survey of main theories of social and political justice (utilitarian, liberal, equalitarian, communitarian, and libertarian) through classic and modern representatives.

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### **PHL 317 Philosophy of Art (4)**

Philosophical issues concerning the creation, interpretation, and consumption of art. May include an overview of the major philosophical theories about the nature of art and/or an examination of how art relates to topics in ethics, relativism, pornography, feminism, Non-Western culture, computers, neuroscience, nature, the city and the street.

### **PHL 318 Philosophy of Medicine (4)**

Examination of central philosophical issues that arise within the theory and practice of medicine such as: the relationship of medicine to basic sciences, the roles played in medicine by normative concepts such as health and illness, the nature of causal reasoning in medicine, and the nature of diagnostic categories in medicine and psychiatry.

### **PHL 319 Introduction to Asian Philosophy (4)**

A study of different systems of Asian philosophy through the main classical texts drawn from Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Topics include: the nature of reality, the self, causality, language, knowledge, and ethics.

### **PHL 320 Critical Thinking (4)**

Designed to improve reasoning and skills of critical assessment of information. Focuses on practical methods that are applied to case studies from public media such as editorials, essays, propaganda, advertisements, and newspaper reports of scientific studies.

### **PHL 321 Practical Epistemology (4)**

Study of criteria for knowledge-claims based on sources such as: memory, perception, eyewitness testimony, expert testimony, and medical and scientific experts.

### **PHL 322 Minds & Machines (4)**

Study of philosophical aspects of artificial intelligence including its functionalist ontology. Topics include the nature of computation, learning, and intelligence and the role of consciousness in thinking and behavior.

### **PHL 324 Introduction to Formal Logic I (4)**

A course in basic formal logic. Major topics include the method of deduction for showing propositional arguments valid and the method of counter-example for showing such arguments invalid. Truth table methods, tests for consistency, and syllogistic arguments are optional topics.

### **PHL 325 Intro to Formal Logic II: Predicate Logic (4)**

Continuation of PHL 324 Introduction to Formal Logic I. Primary emphasis will be on formal methods for dealing with arguments involving the terms "all" and "some." Major topics include the method of deduction for showing predicate logic arguments valid, and the method of counter-example for showing such arguments invalid. Recommended prerequisite: PHL 324.

### **PHL 327 Introduction to Quantitative Literacy (4)**

The goal is to learn to think intelligently and critically about important uses of quantitative data by means of discussion of the following topics: samples, measures, scales, relationships, risks, predictions, graphs, averages, percentages, distributions, random effects, and estimates. Intended for students who do not normally take classes that involve quantitative matters; its mathematical content is kept at an absolute minimum.

### **PHL 330 Language, Representation and Reality (4)**

An introduction to theories of meaning and their central topics: nature of representation and the referential capacity of language, role of use in meaning, and the role of language in thought and experience.

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### **PHL 331 Philosophy of Education (4)**

Exploration of the nature, aims, and value of education by situating it in its historical and contemporary philosophical context and perspectives.

### **PHL 332 Intentionality, Phenomenology, and Existentialism (4)**

Examination of the Kantian roots of "intentionality" (i.e., that our conscious acts are directed toward objects), and subsequent theories and philosophical use of intentionality. Recommended prerequisite: 8 credits in philosophy.

### **PHL 333 Philosophy of Law (4)**

Examines the nature of law, legal obligation and legal interpretation. Is law a part of morality, or nothing more than an expression of social power? When are we permitted or required to disobey the law? What is the proper methodology for interpreting laws and deciding cases? Do judges discover or create law? Readings include classics of jurisprudence (e.g., Austen, Hart, Dworkin) as well as judicial opinions in a selected topic. Recommended prereqs : PHL 308, 311, or 316.

### **PHL 341 Latinx Philosophy (4)**

Latinx Philosophy will explore the philosophical contributions of indigenous, Hispanic, and Latinx thinkers in the Americas and in the Iberian Peninsula, situating philosophical thought in its social and political contexts. Students will grapple with the questions of Latinx identity and philosophy, read philosophical and literary works from pre-Columbian civilizations, scholastic, and Marxian traditions, as well as engage contemporary thinkers on feminism, race, social movements, and migration.

### **PHL 344 Military Ethics (4)**

Examination of the central conceptual, ethical, and existential issues concerning war and the military as an institution and a culture. Topics include theories of war, military values, and the ethics of technology (UAVs, WMDs), insurgency, and terrorism.

### **PHL 350 Morality and World Politics (4)**

Examination of moral principles and judgments relevant for appraising the key tools of foreign policy. Included are issues of military, humanitarian, and covert intervention, economic sanctions, development assistance, human rights, democracy, and transitional justice. Recommended prerequisite: 8 credits in philosophy.

### **NAS 351 Indigenous Philosophy**

Surveys historical and contemporary indigenous philosophical writings on decolonization, epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. The majority of the texts will be from authors such as Black Elk, Vine Deloria Jr, and Leslie Marmon Silko, but sources from indigenous peoples across the globe should also be considered. Possible topics may include indigenous perspectives on sovereignty, proper human relationships with the land, waters, and animals, communication through storytelling, language, and dance, and gender-sexual identity.

### **PHL 351 Philosophy of International Human Rights (4)**

Examination of concepts of human rights through classics of political philosophy, international human rights law and its development, and current high-profile cases of alleged violations of human rights.

### **PHL 352 Philosophy of International Law (4)**

Analysis of International Law through its philosophical foundations, major historical forms of implementation, and current roles in ameliorating global problems (e.g., war, poverty, and revolutions).

### **PHL 355 Morality and Health Care (4)**

Examination of issues in health care such as euthanasia, abortion, allocation of transplantable organs, rationing health care, treatment of impaired newborns. Recommended prerequisite: 8 credits in philosophy.

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### **PHL 360 American Philosophy (4)**

Study of American pragmatism through some its major representatives (e.g., Dewey, Peirce, James, and Mead), its intellectual and cultural context, and its influence on contemporary American philosophers.

### **PHL 365 Atheism (4)**

Examination of atheist philosophy including secularism in ethics and politics, naturalism in epistemology and metaphysics, and contemporary naturalistic accounts of religion and faith-based beliefs.

### **PHL 367 Philosophy of Sport (4)**

An examination of the central conceptual, ethical, and existential issues concerning sports. Topics include the nature and role of sports in human flourishing, theories of embodiment, and the morality of sports as an institution and culture including competition and violence.

### **PHL 369 Philosophy of Sex & Love (4)**

An examination of some of the central philosophical issues emerging from a reflection of sex and love. Topics include: conceptual or ontological ones such as the possible essence of heterosexuality, homosexuality, and asexuality; ethical ones such as the morality or immorality of different expressions of sex and love such as sadomasochism, polygamy, and philandering; existential ones such as the role of sexuality and romantic love in our self-conception and a good life; epistemological ones such as the nature of our experiences of sexuality and love and the possible influence that conceptual sources have on them.

### **PHL 370 Philosophy of Work and Leisure (4)**

Role and nature of work and leisure in theories of the good life and central social and political practices.

### **PHL 371 Philosophy and the City (4)**

Explores the role and nature of the city in the history of philosophy and especially social and political theory and the philosophical bases of contemporary urban theory including political, civic, sustainable, and aesthetic ideas of the city.

### **PHL 373 Queer Philosophy**

The aim of this course is to illuminate the theoretical underpinnings and the radical epistemological, social, and political possibilities that are afforded by queer philosophy/theory. Queer Philosophy problematizes and challenges rigid identity categories, norms of sexuality and gender and the oppression and violence that such norms justify. This course will interrogate the metaphysical, epistemological, phenomenological, social, and political dimensions of queer philosophy. (Cross-listed with WS)

### **PHL 375 Food Ethics (4)**

An introduction to ethical issues surrounding food choices including the fairness of food markets, the moral status of animals, and our obligations to the hungry.

### **BST 378 Philosophy of Race**

Explores philosophical assumptions involved in the concept of race, as well as the political realities of racial identities. This course is concerned with the metaphysical legitimacy of race, as well as the social, ethical, and political effects of race. Students will explore the relationship of social categories of race to the persistence of racism.

### **PHL 379 Feminist Care Ethics**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to care ethics from its origins in feminist theory to its present multidisciplinary and international manifestations. The implications of care ethics for ontology, epistemology, aesthetics, identity, performativity and moral theory



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are addressed. Care ethics is differentiated from mainstream ethical theories. Care theory is applied to a variety of academic and professional disciplines including but not limited to business, education, healthcare, literature, political science, performance studies, and psychology. (Cross-listed with WS)

### **PHL 380 Philosophical Writing**

The goal of this writing-intensive course is to give you the tools to write philosophy. You will practice the major types of philosophical writing, including summaries, blog posts, abstracts, argumentative essays, and research papers. We will also study essays, dialogues, and a short story to explore the diverse ways in which writers have communicated philosophical ideas. A significant part of thinking like a writer is learning how to read. For this reason, we will also carry out close readings of philosophical texts in different traditions with an eye toward structure, form, rhetoric, and style.

### **PHL 399 Special Studies**

(Credit to be arranged)

### **PHL 401/501 Research**

(Credit to be arranged.) Consent of Instructor.

### **PHL 403/503 Honors Thesis**

(Credit to be arranged.) Consent of Instructor.

### **PHL 404/504 Cooperative Education/Internship**

(Credit to be arranged.) Consent of Instructor.

### **PHL 405/505 Reading and Conference**

(Credit to be arranged.) Consent of instructor.

### **PHL 407/507 Seminar**

(Credit to be arranged.) Consent of instructor.

### **PHL 423/523 Metaphysics (4)**

Study of major systems of ontology (e.g., idealism, materialism) and traditional metaphysical issues (e.g., determinism, freedom, properties) including debates over the feasibility of the discipline of metaphysics itself (e.g., positivism and scientific realism).

### **PHL 424/524 Epistemology (4)**

Philosophical examination of some of the main issues in the theory of knowledge (such as our knowledge of the external world, minds, and logical and mathematical truths, etc.). Recommended prerequisite: 8 credits in philosophy.

### **PHL 432/532 Philosophy of Mind (4)**

Study of the debates over the nature of mental states and our knowledge of them. Main topics are dualism and various forms of materialism, behaviorism, mind-body identity theories, and functionalism and eliminativism. Recommended prerequisite: 8 credits in philosophy.

### **PHL 433/533 Philosophy of Language (4)**

A study of the nature of language and of problems of meaning, reference, and truth. Prerequisite: 8 credits in philosophy.

### **PHL 445/545 Advanced Ethics (4)**

A course in moral epistemology or "meta-ethics" dealing with topics such as: the distinction and connections between fact and value, "is" and "ought", and description and evaluation.

### **PHL 446/546 Topics in Ethics (4)**

Topics in contemporary and moral philosophy, including (but not limited to) the relation between

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applied and theoretical ethics, the foundations of moral responsibility, virtues, and the role of outcomes in moral evaluation. Courses may be repeated for credit with departmental approval, to apply toward major requirements. Recommended prerequisites: PHL 308 or 445

### **PHL 447/547 Topics in Social and Political Philosophy (4)**

An in depth study of an important current issue (such as global justice, multiculturalism, or power) or figure (such as John Rawls, Jürgen Habermas, or Michel Foucault) in social and political philosophy.

### **PHL 448/548 Biomedical Ethics**

Advanced study of central ethics issues in medicine, biomedical research, and health care systems, such as patient autonomy and medical paternalism, justice in provision of health services, protection of human subjects in research, and death, dying, and end of life care.

### **PHL 449/549 Philosophy of Sustainability (4)**

Examination of the core philosophical issues that arise within the theory and practice of sustainability and across its three complementary dimensions: environmental, economic, and social. Prerequisites: junior standing.

### **PHL 451/551 Major Figures (4)**

Intensive study of one or more major figures. Can be repeated for credit.

### **PHL 452/552 Topics in the History of Philosophy**

Topics in the history of philosophy including (but not limited to) politics, ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, aesthetics, and natural science. Course may be repeated for credit with different topics.

### **PHL 460/560 Contemporary European Philosophy (4)**

In-depth study of a current theme (such as phenomenology, post-modernism, or post-structuralism) or topical figure (such as Habermas, Derrida, or Benjamin) of European, "Continental" Philosophy.

### **PHL 470/570 Philosophy of Science (4)**

History and philosophy of the scientific method. Topics include an overview of the major models of the scientific method (inductivism, falsificationism, Kuhnian paradigms, etc.) and issues pertaining to their rationality such as theory-ladenness of observation, testing-holism, and the incommensurability of theory change. Recommended prerequisites: 8 credits in philosophy.

### **PHL 471/571 Topics in Philosophy of Science (4)**

An in-depth analysis of some specific metaphysical issue pertaining to scientific epistemology such as (but not limited to) explanation, causation, realism, natural kinds, and relativism. Course may be repeated for credit towards major requirements. Recommended prerequisites: PHL 470 or 8 credits in philosophy.

### **PHL 474/574 Philosophy of Logic (4)**

Topics: validity, sentence-proposition, connectives, quantifiers, truth, paradoxes, logical necessity and possibility. Optional topics: metalogic, the construction of formal systems of logic and formal proofs of certain of their properties, e.g., consistency and completeness. Recommended prerequisite: PHL 325.

### **PHL 485 Honors Seminar (4)**

Students conduct research and produce substantial written material on a topic, to be shared and critiqued. Recommended particularly for students considering graduate work in philosophy.