PHILOSOPHY

Undergraduate Program Information
A major in philosophy serves not only as preparation for further graduate
study in philosophy but also as an area of concentration in a liberal arts
program. A philosophy major is appropriate for students planning to
attend medical school as well as for those students interested in a career
that requires critical reading and argument analysis. Such careers include
business, theology and above all, law.

While the course requirements for the major should meet the ends of
the liberal arts student, those students interested in graduate study in
philosophy or in a career in law are encouraged to seek advice from a
faculty advisor as early in their career as possible.

A minor program in philosophy requiring 18 hours of course work is
also offered as well as a minor in Ethics. For more information visit
the Department of Philosophy’s web page at www.nmsu.edu/ (http://
www.nmsu.edu/~philos)/.

Degrees for the Department
Philosophy - Bachelor of Arts (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-
sciences/philosophy/philosophy-bachelor-arts)

Minors for the Department
Ethics - Undergraduate Minor (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-
sciences/philosophy/ethics-undergraduate-minor)

PHIL 100G. Philosophy, Law and Ethics
3 Credits
An introduction to practical problems in moral, social, political, and
legal philosophy. Topics to be discussed may include ecology, animal
rights, pornography, hate speech on campus, same-sex marriage, justice,
abortion, terrorism, treatment of illegal immigrants, and New Mexican
Aboriginal Peoples’ land claims.

PHIL 101G. The Art of Wondering
3 Credits
Introduction to some of the main problems of philosophy, with an
emphasis on critical thinking. Philosophy conceived as an aid to living in
this world with oneself and with others.

PHIL 124G. Philosophy of Music
3 Credits
This is an introductory course in the philosophy of music. This course
will survey three questions: What is music? Why is music important? How
can we distinguish good music from bad music? We will draw examples
from a wide variety of musical genres, from classical music, jazz and
blues to punk and rap. Students will be encouraged to apply philosophical
theorizing to think about their preferred musical form.

PHIL 136G. The Quest for God
3 Credits
An effort to understand the religious life; a consideration of some of the
traditional approaches to God and what it means to be religious.

PHIL 201G. Introduction to Philosophy
3 Credits
Selected problems within the main branches of philosophy: metaphysics,
theory of knowledge, ethics. Practice given in critical thinking.

PHIL 211G. Informal Logic
3 Credits
Logical analysis of ordinary language, construction of definitions,
argumentation, analysis of fallacious modes of thought and basic
rhetorical considerations.

PHIL 223G. Ethics
3 Credits
The philosophical explication of morality. Significant ethical systems
developed in the history of Western thought.

PHIL 202. Business Ethics
3 Credits
An analysis of the ethical issues that arise in contemporary business life,
including the obligations businesses and employees have to each other,
consumers, society and the environment.

PHIL 203. Asian Philosophy
3 Credits
Survey of the most important philosophies of the East; emphasis is on
the basic teachings.

PHIL 205. Philosophy and Literature
3 Credits
Examination of philosophical ideas as presented in selected literary
works and literary criticism.

PHIL 206. Philosophy Through Film
3 Credits
An exploration of a range of philosophical issues through the use of film.
Topics include personal identity and memory, faith and the problem of
evil, free will and moral responsibility, and the meaning of life. Films may
include The Prestige, Memento, The Third Man, A Clockwork Orange,
Fight Club, and Synecdoche, New York.

PHIL 302. Business Ethics
3 Credits
An analysis of the ethical issues that arise in contemporary business life,
including the obligations businesses and employees have to each other,
consumers, society and the environment.

PHIL 303. Asian Philosophy
3 Credits
Survey of the most important philosophies of the East; emphasis is on
the basic teachings.

PHIL 305. Philosophy and Literature
3 Credits
Examination of philosophical ideas as presented in selected literary
works and literary criticism.

PHIL 306. Philosophy Through Film
3 Credits
An exploration of a range of philosophical issues through the use of film.
Topics include personal identity and memory, faith and the problem of
evil, free will and moral responsibility, and the meaning of life. Films may
include The Prestige, Memento, The Third Man, A Clockwork Orange,
Fight Club, and Synecdoche, New York.

PHIL 312. Formal Logic
3 Credits
Introduction to symbolic logic and its application in the analysis of
arguments in scientific and ordinary discourse.

PHIL 315. Philosophy of Language
3 Credits
A critical examination of philosophical inquiries into the syntactic,
semantic, and pragmatic dimensions of language.

PHIL 316. Philosophy of Mathematics
3 Credits
Survey of traditional philosophical problems and views concerning the
nature of mathematics including such questions as: What is the nature
of mathematical knowledge? What is mathematical truth? What is a
number? What is proof? What is the relationship between logic and
mathematics?

PHIL 320. Social and Political Philosophy
3 Credits
This course critically examines such fundamental concepts as liberty,
equality and human rights.
PHIL 321. Biomedical Ethics
3 Credits
Examines ethical dimensions of such issues as abortion, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide; informed consent as a condition of treating patients and experimenting on subjects; genetic engineering; and alternative reproductive methods, including surrogate motherhood. Also considers what implications moral theories have for these issues.

PHIL 322. Environmental Ethics
3 Credits
Explores the ethical and topical issues raised by mining and grazing, air and water pollution, factory farming, global warming, and treatment of animals. It also studies some recent ecological movements such as ecofeminism, social ecology, and deep ecology.

PHIL 323V. Engineering Ethics
3 Credits
The moral legal responsibilities of engineers to clients, employers, the public, and the environment. Topics include criteria for judging when risk is acceptable, the duty to safeguard public health and welfare, conflicts of interest, and whistle-blowing.
Prerequisite: Junior standing or higher.

PHIL 325. Topics in Feminist Philosophy
3 Credits
Philosophical treatment of issues concerning women, gender, and feminism. Topics may include social and political equality, pornography and freedom of speech, ethical issues raised by reproductive technologies, and feminist critiques of science.

PHIL 327. Ethics and Sports
3 Credits
Examines contemporary ethical issues related to sports, including the relationship between morally right action and that required for competitive success, strong paternalism in sports, fair play, doping, sportsmanship, and the impact of sports on society.

PHIL 328. Applied Ethics
3 Credits
Examines the implications of utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, natural law theory, and other moral theories for controversial moral issues such as the death penalty, euthanasia, abortion, genetic engineering, gay marriage, affirmative action, and pornography.

PHIL 330. Ethics and Biomedical Research
3 Credits
Explores some ethical issues raised by biological and biomedical research. Topics include: possible abuses of genetic engineering, cloning, and genetically modified foods; experimentation on humans and informed consent; animal experimentation; honesty in research and conflicts of interest; and intellectual property.

PHIL 331. Philosophy of Religion
3 Credits
The nature, fundamental concepts, and problems of religion. Emphasis on the significance of religion for creative and practical value.

PHIL 332. Ethics and Global Poverty
3 Credits
Philosophical scrutiny of and moral reflection on various aspects of global poverty and foreign aid. For example: Is poverty fundamentally a lack of income, or can it be understood as a failure to meet basic needs, or as a lack of valuable freedom? Do human rights exist? What, if any, are the moral obligations of rich countries to poor countries? Can foreign aid be immoral? How should the answers to these questions influence public policy? Restricted to: Main campus only.

PHIL 341. Ancient Philosophy
3 Credits
Introduction to the philosophies of the pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, with brief discussion of the Epicureans and Stoics.

PHIL 344. Modern Philosophy
3 Credits
Foundations of contemporary thought: introduction to the philosophies of Descartes, Bacon, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, and Hegel.

PHIL 346. Philosophy of Mind
3 Credits
Examination of some of the most influential accounts of the mind, focusing on such issues as the relation between the mind and the body, mental causation and consciousness.

PHIL 350. Epistemology
3 Credits
Introduction to epistemology. The philosophical critique of alleged ways of knowing. An examination of the nature of truth.

PHIL 351. Philosophy of Science
3 Credits
Philosophical examination of the methodology of science. The logical, metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical critique of science and its impact on human affairs.

PHIL 361. Special Topics
3 Credits
Specific subjects announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits.

PHIL 363. Independent Studies
1-3 Credits
For students with some background in philosophy. Independent work in a specific area. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

PHIL 373. Ethical Theory
3 Credits
The critical examination of the justification of ethical theories with particular attention to the language of moral discourse.

PHIL 376. Philosophy of Law
3 Credits
Ethical, logical, and epistemological implications of law, together with an analysis of the rhetoric of legal practice.

PHIL 380. Metaphysics
3 Credits
Introduction to metaphysics: a treatment of such issues as the meaning of existence, the mind-body problem, the problem of universals, and free will versus determinism.

PHIL 397. Existentialism
3 Credits
The origins of existentialist thought in philosophy and literature, including the thought of Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky, Camus, and Sartre. The course covers topics in ethics and political philosophy, metaphysics, philosophical psychology, philosophy of religion, and other sub-disciplines of philosophy.

PHIL 413. Modal Logic
3 Credits
A formal introduction to the logic of necessity, possibility, and impossibility: the syntactic and semantic aspects of the formal modal systems T, S4, S5, as well as their philosophical implications.
PHIL 448. Writing Philosophy
3 Credits
A workshop on writing philosophy papers. Includes how to read and understand philosophical writing, organize a paper effectively, present a clear and forceful argument, and avoid common mistakes.
Prerequisite(s): completed 18 hours of philosophy credit.

PHIL 463. Independent Studies
1-3 Credits
For students with a strong background in philosophy. Independent work in a specific area. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

PHIL 505. Advanced Studies in Philosophy and Literature
3 Credits
Examination of philosophical issues (e.g. personal identity, free will, moral dilemmas, the meaning of life) as presented in selected literary works and literary criticism. Consent of Instructor required.

PHIL 532. Advance Studies in Ethics and Global Poverty
3 Credits
Advanced philosophical scrutiny of and moral reflection on various aspects of global poverty and foreign aid. For example: Is poverty fundamentally a lack of income, or can it be understood as a failure to meet basic needs, or as a lack of valuable freedom? Do human rights exist? What, if any, are the moral obligations of rich countries to poor countries? Can foreign aid be immoral? How should the answers to these questions influence public policy? Restricted to: Main campus only.

PHIL 540. Science and Ethics
1-3 Credits (1-3)
Ethical concerns facing researchers in the basic and applied biological sciences. Coverage of responsible conduct in research including scientific integrity and research misconduct, mentor/trainee responsibilities, data management, authorship, publication practices, human subjects, animal welfare, intellectual property, conflicts of interest and effort and collaborative science. Emphasis on ethical reasoning skills. Discussion of ethical and societal implications of issues selected from a broad range of contemporary research areas (genetics, reproductive biology, environmental sciences, nanoscience, drug discovery, bioengineering, neuroscience). Subtitled. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.

Name:

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