COURSE CATALOG AT A GLANCE

Rose Hill

Historical – Ancient
PHIL 3520-R01 Philosophy of Aristotle
D. Tress
MR
2:30-3:45

Historical – Medieval
PHIL 3910-R01 Shakespeare and Aquinas
J. Koterski
MR
8:30-9:45

Historical – Modern and 19th Century
PHIL 3604-R01 Rationalist & Empiricist Epistemology
G. Klima
TF
11:30-12:45

PHIL 3620-R01 Immanuel Kant
R. Winegar
TF
2:30-3:45

Historical – 20th Century/Contemporary
PHIL 3643-R01 Heidegger: Being & Time
C. Gschwandtner
MR
10:00-11:15

Topical – Knowledge and Method
PHIL 3266-R01 Philosophy of Science
D. Balestra
MR
11:30-12:45

Topical – Metaphysics
PHIL 3330-R01 Philosophy of Religion
B. Davies
MR
4:00-5:15

Topical – Moral, Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 3713-R01 Human Rights & Global Justice
J. Davenport
TF
1:00-2:15

PHIL 3980-R01 Contemporary Issues in Metaethics
D. Heney
TF
10:00-11:15

Interdisciplinary Capstone
PHIL 4301-R01 Happiness and Well-Being
C. Gowans
TF
10:00-11:15

PHIL 4301-R01 Happiness and Well-Being
C. Gowans
TF
11:30-12:45

Values (EP4)
PHIL 4418-R01 Issues of Life and Death
R. Grontkowski
MR
10:00-11:15

PHIL 4418-R02 Issues of Life and Death
R. Grontkowski
MR
11:30-12:45

PHIL 4470-R01 Lincoln: Democratic Values
J. Davenport
TF
2:30-3:45

PHIL 4486-R01 Evil, Vice, and Sin
J. Jones
MR
4:00-5:15

Senior Thesis
PHIL 4990-R01 Senior Thesis
Mentor arranged by student

Lincoln Center

Historical - Medieval
PHIL 3591-L01 Medieval Political Philosophy
C. Cullen
TF
11:30-12:45

Historical - Modern and 19th Century
PHIL 3623-L01 Marx as Philosopher
A. Jaffe
MR
4:00-5:15

Topical - Knowledge and Method
PHIL 3204-L01 Symbolic Logic
W. Jaworski
MW
1:00-2:15

Topical – Moral, Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 4044-L01 Modern Ethical Theories
J. Strabbing
TF
1:00-2:15

Interdisciplinary Capstone
PHIL 4301-L01 Happiness and Well-Being
B. Johnson
MR
10:00-11:15

Values (EP4)
PHIL 4484-L01 Freedom and Responsibility
A. Seymour
TF
2:30-3:45

PHIL 4412-C01 Classical Values: Art of Living
B. Babich
M
6:00-8:45

Senior Thesis
PHIL 4990-L01 Senior Thesis
Mentor arranged by student

Graduate-Level Courses All taught at Rose Hill | Open to seniors with approval

PHIL 5001-R01 Introduction to Plato
B. Johnson
T
2:00-4:00

PHIL 5003-R01 Natural Law Ethics
J. Koterski
R
2:00-4:00

PHIL 5009-R01 Introduction to Aristotle
D. Tress
M
11:00-1:00
PHIL 3266-R01 Philosophy of Science (Knowledge and Method)
D. Balestra. MR 11:30-12:45

Science continues to be a dominant force today - intellectually, technologically, economically, and politically. Some have argued that science can answer all of our questions about the world, including ethical and meaning of life questions. The presumption is that only science is objective and rational knowledge because it logically tests its theories by reference to empirical facts. This course critically explores this standard view both historically and critically by looking at the Copernican revolution and the birth of modern science, and its implications for the relation between science, values and even religion. Then it turns to contemporary philosophy of science on scientific explanation, objectivity, and rationality. The findings may surprise you, even unsettle you - but it will provide you with a more sophisticated, critical understanding of the capabilities and limits of science as knowledge.

PHIL 3330-R01 Philosophy of Religion (Metaphysics)
B. Davies. MR 4:00-5:15

This course is devoted to a range of questions in the philosophy of religion. Can religious belief ever be reasonable, or must it always be thought to be irrational? Should religious believers be able to provide arguments or evidence for the truth of their beliefs? Does God exist? In any case, what should we take the word 'God' to mean? And can we capture the reality of God by means of human language? Can it be proved that God exists? Can God be known on the basis of human experience? Is belief that God exists reasonable in any sense? Does the reality of evil in the world prove that there is no God, or that the existence of God is unlikely? Is religious belief connected to moral belief? Can people survive their death in any way? Is belief in life after death grounded in reason, or is it just the fanciful product of wishful thinking? Is it even possible to survive death? These are the main questions to be discussed in this course, which will introduce students to texts in philosophy of religion coming from a wide range of thinkers, both religious and non-religious.

PHIL 3520-R01 Philosophy of Aristotle (Ancient)
D. Tress. MR 2:30-3:45

No philosopher in the history of the world has been as influential in as many ways as Aristotle. A paragon of insight, systemicity, and rigor, he has inspired philosophers for more than 2,000 years. He remains an icon of Western intellectual culture, and his influence can be discerned even now in fields as diverse as history, theology, rhetoric, theater, psychology, metaphysics, biology, law, political theory, ethics, and logic. This course introduces students to key features of his philosophical framework.

PHIL 3604-R01 Rationalist & Empiricist Epistemology (Modern & 19th C)
G. Klima. TF 11:30-12:45

This course will address the epistemological problems stemming from Descartes’ “methodological skepticism” and their proposed solutions in early modern philosophy ranging from Descartes through British Empiricism to the rationalism of Kant. The course will also trace the conceptual roots of the problems of modern epistemologies in late-medieval philosophy, and seek their resolutions for contemporary philosophy through this historical analysis.

PHIL 3620-R01 Immanuel Kant (Modern & 19th C)
R. Winegar. TF 2:30-3:45

A study of Kant’s philosophy focusing on themes in Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason, Kant’s Critique is a landmark text in the history of philosophy that continues to inspire philosophical discussions on a broad range of topics today. Topics discussed in the course will include Kant’s theory of transcendental idealism, the analytic/synthetic distinction, the roles of concepts and intuitions in knowledge, the nature of space and time, the possibility of metaphysical knowledge, the nature of mathematical knowledge, the nature of scientific knowledge, Kant’s view that human knowledge is limited to objects of possible experience, Kant’s criticisms of traditional philosophical arguments regarding the soul, the world, and God, Kant's theory of Ideas, the nature of human freedom, morality and the highest good, and Kant’s moral arguments for belief in freedom, immortality, and God.

PHIL 3643-R01 Heidegger: Being & Time (20th C/Contemp)
C. Gschwandtner. MR 10:00-11:15

Often considered the most significant philosophical work of the 20th century, Heidegger's Being and Time not only sought to retrieve the question of "Being" and to "de-construct" the history of metaphysics from a phenomenological perspective, but also to consider closely and carefully what it means to be human: how we are in the world, with each other, and toward our own death, how we are shaped by language, how we encounter time, how we find ourselves in history. In this course we will read this masterwork together patiently and with care, so as to appreciate and come to understand not only what Heidegger was up to, but also to learn what it means to read a great philosophical text attentively and how to grapple with it philosophically.
We begin with the development of the human rights paradigm in international law and philosophical questions about how universal basic rights can be compatible with a wide array of varying cultures and ways of life. Are concepts of rights somehow inherently "western" or "individualist", or can relativist doubts about human rights be answered? Are there fundamental capacities that all persons need for a minimally meaningful life that can justify related basic rights? We will also look at some debates about the content of such rights, e.g. rights to educational opportunity, to welfare or subsistence, to basic health care, to membership in a culture, to immigration, to a sustained environment and other controversial applications. Questions of global justice include the possibility of humanitarian military intervention to stop mass atrocities, global systems to ensure food security and alleviation of dire poverty, problems with the UN system, and possible alternatives such as a league of democracies.

This course will involve a philosophical approach to the thought of Shakespeare and Thomas Aquinas by reading certain plays of Shakespeare and certain treatises by Thomas Aquinas in tandem. We will begin with Venus and Adonis and its use of the complete set of passions named and analyzed by Aquinas. Our attention will then turn to such tragedies as Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, and King Lear, such comedies as The Taming of the Shrew, The Merchant of Venice, and Much Ado about Nothing, and such histories as Henry IV and Richard III. In connection with each play we will read the relevant section from Aquinas's accounts of the moral virtues in Summa theologicae and take note of the rather distinctly Thomistic interpretation of these virtues that is to be found in the mimetic rhetoric used in the corresponding play by Shakespeare.

This course steps back from moral debates to ask metaphysical, epistemological, and semantic questions about morality itself. The metaphysical questions seek to understand the nature of morality, asking questions such as: are there objective moral facts, or is morality culturally determined? If there are objective moral facts, are they like scientific facts? The epistemological questions seek to understand how we can know or be justified in believing moral claims. The semantic questions seek to understand what we mean when we use moral terms: are we making truth claims or are we just expressing our feelings? In this course, we will explore contemporary answers to these kinds of questions.
PHIL 4486-R01 Evil, Vice, and Sin (EP4/Values)  
J. Jones. MR 4:00-5:15

This Senior Values Seminar adopts a negative strategy in approaching moral questions, focusing on those phenomena variously labeled "evil," "vicious," or "sinful." The 'negative' approach is designed to create the opportunity for reflection on the reality and experience of evil, from which we might evolve some positive conception of value (including 'good') and a clearer conception of the context and nature of moral choice and conscience. The course emphasizes rich empirical descriptions of extraordinary events like the Holocaust, other genocides, and a variety of forms of abuse perpetrated on humans by other humans. Phenomena are studied that are almost universally judged to be 'evil' in order to explore what our collective reactions as witness-scholars means in constructing a model of evil that does justice to the intense realities of victimization. We can then advance to the question of what our conception of 'good' might look like in the wake of the consensus acknowledgement and description of the 'evil' in such events.

PHIL 4990-R01 Senior Thesis: Philosophy

A research project of at least 10,000 words. In Spring 2016 the student must arrange for a faculty member to serve as the thesis mentor, and see the Associate Chair to register for the course. The student will give an oral defense of the thesis at the end of the Fall semester, with the mentor and another faculty member serving as examiners.

PHIL 3623-L01 Marx as Philosopher (Modern & 19th C)  
A. Jaffe. MR 4:00-5:15

Karl Marx is more commonly approached as an economist, sociologist, or political theorist than as a philosopher. But this class will explore the original philosophical positions offered by Marx as well as the philosophical basis and results of his often polemical exchanges with others. Topics will include Marx's philosophy of history, philosophical anthropology, materialist critique of idealism, as well as his normative social and political philosophy. We will also discuss Marx's theory of revolution and his stance on the limits of philosophy itself. The goal is to examine the possible internal consistency, social applicability, and limits of Marx's philosophy.

PHIL 3204-L01 Symbolic Logic (Knowledge and Method)  
W. Jaworski. MW 1:00-2:15

Humans are capable of altering their behavior, verbal and otherwise, in light of deductive consequences and in conformity with standards of logical consistency. Although Aristotle, the Stoics, and others developed formal techniques for the evaluation of logical consequence and consistency, the early 20th Century witnessed an unprecedented expansion in the scope and power of those techniques through the construction of formal languages based on mathematical principles. Students consider the modern development of formal logical techniques including propositional logic, first-order logic, and if time permits, a system of intentional logic (e.g. modal logic), and then explore some of the philosophical issues surrounding them.
PHIL 4484-L01 Freedom and Responsibility (EP4/Values)
A. Seymour. TF 2:30-3:45

The course will investigate several problems concerning freedom, responsibility and the morality of punishment. Is freedom possible in a world completely governed by physical laws? How can I be blamed (or praised) for my actions, given that upbringing, character, and environment are largely matters of luck? Is the practice of punishing criminals morally justifiable? How?

PHIL 4412-C01 Classical Values: Art of Living (EP4/Values)
B. Babich. M 6:00-8:45

This course considers the art of living a human life, focusing on classical values including poetry and philosophy, with special attention to the Stoic conception of the cultivation or care of the self. Readings include Homer and Pindar as well as Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius and commentaries ranging from Nietzsche and Foucault to Pierre Hadot, Alasdair MacIntyre, and Alexander Nehamas.

Looking Ahead to Spring 2017
(Subject to change)

Rose Hill
Historical – Ancient
PHIL 3530-R01 Philosophy After Constantine
C. Gschwandtner
MR 10:00-11:15

Historical – Medieval
PHIL 3552-R01 Medieval Philosophy
G. Klima
TF 11:30-12:45

Historical – 20th Century/Contemporary
PHIL 3673-R01 Existentialism and Literature
J. Gosetti-Ferencei
MR 11:30-12:45

Topical - Knowledge and Method
PHIL 3200-R01 Introduction to Logic
D. Balestra
MR 11:30-12:45

PHIL 3257-R01 Skepticism
D. Miller
TF 2:30-3:45

Topical - Metaphysics
PHIL 3348-R01 Concepts and Reality
R. Winegar
TF 10:00-11:15

Topical - Meaning & Human Experience
PHIL 3422-R01 Harry Potter and Philosophy
J. Jones
MR 4:00-5:15

PHIL 3901-R01 Philosophical Issues in Feminism
D. Tress
TF 1:00-2:15

Topical - Moral, Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 3990-R01 Environmental Worldviews & Ethics
J. Van Buren
W 10:00-12:30

Globalism
PHIL 3759-R01 Buddhist Philosophy
C. Gowans
MR 2:30-3:45

Interdisciplinary Capstone
PHIL 4304-R01 Philosophy & Economics of Law
M. Baur
TF 1:00-2:15

PHIL 4304-R02 Philosophy & Economics of Law
M. Baur
TF 2:30-3:45

EP4/Values
PHIL 4407-R01 Gender, Power, & Justice
TBA
TF 11:30-12:45

PHIL 4418-R01 Issues of Life and Death
R. Grontkowski
MR 10:00-11:15

PHIL 4418-R02 Issues of Life and Death
R. Grontkowski
MR 11:30-12:45

PHIL 4484-R01 Freedom and Responsibility
TBA
MR 2:30-3:45

PHIL 4301-L01 Happiness & Well-Being (Interdisciplinary Capstone)
B. Johnson. MR 10:00-11:15

An investigation into the nature and value of happiness and well-being (understood as connected concepts) from the perspective of both psychology and philosophy. Emphasis will be placed on research about the topic in each discipline, but efforts will also be made to explore fruitful interactions between the two disciplines in understanding the topic.

PHIL 4990-L01 Senior Thesis: Philosophy

A research project of at least 10,000 words. In Spring 2016 the student must arrange for a faculty member to serve as the thesis mentor, and see the Associate Chair to register for the course. The student will give an oral defense of the thesis at the end of the Fall semester, with the mentor and another faculty member serving as examiners.
Lincoln Center

Historical - Ancient
PHIL 3520-L01 Philosophy of Aristotle B. Johnson MR 10:00-11:15

Historical – 20th Century/Contemporary
PHIL 3907-C01 Existentialist Feminism B. Babich M 6:00-8:45

Topical - Metaphysics
PHIL 3667-L01 Philosophy of Space and Time A. Seymour TF 4:00-5:15

Topical - Meaning & Human Experience
PHIL 3412-L01 Philosophy of Emotions S. Whitney TF 1:00-2:15
PHIL 3920-L01 Evil Choices G. Pini MR 2:30-3:45

Interdisciplinary Capstone
PHIL 4310-L01 Human Rights in Context J. Flynn TF 11:30-12:45

EP4/Values
PHIL 4444-L01 AI, Sci Fi, and Human Value W. Jaworski MW 11:30-12:45

REQUIREMENTS

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

10 Courses in total

1. PHIL 1000 Philosophy of Human Nature
2. PHIL 3000 Philosophical Ethics
3-7. 5 Required electives: 3 different Historical and 2 different Topical
   OR
   2 different Historical and 3 different Topical
8-10. 3 Free electives: Chosen from all the upper-level philosophy courses, including Values, Globalism, Pluralism, and Interdisciplinary Capstone Courses.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

6 courses in total

1. PHIL 1000 Philosophy of Human Nature
2. PHIL 3000 Philosophical Ethics
3-6. 4 Free electives: Chosen from all the upper-level philosophy courses, including Values, Globalism, Pluralism, and Interdisciplinary Capstone Courses.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR (GABELLI)

6 courses in total

1. PHIL 1000 Philosophy of Human Nature
2. PHIL 3000 Philosophical Ethics
3. BLBU 3443 Ethics in Business
4-6. 3 Free electives: Chosen from all the upper-level philosophy courses, including Values, Globalism, Pluralism, and Interdisciplinary Capstone Courses.

For more information on the Philosophy major and minor, please contact

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