

Philosophy

Burt Hopkins, PhD, Chair

Objectives

The study of philosophy begins with questions that are as personal as they are universal: What truths can I know? How should I live? Who, or what, am I? Where is my place in the grand scheme of things? To respond fruitfully to such questions requires training in critical habits of mind, learning from the rich traditions and the great minds that have meditated on such questions, and engaging in lively discussion with a community of inquirers. Seattle University undergraduate philosophy courses communicate the value of philosophy and impart knowledge of its most influential figures. Even more, the courses help students bring their own intellectual concerns into dialogue with great minds of the past and present, and hone skills of reasoning and argumentation that make that questioning illuminating, reliable, and useful.

Elective courses support a major in philosophy that emphasizes skills of textual analysis, knowledge of the history of philosophy, and familiarity with contemporary figures and major trends.

Degree Offered

Bachelor of Arts

Majors Offered

Philosophy

Philosophy with Departmental Honors

Minor Offered

Philosophy

Bachelor of Arts

Major in Philosophy

In order to earn the bachelor of arts degree with a major in philosophy, students must complete a minimum of 180 credits with a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 2.00, including the following:

I. Core Curriculum Requirements

ENGL 110	College Writing: Inquiry and Argument	5
PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	5
HIST 120	Origins of Western Civilization	5
ENGL 120	Introduction to Literature	5
MATH 107 or 110 or above	.....	5
Lab Science	.....	5
Fine Arts (one approved 5 credit course; see course descriptions)	.....	5
Social Science I	.....	5
Social Science II (different discipline from Social Science I)	.....	5
Theology and Religious Studies Phase II (200-299)	.....	5
Theology and Religious Studies Phase III (300-399)	.....	5
Interdisciplinary	.....	3 to 5
Senior Synthesis	.....	3 to 5

II. College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

Modern Language 115, 125, 135, or equivalent 15

NOTE: All students with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences must demonstrate competency through the level of 135 in a language other than English. This competency is ordinarily achieved by successful completion of the three-course sequence: 115, 125, and 135. Because these courses are a college requirement, no courses in the sequence may be taken on a pass/fail, correspondence, or audit basis. Placement into other than the beginning course of the sequence is achieved by acceptable performance on the Modern Language Competency Examination. See the Modern Languages Department for details on the examinations. Courses used to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences modern language requirement may not be used to fulfill philosophy major requirements.

Choose one of the following two courses: 5

HIST 121 **Studies in Modern Civilization**

HIST 231 **Survey of the United States**

III. Major Requirements

60 credits in philosophy, including:

A. Foundations

PHIL 220* **Philosophy of the Human Person**..... 5

PHIL 260 **Introduction to Logic** 5

B. Ethics

PHIL 345, 351, 352, 353, 354, or 358..... 5

C. History and Traditions

PHIL 301 **Ancient Philosophy** 5

PHIL 302 **Medieval Philosophy**..... 5

PHIL 303 **Modern Philosophy**..... 5

PHIL 485 **Major Figures in the Traditions** 5

D. Electives

PHIL 250 or Upper-Division (300-400 level) Electives 10

E. Specialization

Choose three courses within one of the following specializations:

Specialization in Continental Philosophy..... 15

PHIL 361 **Introduction to Phenomenology**

PHIL 362 **Existentialism**

PHIL 363 **Hermeneutics**

PHIL 365 **Critiques of Western Metaphysics**

PHIL 462 **Problems in Classical Phenomenology**

PHIL 463 **Problems in Contemporary Phenomenology**

PHIL 464 **Topics in Post-Modern Philosophy**

Specialization in Logic, Science, and Analytic Philosophy..... 15

PHIL 333 **Philosophy of Science**

PHIL 334 **Nature and Cosmos**

PHIL 336 **Philosophical Impact of Scientific Revolutions**

PHIL 338 **Analytic Philosophy**

PHIL 430 **Advanced Logic**

PHIL 437	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 438	Philosophy of Language	
Specialization in Critical and Global Perspectives		15
PHIL 341	Buddhist Philosophy	
PHIL 343	Philosophy of Race, Class, and Gender	
PHIL 347	African Philosophy	
PHIL 348	Africana Philosophy	
PHIL 349	Topics in Comparative Philosophy	
PHIL 373	Gender and Social Reality	
PHIL 374	Feminist Moral Theory	
PHIL 376	Philosophy of Peace and War	
PHIL 378	Environmental Philosophy	
PHIL 444	Topics in Feminist Philosophy	
PHIL 445	Philosophy in a Global Context	
Specialization in Ethics, Law, and Justice		15
PHIL 322	Catholic Social Philosophy	
PHIL 326	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 327	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 343	Philosophy of Race, Class, and Gender	
PHIL 374	Feminist Moral Theory	
PHIL 376	Philosophy of Peace and War	
PHIL 378	Environmental Philosophy	
PHIL 429	Topics in Ethics, Law and Justice	
PHIL 495	Internship in Ethics, Law, and Justice	

Individualized Specialization..... 15

Arranged with student's advisor and approved by the department chair

***NOTE:** Only students who complete PHIL 110 at Seattle University are eligible to take PHIL 220. Students who satisfy PHIL 110 with a transfer course or who receive a waiver in PHIL 110 will substitute PHIL 210 for PHIL 220.

Several philosophy courses have been identified as satisfying the senior synthesis and the core interdisciplinary requirements. Those courses may be used to fill major requirements or major electives while also fulfilling university core requirements. The credit for each course completed is included in totals only once.

Bachelor of Arts

Major in Philosophy with Departmental Honors

The philosophy departmental honors major offers an opportunity for motivated and capable students to engage in more extensive interaction with faculty and to complete challenging individual research projects that will further their personal and professional goals.

Application to the major: To be accepted to the program, students must have a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 3.5. Students must be recommended to the program by a philosophy faculty member who will take responsibility for directing that student's honors thesis, and they must be granted permission to participate in the program by the department chairperson. Interested students should apply in spring quarter of the junior year or fall quarter of the senior year. Upon acceptance, a Change of Major, Degree or Specialization form is submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

Completion of the major: During senior year, departmental honors students will take a minimum of 10 credits of designated department honors courses (PHIL 477 Philosophy Honors Directed Reading,

PHIL 478 Philosophy Honors Directed Study, and PHIL 479 Philosophy Honors Thesis Supervision). Students in the departmental honors program complete 10 credits of course work above the norm for philosophy majors (for a total of 70 credits in philosophy) and write a 25-40 page thesis under the direction of a faculty member. The thesis will be presented publicly at a defense before members of the faculty. In order to complete the requirements for departmental honors and receive a notation to that effect on their transcripts, students must also maintain a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 3.50. In addition, the grade received for PHIL 479 Philosophy Honors Thesis Supervision, must be an A or A-. In addition to the bachelor of arts major in philosophy requirements, the honors major also includes:

10 credits in departmental honors, including:

PHIL 477	Philosophy Honors Directed Reading	3
PHIL 478	Philosophy Honors Directed Study	2
PHIL 479	Philosophy Honors Thesis Supervision.....	5

Minor in Philosophy

In order to earn a minor in philosophy, students must complete 30 credits in philosophy, including:

PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	5
PHIL 220	Philosophy of the Human Person.....	5
PHIL 345	Ethics (or other approved upper-division ethics)	5
PHIL	Electives.....	15

NOTE: The department can assist students to design a special track in the philosophy minor that complements the student's major field.

See minor policy (84-1) for more information.

Policy for University Honors Program Students

University Honors Program students who have successfully completed HONR courses listed below are exempted from PHIL 220 and ethics, but need an additional 35 credits to complete the philosophy major: PHIL 260, 301, 485 and 20 credits of approved electives. Those wishing to complete the philosophy major with departmental honors will also complete PHIL 477, 478, and 479 for a total of 40 additional credits. Students who wish to earn a philosophy minor, need an additional 10 elective philosophy credits.

They are credited with the following equivalents:

HONR 101 = PHIL 210

HONR 102/3 = PHIL 302

HONR 201 = PHIL 303

HONR 202 = PHIL 371

HONR 203 = PHIL 365

Philosophy Courses

PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	5
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A combined historical and problem-oriented introduction to philosophy as a mode of inquiry and way of life. The foundational role of the Socratic mode of questioning for the Catholic intellectual tradition and the tradition of philosophy as spiritual exercise is emphasized, as is the global context within which philosophy is practiced in the 21st century.

PHIL 210	Philosophy of the Human Person (Bridge).....	5
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For those transfer students waived from taking PHIL 110, the course is a modified PHIL 220 that includes an introduction to philosophy component. **Under no conditions does this course satisfy the PHIL 220 requirement for non-transfer students.**

- PHIL 220** **Philosophy of the Human Person**..... 5
 A problem-oriented approach to the study of the nature and value of the human person with a focus on the philosophical problems that are foundational and integral to a Jesuit liberal arts education, including the following: What is the essentially human? What is the fully human? Does the meaning of human life transcend finite existence? Prerequisite: PHIL 110 at Seattle University.
- PHIL 250** **Problems and Methods of Philosophy** 5
 Discussion of the nature, purpose, methodologies and branches of philosophy. Overview of representative major current controversies in philosophy along with their historical context. Recommended for philosophy majors and minors. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 260** **Introduction to Logic** 5
 Topics include basic concepts, traditional categorical logic, propositional logic, deductive and inductive fallacies, and an aspect of inductive logic, e.g., probability.
- PHIL 296** **Directed Study** 1 to 5
- PHIL 301** **Ancient Philosophy** 5
 A study of ancient Greek philosophy, especially the thought of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 302** **Medieval Philosophy**..... 5
 A study of medieval thought, especially the Christian philosophies of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. Prerequisite: PHIL 301.
- PHIL 303** **Modern Philosophy**..... 5
 A study of major figures of the 17th and 18th centuries, such as Descartes, Leibniz, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. Prerequisite: PHIL 301 and 302.
- PHIL 305** **Philosophy of Social Sciences**..... 5
 Study of the philosophical implications and presuppositions of the methodology and conceptual framework of the social and behavioral sciences; sociology, economics, and/or psychology. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 306** **Philosophy and Psychology** 5
 A study of the interrelationships between philosophical methods and contents, and the method and contents of psychology, with special focus on the psychoanalytic and phenomenological-existential developments of psychological theory. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 308** **Philosophy and Literature**..... 5
 An examination of philosophical themes in literature and of the philosophical dimensions of literary interpretation and criticism. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 316** **Philosophy of Religion**..... 5
 An examination of attempts to argue for or against the existence of God. The divine attributes and the problem of evil are also treated. Thinkers from several traditions are studied. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 317** **Philosophy of Art** 5
 Philosophical reflection on the nature of art and its reality. Exploration of philosophical themes in artistic works and movements. Consideration of the relationship of meaning in art to other forms of meaning. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 318** **Philosophy of Film** 5
 Examination of topics in the philosophy of film, including the question of how to interpret a film and inquiry into the ways that feature or documentary films raise and respond to important philosophical questions. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.

- PHIL 322 Catholic Social Philosophy**..... 5
Critical reflection on the philosophical foundations of Catholic social philosophy from Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* to the present, including contemporary philosophical views of the nature of person and community. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 326 Philosophy of Law**..... 5
An investigation into the nature of law, the relation between law and morality, the limits of law, and the nature of justice and rights. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 327 Social and Political Philosophy** 5
General overview of major thinkers or focus on particular theme(s) in the history of Western social-political theory, from the ancients to the present-day. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 333 Philosophy of Science** 5
An introduction to different views about the nature and goals of the natural sciences and to issues raised by these views, including the status of scientific laws, theory formation and testing, confirmation vs. falsification, realism vs. instrumentalism, indicators of scientific progress, and the social dimension of science. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 334 Nature and Cosmos**..... 5
Philosophical appraisal of contemporary cosmological theory. Possible topics include the Big Bang and before; cosmic expansion and the ultimate fate of the universe; space, time, and general relativity; singularities and black holes; the search for a unified field theory; the relation of cosmology to theology. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 336 Philosophical Impact of Scientific Revolutions**..... 5
Critical examination of one or more major scientific revolutions e.g., the Copernican, Galilean-Newtonian, Darwinian, or Einsteinian revolutions—and of philosophical responses to such emergent scientific views. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 338 Analytic Philosophy** 5
A study of major figures in 20th century analytic philosophy, such as Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Quine, and Kripke. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 341 Buddhist Philosophy** 5
Introduction to Buddhist dharma and its subsequent philosophical traditions: Theravada, Mahayana (especially Zen), and Vajrayana. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 343 Philosophy of Race, Class, and Gender** 5
A broad examination of the intersection of race, class, and gender, including particular discussion of issues of identity and difference and social justice. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 345 Ethics** 5
An examination of the major philosophical theories of ethics (including virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and deontology) as well as an examination of several topics in applied ethics, to the end of proving the theoretical and practical foundations for the central role of ethical discernment in Jesuit, Catholic education. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 347 African Philosophy**..... 5
A seminar that looks at how the perennial questions of philosophy have been apprehended and answered in traditions that are domiciled in the African continent. The course may focus on any one or a combination of themes in the traditional subdivisions of philosophy from a historical perspective or from a problems perspective. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.

- PHIL 348 Africana Philosophy** 5
A seminar that looks at the philosophical heritage of African Americans and, generally, other Diasporic Africans. This can be done from the point of view of the history of philosophy or that of selected topics built on a thematic approach. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 349 Topics in Comparative Philosophy** 5
Possible topics include Classical Indian Philosophy, Classical Chinese Philosophy, and the Kyoto School. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 351 Business Ethics**..... 5
Application of general ethical theory to those problems directly related to the business world. Prerequisites: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 352 Health Care Ethics**..... 5
Application of general ethical theory to basic problems encountered in the health care professions; professional secrecy, rights of patients, distribution of healthcare resources. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 353 Ethical Issues in Science and Technology**..... 5
An application of ethical theories to morally problematic situations confronted in the sciences and in science-based professions. Possible topics include rights and responsibilities; social experimentation; safety and acceptable risk; privacy, confidentiality, and whistle blowing; international and environmental obligations; discrimination and harassment. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 354 Ethics and Criminal Justice** 5
Critical analysis of the ethical issues facing criminal justice practitioners, such as the use of deadly force, conformity to the rules of one's office, the decision to prosecute, participation in plea bargaining, representation of the guilty, and the imposition of punishment. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 358 Communication Ethics** 5
Ethical responsibilities of the communicator, in both interpersonal and media settings. Critical examination of ethical codes in establishing relationships and conducting communication in a democratic society. Topics covered include: lying, withholding information, conflicts of interest, objectivity, service to audiences. Prerequisites: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 361 Introduction to Phenomenology**..... 5
Survey of the basic concepts of phenomenology, such as intentionality, reduction, reflective and hermeneutic methods, and the phenomenology of perception. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 362 Existentialism**..... 5
The themes of anxiety, despair, guilt, and freedom in the writings of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, Jaspers, and others. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 363 Hermeneutics**..... 5
An examination of the role of interpretation in human understanding, focusing on the work of such thinkers as Gadamer, Heidegger, Schleiermacher, Dilthey, and Ricoeur. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 365 Critiques of Western Metaphysics** 5
An examination of selected genealogical critiques of the basic suppositions and values of Western metaphysics. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 371 19th Century Philosophy** 5
Readings from source material of the 19th century philosophers. Investigation of central topics, problems, and teachings of selected authors from Hegel to Nietzsche. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.

- PHIL 373 Gender and Social Reality**..... 5
An exploration of a variety of topics concerning feminism, including the oppression of women and the politics of gender in contemporary society. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 374 Feminist Moral Theory** 5
An examination of a range of distinctively feminine and feminist ethical perspectives and an exploration of feminist criticisms of traditional moral theories. Does not satisfy core ethics requirement. Prerequisite: PHIL 345.
- PHIL 375 Catholic Feminist Thought** 5
Critical examination of contemporary themes in feminist Catholic thought, e.g., the role of the body, the relation of the individual to the state, language, reason, and the life of faith. Prerequisite: PHIL 345.
- PHIL 376 Philosophy of Peace and War**..... 5
An examination of three theories regarding the morality of war: just war theory, pacifism, and realpolitik. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 377 American Philosophy** 5
Offers either a general overview of the history of the American philosophical tradition from Puritanism to the present or a focused study of a particular movement (e.g., pragmatism) or theme (e.g., community) in that tradition. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 378 Environmental Philosophy** 5
An examination of the two key debates: anthropocentrism (human-centered view of the world) vs. non-anthropocentrism, and individualism vs. ecological holism. Several specific environmental problems are treated, including animal rights issues. Satisfies the core interdisciplinary requirement. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 391-393 Special Topics**..... 1 to 5
- PHIL 396 Directed Study** 1 to 5
- PHIL 429 Topics in Ethics, Law, and Justice** 5
Focused study of a significant topic in contemporary moral, legal, or political theory, for example, social contract theory, virtue ethics, rights, the role of emotions in morality. Does not satisfy core ethics requirement. Prerequisite: PHIL 345.
- PHIL 430 Advanced Logic**..... 5
An introduction to advanced topics in symbolic logic, including study of predicate logic, modal logic, and set theory, as well as reflection on the nature of formal systems and the significance of various logical paradoxes. Prerequisite: PHIL 260.
- PHIL 437 Philosophy of Mind**..... 5
An investigation of central topics in contemporary analytic philosophy of mind focusing on the mind-body problem and proposed solutions to it, such as dualism, identity theory, functionalism, and the computational theory of mind. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 438 Philosophy of Language** 5
An investigation of central topics in contemporary analytic philosophy of language, such as theories of truth, meaning, and reference, speech act theory, theories of interpretation and translation, and the relationship between language, thought, and reality. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.
- PHIL 444 Topics in Feminist Philosophy**..... 5
An in-depth examination of feminist thought and methodology from a variety of perspectives, including liberal, radical, Marxist, multicultural, psychoanalytic, and post-modern, in relation to a particular topic, e.g., sexual difference, embodiment. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.

PHIL 445	Philosophy in a Global Context	5
A seminar for discussion of topics selected from ongoing issues in the world considered from many perspectives culled from different thinkers working in different traditions from different parts of the globe. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220 and one 300- or 400-level course in philosophy other than PHIL 345.		
PHIL 462	Problems in Classical Phenomenology	5
An examination of selected problems in 20th Century phenomenology, such as psychologism, method and ontology, the hermeneutic critique of consciousness, phenomenology of life, and the nature of phenomenological time. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.		
PHIL 463	Problems in Contemporary Phenomenology	5
An examination of selected problems in contemporary phenomenology, such as the lived-body, the metaphysics of presence, the other, gender, and the given. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.		
PHIL 464	Topics in Post-Modern Philosophy	5
This course examines selected topics in post-modern philosophy, such as the nature of language, genealogy of modernity, deconstruction, new vitalism, and the idea of difference. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.		
PHIL 477	Philosophy Honors Directed Reading	3
Directed reading for students in the philosophy department honors major. Prerequisite: approval of department chair.		
PHIL 478	Philosophy Honors Directed Study	2
Directed study for students in the philosophy department honors major. Prerequisite: approval of department chair.		
PHIL 479	Philosophy Honors Thesis Supervision	5
Thesis supervision for students in the philosophy department honors major. Prerequisite: approval of department chair.		
PHIL 480-483	Interdisciplinary Core Course	3 to 5
Title and content may change each term. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.		
PHIL 485	Major Figures in the Traditions	5
Intensive, seminar examination of the work of a major philosopher. Prerequisite: PHIL 210 or 220.		
PHIL 490	Senior Synthesis	3 to 5
PHIL 491-493	Special Topics	1 to 5
PHIL 495	Internship in Ethics, Law, and Justice	1 to 5
Affords students the opportunity to develop and apply their philosophical competence through volunteer experience with appropriate non-profit, business, or governmental agency or institution. Requires approval of philosophy department chair. Prerequisite: PHIL 345.		
PHIL 496	Independent Study	1 to 5
PHIL 497	Directed Reading	1 to 5
PHIL 498	Directed Research	1 to 5
PHIL 499	Senior Thesis	1 to 5
Original philosophical investigation under the direction of a faculty member appointed by the chair of the department. Prerequisite: senior standing.		