Courses

PHIL 1021 Choice and Chance: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: A score of 22 or higher on the ACT Math sub-test; or a grade of C or better in a two- or four-year college intermediate algebra course; or a satisfactory score on the UMSL Math Placement Examination, obtained at most one year prior to enrollment in this course. Same as MATH 1021. This course provides an introduction to inductive logic and the theory of probability in an organized and systematic way, so as to give students tools for more effective decision-making. We will introduce the probability calculus, basic concepts of utility theory, decision theory and different approaches to understanding probability. This course is designed to be accessible to students of all levels. Satisfies mathematics proficiency.

PHIL 1030 Present Moral Problems: 3 semester hours
This course will explore a range of ethical dilemmas with an eye towards living the best life. How should I live? What actions are right and wrong? How should I treat myself and others? In this class, we will consider these and other issues by investigating practical problems in daily life including: human rights, the environment, hunger and poverty, war and violence, racial and ethnic discrimination, gender roles and marriage, abortion, and euthanasia.

PHIL 1050 Existentialism and Phenomenology: 3 semester hours
The course will study major works by the major philosophers in the existential and phenomenological traditions. Topics will include what it means to live an authentic life, the structure and content of conscious experience, the construction of the social arena, and what it means to live in a society.

PHIL 1090 Philosophy Looks at the Arts: 3 semester hours
This online course will explore the distinct resources of various arts - the raw materials of each, what each can represent, express, convey - and key differences among them. After an introductory unit devoted to art in general, the course will present eight units examining the arts of painting, photography, sculpture, architecture, music, literature, drama, and film. The course will employ a variety of instructional materials. These include posted essays, streaming video, readings from an assigned text, and participation on an interface discussion board.

PHIL 1091 Great Philosophers: 3 semester hours
This online course introduces philosophy through a survey and examination of the ideas of fifteen of the most important figures in the history of the subject. From Socrates to Nietzsche, the questions, answers, and lives of the great philosophers are explored in a multimedia context. This course does not satisfy any of the requirements for philosophy major or minor.

PHIL 1110 Western Philosophy I: Antiquity To The Renaissance: 3 semester hours
Lectures and discussions tracing the development of western philosophy from its beginnings among the pr-Socratcis through the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Philosophical ideas will be examined in the cultural and historical context: Greek city-state, the rise of Christianity, etc.

PHIL 1111 Western Philosophy II: Descartes To The Present: 3 semester hours
Lectures and discussions on the development of western philosophy from Descartes (1596-1650) to the present. Philosophical ideas will be examined with an eye to their historical and cultural setting: the rise of modern science, the industrial revolution, the rise of capitalism, etc.
PHIL 1180 Science vs. God: 3 semester hours
This course examines whether religion and science are compatible, discusses the science-religion debate historically, and broaches philosophical issues surrounding belief, especially whether belief should be based in empirical evidence or in faith. Following these introductory course sessions, the class will discuss, in detail, topics in science and religion, including creation versus evolution; human nature (including abortion and stem cell research); the nature of sexuality and gender; the science of religion; morality; the environment from a religious perspective; meaningfulness in the universe; and finally, evidence for or against the afterlife, existence of a divinity, and divine providence.

PHIL 1185 Philosophy Of Religion: 3 semester hours
A philosophical investigation of such problems as the nature of religious faith and experience, the relation of faith and reason, alternative concepts of deity and the problem of evil.

PHIL 2249 Accounting Ethics: 3 semester hours
The course is a study of moral problems as they relate to the profession of accounting. We will analyze a number of major cases (Enron, HealthSouth, etc.) in which accounting lapses were involved, and we will look at general moral theories which might illuminate these problems. A major component of the course work will be writing essays which address specific moral dilemmas which have arisen or might arise for accountants. The course is primarily online, but there will be five required 75-minute class meetings spread through the semester.

PHIL 2250 Philosophy And Current Issues: 3 semester hours
A careful examination of such current social controversies as women’s liberation, the ethics of abortion, public accountability of holders of high offices, and the subtler forms of racism and other prejudices. Although there is no formal prerequisite, it is recommended that students have taken, or be concurrently enrolled in, at least one other philosophy course.

PHIL 2251 Sexual Ethics: 3 semester hours
A critical review of what philosophers, both classical and contemporary, have said about sexual experience and its place in our lives. Included will be such topics as sexual desire, sexual perversion, love and commitment, marriage and adultery, larger questions might include that role of sexual experience in the good life, issues of sexual privacy, and the morality of laws which regulate sexual activity.

PHIL 2252 Philosophical Foundations Of Criminal Justice: 3 semester hours
Same as CRIMIN 2252. This course will address fundamental conceptual and ethical issues that arise in the context of the legal system. Questions may include: How does punishment differ from pre-trial detention? How, if at all, can it be justified? Is the death penalty ever justified? When is it morally permissible for juries to acquit defendants who are legally guilty? Is plea bargaining unjust? Why might people be morally obligated to obey the laws? Are laws restricting civil liberty (e.g. laws against abortion, homosexuality, or drug use) permissible?.

PHIL 2253 Philosophy And Feminism: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 2253 A critical examination of what various philosophers have said about issues of concern to women. Sample topics include oppression, racism, women’s nature, feminism, marriage, motherhood, sexuality, pornography, the ethics of care.

PHIL 2254 Business Ethics: 3 semester hours
A critical survey from the perspective of moral theory of businesses and business practices. Topics vary but usually include some of the following: Whether the sole moral obligation of businesses is to make money; whether certain standard business practices, e.g., the creation of wants through advertising, are moral; whether businesses ought to be compelled, e.g., to protect the environment or participate in affirmative action programs.

PHIL 2255 Environmental Ethics: 3 semester hours
Examines such issues as the value of wilderness, our duties to animals and the natural world, pollution and development, environmental justice.

PHIL 2256 Bioethics: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 2256. An examination of ethical issues in health care practice and clinical research and in public policies affecting health care. Topics include: abortion, euthanasia, health care, experimentation, informed consent and the right to health care.

PHIL 2257 Happiness and the Meaning of Life: 3 semester hours
This course is an accessible introduction to the historical and contemporary perspectives on happiness and the meaning of life in philosophy. It examines the nature of happiness by focusing on three major theories: happiness as pleasure, happiness as excellence and happiness as desire satisfaction. Other issues examined may include the relevance of virtue for happiness, the experience machine argument, the best way to pursue happiness as a personal or a policy goal, and other related topics.

PHIL 2258 Medicine, Values, And Society: 3 semester hours
Social, conceptual, and policy issues connected with medicine form the focus of the course. Topics may include: (1) role played by race & gender in design of research and distribution of care; (2) whether diseases are socially constructed categories reflecting the values of society; (3) development of social policies that offer universal access to health care; (4) the legitimacy of using psychotropic drugs to enhance life, rather than treat the disease. The course differs from Bioethics by emphasizing policy issues and their conceptual basis. Content of this course may vary.

PHIL 2259 Engineering Ethics: 3 semester hours
An examination of ethical issues in engineering using professional engineering codes as a starting point. The course will have a problem solving orientation, focusing on the analysis of particular cases. Actual high-profile cases such as the Challenger disaster will be considered, as well as hypothetical cases illustrating the more commonly encountered moral problems in engineering (such as accepting gifts from vendors). Topics include the engineer/manager relationship, engineers and the environment, honesty in engineering, and risk, safety, and liability.

PHIL 2276 Philosophy of Film: 3 semester hours
Critical study of such issues as film’s relation to photography, shots and editing, documentary vs. fiction films, cinematic narration, our identification with film characters, criticism and evaluation.

PHIL 2277 Philosophy and Food: 3 semester hours
This course will examine issues surrounding the production, consumption, and enjoyment of food. Questions about food choices, food scarcity, self-control, and aberrant eating will be addressed. The focus will range from global issues such as population growth, the carrying capacity of the planet, famine, and GMO crops to more narrowly focused topics such as the workings of our sense of taste, our ability to evaluate and rank different food items, and the very idea of expertise in tasting.
PHIL 2280 Minds, Brains, And Machines: 3 semester hours
An introduction to basic philosophical issues in cognitive science. General topics include minds as computers; computers as minds, or the possibility of artificial intelligence that is truly intelligent; relationship between mental function and brain function. Some areas of current research, such as reasoning, vision, and emotion.

PHIL 2281 Darwinism and the Philosophy of Biology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours in Philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. Examines Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection and its philosophical consequences. Besides the theory itself, topics may include (but are not limited to): how we can test evolution and what the evidence is for it; the design argument; adaptationism; evolutionary psychology; evolution and mortality; the fact-value distinction; nature versus nurture; differences between humans and other animals; evolution and human history; genetic engineering and possible futures.

PHIL 2282 Philosophy of Science in Historical Perspective: 3 semester hours
This course considers the history and philosophy of ancient, medieval and early modern science, with a focus on theories of scientific methodology, biology and physics. Figures treated may include Pythagoras, Hippocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Galen, Harvey, Copernicus, Kepler, and Newton. Topics may include Hippocratic and Galenic medicine; geocentric and heliocentric astronomies; theories of induction; scientific realism vs. instrumentalism; and the role of logic and mathematics in ancient and medieval sciences. Content of this course may vary.

PHIL 2283 Markets & Morals: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: MATH 1030, or equivalent. This course will explore some moral issues connected with economic markets: the reasons for and against promoting free markets and free trade; whether we should be able to buy and sell anything or are there goods and services that should be above market transactions; whether free markets make us happier; how free markets are related to individual freedom; whether the efficacy of markets requires individuals to be moral; what moral grounds there are, if any, for capitalism, libertarianism, socialism, and Marxism.

PHIL 3286 International Business Ethics: 3 semester hours
Same as INTL BUS 3286. The course will deal with moral issues that are raised by the increasing globalization of business. Apart from the general issue of whether this globalization is itself a good thing, we will discuss such issues as child labor, working conditions, safety standards, environmental policies, bribery and other "corrupt" practices, respect for intellectual property, etc. Frequent short papers will be assigned.

PHIL 3301 Ancient Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Freshman admitted by consent of department. The principle philosophical doctrines of the ancient world, with special emphasis on the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle. Although there is no formal prerequisite, it is recommended that students have taken at least one other philosophy course.

PHIL 3302 Medieval Philosophy: 3 semester hours
A critical study of the important philosophies of the period from August to the Renaissance. Although there is no formal prerequisite, it is recommended that students have taken at least one other philosophy course.

PHIL 3303 Early Modern Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Principal figures in the development of rationalism, empiricism and skepticism in early modern Europe, from Descartes through Hume. Although there is no formal prerequisite, it is recommended that students have taken at least one other philosophy course.

PHIL 3304 Kant And Nineteenth Century Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Study of Kant and such major nineteenth century figures as Hegel and Nietzsche, Mill and Pierce. Although there is no formal prerequisite, it is recommended that students have taken at least one other philosophy course.

PHIL 3305 Twentieth Century Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Representative topics in contemporary philosophy, with readings selected from pragmatism, logical positivism, linguistic analysis and existentialism. Although there is no formal prerequisite, it is recommended that students have taken at least one other philosophy course.

PHIL 3307 American Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Recommended that students have taken at least one other philosophy course.

PHIL 3350 Twentieth Century Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy or consent of instructor. A study of selected American philosophers.

PHIL 3360 Formal Logic: 3 semester hours
An introductory study of logical truth and deductive inference, with emphasis on the development and mastery of a formal system.

PHIL 3369 The Marxist Heritage: 3 semester hours
Same as POL SCI 3690. Study of Marx and leading Marxists, designed to evaluate their influence on recent political, economic, and social thought and institutions.

PHIL 3374 Philosophy Of Art: 3 semester hours
Same as ART HS 3374. A critical study of such issues as the definition of art, the nature of aesthetic experience, meaning and interpretation in the arts, art and emotion, value in art.

PHIL 3378 Philosophy of Mind: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Three hours of philosophy or consent of instructor. An introduction to philosophical issues pertaining to the mind. Topics may include how the mind relates to the body, how the mind represents the world, how the mind works, consciousness, and free will.

PHIL 3380 Philosophy Of Science: 3 semester hours
An examination of science: what makes science special? Topics may include (but are not limited to): empiricism and of induction; paradigms and revolutions; explanation, causation and laws; realism versus instrumentalism; critiques of science such as those of feminism or postmodernism; and reductionism - ultimately is it all just physics?

PHIL 4401 Plato: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, a course in Ancient Philosophy recommended, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. A study of selected Platonic dialogues.

PHIL 4402 Aristotle: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, a course in Ancient Philosophy recommended, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. A selective study of Aristotle's major works.

PHIL 4405 Rationalism: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, a course in Ancient Philosophy recommended, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. An examination of the philosophies of such major figures as Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz.

PHIL 4406 Empiricism: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, a course in Early Modern philosophy recommended, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. An examination of the philosophies of such major figures as Locke, Berkeley, and Hume.
PHIL 4407 Kant: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, PHIL 3304 or equivalent recommended, graduate standing or consent of instructor. A systematic study of the Critique of Pure Reason.

PHIL 4408 Hegel: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, PHIL 3304 or equivalent recommended, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. A critical study of the writings and influence of Hegel.

PHIL 4410 Topics and Figures in the History of Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Nine hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. In-depth examination of a particular topic, significant figure or philosophical movement from the history of philosophy. The philosopher or movement to be studied will be announced prior to registration. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and department chair.

PHIL 4421 The Analytic Tradition: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. PHIL 3305 and PHIL 3360 strongly recommended. Course studies in depth the development of analytic philosophy with a broad emphasis on its style and substance. Topics may include early writings that set the stage for this tradition (Frege, Moore, Russell), the basic texts of Logical Positivism (Carnap, Schlick, Neurath, Hempel), and later responses including reassessment of the doctrine, the revival of naturalism, and the "death" of philosophy (Wittgenstein, Quine, Sellars). This is a variable content course that may be taken again for credit with consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 4430 Social And Political Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six credit hours of philosophy required or consent of instructor. This course will cover several classic works of political theory, with a particular focus on the nature of justice, the proper extent of liberty, and social contract arguments for the legitimacy of state authority. Readings from Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Rousseau, Bentham, Mill, Marx and Rawls.

PHIL 4435 Classical Ethical Theory: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. Significant contributions to moral philosophy from Plato and Aristotle to Bentham and Mill.

PHIL 4437 Metaethics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six credit hours of Philosophy. This course deals with questions regarding the foundations of ethics and the status of our ethical judgments about what's right and wrong, good and bad. The course will consider contemporary approaches to issues such as moral motivation, moral reasons, moral explanations, moral disagreement, moral knowledge, and moral supervenience, as well as various debates between realists and antirealists, and between cognitivists and expressivists.

PHIL 4438 Recent Ethical Theory: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. A study of major contributions to twentieth-century ethics, including works by such writers as Moore, Dewey, Ross, Stevenson, Hare, and Rawls.

PHIL 4439 Topics In Ethical Theory: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHIL 4435, PHIL 4438, nine hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. Formulation and evaluation of major theories in normative ethics, metaethics, and axiology. Topics include: egoism, moral realism, act and rule utilitarianism, and varieties of naturalism and non-naturalism in ethics. This is a variable content course and can be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 4440 Theories Of Knowledge: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. An examination of concepts and problems involved in the characterization of knowledge. Specific topics will vary, but will usually include knowledge, belief, skepticism, evidence, certainty, perception, truth, and necessity.

PHIL 4445 Metaphysics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. An examination of selected metaphysical topics such as substance, universals, causality, necessity, space and time, free will, being, and identity.

PHIL 4450 Special Readings In Philosophy: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of Department Independent study through readings, reports, and conferences. This is a content course and may be taken again up to a total of 6 credit hours with consent of instructor and department chair.

PHIL 4451 Special Topics In Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. A critical study of classical and/or contemporary contributions to a selected topic in philosophy. The topic to be considered will be announced prior to registration. This is a variable content course and can be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 4452 Feminism And Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. Same as GS 4452. This course will explore major themes and issues in feminist science scholarship, a body of research that focuses on the relationship between science and gender. Feminist research in the philosophy and history of science, and in the biological sciences, are emphasized. Issues include: the nature of objectivity, evidence, and truth; the factors that contribute to the acceptance or rejection of research hypothesis and theories; the nature and consequences of science’s cognitive authority; and the relationship between science and values.

PHIL 4458 Ethics And The Computer: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of coursework above the level of MATH 1030 in Math/Computer Science or at least six hours of philosophy or consent of instructor. An examination of ethical issues concerning the use of computers generally and software engineering in particular. Aims at developing awareness of these issues, and skills for ethical decision-making regarding them through careful, analytical methods. Typical issues include privacy, intellectual property, computer fraud, and others.

PHIL 4460 Advanced Formal Logic: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHIL 3360, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. Rigorous study of major developments in contemporary logic. Emphasis is given to theoretical problems and some attention is devoted to philosophical issues arising from logic.
PHIL 4465 Theory Of Decisions And Games: 3 semester hours
Same as POL SCI 4060. Prerequisites: Six hours of Philosophy and junior standing, or POL SCI 6401 (or the equivalent) or consent of the instructor. A study of rational decision-making, including games against nature, zero-sum games, and social choices. Topics will include the following: expected utility maximization, the Prisoner's Dilemma, Nash equilibria, and Arrow's theorem on the impossibility of a social welfare function. Parts of the course are technical in nature; a prior course in mathematics (e.g., finite mathematics, calculus, statistics or an economics course with a mathematical component), symbolic logic, or some other course with comparable mathematical content.

PHIL 4474 Topics In Aesthetics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHIL 3374, graduate standing or consent of instructor. Selected topics, such as vision and representation, musical aesthetics, and recent theorists. This is a variable content course that may be taken again for credit with the approval of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 4478 Topics In Philosophy Of Mind: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHIL 3378 or six hours of other philosophy courses or consent of instructor. An examination of selected topics at the interface of philosophical and psychological research. This is a variable content course and can be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 4479 Philosophy Of Cognitive Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: PHIL 3378 or PHIL 4478 or nine hours of other philosophy courses or consent of instructor. An exploration of the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, a cooperative effort of philosophers, cognitive psychologists, brain scientists, computer scientists, and others to understand the relationship between the mind and the brain.

PHIL 4480 Topics In Philosophy Of Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor. An advanced introduction to the philosophy of science for advanced undergraduates in philosophy and graduate and professional students. Topics covered include scientific method, confirmation, explanation, the nature of theories, scientific progress, science criticism, ethics in science, and science and religion.

PHIL 4482 Philosophy Of Social Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy or consent of instructor. An intensive examination of selected topics such as the nature of explanation in social science versus natural science, interpretation theory, and the postmodernism debate (e.g. Habermas, Foucault, cliffrid). This course may be repeated for credit on approval by the department.

PHIL 4483 Topics In History And Philosophy Of Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Six hours of philosophy, (PHIL 3380 strongly recommended), graduate standing, or consent of instructor. Examine in depth a particular topic or topics from either the history or philosophy of science. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and department chair.

PHIL 4487 Topics In Philosophy Of Law: 3 semester hours
Same as CRIMIN 4487. Prerequisites: CRIMIN 1100 and three hours of philosophy, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. An intensive study of recent philosophical debate about such issues as the authority of law, legal equality and justice, legal responsibility, self-determination and privacy, and legal punishment. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 4491 Senior Seminar: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Senior standing; at least 12 hours of philosophy at the 2000 level or above; or consent of instructor. Intensive study of a central philosophical problem. The course emphasizes the fundamentals of philosophical writing and scholarship. Students will write a major paper to be evaluated by two members of the Philosophy Department and the course instructor.

PHIL 5400 Proseminar In Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing. Required of all entering Graduate Students in the Fall Semester of the first full year of residency. Topics vary. Other graduate students may take this course with the permission of the instructor and the director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy. Students will be expected to write papers, give presentations, and join in class discussion.

PHIL 5403 Seminar on Themes in the History of Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Close study of selected topics, texts, or school of thought in the history of philosophy. Topics may include but are not limited to historical theories of science, Hellenistic philosophy, Neoplatonism, and historical approaches concerning the nature of time. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with consent of instructor and department chair.

PHIL 5410 Seminar In Significant Figures In Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing. In depth study of the work of a single philosopher. The philosopher selected will be announced prior to registration. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5478 Seminar In Philosophy Of Mind: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing Topics may include functionalism and physicalism; representation and the nature of propositional attitudes such as belief, desire, and the various emotions; folk psychology and knowledge of other minds; introspection and knowledge of one's own mind; conscious and unconscious mental states and processes. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5495 Thesis Research: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. May be repeated once for credit with consent of instructor and department chair.

PHIL 5521 Seminar In Analytic Philosophy: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Intensive study of selected topics, texts, or individuals in historical or contemporary analytic philosophy. Topics may include, but are not limited to, Frege semantics, Russell's theory of definite descriptions, logical positivism, Wittgenstein's philosophy of language, Quine on the analytic/ synthetic distinction, Kripke possible-world semantics, theories of propositions, the analysis of knowledge, contextualism in epistemology and language, relative semantics, epistemic two-dimensionalism, conceivability vs. possibility, three-dimensionalism vs. four-dimensionalism, presentism vs. eternalism, and applications of core concepts in other areas of philosophy. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with consent of the instructor and department chair.

PHIL 5530 Seminar In Social And Political Philosophy: 3 semester hours
An intensive study of contemporary philosophical debate about such issues such as civil liberty, economic justice, political decision-making, and state authority. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.
PHIL 5533 Philosophy Of Law: 3 semester hours
Same as CRIMIN 5533. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Examination of origins of law and the basis for legal obligation. Specific consideration of the justification of punishment, morality and law, and legal reasoning.

PHIL 5537 Seminar in Metaethics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. The course deals with questions regarding the foundations of ethics and the status of our ethical judgements about what's right and wrong, good and bad. The course will consider contemporary approaches to issues such as moral motivation, moral reasons, moral explanations, moral disagreement, moral knowledge, and moral supervenience, as well as various debates between realists and antirealists, and between cognitivists and expressivists.

PHIL 5538 Seminar in Ethical Theory: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor. In this course we will seek to answer questions from normative ethics or metaethics, which may include: What do all morally wrong actions have in common? What does the word "wrong" mean? How, if at all, can we verify moral judgements? Are any moral judgements valid for all societies? Do we always have good reason to be moral?.

PHIL 5540 Seminar in Epistemology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Close study of selected topics, texts, or individuals in epistemology. Topics may include (but are not limited to) theories of justification, naturalism in epistemology, and conceptions of knowledge. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5545 Seminar in Metaphysics: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing. Intensive study of a selected topic or problem area in metaphysics, e.g. mind-body identity, nature of the self, or conception of time. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5551 Special Readings in Philosophy: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing, written consent of instructor. Independent study through readings, reports, and conferences. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5560 Seminar in Logic: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing. A focused study of topics in logic and/or its history. Representative topics include: Aristotelian logic, modal logic, the Godel incompleteness theorems, relevance logic, paraconsistent logic, free logic. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5561 Graduate Formal Logic: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Graduate standing; permission of the department. A rigorous introduction to formal logic that includes sentential calculus, predicate logic, and completeness proofs. May be taken for graduate credit only with permission of the graduate advisor and chair.

PHIL 5579 Seminar in Philosophy of Cognitive Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing. General topics include the role of computation in cognitive science, the merits of symbolic computation and connectionism, the aims and methods of artificial intelligence, and the relationship between cognitive science and our everyday understanding of people. Specific topics may include perception, reasoning, consciousness, language, emotion, and will. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5580 Seminar in Philosophy of Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Focus is on recent issues and controversies. Topics may include: theories and observation, models of explanation, confirmation, realism and antirealism, empiricism & naturalism, "social construction" and feminist views of science. This is a variable content course and may be taken again with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.

PHIL 5582 Seminar in Philosophy of Social Science: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing or consent of instructor. Intensive examination of selected topics, such as the nature of explanation in social science, rationality, value-freedom and objectivity, or relation of social to natural sciences. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with consent of instructor and department chair.

PHIL 5590 Philosophical Issues in Other Disciplines: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. An examination of selected philosophical issues in disciplines other than philosophy. One or more such disciplines as history, political science, psychology, sociology, biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics will be chosen. The discipline(s) and issues selected will be announced prior to registration. This is a variable content course and may be taken again for credit with the consent of the instructor and the department chair.