

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 Minor

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

Carter Hardy, Assistant Professor (2022), B.A., University of Central Florida; M.Phil., Ph.D., University of South Florida

Laura W. Kane, Assistant Professor (2020), B.A., Hunter College, City University of New York; M.Phil., Ph.D., The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Sharisse Kanet, Visiting Assistant Professor (2022), B.A., Wesleyan University; M.A., Ph.D., CUNY Graduate Center

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 Greek Philosophy

LASC Categories: ICW, TLC

Introduction to fundamental topics in Western philosophy through the works of ancient philosophers, including Plato and Aristotle. While predominantly Greek thinkers are studied, the course may include Roman or other ancient thinkers as well.

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, DAC

Investigates major social and political theories and their applications to selected problems of justice.

Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-134 Computing Ethics

LASC Categories: HBS, ICW

An introduction to significant issues in the ethics of computing, including the application of ethical theories to the development of technology, cyberculture, and artificial intelligence, as well as some distinct ethical theories that emerge from thinking about computing and information technology.

Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

PH-151 Race, Gender, and the Law

LASC Categories: TLC, USW, CON, DIV

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-152 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:** GP, 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-200 Knowledge and Reality**LASC Categories:** NSP, TLC

A critical evaluation of answers to the most general questions of human existence: What is there? How do we know it? How did it come to be?

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-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, DIV, DAC**Prerequisites:** EN-102

Survey of the legal theories and issues and the philosophical bases of key legal and related political concepts, including Natural Law Theory, Legal Positivism, Legal Realism, and critical perspectives.

Every year. 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, DIV

Investigates concepts including political power, equality, revolution, liberties, slavery, socialism and patriarchal power, race and gender.

Every year. 3 Credits

PH-241 Genocide and Human Rights**LASC Categories:** USW, GP, DIV

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, DIV

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, DIV

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, DIV

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 year. 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-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-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-327 Feminist Medical Ethics**LASC Categories:** DIV, ICW

This course will examine various feminist critiques of mainstream bioethics and explore the growth of feminist bioethics as its own distinct sub-field. We will work through feminist conceptions of autonomy and epistemic injustice, and discuss how those conceptions affect decision making with respect to medical interventions. We will focus upon ethical questions and cases that highlight feminist concerns about reproductive choice, reproductive technology, dependency and disability, race, gender, and power imbalances. We will also explore how feminist conceptions of autonomy and care reframe ethical concerns regarding medical decision making for children and minors. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

Other or on demand. 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

Program Learning Outcomes

- Regarding argumentation and evidence, students will:
 - Recognize, analyze, and assess arguments presented in readings, discussions, and other sources, such as newspaper editorials.
 - Construct arguments in which premises logically connect to conclusions.
 - Appreciate, evaluate, and employ scientific and social scientific evidentiary standards.
 - Identify or formulate alternative viewpoints, concepts, lines of argument, or interpretations of presented viewpoints, concepts, lines of argument, or interpretations, when those alternatives are not given.
- Regarding historical and theoretical frameworks, students will:
 - Develop knowledge of one major period in the history of philosophy.
 - Develop understanding, ability to discuss, and ability to evaluate major theories and concepts in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and/or aesthetics.

- Interpret philosophical texts in order to recognize, explicate, and critique a range of plausible meanings of each text.
- Comprehend, represent, appraise, and sometimes resolve conceptual tensions among distinct metaphysical, etc., theories.
- Philosophy beyond the discipline, students will:
 - Develop critical questions about mainstream points of view and assumptions about the world, human beings, etc.
 - Appreciate and appraise the role and impact of philosophical analysis and inquiry in other disciplines, such as the physical sciences, medicine, religion, etc.
 - Examine and appraise claims about causal relations that are held to produce scientific knowledge or historical, social, cultural, and political developments.
 - Identify, comprehend, appraise, and/or apply multiple theories of ethical or social responsibility.