

# Department of Philosophy

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[www.txstate.edu/philosophy](http://www.txstate.edu/philosophy)

## **DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED**

Bachelor of Arts (BA), major in Philosophy

## **MINORS OFFERED**

Philosophy

Religious Studies

Value Studies

Philosophy raises some of the most fundamental questions about our world and ourselves—questions about the nature of reality, knowledge, morality, God, and society. Students of philosophy study the thinking of major philosophers on such matters and learn to think critically and clearly on their own.

Since philosophy is the home of the study of logic and the principles of good argumentation, it lends itself well to being joined with virtually any course of study. Some philosophy majors pursue careers in business, journalism, law, medicine, and education. In these cases students recognize that the successful practitioner is the good thinker and turn to philosophy to develop their critical and creative powers. Other majors develop an interest in becoming professional philosophers and enroll in some of the nation's best graduate programs in philosophy.

For those students with special interests in a particular area, the department offers the following recommendations:

### **Pre-Professional Study of Philosophy**

Students interested in pursuing graduate work in philosophy are advised to take PHIL 3320, 3340, 4356, and 4370. They should also develop a language proficiency in French or German.

### **Pre-Law**

All pre-law students should consider an undergraduate major in philosophy, given the importance that both philosophy and law attach to analysis, argumentation, and the evaluation of evidence. Pre-law students should also consider taking the following electives: PHIL 2330, 3320, 3322, 3323, 3331, and 3332.

### **Pre-Professional Study of Religion**

A minor in religious studies is appropriate for various professional plans, including education, journalism, the arts, ministry, and graduate work in religious studies and other humanities and social sciences. Students interested in graduate work in religious studies should combine the minor with a major appropriate to their plans and interests.

**Bachelor of Arts (BA)**  
**Major in Philosophy**  
 Minimum required: 120 semester hours

**General Requirements:**

1. The major requires 30 hours, including PHIL 1305, 2311, 2312, and 2330 and 18 semester hours of advanced Philosophy electives.
2. Graduating seniors must submit a portfolio of their work and participate in an exit interview with the Philosophy faculty. Details about the portfolio are available in the Department's main office.
3. Majors must satisfy general education core curriculum and BA requirements.
4. Majors must complete an approved minor.
5. The number of free elective hours a student will complete depends on the number of hours a student may need to achieve the 120 and/or the 36 advanced and 9 hour writing intensive total hours required for graduation.

| Freshman Year - 1st Semester |           | Freshman Year - 2nd Semester             |           | Sophomore Year - 1st Semester |           | Sophomore Year - 2nd Semester                           |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| Course                       | Hr        | Course                                   | Hr        | Course                        | Hr        | Course  | Hr        |
| ENG 1310                     | 3         | Modern Language 1420                     | 4         | POSI 2310                     | 3         | POSI 2320   | 3         |
| US 1100                      | 1         | ENG 1320                                 | 3         | MATH 1312 or above            | 3         | PHIL 2312   | 3         |
| Modern Language 1410         | 4         | PHIL 2330 (meets BA Science Requirement) | 3         | Modern Language 2310          | 3         | ENG Literature (ENG 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2359, 2360) | 3         |
| Natural Science Component    | 3         | Natural Science Component                | 3         | PHIL 2311                     | 3         | Modern Language 2320                                    | 3         |
| PHIL 1305                    | 3         | COMM 1310                                | 3         | HIST 1310                     | 3         | HIST 1320   | 3         |
| Elective                     | 3         |  |           |                               |           |   |           |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>17</b> | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>16</b> | <b>Total</b>                  | <b>15</b> | <b>Total</b>  | <b>15</b> |

| Junior Year - 1st Semester                              |           | Junior Year - 2nd Semester |           | Senior Year - 1st Semester |           | Senior Year - 2nd Semester |           |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Course  | Hr        | Course                     | Hr        | Course                     | Hr        | Course                     | Hr        |
| PHIL advanced electives                                 | 6         | Social Science Component   | 3         | PHIL advanced electives    | 6         | PHIL advanced electives    | 3         |
| ART, DAN, MU, or TH 2313                                | 3         | PHIL advanced electives    | 3         | Electives (as needed)      | 6         | Minor                      | 6         |
| Minor   | 3         | Minor                      | 6         | Minor                      | 3         | Electives as needed        | 3         |
| ENG Literature (ENG 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2359, 2360) | 3         |                            |           |                            |           |                            |           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>Total</b>               | <b>15</b> | <b>Total</b>               | <b>15</b> | <b>Total</b>               | <b>12</b> |

### Minor in Philosophy

A minor in Philosophy requires 18 hours, including PHIL 1305, and 15 hours of PHIL electives, of which 12 hours must be advanced.

### Minor in Religious Studies

A minor in Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary minor that requires 18 hours, selected from ANTH 3305, 3322, 3326, 3332, 3349, 4320; ARTH 2301, 2302; ENG 3329; HIST 3312, 4320, 4325, 4350H; PHIL 3317, 3318, 3381, 4371, 4388; POSI 3306, 4313, 4328; and ALL REL courses. Students should check with each department for any prerequisites.

### Minor in Value Studies

A minor in Value Studies requires 18 hours, including PHIL 1305, PHIL 4388 for the independent research project, and four of the following upper division courses: PHIL 3320, 3321, 3322, 3323, 3324, 3326, 3331, 3332, 3333, 4303, 4350, or 4351.

This minor allows a student with special interests in value theory to pursue a course of study, which culminates in an independent research project in value studies. This project may be a study of a theoretical issue in value studies or something of an applied nature; students may affiliate with people in various work environments or service learning settings to identify value conflicts and suggest resolutions.

### Courses in Philosophy (PHIL)

- 1305 (PHIL 1301) Philosophy and Critical Thinking. (3-0) A study of universal philosophical problems and their solutions with a view toward developing clear thinking about knowledge, belief, and value. Approximately one half of this course will focus on the student's critical thinking skills. Credit cannot be given for both PHIL 1305 and 3301. (WI)
- 1320 (PHIL 2306) Ethics and Society. (3-0) Study of ethics, its recent focus on social problems, and new fields of inquiry, including environmental ethics, ethics in business, professions, technology and sport. Also such global issues as poverty, minority rights, and stem cell research. Emphasis on development and application of principles of critical thinking and moral reasoning. (WI)
- 1330 Critical Thinking. (3-0) Study of informal fallacies, valid argument forms, problem solving strategies, language clarification, and application of analytic skills.
- 2311 (PHIL 2316) History of Philosophy Before 1600. (3-0) Early Greek, Roman, and medieval systems of thought. (MC) (WI)
- 2312 (PHIL 2317) History of Philosophy Since 1600. (3-0) Modern philosophical thought through the 19th century. (MC) (WI)
- 2330 (PHIL 2303) Elementary Logic. (3-0) A study of the nature and forms of correct reasoning, both deductive and inductive.
- 3301 Philosophical Issues. (3-0) The great philosophical concepts that have challenged the best thoughts of people and have

- contributed to the fulfillment of the good life. Emphasis upon the applicability of those concepts to human life in our time and to the development of intellectual perspective. Approximately one half of this course will focus on the student's critical thinking skills. Credit cannot be given for both PHIL 3301 and 1305. (WI)
- 3314 American Philosophy. (3-0) Examination of contributions of Americans to perennial philosophical issues. (WI)
- 3315 Contemporary Philosophy. (3-0) Selected readings in late 19th and 20th century philosophy: existentialism, positivism, analytic philosophy, phenomenology, and pragmatism. Prerequisite: 3 hours of lower division PHIL, PHIL 3301, or consent of instructor. (WI)
- 3316 Existentialism and Phenomenology. (3-0) A study of the nature of human experience and existence in the philosophies of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, and Camus. Topics will include freedom, dread, emotion, death, other minds, faith, and the past as experienced by the individual. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (WI)
- 3317 Science and Religion. (3-0) An examination of modern science and Western religion, and an analysis of the issues and ideas involved in the relationships between them. Prerequisites: 3 hours of lower division PHIL, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (WI)
- 3318 Reason, God and Nature. (3-0) An analysis of the concept of God, terms predicated on God, and theological propositions. An attempt to determine the nature of religious utterances in comparison with those of everyday life, scientific discovery, morality, and imaginative expression. Prerequisite: 3 hours of lower division PHIL, PHIL 3301, or consent of instructor. (Capstone) (WI)
- 3320 Ethics. (3-0) A study of classical and contemporary philosophical inquiries into our knowledge of the "good" and the grounds of moral obligation. May be repeated once for additional credit. (Capstone) Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division PHIL, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (WI)
- 3321 Contemporary Moral Problems. (3-0) Exploration of philosophical dimensions of contemporary moral problems such as abortion, euthanasia, poverty, animal rights, nuclear war, and privacy in a computer age. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. May be repeated once for additional credit. (WI)
- 3322 Professional Ethics. (3-0) Study of major topics in business and professional ethics, including what a profession is, whether it differs from business, and what is involved with the moral education, social responsibilities, and ethical standards of professionals and business people. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (Capstone) (WI)
- 3323 Environmental Ethics. (3-0) Study of ethical issues associated with the environment including nature, use, preservation, and restoration of the environment.
- 3324 Meaning of Life. (3-0) Investigation of major theories of the meaning of life in Western and Eastern philosophies. (WI)
- 3325 Philosophy of Sex and Love. (3-0) Critical survey of major thinking on sex and love from ancient to modern times. (WI)
- 3326 Philosophy and Sport. (3-0) Examines philosophical issues in sport, including the social significance of sport, ethical issues, gender equity, sport and race, mind and body in sport, aesthetics, sport and self-knowledge, and the connection of sport and philosophy. Prerequisite: 3 hours of lower division PHIL, PHIL 3301, or consent of instructor. (WI)
- 3331 Philosophy of Law. (3-0) The major theses which have been set forth in the history of jurisprudence including foundations of law, natural law, legal positivism, and the judicial process. (Capstone) (WI)
- 3332 Social and Political Philosophy. (3-0) Critical examination of major theories concerning the organization of societies and governments. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (Capstone) (WI)
- 3333 Feminist Theory. (3-0) This course will examine major feminist theories including liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, radical feminism, and post-modernist feminism with an eye especially to revealing the complexity and diversity of contemporary feminist thought. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, WS 3376 or 3377, or permission of the instructor. (MC) (WI)
- 3340 Symbolic Logic. (3-0) Study of the logic of propositions through propositional calculi, formal proofs, and first-order functional calculi. Also included is an investigation into the axiomatic method as used in logic and mathematics, including the concepts of completeness and consistency. Prerequisite: PHIL 2330, or MATH 2372, or consent of instructor.
- 3351 Philosophy and Literature. (3-0) The course explores the relation between philosophy and literature. Prerequisite: Three hours lower division PHIL, PHIL 3301, or consent of instructor. (WI)
- 4301 Applied Philosophy. (3-0) Practical application of methods and teaching of philosophy to religion, science, morality, politics, art, or literature. The study of one or more of these areas will demonstrate how philosophy contributes to the identification of issues as well as their resolution. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: 3 hours of lower division PHIL, PHIL 3301, or consent of instructor. (Capstone) (WI)
- 4302 Dialogue. (3-0) Study of literature about the nature, purpose, and significance of dialogue along with active participation in the dialogues of the Department of Philosophy's Dialogue Series. Prerequisite: PHIL 1305 or permission of the instructor. (WI)
- 4303 Philosophy of Technology. (3-0) Study of philosophical and ethical dimensions of technology including the nature of technology and technological progress, the relation of humans to the technological environment, whether technology is value-laden, and the social character of technology. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (WI)
- 4350 Philosophy of the Arts. (3-0) A critical and historical analysis of the nature of aesthetic experience and creative genius. Prerequisite: three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (Capstone) (WI)
- 4351 Philosophy of Education. (3-0) Study of major philosophical theories on nature, values, and purpose of education. (WI)
- 4355 Philosophical Theory of Science. (3-0) Study of the major theories concerning the nature and value of science and

- the scientific method. Repeatable for credit with different emphasis. Prerequisite: 3 hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of instructor. (Capstone) (WI)
- 4356 Philosophical Theory of Knowledge. (3-0) A study of the major theories concerning knowledge, belief, certainty, and perception. Repeatable for credit with different emphasis. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (WI)
- 4370 Metaphysics. (3-0) Systematic study of metaphysical problems by examination of classical and modern texts. Topics considered will involve being and unity, mind and matter, God, causation and necessity, free will and determinism. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. (WI)
- 4371 Asian Philosophy. (3-0) The course covers mainly Chinese and Indian philosophy, such as Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism. How do people in the orient look at the meanings of life, the nature of the world and their place in the world? This course shall shed light on these issues. May be repeated for credit. (MC) (WI)
- 4372 Latin American Philosophy. (3-0) Study of ancient Latin American thought, including Mayan, Aztec, Toltec, and Incan, pre- and post conquest Latin American philosophy, contemporary Latin American philosophy, and the thinking of Latin Americans in the U.S. Prerequisite: PHIL 1305 or permission of the instructor. (WI)
- 4388 Problems in Philosophy. (3-0) Independent study of specific problems in philosophy. Open to students on an individual or small group basis by arrangement with the Department of Philosophy. Problem area, bibliography, and study paper outline are to be approved by the instructor. Prerequisite: Three hours of lower division philosophy, PHIL 3301, or consent of the instructor. May be repeated once for additional credit.

### Courses in Religion (REL)

- 1300 World Religions. (3-0) This course will be a survey and comparative study of the major religions of the world including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and the Indigenous Religions. Recommended as an entry course for religion minors.
- 2310 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. (3-0) An introduction to the contemporary academic study of the Hebrew Bible ("Old Testament") and related Near Eastern and Second Temple Jewish literature. Representative texts will be examined using the historical and literary methods of scholarship.
- 2315 Introduction to the New Testament. (3-0) An introduction to the contemporary academic study of the New Testament, including apocryphal and post-canonical works. Representative texts will be examined using the historical and literary methods of scholarship.
- 2321 Founders, Prophets and Saints. (3-0) Critical analysis of the life, works, and thought of a major religious figure, e.g., Jesus, Paul, Luther, St. Teresa, Maimonides, the Baal Shem Tov, Mohammad, al-Ghazzali, Rumi, Buddha, Gandhi. May be repeated for credit. (WI)
- 2360 Asian Religious Traditions. (3-0) This course is a survey of the major religious traditions originating in Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and others. Basic doctrines and practices will be covered in an historical framework. (WI)
- 3340 Religion, Literature, and the Arts. (3-0) The course features a thematic selection of literary and artistic works in order to examine the connections and disconnections between the aesthetic and religious aspects of human culture. May be taken twice for credit with different topics. (WI)
- 3342 The Homeric Epic: The Iliad and the Odyssey. (3-0) A close reading of the Iliad and the Odyssey in English translation, with emphasis on philosophical and religious issues. Prominent topics include the gods, religious rituals, heroic ethics, and the human condition. The course also considers the concept of a classic in religion and literature. (WI)
- 3364 Abrahamic Religious Traditions. (3-0) A comparative study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Basic doctrines and practices will be covered in an historical framework. Attention will be given to both majority and minority variants of each tradition. (WI)
- 3366 Topics in Comparative Religion. (3-0) The course is a comparative examination of religions. Topics might include mysticism, scriptures, heroic figures or saints, and engagement with philosophical traditions. (WI)
- 3370 Mythology and Culture. (3-0) A study of mythology as sacred narrative and its role in articulating a culture's beliefs and values. The course will focus on religious and philosophical themes, including comparison of mythical-traditional thought with modernity. May be taken twice for credit with different topics.
- 3372 Apocalypticism. (3-0) An historical-cultural survey of end-of-the-world literature, art, and thought in Western Civilization, from ancient Judaism and Christianity to the present. Historical and scientific methods provide the framework for this course. (WI)
- 3381 The Philosophical and Spiritual Heritage of India. (3-0) Indian philosophers predominantly present a spiritual, multi-dimensional outlook on the nature of reality and human consciousness; they combine reason, experience, yoga and meditation as methods of inquiry. This course will explore Indian spiritual philosophy from the time of the ancient Vedas to the contribution of modern sages. (WI)
- 4300 Advanced Methods in Religious Studies. (3-0) This course provides a rigorous grounding in the intellectual tradition of academic religious studies. It includes the major theorists and a sustained examination of the problem of method. This course is strongly urged for RS minors and students intending graduate work in the field. Prerequisite: At least one course from those included in the minor; two recommended. (WI)
- 4388 Problems in Religion. (3-0) Independent study of specific topics in religion. Open to students on an individual or small group basis. May be repeated for credit with different emphasis.