

Philosophy

Department: Philosophy and Religion

Department Chair: J. Alexander

Department Members: J. Alexander, B. Kenoyer

Major: Philosophy

Minor: Philosophy

The Franklin College philosophy program is designed to prepare students for a life of critical examination of themselves and their society; to develop in students an ability to detect the structures, the strengths and weaknesses, and the assumptions of argumentation; and to seek to put these skills to use for the betterment of society.

To fulfill this mission, the program provides opportunities for students to understand the basic questions of all disciplines and of human existence by introducing them to the major traditions and thinkers in philosophy. The program also provides practice in sharpening the skills of logical argument and awareness of the major value systems and how they shape persons and cultures.

Students will learn to think philosophically in a variety of contexts; to seek and detect the assumptions involved in argumentation; to judge what is not only in terms of what might be, but as well in terms of what ought to be; and to understand the value of critical self-examination.

Philosophy Major

A major in philosophy is offered for those students preparing for professional careers in college teaching, law, medicine, and the ministry. As well, the area is strongly recommended for persons expecting careers involving significant amounts of decision-making, such as management, or involving the helping professions. All courses are available to all students except 400 level philosophy courses, which are not available to first-year students. PHL 470 and PHL 490 require the consent of the instructor. All prerequisites require a C- or better.

Core Requirements

- PHL 116** Introduction to Philosophy
- PHL 210** Logic
- PHL 499** Senior Competency Practicum

Professional Development Requirements

- PDP 200** Preparing for Your Internship
- PHL 498** Portfolio Development Practicum
- SNR/SNT 489 (PHL)** Senior Year Experience/Project

One of the following courses

- PHL 220** Principles of Ethics
- PHL/POL 360** Social and Political Thought

One of the following courses

- PHL 230** Philosophy of Language
- PHL 314** History of Philosophy

One of the following courses

- PHL 325** Topics in Value

Nine to ten additional hours in PHL

Related Field Requirement

Twelve semester hours to be approved by the department and submitted in writing to the Academic Records Office. All related field courses require a C- or better.

A student planning to do graduate work should acquire a reading knowledge of French.

Philosophy Minor**Core Requirements**

PHL 116 Introduction to Philosophy

PHL 210 Logic

One of the following courses

PHL 220 Principles of Ethics

PHL/POL 360 Social and Political Thought

One of the following courses

PHL 230 Philosophy of Language

PHL 314 History of Philosophy

One additional PHL course beyond those listed above

Philosophy Course Descriptions

PHL 116 Introduction to Philosophy		4 credit hours
Fall and spring	Reasoning & Values exploratory	

An introduction to the "perennial questions" of philosophy: Is knowledge possible? Does God exist? What is truth? Do persons have souls? What constitutes the good life or human fulfillment?

PHL 120 Knowledge and Reality		4 credit hours
Fall, odd academic years	Reasoning & Values exploratory	

This course will cover major philosophical thought in the areas of metaphysics and epistemology. The major subject matter of analysis of the course will concern the nature of reality and existence, and the nature of knowledge and belief. Topics covered will include the nature of identity, existence, causation, and time; theories of knowledge and justification, skepticism, testimony, disagreement, and epistemic injustice.

PHL 210 Logic		4 credit hours
Fall	Reasoning & Values exploratory	

This course is an examination of what constitutes proper and improper reasoning, argumentation, and critical assessment of arguments. Topics covered include fallacies, major types of arguments, categorical syllogisms, formal deductive logic, as well as the philosophy of logic itself.

PHL 220 Principles of Ethics		4 credit hours
Spring	Reasoning & Values exploratory	

An examination of the classical sources of ethical thought, such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Mill, and others, with attention to their relevance to contemporary problems in business and social ethics.

PHL 230 Philosophy of Language		4 credit hours
Fall, even academic years	Reasoning & Values exploratory	

This course concerns major developments in the philosophical study of language, including both theoretical examinations of language and their application to contemporary issues. The course will focus on how philosophers have come to understand the nature of communication and discourse, as well as major structural forms of linguistic expression. Topics covered include truth, meaning, reference, linguistic conventions and norms, the difference between semantics and pragmatics, context-sensitivity, presupposition, implication, speech acts, as well as what type of moral or political (if any) norms ought to apply to linguistic discourse itself.

PHL 250 Living Religions East		4 credit hours
Spring, even academic years	Reasoning & Values exploratory	

Historical development, cultural influences, and contemporary expression of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. Same as REL 250.

PHL 300 Topics in Philosophy		3 credit hours

A topic of current interest in philosophy will be taught. Topics will vary depending on faculty and student interest. Course will be offered upon the request of a faculty member and with approval of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

PHL 314 History of Philosophy		4 credit hours
Spring, odd academic years	Reasoning & Values exploratory	Prereq: One additional PHL course

This course covers key figures in the history of western philosophy. Time periods covered will include Pre-Socratic, Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and developments in the early 20th century. Will cover major works by Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Spinoza, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hume, Kant, James, Wittgenstein, Sartre, and Beauvoir. Prerequisite: one additional Philosophy course.

PHL 325 Topics in Value		4 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: One additional PHL course

This course offers a rotating topic of major concern in value theory, broadly construed. Areas within value theory include: Metaethics, Normative Ethics, Social and Political Theory, Applied Ethics, Aesthetics, and Non-Ideal Theory. This course will focus on creating students' knowledge and understanding of the nature of value and normativity, and cultivating students' ability to critically assess claims on what is and is not of value and what ought or ought not to be. This course may be repeated for credit if different course topics are completed. Prerequisite: One additional Philosophy course.

PHL 360 Social and Political Thought		4 credit hours
Fall	Reasoning and Values exploratory	

Study of social and political ideas such as the nature and justification of political power, the nature and legitimacy of governments, and related topics from Plato to the present. Same as POL 360.

PHL 365 Philosophy of Religion		4 credit hours
Fall, even academic years		

Persistent philosophical problems of historical religions, such as the nature of religion, religious knowledge, and the nature and existence of God, and human freedom. Same as REL 365.

PHL 470 Seminar: Themes in Philosophic Inquiry		3 credit hours
		Prereq: consent of instructor

A study of the theory of knowledge, metaphysics, axiology, advanced logic, or some particular thinker, tradition, or theme, depending on needs and interests of students.

PHL 482 Philosophy Practicum		1-2 credit hours
		Prereq: instructor permission

A supervised, pre-approved experience which allows a student to pursue specific learning goals and/or be involved in a field experience during the regular academic semester.

PHL 490 Independent Study		1-2 credit hours
		Prereq: departmental consent

An academic project designed to encourage student initiative and to provide a degree of flexibility in the departmental program. Normally the subject is not sufficiently or appropriately covered in departmental course offerings.

PHL 498 Portfolio Development Practicum		No credit
		Coreq: PHL 499 and SNR/SNT 489

Each student must develop a portfolio containing an appropriate body of work that, by the time of graduation, demonstrates the student is ready to make the transition to the professional workplace or graduate school. The specific format and content of the portfolio is determined through consultation of the student with the department and by attending appropriate sessions of PDP 200. PHL 498 is one component of the SNR/SNT 489 requirement. Portfolios will receive either a passing or failing grade.

PHL 499 Senior Competency Practicum		No credit
		Coreq: PHL 498 and SNR/SNT 489

Taken concurrently with SNR/SNT 489 (PHL), but may include at the department's discretion a multiple-hour comprehensive essay examination covering the history of philosophy and related topics (Oriental thought, political philosophy, ethics, etc.) depending on the student's transcript and senior year experience. A grade of C or better is required for graduation.

SNR/SNT 489 (PHL) Senior Year Experience/Project		2 credit hours
		Coreq: PHL 498 and PHL 499

Franklin College requires a senior year experience (SNR/SNT 489) of all graduating seniors. A portfolio, some participation in PDP 200 and a practical professional development experience related to the field of philosophy and the student's future plans are normal components. Options for completing this requirement will be as determined for each student in consultation with the department.