Philosophy (PHI)

Major and Minor in Philosophy

Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences

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Office: 213 Harriman Hall
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Web address: http://www.stonybrook.edu/philosophy/

Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Philosophy: Art History (ARH), Studio Art (ARS), Biology (BIO), Business Management (BUS), Comparative Literature (CLT), Computer Science (CSE), English (EGL), European Studies (EUR), French Language and Literature (FRN), German Language and Literature (GER), History (HIS), Humanities (HUM), Journalism (JRN), Linguistics (LIN), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY), Political Science (POL), Psychology (PSY), Religious Studies (RLS), Women's Studies (WST)

Philosophy (PHI)

Philosophy examines the presuppositions and the conceptual foundations of all human activities, whether practical or theoretical. It is concerned with forms of knowledge (science, belief, self-examination); forms of human interaction (society, political life, morality, religion, justice); our practical relation to the environment (nature, technology, economics); and our creative productivity (art, literature). It has been interdisciplinary from its inception. The study of philosophy provides the knowledge and skills to reflect upon, analyze, and examine ourselves and the world we inhabit, and is the record of humanity's quest to understand itself. It also provides the skills that enable life-long learning and versatile professional development.

A major in philosophy gives students access to the fruits of 2,500 years of thought on matters of ultimate concern. It encourages and provides the means of thinking effectively about timeless questions through a study of important writings on these topics. A successful student of philosophy is equipped to engage in intellectual conversation on a range of topics of both classical and contemporary concern. The study of philosophy encourages breadth and depth of understanding and promotes the ability to think and write cogently and rigorously.

Philosophy majors prepare themselves for a wide range of professional and business occupations that value highly developed skills of analysis, comprehensive thinking, and communication. Students majoring in Philosophy commonly pursue careers in law, medicine, business, technology, public service, teaching, editing and publishing, and academia. In addition to its focus on the liberal art curriculum, the Department of Philosophy offers courses in feminism and gender studies, computation and consciousness, philosophy of science, technology and the environment, and non-Western Philosophies.

Requirements for the Major and Minor in Philosophy (PHI)

Requirements for the Major in Philosophy (PHI)

The major in Philosophy leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Philosophy courses are distributed among three categories indicated, in parentheses after the title of the course. Courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. No more than two 100-level philosophy courses may be used to satisfy major requirements.

Completion of the major requires 36 credits.

1. PHI 108 Logical and Critical Thinking or PHI 220 Introduction to Symbolic Logic (Students who expect to pursue graduate study in Philosophy should choose PHI 220)
2. PHI 300 Ancient Philosophy and PHI 306 Modern Philosophy
3. PHI 458 Speak Effectively Before an Audience (upper-division speaking requirement)
4. PHI 459 Write Effectively In Philosophy (upper-division writing requirement)
5. PHI 395 Junior Seminar
6. PHI 401 Individual Systems of the Great Philosophers or PHI 402 Analysis of Philosophic Texts
7. 21 additional credits of Philosophy coursework. Note that no more than two 100-level philosophy courses may be used to satisfy major requirements.

Philosophy majors must achieve an evaluation of S (Satisfactory) in PHI 458 Speak Effectively Before an Audience and PHI 459 Write Effectively in Philosophy, which separately may be taken in conjunction with PHI 395 Junior Seminar and/or another 300-level philosophy course that calls for public speaking to satisfy the speaking requirement (SPK) or calls for intensive writing to satisfy the upper-division writing requirement (WRTD), respectively. Students who wish to satisfy these requirements must inform the instructor of their intention to do so no later than the third week of the semester. The student's essays and public speaking will be appraised for the advanced writing and public speaking skills, respectively, appropriate to Philosophy majors in addition to the appraisal for the course. A student must satisfy the upper division speaking and writing requirements in order to register for PHI 401 Individual Systems of the Great Philosophers or PHI 402 Analysis of Philosophic Texts.

Note:

1. No more than two 100-level philosophy courses may be used to satisfy major requirements.
2. Please note that Philosophy course descriptions are very general and that precise topics can vary even between sections. More detailed up-to-date information may be found at www.stonybrook.edu/philosophy

Honors Program in Philosophy

To qualify for the honors program, a student must be a junior or a senior in the major with an overall g.p.a. of at least 3.00 and a g.p.a. in philosophy of 3.50. The student must maintain this average throughout participation in the honors program. To seek honors, a student must plan a program prior to the first semester of the senior year with a faculty advisor and the director of undergraduate studies. The program consists of three courses at the 300 level or higher, concentrated on related aspects of a central problem. At least one of the courses should be PHI 495, the Philosophy Honors Thesis course under the direction of the advisor and lead to the completion of an honors thesis. This paper is reviewed by the advisor and one other member of the Philosophy faculty and by a faculty member from outside the Department. The senior paper is then the focus of an oral examination. Honors are awarded upon passage of the examination.

Requirements for the Minor in Philosophy (PHI)

The minor in Philosophy requires 18 credits, which must include at least nine credits in upper-division courses. The minor must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies. Students anticipating a minor may select one of the following emphases: history of philosophy; logic, science, and technology; moral, political, and legal issues; literature and the arts. Students pursuing the Political Theory/Philosophy track in the Political Science major may fulfill the Philosophy minor with 15 PHI credits, counting two of their upper-division POL electives in place of one PHI course. Alternatively, a student may design a minor in Philosophy tailored to his or her own interests, subject to approval by the director of undergraduate studies. Courses offered for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. No more than one 100-level course can be counted toward satisfying the minor requirements.

Undergraduate Research Tracks in Philosophy

Occasionally, Undergraduate Research tracks are offered in Philosophy. These tracks afford students special opportunities to do sophisticated and concentrated research on a particular topic in philosophy while still undergraduates. Seven courses are required over a three-year period. The first five courses provide important skills and background. In the third year, the research team, which consists of a faculty member and a small group of students, spends two semester-long research courses on a philosophical project of professional caliber, doing work that may even lead to publication. More specific information on available Undergraduate Research tracks, including particular topics and the courses designed for them, are available from the Undergraduate Office.

Study Abroad

Philosophy majors and other interested students who would like to spend a semester two abroad should consult the Department’s director of undergraduate studies. With the permission of the Department, Philosophy majors may also use credits from other study abroad programs to satisfy major requirements.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Philosophy

A course planning guide for this major may be found here. The major course planning guides are not part of the official Undergraduate Bulletin, and are only updated periodically for use as an advising tool. The Undergraduate Bulletin supersedes any errors or omissions in the major course planning guides.

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PHI

Philosophy

PHI 100: Concepts of the Person (II)
An historical introduction to philosophy through readings and discussion on topics such as human identity, human understanding, and human values.

 DEC: B
 SBC: HUM
 3 credits

PHI 101: Historical Introduction to Western Philosophy (I)
An introduction to pivotal theories of the Western philosophic tradition. Readings may be drawn from ancient Greek, medieval, and modern classics of philosophy. Topics may include philosophic theories of politics, morality, logic, metaphysics, knowledge, anthropology, art, and religion.

 DEC: G
 SBC: HUM
 3 credits

PHI 102: Introduction to Philosophical Psychology
An introduction to topics in philosophical psychology, including the nature of perception, emotion, and cognition, theories of mind and other minds, the unconscious and its role in human behavior, animal consciousness, and machine intelligence.

 DEC: G
 SBC: HUM
 3 credits

PHI 103: Philosophic Problems (II)
An introduction to philosophy through the analysis of one or more aspects of contemporary life such as technology, war, international relations, families and friendships, or race, class and gender. A variety of texts are used.

 DEC: B
 SBC: HUM
 3 credits

PHI 104: Moral Reasoning (II)
An introduction to philosophy through inquiry into the formation, justification, and evaluation of moral judgments. Students are introduced to the major theories and problems of ethics, such as utilitarianism, Kant's categorical imperative, ethical relativism, egoism, and classical conceptions of the good and virtue.

 DEC: B
 SBC: CER, HUM
 3 credits

PHI 105: Politics and Society (II)
An historical introduction to philosophy through an analysis of political theories, theories of action, and styles of political life. Main themes include the relation of the individual to the state, the scope of social responsibility, and the nature of human freedom.

 DEC: G
 SBC: CER, HUM
 3 credits

PHI 108: Logical and Critical Reasoning (II)
The principal aim of this course is to help a student acquire the skills of thinking, reading, and writing critically. The student develops a sensitivity to language and argumentation that is applicable to a wide range of situations and subject matters. Material is intended for freshmen and sophomores.

 DEC: B
 SBC: ESI, HUM
 3 credits

PHI 109: Philosophy and Literature in Social Context (III)
The role of literature and philosophy in understanding and critically assessing personal experience and social life. The links among literary texts, philosophical issues, and political and social commitments are explored. Topics include the relations between language and experience, the role of philosophical thinking through literary texts, and the significance of literary expression in different cultural and historical situations. This course is offered as both CLT 109 and PHI 109.

 DEC: B
 SBC: HUM
 3 credits

PHI 110: Arts and Ideas (III)
An introduction to the historical and comparative study of the various arts in relation to the philosophical ideas that prevailed at the same time. At least four significantly different historical periods of intense creative activity - such as ancient Greece, the Renaissance, the 18th or 19th century in the West, ancient China, T'ang or Sung dynasty China, Heian or Muromachi period Japan, and the contemporary age - are studied in terms of the interconnections between philosophical theorizing and artistic practice.

 DEC: B
 SBC: HUM
 3 credits

PHI 111: Introduction to Eastern Philosophy (I)
An introduction to different systems of Eastern philosophy and the main classical texts drawn from Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Neo-Confucianism. Efforts are made to recover the different modes of knowledge, language, identification, and liberation dealt with in these texts.

 DEC: B
 SBC: GLO, HUM
 3 credits

PHI 112: Technology and Modern Life
Investigates the history as well as the present potential future impact of technology and artifacts not only on material human life but also on the human experience of the world. It addresses ethical questions concerning the uses and abuses of technology as well as asking such questions as whether technology is neutral and merely instrumental or should be seen as having a more profound impact on human life.

 DEC: H
 SBC: STAS
 3 credits

PHI 113: Philosophical Engineering
We all apply specialized knowledge and tools to solve practical problems. Engineers do it in a special way, using a particular kind of technical knowledge, and particular kinds of tools, to solve society's problems. This course, accessible to the non-engineering major, is an introduction to what makes engineering similar to and different from other kinds of problem-solving. Students discuss the social and humanistic contexts of engineering, its implications for human identity and experience, and its political and ethical implications. For their final projects, students work individually or in teams in a simple engineering project.

 DEC: B
 SBC: HUM, TECH
 3 credits

PHI 116: Philosophy of America's Founding
Study of philosophical ideas and authors that influenced and composed the Declaration of
Independent, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Understanding how the concepts in these documents connect to such thinkers and philosophers as Locke, Montesquieu, Hume and appear again in the writings of Jefferson, Paine, Madison and the Federalist Papers.

DEC: G  
SBC: HUM, USA  
3 credits

**PHI 200: Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (I)**

Readings and discussion of the major Greek and Roman thinkers, e.g., the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, and Plotinus, who had a worldview very different from our own, but also laid part of the foundation for much of the philosophy, theology, science, law, and politics of our own age.

Advisory Prerequisite: U2 standing or one course in philosophy

DEC: I  
SBC: GLO, HUM  
3 credits

**PHI 206: Introduction to Modern Philosophy (17th and 18th century) (I)**

Readings and discussion of the major thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries, e.g., Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant, who all reflect the scientific, philosophical and political revolutions that would lay part of the foundation of our own age.

Advisory Prerequisite: U2 standing or one course in philosophy

DEC: I  
SBC: GLO, HUM  
3 credits

**PHI 220: Introduction to Symbolic Logic (II)**

This first course in symbolic logic emphasizes the development of systematic techniques for assessing the validity of arguments: truth tables and truth values analysis, Venn diagrams, elementary quantification theory, and deduction in both the propositional calculus and quantification theory.

Prerequisite: satisfaction of entry skill in mathematics requirement or level 2+ on the mathematics placement examination

Advisory Prerequisite: U2 standing or one course in philosophy

DEC: C  
SBC: QPS  
3 credits

**PHI 247: Existentialism (I)**

Readings in existential philosophy and literature with special emphasis on such themes as alienation, anxiety, nihilism, absurdity, the self, value, death, and immediacy. Existentialist categories are used to interpret contemporary lifestyles and culture.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or permission of the department

DEC: G  
SBC: CER, HUM  
3 credits

**PHI 264: Philosophy and the Arts (III)**

A study of the arts focusing on the nature of the creative process, methods of interpretation, essential differences among the various arts, and the relation of performance to text.

Advisory Prerequisite: U2 standing or one PHI, ARH, MUS, or THR course

DEC: D  
SBC: ARTS, HUM  
3 credits

**PHI 268: Science, Technology, and Society**

Examines different topics involving current science and technology issues from different philosophical perspectives. Topics include questions such as what is the nature of inquiry?, what is the nature of discovery?, what is the role of instruments and perception?, what is the nature and role of laboratories?, what are the practical, conceptual, and cultural underpinnings of scientific activity?, what are the possibilities and dangers of research?, what is pseudoscience?, what philosophical, ethical and political issues are raised by current events in science?, and how do science and technology affect our society?

DEC: H  
SBC: STAS  
3 credits

**PHI 277: Political Philosophy (II)**

An inquiry into the function of philosophical principles in political thought and action, with readings drawn from such authors as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Spinoza, Hobbes, Locke, Kant, Hegel, Mill, and Dewey.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or permission of the department

Advisory Prerequisite: PHI 105

DEC: G  
SBC: CER, HUM  
3 credits

**PHI 284: Introduction to Feminist Theory (III)**

The social construction of gender and how this construction affects philosophical thought and practice. The course provides an introductory survey of current feminist issues and analyses. It also examines the meaning of feminism for philosophy by examining the effect of introducing a political analysis of gender into a discipline that is supposedly universal and neutral. This course is offered as both PHI 284 and WST 284.

Advisory Prerequisite: U2 standing or one PHI or WST course

DEC: G  
SBC: CER, HUM  
3 credits

**PHI 300: Ancient Philosophy (I)**

Advanced studies in selected Greek thinkers from the pre-Socratics to the classical Athenian philosophers and the Hellenistic schools.

Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department

DEC: I  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

**PHI 304: Medieval Philosophy (I)**

Study of the writings of major thinkers from Augustine to William of Ockham.

Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department

DEC: I  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

**PHI 306: Modern Philosophy (I)**

Advanced studies in selected thinkers such as Descartes, Vico, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department

DEC: I  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

**PHI 308: 19th-Century Philosophy (I)**

Study of major figures in 19th-century thought, such as Hegel, Schopenhauer, Marx, Mill, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Spencer, and Comte.

Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department

DEC: I  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits
PHI 309: 20th-Century Philosophy (I)
A study of selected major philosophical problems and movements during the 20th century, e.g., logical positivism, the problem of induction, incommensurability meta-ethics, the linguistic turn, deconstruction, foundationalism and anti-foundationism.
Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department
DEC: I
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 310: American Philosophy (I)
A study of selected major figures in the history of American philosophy, e.g., Jefferson, Emerson, Edwards, James, Peirce, Dewey, Whitehead, and Santayana. American history is viewed through the lens of American philosophies such as pragmatism and transcendentalism.
Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+, USA
3 credits

PHI 312: Phenomenology
This course will explore phenomenology, the globally influential 20th century Continental European philosophical movement devoted to understanding the study of intentionality, its most basic invariant structures, and their relation to time and space, embodiment and embeddedness, and other people. The ways this tradition has been productively taken up by recent cognitive science may be considered. Readings will include such authors as Franz Brentano, Edmund Husserl, Jean Paul Sartre, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Emanuel Levinas. Not for credit in addition to PHI 312 when offered as Topics in Contemporary European Thought.
Prerequisites: two courses in philosophy or permission of the department
Advisory Prerequisites: One of the following: PHI 200, 206, 247, 300, 304, 306, 309, or 310
DEC: I
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 320: Metaphysics (II)
An inquiry into the first principles of science, art, and action as these are treated by representative classical and modern authors.
Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+

PHI 325: Contemporary Philosophies of Language (II)
A discussion of current topics in the philosophy of language, semiotics, and literary theory.
Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 330: Topics in Advanced Symbolic Logic (II)
A study of such topics as a natural deduction system of quantification theory including consistency and completeness proofs; axiomatic formal systems and associated concepts of consistency, completeness, and decidability; elementary modal logic; and introductory set theory. With instructor approval, may be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: PHI 220 or instructor permission
3 credits

PHI 332: Theories of Knowledge (II)
A study of a variety of conceptions of the structure and content of knowledge as found in classical and contemporary epistemologies. Fundamental methods and principles of philosophical inquiry are applied to questions about the ways in which concepts and theories are generated in the physical and social sciences and to questions about knowledge of what is of value, knowledge in philosophy, and knowledge in the arts.
Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 335: Philosophy of Time (II)
An inquiry into the nature of time as it is treated by philosophers of classical and modern times.
Prerequisite: one course in philosophy and a second course in either philosophy or physics, or permission of the department
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 336: Philosophy of Religion (II)
A philosophical analysis of basic concepts, principles, and problems of religious thought. Topics may include faith and knowledge, religion and morality, divine attributes, arguments for and against the existence of God, and the problem of evil.
Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or one course in religious studies; or permission of the department
DEC: G
SBC: CER, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 340: Philosophical Traditions of East Asia (I)
A study of influences and confluences among major currents of thought in East Asia, surveying the major debates that shaped the great intellectual traditions of China and their transformation as they were assimilated in Korea and Japan. Particular attention is given to the rise of Neo-Confucian orthodoxy in East Asia and the philosophical and political reasons its basic concepts were challenged during the Ming, late Choson and Tokugawa periods.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: PHI 111 or RLS 240 or RLS 246 or RLS 260
DEC: J
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 344: Japanese Thought and Philosophy (I)
An examination of major texts in Japan's religious, poetic-artistic, and philosophical traditions down to modern times. Topics may include Tendai, Shingon, Pure Land, and Zen Buddhism; the cultural forms of Shinto religiosity; aesthetic concepts such as miyabi; Tokugawa Neo-Confucianism and its impact on modern Japan; philosophical aspects of the modern Japanese novel; the Kyoto school of Buddhism.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: PHI 111 or RLS 240 or RLS 246 or RLS 260
DEC: J
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 347: Hermeneutics and Deconstruction (II)
An exploration of the major assumptions, commitments, methods, and strategies of hermeneutics and deconstruction. The course examines how these two recent schools of thought have developed out of the contemporary philosophical scene and how they have had such a significant impact on literary theory, art criticism, text theory, social theory, and the history of philosophy.
Readings include selections from the writing of Heidegger, Gadamer, Jauß, Ricoeur, Derrida, Kristeva, Lyotard, Kofman, Irigaray, and others.

Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department
Advisory Prerequisite: PHI 206, 247, 264, 306, 308, 309, or 312
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 353: Philosophy of Mind (II)
Analysis of the major problems in the philosophy of mind, e.g., the mind-body problem, the problem of identity through time, the relation between thoughts and sensations, the problem of the knowledge of other minds.

Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy or one in philosophy and one in psychology; or permission of the department
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 362: Philosophy of Biology
This course will consider the historical origin of biology in philosophical questions about human nature and its relation to nonhuman nature. It will also examine a range of philosophical issues still under investigation in biology and contemporary philosophy. Topics will include such issues as evidence for the theory of evolution, the debate between evolutionary biology and creationism or intelligent design, adaptive fitness, adaptationism, units of selection, systematics, phylogenetic inference, the existence of laws in evolutionary biology, and whether biology is "reducible" to physics. Typically the class will also consider contemporary uses of evolutionary theory to explain features of human mind, behavior, culture, morality, and politics. The latter discussions may feature special attention to "race" and gender and their role in biological science.

Prerequisite: one D.E.C. E or SNW course
DEC: H
SBC: STAS
3 credits

PHI 363: Philosophy of the Social Sciences (III)
A study of the philosophical foundations of the social sciences, applying principles and methods of philosophical analysis to questions concerning the structures of social reality, the methodological and epistemological status of the social sciences, and the criteria for evidence and theory formation in the social sciences.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy and completion of one D.E.C. category F or SBS course; or permission of the department
Advisory Prerequisite: PHI 105, 206, 249, or 277
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, SBS+
3 credits

PHI 364: Philosophy of Technology (III)
A systematic study of the interrelations of human beings and their social institutions with the surrounding world of nature and of technological artifacts. The impact of technological culture on human beliefs and perceptions of the world is explored. This course is interdisciplinary in scope, with readings from philosophy, anthropology, literature, history, environmental studies, and other areas where technology is of concern.

Prerequisite: one course in philosophy; one D.E.C. E or SNW course; or permission of the department
DEC: H
SBC: STAS
3 credits

PHI 365: Philosophy and Computers (III)
An investigation of topics at the interface between philosophy and computation drawing on classical and contemporary sources. Philosophical questions about computers, computation, information, logic, language, and mind, and the prospects for computer modeling as a tool in philosophical investigation.

Prerequisite: one PHI or CSE course
Advisor Prerequisite: PHI 220
DEC: H
SBC: TECH
3 credits

PHI 366: Philosophy of the Environment (III)
Philosophical questions raised by human relations with the natural world, ranging from basic concepts such as nature, ecology, the earth, and wilderness, to the ethical, economic, political, and religious dimensions of current environmental problems, including the question of whether there are values inherent in nature itself beyond those determined by human interests alone. This course is offered as both PHI 366 and SUS 366.

Prerequisite: PHI 104 or two PHI courses; or permission of the department
DEC: G

SBC: CER, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 367: Philosophy of War and Peace (III)
An investigation into the philosophical issues raised by war and peace. Topics may include theories of just war, the relationship between authority, state power and war, and the relationship between reason and the violent nature of history. The question of the origins, perseverance, and need of war, as well as what is peace and how it may be attained will be considered through the study of philosophers such as Plato, Aquinas, Kant, Hegel, Marx, William James, Hannah Arendt, and contemporary thinkers.

Prerequisite: one PHI course or permission of the department
Advisor Prerequisite: PHI 104 and 105
DEC: G
SBC: CER, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 368: Philosophy of Science (III)
A course in the philosophy of science using both historical and contemporary materials. Methodological issues discussed include scientific explanation and prediction, the structure of theories, the nature of scientific revolutions, and the role of laws in science. Philosophic problems in understanding specific sciences and their relation to each other are also considered, as are their relations to other areas of philosophic concern, such as metaphysics.

Prerequisite: one PHI course and one D.E.C. E or SNW course; or permission of the department
Advisor Prerequisites: PHI 206
DEC: H
SBC: STAS
3 credits

PHI 369: Philosophy of Mathematics (III)
An investigation of philosophical issues that arise in mathematics. Topics include foundational issues within mathematics (logicism, formalism, intuitionism, and platonism, as well as recent theories of mathematical naturalism); the nature and existence of mathematical objects; the nature of mathematical truth; the concept of set; reinterpretations of the history of mathematics.

Prerequisite: PHI 220 or permission of the instructor
3 credits

PHI 370: Philosophical Psychology (III)
PHI 374: Bioethics

This course provides students with the opportunity to conduct research and pursue advanced readings in the field of bioethics. Readings may include foundational articles in bioethics, recent work in feminist bioethics, as well as narratives of illness. The class will analyze one or more contemporary issues in bioethics, such as experimentation with human subjects, migration of care workers, medical tourism or disability. The course will also include attention to the connection between health and social justice, considering problems such as hunger, obesity, and food justice or the just allocation of health care resources.

Prerequisite: one PHI course and PSY course; or permission of the department
Advisory Prerequisite: PHI 100 or 104

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 371: Literature and Justice (III)

This course focuses on the theme of justice in literature and investigates the relation of literature to the law and to philosophical accounts of justice. Readings include literary texts centered on questions of justice, fairness, and moral agency, as well as theoretical works that analyze the role of literature in legal education and judicial decision-making. This course is offered as both CLT 371 and PHI 371.

Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course; U3 or U4 status
DEC: G
SBC: CER, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 372: Ethical Inquiry (II)

An intensive study of the methodological principles governing the formation of ethical theories and ethical judgments through an investigation of selected ethical problems.

Prerequisite: PHI 104 or two courses in Philosophy; or permission of the department
Advisory Prerequisites: PHI 108, 200, 206, 300, 304, 306, 308, 309, or 366
DEC: G
SBC: CER, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 373: Philosophy in Relation to Other Disciplines (III)

The study of philosophy as it affects and is affected by other disciplines such as anthropology, science, sociology, the history of ideas, theology, and psychology. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: two PHI courses or permission of the department
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 377: Contemporary Political Philosophy (II)

A critical examination of selected issues in contemporary political philosophy, for example, the nature and justification of basic rights, the legitimization of political authority, and the various relations between ideals of social justice and democratic rule. Readings represent contemporary views such as libertarianism, liberalism, socialism, communitarianism, and feminism, and include selections by authors such as Arendt, Dworkin, Foucault, Habermas, Pateman and Rawls. This course is offered as both PHI 377 and POL 377.

Prerequisite: PHI 105 or PHI 277; or two courses in philosophy; or one course in political science; or permission of the department
SBC: CER, HFA+
3 credits

PHI 378: Philosophical Topics in Asian American History (III)

Analysis and interpretation of Asian and American literature, film, law, and history to understand the experiences of Asians in the Americas and to reconceptualize the concepts of power, race, class, gender, and ethnicity from the era of the early immigration period through the present day, placed within a broad historical context, including consideration of social, political, economic, and cultural history and institutions. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: One course in philosophy
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 379: Philosophy of Race (III)

Examination of our assumptions about race and the impact of those assumptions on issues concerning gender, class, and sexuality throughout American history. Readings include critical race theory, feminist theory, and critical legal theory. Students examine racial issues from a philosophical perspective and consider the ways in which representations of race may reinforce patterns of power and privilege. This course is offered as both AFH 379 and PHI 379.

Prerequisite: one PHI course
DEC: K
SBC: CER, HFA+, USA
3 credits

PHI 380: Literature and Philosophy (III)

An intensive study of the methods and principles of the philosophical analysis of literature and the relations between literature and philosophy. Primary texts are selected to demonstrate the precise nature of the relationship. Semester Supplements to this Bulletin contain description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: one PHI course
DEC: G
the dynamics of race and gender in various contexts such as activism, art, law, literature, the media, medicine, and philosophy. This course is offered as both PHI 383 and WST 383.

Prerequisite: one PHI course
Advisory Prerequisite: one Women's Studies course

PHI 384: Advanced Topics in Feminist Philosophy (III)
An intensive philosophical study of selected topics of feminist concern. Topics are selected to further the understanding of what effect feminism has upon traditional areas of philosophy as well as providing a detailed understanding of particular feminist theories. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes. This course is offered as both PHI 384 and WST 384.

Prerequisite: one PHI course or one WST course
Advisory Prerequisite: PHI/WST 284

PHI 388: Quantum Mechanics in Philosophy, Culture, and Life (III)
This course explores the implications and influence, real and alleged, of quantum mechanics on fields other than physics. What does quantum mechanics mean, if anything, for philosophy, ethics, and social behavior? At the same time, we shall look into how social and cultural influences may have affected the way that quantum mechanics was formulated, and how it has evolved. We shall review the early history of quantum mechanics, and discuss some of the important debates at the founding of quantum mechanics. Students will not be expected to learn the mathematics in depth, only the introduction provided by the instructors aimed at non-science students. Besides readings, the course will also involve plays, films, and guest speakers. Students will be expected to work on a final project, to be presented in class. This course is offered as both PHI 382 and PHY 382.

Prerequisite: one Physics or Philosophy course and U3 or U4 standing

DEC: H
SBC: STAS

PHI 389: Topics in Philosophy (either I, II, or III)
May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisites: Two courses in philosophy
1-3 credits

PHI 390: Junior Seminar
An intensive study of an issue, topic, figure, or historical period in philosophy intended to provide an induction into the method and techniques of scholarly philosophy for junior philosophy majors. This seminar emphasizes careful reading, rigorous discussion, and extensive writing at an advanced level. The content of the seminar is announced before the start of the term, and students are consulted on the content as it proceeds.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing; declared PHI major

SBC: ESI

3 credits

PHI 391: Individual Systems of the Great Philosophers (I)
A detailed study of the works of a single great philosopher. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: one of the following: PHI 300, 304, 306, 308, 309, 310, or 312

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+

3 credits

PHI 401: Analysis of Philosophic Texts (I)
Detailed analysis of a major philosophic text. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: one of the following: PHI 300, 304, 306, 308, 309, 310, or 312

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+

3 credits

PHI 405: Advanced Seminar on Modern Western Philosophy
Advanced Seminar on key texts in Modern Philosophy beginning in the 17th century through the 18th century from philosophers such as Descartes, Hobbess, Spinoza, Leibniz, Malebranche, Hume, Kant, and Thomas Reid.

Prerequisite: PHI 306 or PHI 395

3 credits

PHI 420: Advanced Topics in Philosophy (either I, II, or III)
An advanced course treating a specialized issue or topic in philosophy or in philosophy and another discipline. The content of the course is announced before the start of the term. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: U4 standing or five courses in philosophy

3 credits

PHI 444: Experiential Learning
This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a “real-world” setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis.

Beyond-the-classroom experiences that
support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.

Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)

SBC: EXP+
0 credit, S/U grading

PHI 458: Speak Effectively Before an Audience

A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any PHI course that provides opportunity to achieve the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's SPK learning objective.

Pre- or corequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor

SBC: SPK
0 credit, S/U grading

PHI 459: Write Effectively in Philosophy

A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level PHI course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's WRTD learning objective.

Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor

SBC: WRTD
0 credit, S/U grading

PHI 472: Topics in Asian Philosophy (I)

Designed for upper-division students, this course presents in-depth study of a specific topic in an Asian philosophical tradition. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge through mastery of native terms and concepts from that tradition. May be repeated as the topic changes. This course is offered as both AAS 472 and PHI 472.

DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 473: Orientalism

Investigation of the history and theory of Western engagement with Asian cultures. Following from Edward Said's influential book Orientalism, we examine the alleged imperialism inherent in the study of the Orient, also considering some opponents of Said's thesis. Special attention is paid to the history of interpretation of Asian philosophies in the West, and of Asian postcolonial responses to such portrayals. We conclude by exploring the possibilities for post-orientalist approaches to the study of Asia. This course is offered as both AAS 473 and PHI 473.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status; two courses in PHI, in AAS or together

DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

PHI 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled courses. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course.

Prerequisites: Prior preparation in subject field; need to have already taken the course for a letter grade with the faculty member; no more than one undergraduate teaching practicum course per semester; permission of instructor and director

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

PHI 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled courses. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice.

Prerequisites: PHI 475; prior preparation in subject field; need to have already taken the course for a letter grade with the faculty member; no more than one undergraduate teaching practicum course per semester; permission of instructor and director

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

PHI 477: Readings and Research in Philosophy (II)

Advanced-level inquiry with individualized instruction in one particular philosophical style of reasoning. Consult undergraduate advisor for specific details. May be repeated.

Prerequisites: U4 standing in philosophy major; permission of department

0-6 credits