

# PHILOSOPHY

Communication Arts 265 • 262-595-2331 • Keyword: *Philosophy*

**Degree Offered:**

Bachelor of Arts.

**Professor:**

Cress, Ph.D.; Longeway, Ph.D. (Chair)

**Assistant Professor:**

Keefe, Ph.D.

**Instructor:**

Pearson, M.A.

**Professional Accreditations or Memberships:**

American Philosophical Association, Philosophy of Science Association.

**Student Organizations/Clubs:**

Parkside Philosophical Society, Phi Sigma Tau.

**Career Possibilities:**

Because of its emphasis on critical thinking and conceptual analysis, philosophy provides excellent preparation for a wide variety of professional studies and careers. UW-Parkside philosophy graduates have pursued many vocational interests in the past, from graduate school in philosophy and other fields in the humanities and social sciences, to law, librarianship, medical school, and business.

## Department Overview

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

- *Socrates*

Philosophy is the rational investigation of those truths about reality, knowledge and values essential to understanding the place of human beings in the world and the nature of the good life. It includes within its scope both the study of logic and scientific method, including the metaphysical presuppositions of the sciences, and the investigation of ethical and political values, and so it often provides reflective insight for other fields of study.

The Philosophy Department offers its majors and minors a variety of courses in traditional areas of philosophical inquiry while providing a broad range of general education courses and courses bearing on other disciplines, which are cross-listed in other departments.

## Preparation for Graduate School

Completing the major in philosophy will prepare students for entrance into graduate school in the field, but those interested in this option should endeavor to take as many upper-level courses as they can in as many areas as possible, including especially the history of philosophy. Graduates in philosophy have also pursued graduate study in psychology, art history, library science, business (M.B.A.) and law.

## Requirements for the Philosophy Major (36 credits)

The major in philosophy consists of a minimum of 36 credits in philosophy courses. The following requirements apply to all majors:

1. Required Courses:

PHIL 201	Logic . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 260	History of Philosophy: Ancient . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 261	History of Philosophy: Early Modern . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 275	Techniques of Philosophical Research . . . . .	3 cr

- At least 15 credits of upper-level courses in the major must be completed at UW-Parkside. PHIL 499 Independent Study does not count toward these 15 credits.
- A total of no more than 6 credits of PHIL 499 Independent Study, will count toward the major
- A grade of C-minus or higher is required in any course to be counted toward the major.
- A 2.50 or better GPA in courses counting toward the major is required. Not all philosophy courses taken need be counted toward the major.
- All majors are required to complete two courses (with one at the 300 level) in two of the following three areas: (1) ethics, value theory; and social and political thought; (2) metaphysics and philosophy of mind; and (3) epistemology and the philosophy of science. No course may be used to cover two areas at once. This requirement is a total of four courses with a minimum of two at the 300 level. The department will sometimes assign courses to different areas depending on their topics, and majors will be informed of such assignments in advance. Otherwise the following courses will count in each area:

**1. Ethics, value theory and political thought.**

PHIL 206	Introduction to Ethics . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 207	Classical Political Philosophy . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 213	Aesthetics . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 215	Contemporary Moral Problems . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 220	Politics, Law and Society . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 306	Modern Political Philosophy. . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 307	Contemporary Political Thought . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 320	Value Theory . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 328	Ethics in the Criminal Justice System . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 350	Philosophy of Law . . . . .	3 cr

**2. Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind**

PHIL 204	Reason and Reality . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 205	Philosophy of Religion . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 231	Christian Thought . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 255	Topics in Continental Thought . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 305	Philosophical Analysis . . . . .	3 cr
	(depending on the topic)	
PHIL 315	Metaphysics . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 355	Topics in Continental Thought . . . . .	3 cr

**3. Epistemology and philosophy of science**

GSCI 102	Science and Pseudoscience . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 203	Truth, Knowledge and Belief . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 303	Set Theory and Logic . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 305	Philosophical Analysis . . . . .	3 cr
	(depending on the topic)	
PHIL 310	Philosophy of Science. . . . .	3 cr

## Requirements for the Philosophy Minor (18 credits)

The minor in philosophy consists of a minimum of 18 credits in philosophy. The following requirements apply to all philosophy minors:

1. A minimum of 15 credits (or the 18 required) must be taken in 300 level or above courses (a minimum of 9 of these credits must be taken at UW-Parkside).
2. A grade of C-minus or higher is required in any course to be counted toward the minor.
3. A 2.50 or better GPA in courses counting toward the minor is required.

## Requirements for the Philosophy of Natural Science Minor (18 credits)

The minor in philosophy of natural science is open to students majoring in biological sciences, geology, mathematics, computer science and physics, and to others by consent of the chair of the Philosophy Department. A minimum of 18 credits of course work will be required to complete the minor.

I. Required Courses:

GSCI 102	Science and Pseudoscience . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 201	Logic. . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 310	Philosophy of Science History . . . . .	3 cr

II. Electives (Choose 3):

MATH 373	History of Mathematics . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 102	Great Thinkers . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 203	Truth, Knowledge and Belief . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 204	Reason and Reality . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 303/		
MATH 303	Set Theory and Logic . . . . .	3 cr
PHIL 310	Philosophy of Science. . . . .	3 cr
	(may repeat with different topic)	

Other courses will be accepted as electives from time to time as suitable.

## Courses in Philosophy (PHIL)

Students who are required to take English 100 should not enroll in a philosophy course until they have satisfactorily completed English 100.

**101 Introduction to Philosophy.....3 cr**  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.*

An introduction to philosophical method and typical philosophical issues, such as the existence of God, life after death, freewill, the nature and sources of knowledge and the nature of justice.

**102 Great Thinkers.....3 cr**  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Fall.*

A survey of the history of philosophical thought in the West from its beginnings to the 20th century, emphasizing its social and political context and its relations to the sciences.

**200 Topics in the History of Philosophy .....3 cr**  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Spring.*

Examination in depth of a selected figure, movement, or issue in the history of philosophy. Original sources in translation are studied. May be repeated for credit.

**201 Logic.....3 cr**  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Fall.*

Emphasis on basic skills of critical thinking, in particular the construction and analysis of arguments in everyday life. Formal and informal arguments are investigated.

**203 Truth, Knowledge and Belief .....3 cr**  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Fall.*

Discussion of epistemological topics such as experience and perception, innate knowledge, skepticism and rational belief, and the nature of truth. May be repeated once for credit with different content.

- 204 Reason and Reality**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Spring.*  
 Metaphysical issues such as free will, cosmology, the nature of reality, space and time, causality, particulars and universals, and humanity's place and meaning in the universe. May be repeated once for credit with different content.
- 205 Philosophy of Religion**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.*  
 Introduction to major philosophical issues in religion, including the existence of God, the supernatural, the problem of evil, life's meaning, faith, reason, religious belief, science and morality and the nature of religious commitment.
- 206 Introduction to Ethics**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Spring.*  
 Examination of the nature of ethics and its relationship to law and religion. Discussion and appraisal of typical meta-ethical challenges to the possibility of ethics, such as relativism, subjectivism, positivism, naturalism, and egoism. Discussion of the most important normative ethical systems: virtue ethics, deontology, and utilitarianism, with particular emphasis on the work of Aristotle, Mill and Kant.
- 207 Classical Political Philosophy**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: One of the following: POLS 105, PHIL 101, HIST 118. Freq: Occasionally.*  
 The works of the classical Greek political philosophers, Thucydides, Plato and Aristotle. Cross listed with POLS 207.
- 213 Aesthetics** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Yearly.*  
 Objectivity and criteria of art criticism, nature of aesthetic experience, and nature of art. Papers on theory and criticism will be required from students in ART 461, or any other 300- or 400-level course. May be repeated once under different topics by consent of department chair. Cross listed with MUS 213 and ART 461.
- 215 Contemporary Moral Problems** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Spring.*  
 Discussion of contemporary moral problems and related theoretical issues, focusing on such issues as sexual morality, punishment, abortion, racism, sexism, warfare and civil disobedience.
- 220 Politics, Law, and Society**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Yearly.*  
 Issues in political philosophy such as the nature and justification of political doctrines and systems, and analysis of such concepts as justice, freedom, equality and authority. May be repeated once for credit with different content. Cross listed with POLS 221.
- 231 Christian Thought**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Fall.*  
 Topics in Christian philosophy, both historical and contemporary (i.e. faith and reason, St. Augustine, contemporary Christian). May be repeated once for credit with different topic.
- 250 Philosophy of Law** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Even years.*  
 An examination of the nature of law and legal institutions, with special emphasis on the relationship between law and morality as these play out in the debate between natural law and positivism.
- 255 Topics in Continental Thought** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Even years.*  
 An introduction to major thinkers and movements of contemporary Continental philosophy, including Existentialism, Phenomenology, Structuralism, Deconstruction, Neo-Marxist Critical Theory, Semiotics, Philosophical Hermeneutics, French Feminism, Post-Structuralism and Post-Modernism.
- 260 History of Philosophy: Ancient**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Fall.*  
 An examination of the philosophy of the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics and Epicureans, Skeptics and Cynics, and the NeoPlatonists. Not open to students with credit in PHIL 360.
- 261 History of Philosophy: Early Modern** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Spring.*  
 An examination of the philosophy of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant and their contemporaries. Not open to students with credit in PHIL 361.
- 275 Techniques of Philosophical Research**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: One PHIL course completed and one PHIL course concurrently enrolled. PHIL 201 recommended. Freq: Fall, Spring.*  
 Examination of scholarly research as well as techniques for the development and assessment of philosophical arguments and positions.
- 290 Special Topics in Philosophy** .....1-4 cr  
*Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.*  
 Selected topics in philosophy will be examined.
- 302 Topics in The History of Philosophy**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: One PHIL course or consent of instructor. Freq: Spring.*  
 Examination in depth of a selected figure, movement, or issue in the history of philosophy. Original sources in translation are studied. Research paper required. May be repeated for credit.
- 303 Set Theory and Logic** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: MATH 222 or PHIL 201 or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.*  
 Elementary propositional and predicate logic; language and axioms of set theory; operations on sets; well-orderings, ordinals, transfinite induction and recursion; cardinals; the axiom of choice and some equivalents. Additional topics chosen in accordance with the interests and needs of the participants. Cross-listed with MATH 303.

- 304 Theories of International Relations**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: POLS 104 and 200. Freq: Spring.*  
 Contemporary theories of international relations with selected applications to current issues of relationships in international politics. Emphasis on critical theories in the evaluation and comparison of various theoretical approaches. Cross-listed with POLS 304.
- 305 Philosophical Analysis**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: PHIL 201 or 203 or consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.*  
 Topics in epistemology, philosophical logic, philosophy of language, and/or philosophic method. May be repeated once for credit.
- 306 Modern Political Philosophy**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: One of the following: POLS 105, PHIL 101, HIST 119, 120. Freq: Occasionally.*  
 The works of modern political thinkers such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche. Cross-listed with POLS 306.
- 307 Contemporary Political Thought**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: One POLS or PHIL course. Freq: Occasionally.*  
 Explores major ideas, directions, issues, and problems of contemporary political thinkers. Philosophical dimensions of contemporary political and social problems; applications of concepts to contemporary problems. Cross-listed with POLS 307.
- 310 Philosophy of Science** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: GSCI 102 or PHIL 201 or consent of instructor. Freq Yearly.*  
 An examination of such topics as the nature of scientific methods and theories; explanation, prediction, confirmation, reduction, the relations among the sciences, culture and values, and science versus pseudoscience. May be repeated once for credit with different topic.
- 315 Metaphysics** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: PHIL 204 or 205 or consent of instructor. Freq Yearly.*  
 Topics relating to the fundamental nature of reality and of the human condition (i.e., freewill, mind/body, the meaning of life, etc.). May be repeated once for credit with different topic.
- 320 Value Theory** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: PHIL 206 or consent of instructor. Freq: Alternate years.*  
 Topics in moral theory or political theory or special issues such as relativism, science and morality, liberalism, Marxism, fascism, sexism, and human rights. May be repeated for credit with different content.
- 328 Ethics in the Criminal Justice System** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: One course in PHIL, CRMJ 101, or consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.*  
 An examination of ethical issues arising in connection with criminal justice in particular, punishment, legal and police ethics, and the justice of institutions associated with criminal justice.
- 350 Philosophy of Law** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: One PHIL course or consent of instructor. Freq: Even years.*  
 An examination of the nature of law and legal institutions, with special emphasis on the relationship between law and morality as these play out in the debate between natural law and positivism. A research paper will be required.
- 355 Topics in Continental Thought** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: One PHIL course or consent of instructor. Freq: Even years.*  
 An introduction to major thinkers and movements of contemporary continental philosophy, including existentialism, phenomenology, structuralism, deconstruction, neo-Marxist critical theory, semiotics, philosophical hermeneutics, french feminism, post-structuralism and post-modernism. A research paper will be required.
- 360 History of Philosophy: Ancient**.....3 cr  
*Prereq: One PHIL course or consent of instructor. Freq: Fall.*  
 An examination of the philosophy of the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics and Epicureans, Skeptics and Cynics, and the NeoPlatonists. Term paper required. Not open to students with credit in PHIL 260.
- 361 History of Philosophy: Early Modern** .....3 cr  
*Prereq: One PHIL course or consent of instructor. Freq: Spring.*  
 An examination of the philosophy of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant and their contemporaries. A research paper will be required. Not open to students with credit in PHIL 261.
- 490 Special Topics in Philosophy** .....1-4 cr  
*Prereq: 6 credits in PHIL or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.*  
 Selected topics in philosophy will be examined.
- 499 Independent Study** .....1-5 cr  
*Prereq: Consent of instructor and department chair. Freq: Occasionally.*  
 Topics individually arranged.