PHILOSOPHY

Department of Philosophy

The study of Philosophy helps students to develop insights into the nature of individuals, societies, and values, and it helps them to think critically about themselves and the world around them. By studying philosophical works from the past and present, East, West, North, and South, students engage theories about such central concepts as personhood, justice, gender, knowledge, language, and science.

• Philosophy and Law Minor
• Philosophy Minor

Frank Boardman, Assistant Professor (2017), B.A., Hunter College; Ph.D., The City University of New York Graduate Center

Elena C. Cuffari, Department Chair, Assistant Professor (2014), B.A. Swarthmore College; Ph.D. University of Oregon

Johnathan C. Flowers, Visiting Assistant Professor (2018), B.S., B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Southern University of Illinois at Carbondale

Henry C. Theriault, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor (1998), B.A. Princeton University; Ph.D. University of Massachusetts

Courses

PH-100 Introduction to Philosophy
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC
The fundamentals of philosophy: its vocabulary, problems, and methods. Every year. 3 Credits

PH-101 Ancient Western Philosophy
Introduction to fundamental topics in Western philosophy through works by philosophers including Plato and Aristotle. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-102 History of Modern Western Philosophy 1600-1800
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC
Engages central topics of Western philosophy through study of important modern philosophers, typically from Descartes through Kant. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-110 Critical Thinking
LASC Categories: TLC, ICW
Critical thinking through informal logical identification, analysis and evaluation of arguments, including identification of fallacious arguments, through engagement with rhetoric and public discourse. Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

PH-115 Logic I
LASC Categories: QR
A study of introductory symbolic (formal) logic, covering sentential logic and the foundations of predicate logic. Every year. 3 Credits

PH-130 Ethics: Human Conduct & Values
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC
The nature of morality and value and their place in the world of human action. Every year. 3 Credits

PH-131 Medical Ethics
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC
An introductory-level examination of various ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, cloning and other genetics issues, access to health care, race and health care, and women’s health. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-132 Business Ethics
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC
An introduction to ethical theory and issues such as truth in advertising, product liability, affirmative action, employer and employee rights and duties, whistle blowing, and corporate responsibility. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-133 Social and Political Ethics
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC
Investigates major social and political theories and their applications to selected problems of justice. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-134 Race, Gender, and the Law
LASC Categories: TLC, USW, CON
This course provides a philosophical approach to issues of race and gender as expressed in legislation, judicial interpretation, enforcement, and public policy. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-135 Philosophy of Love and Sex
LASC Categories: HBS, ICW, DAC
Investigates the concepts of love and sex and structural and discursive factors contributing to our daily experiences of these phenomena. Every year. 3 Credits

PH-163 Philosophy on Television
LASC Categories: USW, TLC
An introduction to philosophy through philosophical writings on popular television shows. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-170 Introduction to Asian Philosophy
LASC Categories: GP, TLC, DAC
Introduces and surveys the major philosophical traditions in East-Asia, South-Asia, and South-East Asia. This course will study the different worldviews, conceptions of human nature and the good life from these philosophical perspectives, and where possible, make comparisons with Western philosophies. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-171 Buddhist Philosophy
LASC Categories: GP, ICW, DAC
Introduces and surveys the history and development of the major Buddhist traditions, and their interpretation of core Buddhist philosophies, as they move outwards from India. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-172 Chinese Philosophy
LASC Categories: GP, TLC, DAC
Surveys the philosophies of ancient China, including Taoism, Buddhism, Legalism and the development of the Confucian tradition in China. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits
PH-177 Introduction to Latin American Philosophy  
**LASC Categories:** GR, TLC, DAC  
An introduction to many of the principal texts, thinkers, and debates within Latin American philosophy.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-178 Africana Philosophy  
**LASC Categories:** TLC, USW, DAC  
Explores the philosophy of the African diaspora in African, African American and Caribbean writings. The course addresses both historical and contemporary material across intersections of race, gender, and class using philosophy, history, and literature.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-180 Sports and Philosophy  
**LASC Categories:** ICW  
Examines key ethical and other issues in sports, including competition, fair play, sportspersonship, drug use, race and gender, and violence.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-190 Special Topics in Philosophy  
An introductory philosophy course on current or specialized topics. **LASC Categories:** Varies by topic. See current course listing for specific LASC area approved.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-193 First Year Seminar Philosophy  
**LASC Categories:** FYS  
An introductory course covering a topic of special interest to first-year students. Offered only as a First-Year Seminar.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-201 19th Century European Philosophy  
**LASC Categories:** HBS, TLC  
Engages the radical new philosophical ideas developed on the European Continent in the 19th Century, beginning with Hegel.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-202 Selected Topics: 20th-21st Century Western Philosophy  
**LASC Categories:** HBS, TLC  
Addresses a specific topic in 20th-21st Century Western Philosophy. The topic will be indicated in each PH 202 registration listing.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-215 Logic II  
**LASC Categories:** QR  
**Prerequisites:** PH-115  
Intermediate symbolic (formal) logic including multi-placed predicates and identity.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-220 Philosophy of Mind  
**LASC Categories:** NSP, TLC  
**Prerequisites:** EN-102  
Drawing on canonical philosophical texts as well as research from relevant disciplines, this course is an investigation of the relationship between mental phenomena and physical states and processes, along with implications for such issues as personal identity and free will.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-221 Existentialism and Phenomenology  
**LASC Categories:** GP, TLC  
Examines the Existentialist movement of the first half of the 20th Century.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-223 American Philosophy  
**LASC Categories:** TLC, DAC  
**Prerequisites:** EN-102  
Surveys key movements in the history of philosophy in the United States that have come to be identified with the tradition of American philosophy, including Transcendentalism, Pragmatism, indigenous philosophy, African American philosophy, and their representative thinkers.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-225 Philosophy of Language  
**LASC Categories:** TLC, ICW  
A survey of theories of reference, truth, word and sentence meaning, ordinary language philosophy, embodied communication, and/or dialogic ethics.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-231 Philosophy of Law  
**LASC Categories:** CON, HBS, USW, DAC  
**Prerequisites:** EN-102  
Survey of the legal theories and issues and the philosophical bases of key legal and related political concepts.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-237 Philosophy of Space and Time  
**LASC Categories:** NSP, TLC  
An investigation into philosophical problems regarding space and time, with a focus on those that emerge from the history of science and contemporary physics.  
Spring only and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-240 Political Theory  
**LASC Categories:** USW, TLC  
Investigates concepts including political power, equality, revolution, liberties, slavery, socialism and patriarchal power, race and gender.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-241 Genocide and Human Rights  
**LASC Categories:** USW, GP  
This course treats the ethical, political, and other dimensions of systematic mass violence through case studies and general theoretical analyses.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-242 Race, Nation, Class, Gender and Sexuality  
**LASC Categories:** USW, HBS  
Examines these five important social categories that define the political, legal, economic, and cultural contexts in which we live.  
Other or on demand. 3 Credits  

PH-250 Global Feminisms  
**LASC Categories:** TLC, GP  
Investigates the theoretical underpinnings of women's movements for equal rights around the globe.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits  

PH-251 Mass Violence Against Women  
**LASC Categories:** USW, GP  
A philosophy-based, interdisciplinary course examining historical and contemporary mass violence against women.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits
PH-254 Feminist Theory
LASC Categories: HBS, USW, DAC
Feminist Theory: Examines the development of feminist ideas and movements from the 18th century to the present, in the US and, particularly in recent decades, globally. A close analysis of Second Wave, Postmodern, and Black Feminist ideas are studied as a basis for writings and social action that attends to issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality, using intersectional methodologies and critiques to address issues of reproduction and health, labor and economic power, violence, and state power.
Other or on demand and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-260 Philosophy of Science
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC
Critically investigates such questions as: What distinguishes sciences from pseudo-sciences? When is a theory confirmed? What is a law of nature?
Every year. 3 Credits

PH-261 Philosophy of Religion
Examination of the roles of faith and reason in beliefs concerning a deity and in such issues as the problem of evil.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-262 Philosophy of Art
LASC Categories: CA, TLC
Prerequisites: One semester of philosophy required.
An investigation of the nature of aesthetic experience, art and art history, creativity, criticism and artistic reception.
Alternating and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-263 Film and Philosophy
LASC Categories: GP, TLC
An intermediate study of films presenting philosophical ideas about film.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-264 Philosophy of Education
LASC Categories: TLC, ICW
Examines philosophical approaches to education through readings of various authors such as Plato, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Dewey, and Freire. Additionally surveys recent empirical and/or cross-disciplinary work that engages with philosophical approaches to education, including psychology, cognitive science, education, feminist theory, critical race theory, and/or decolonial theory.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-276 Contemporary Asian Philosophy
LASC Categories: HBS, GP, DAC
Surveys contemporary developments in Asian Philosophy, the continued relevance of ancient Asian Philosophies in contemporary Asia, and Asian philosophical responses to the Western tradition.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-290 Advanced Special Topics in Philosophy
A treatment of current or special topics for students beyond the introductory level. LASC Categories: Varies by topic. See current course listing for specific LASC area approved.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-301 Individual Figure in the History of Western Philosophy
Prerequisites: EN-102
Studies a specific Western philosopher. The philosopher for a given semester will be indicated in the course registration listings.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-320 Topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology
Prerequisites: EN-102
Selected topics in theories of mind, language, and knowledge.
3 Credits

PH-360 Philosophy of History
LASC Categories: USW, GP
Prerequisites: 3 credits from department PH
Explores the different philosophical approaches to the study and writing of history and the nature of historical change and development.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-390 Independent Study in Philosophy
Tutorials in areas of philosophy not covered in normal course offerings.
Fall and Spring and every year. 1-6 Credits

PH-391 Internship in Philosophy
Provides an opportunity for mid-level or advanced students to increase their philosophical knowledge.
3 Credits

PH-408 Directed Study: Philosophy
Directed study offers students, who because of unusual circumstances may be unable to register for a course when offered, the opportunity to complete an existing course with an established syllabus under the direction of and with agreement from a faculty member.
3 Credits