

- 3) Select four: PHIL 304, 306, 315, 317, 319, 374, 380, 382, 383, 384, 386, 388, and Special Topics courses (395);
- 4) Six additional credit hours chosen from 300/400 level courses in PHIL and/or RSTD. Select two PHIL 305, 320, 321, 460, and Special Topics courses (395);

* Courses bearing an asterisk may be used simultaneously to satisfy, in part, certain general education and degree studies requirements. For details, see your academic advisor.

During their senior year, all philosophy majors with a concentration in values and the professions must:

- 1) Write a research paper and give an oral presentation of it (PHIL 490W).
- 2) Submit a portfolio of all written work completed in all written philosophy and religious studies courses taken at CNU;
- 3) Take the CNU Philosophy and Religious Studies departmental comprehensive exam.

THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The minor requires a Philosophy 101 (Critical Thinking) and a minimum of 15 credits above the 100-level. The upper-level courses must be chosen from at least two of the following areas of the curriculum: historical studies, value analysis, advanced critical thinking, and religious studies.

Philosophy supports other programs at the University wherever critical thinking and a sharpened sense of values are important. The general areas of ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy, and theology will be of special interest to students concentrating in the humanities and the social sciences. The areas of logic, theory of knowledge, philosophy of science, philosophy of language and philosophy of mind, with their stress on reasoning and logic, will be of interest to students concentrating in the natural sciences, mathematics, and computer science. Courses in Indian, Japanese, Chinese, and comparative philosophy provide a familiarity with non-Western cultures that is of value to those who are enrolled in international studies programs.

PRACTICUM PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY

The internship program provides opportunities for students interested in applying critical thinking, value analysis, and philosophical concepts generally, to fields and professions outside the academic setting. Students are placed in national and regional environmental programs, hospices, national intelligence agencies, in hospital administrations, and in local church and religious organizations.

ONLINE COURSES IN PHILOSOPHY

The Department offers courses for the Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and the Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy with a concentration in religious studies, critical thinking, or values and the professions, in a computer mediated environment entirely online, outside the class-

room, accessible by telephone line and over the Internet. Many online courses are integrated with classroom courses giving the online student the opportunity of interacting with classroom students and participating in classroom projects. The online environment offers opportunities to the online major to participate in online internships and teaching assistantships, independent studies, research projects, and online discussion forums. Information about online courses can be obtained from the CNU ONLINE home page.

SUPPLEMENTARY SECTIONS IN CRITICAL THINKING

The Department offers a number of supplementary sections in critical thinking. These sections are designed to foster the development of general logical reasoning skills. To aid in this process, examples are taken from a specified discipline and used to demonstrate how critical thinking strategies may be observed within that discipline. Supplementary sections include: PHIL 101B – Critical Thinking with a supplement in Business; PHIL 101S – Critical Thinking with a supplement in Science; PHIL 101M – Critical Thinking with a supplement in Medical Ethics; and PHIL 101L – Critical Thinking with a supplement in Law. These supplementary sections fulfill the General Education Requirement for Communication/Philosophy. Students develop their reasoning skills by examining how they are applied in a field in which they are interested. All supplementary sections are open to all students. There are no prerequisites for these sections and the student needs no advanced knowledge of the supplementary material. Two supplementary courses will be offered each semester.

THE CURRICULUM IN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 101. Critical Thinking I (3-3-0)

Fall, Spring and Summer.

Designed to impart the basic skills of logical reasoning in natural languages: analyzing statements for consistency, implications, contradictions; distinguishing fact from opinion and evaluating testimony; distinguishing inference and argument from other discourse; analyzing and evaluating arguments using arrow diagrams; addressing vagueness and ambiguity by a more precise rendering of language. See *Supplementary Sections of Critical Thinking* above for additional information.

PHIL 102. Critical Thinking II (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: PHIL 101 or consent of instructor.

Fall or Spring.

Familiarizes students with longer and more complex argumentative writing, as well as with methods of analyzing, evaluating, and generating such arguments. All arguments treated are in natural language, and attention goes to context. Fallacies of equivocation and relevance are treated, and a logic of conditional statements, including necessary and sufficient conditions, is emphasized. Techniques include argument diagramming, writing analyses and evaluations of longer arguments, and writing the argumentative essay.

PHIL 201G. Ancient Philosophy (3-3-0)*Fall, Spring and Summer.*

A study of the philosophical thought of the European, Middle Eastern, and Far Eastern cultures from ancient times to 1500 A.D. Readings from original sources will include topics such as early Greek explanations of the physical world, Plato's theory of abstract forms and his account of political obligation, Aristotle's theory of the soul, Epicurean and Stoic accounts of the highest moral good, Medieval arguments for God's existence, Confucian and Taoist concepts of the individual and society, Buddhist and Hindu views of self and world and the significance of meditative techniques and practices.

PHIL 202G. Modern Philosophy (3-3-0)*Fall, Spring and Summer.*

A study of the philosophical thought of the European, Middle Eastern, and Far Eastern cultures from 1500 A.D. Readings from original sources will include topics such as Descartes' theory of mind and body, Hobbes' social contract theory, Berkeley's denial of the material world, Hume's attack on miracles, Kant's theory of the phenomenal and noumenal worlds, logical positivists' criticism of ethics and metaphysics, Sartre's theory of human existence, Neo-Confucian conceptions of the Tao, and Zen Buddhism's view of knowledge and enlightenment.

PHIL 304. Ethics and Current Value Questions (3-3-0)*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.**Offered at least once, Fall, Spring or Summer.*

A systematic study of central problems of right action, stressing value and decision in the individual; the distinction of facts from values; rules versus ends; generalization and moral rules; the ground and nature of moral obligation; freedom; moral responsibility; the justification of punishment; the viability of egoism; the relativity of moral values. At every stage the student is provided opportunities to bring his new theoretical and conceptual material to bear on the analysis of moral problems in real-life situations.

PHIL 305. Theory of Knowledge (3-3-0)**[formerly PHIL 430]***Prerequisite: PHIL 101, junior standing or consent of instructor.**Alternate years.*

Explores some of the main questions of human knowledge raised in the field of epistemology. What is the origin and extent of knowledge? What are the kinds of knowledge? What are the degrees of certainty? How reliable is the testimony of others? What is the relationship between language and the world? What distinguishes deductive from inductive reasoning? How reliable is memory? Can we trust our knowledge of the past? How does knowledge differ from belief?

PHIL 306. Search for Beauty (3-3-0)*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.**Alternate years.*

Confronts the student with the artwork and its elementary descriptive terminology. It considers the general signifi-

cance of the fine arts and aesthetic value in the life of man by a systematic treatment of these problems: expression; creativity; the objectivity of the aesthetic judgment; the nature of the aesthetic experience; aesthetic qualities and the aesthetic object; the analysis of aesthetic value; art and morality.

PHIL 307. Current Trends in Modern Thought (3-3-0)*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.**Alternate years.*

An examination of the most important topics and theories of the leading philosophers of the 20th century. Selections from original works of major British, American and Continental philosophers will be studied. Topics include the nature and role of science, theories of language and truth, the validity of epistemology and ontology, the nature and structure of human existence, and the foundations of moral action.

PHIL 308. Philosophy of Religion (3-3-0)*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.**Offered once every three years.*

Topics will include an analysis of the nature and attributes of God with special reference to the problem of evil, arguments for the existence of God, the nature of religious language, the relation of faith and revelation to reason and sense-experience, the epistemological status of miracles, the role of the concept of God in metaphysics, and the relationship of religion to science.

PHIL 312. American Philosophy (3-3-0)**[formerly PHIL 440]***Prerequisite: PHIL 201G, 202G or junior standing or consent of instructor.**Offered at least once every two years.*

A study of American philosophy focusing on issues in such movements as Transcendentalism, Pragmatism, Naturalism, and the Philosophy of Language. Major American philosophers such as R. W. Emerson, D. Thoreau, C. S. Peirce, John Dewey, and William James may be treated as well as important contemporary figures in the fields of philosophy of mind, moral philosophy and the philosophy of language.

PHIL 315. Feminist Philosophy (3-3-0)*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.**Alternate years.*

Course will focus upon recent literature in the philosophy of Feminism. Feminist critiques of knowledge, metaphysics, history, morality, philosophical anthropology, and social institutions will be examined and discussed. Course will deal with such topics as ideals of masculinity and femininity, feminine and masculine paradigms, the social construction of reality, human nature, reason, sex and gender, ego and self, autonomy, caring and maternal thinking, the implications of feminist thought for concepts of language, authorship, literature, and the feminist claims concerning the epistemological role of theory, practice and experience. The philosophy of non-Western cultures will be considered in the light of the feminist critique.

PHIL 317. Existentialism (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Alternate years.

A study of existentialism from its 19th-century beginnings with Kierkegaard and Nietzsche to the work of Jaspers, Heidegger, and Sartre. Topics that will be treated include the existentialist view of human existence, the concepts of anxiety, dread, and the absurd, the will to power, and the significance of human mortality. Both the methodological foundations of existentialism in the phenomenology of Husserl and its literary roots in such writers as Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, and Camus will be treated.

PHIL 319. Philosophy of Love and Sexuality (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Alternate Years.

This course will trace the development of the concept of Eros (sexual love, desire) through selected readings from the Western philosophical tradition. Topics to be covered include the attainability of “true love,” the ethical imperatives of faithfulness and monogamy, the roles of masculinity and femininity, and the categorization of “normal” and “abnormal” sexual behavior. This course will focus upon several issues: 1) why the question of Eros is fundamentally a question of human existence; 2) why certain sexual values have become privileged in our culture; and 3) if these values are conducive to living a good life. Authors to be studied include Plato, Augustine, Freud, Jung, Kristeva, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Merleau-Ponty.

PHIL 320. Scientific Reasoning (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered at least once every two years.

An analysis of scientific reasoning in the natural and social sciences. Topics to be discussed will include the role of observation and its relation to theory, the nature of abstraction, generalization, experimentation, induction, probabilistic and statistical reasoning, the role of mathematics, and the use of deductive models of explanation, theory as interpretation, the role of language, the epistemological significance of the history of science, the distinction between the humanities and the sciences, and the relation between technological thinking and scientific thinking.

PHIL 321. Legal Reasoning (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior or senior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every two years.

The course teaches legal reasoning through a case study method. Students will learn how to synthesize rules by reasoning from the general to the specific and from the specific to the general. The use of deduction and analogy will be examined in the context of the jury system. Students learn about the functions of the trial and the court of appeals, jurisdiction, choice of law theory, rule/policy analysis, and the role and impact of statutes and precedence. The kind of reasoning that is involved in applying law to individual cases will be studied. The course will examine theories of legal decision making and legal interpretation

from its enlightenment origins through post-realist legal thought. Students will interpret constitutional law decisions from the point of view of Legal Formalism, Legal Realism and Post-Realist Legal Thought.

PHIL 323. Philosophy of Mind and Machine Intelligence (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

An examination of the most recent literature in philosophy on topics pertaining to the nature of mind and the design of intelligent mechanical systems. The perennial questions of philosophy concerning the nature of consciousness, knowledge, mind, reason, and freedom of the will shall be considered in the light of technological developments in the field of artificial intelligence.

PHIL 326W. Philosophy in the Movies-WI (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 101-102 or 123 effective fall 04-spring 06, and junior standing.

Offered once every other year.

A philosophical and experiential exploration of philosophical concepts within popular film. Course will focus on different themes each time it is taught. Themes will include images of good and evil, images of the future, science, technology, and humanities’ relationship to the environment; images of women, love and sex; images of justice, the law, and the cosmos. Satisfies Writing Intensive Requirement.

PHIL 348. Indian Philosophy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

A study of the history of Indian philosophy using original source material. Emphasis will be placed upon the development of Hindu and Buddhist thought through a study of the major classics of Indian philosophy such as the Bhagavad Gita, the Samkhya Karika, Shankara’s Commentary on the Vedanta Sutras, the Pali Canons, the Prajnaparamita Sutra, and the Surangama Sutra. Topics will include varieties of knowledge, liberation and enlightenment, the nature of the self and substance, techniques of meditation and concentration, and theories of action.

PHIL 349. Islamic Philosophy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

A study of the history of Islamic philosophy using original source material. The origins of Islamic thought will be examined in Greek and Neo-Platonic philosophy and in the literary tradition founded in interpretations of the Koran. Such thinkers as Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Al-Ghazali, Al-Arabi, and Rumi will be read and discussed with an emphasis on the development of the philosophical and religious themes in the tradition of Islam.

PHIL 350. Chinese Philosophy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

A study of the history of Chinese philosophy using original source material. An emphasis will be placed upon the

development of Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist thought and the variety of reactions, which these world views engendered within the Chinese tradition. Major classics such as the Analects, the Great Learning, Doctrine of the Mean, the Mencius, the Tao Te Ching, the Chuang Tzu the writings of Wang Yang Ming and Chu Hsi, and Mahayana sutras in the Buddhist tradition will be read and discussed.

PHIL 355. Japanese Philosophy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered at least once every three years.

The course will examine the developments of the traditions of Shintoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Zen Buddhism and the evolution of Japanese aesthetics in the intellectual tradition of Japan. Selections from sources such as The Vimalakirti Sutra, the Lotus Sutra, the Prajnaparamita Sutra, the Lankavatara Sutra, the writings of Kukai, Honen, Eisai, Bankei, Dogen and others representative of the major intellectual trends will be read and discussed. The course is intended to give an overview of Japanese culture with an emphasis upon its roots in its philosophical tradition.

PHIL 357. Comparative Philosophy [formerly PHIL 421]

Prerequisite: PHIL 201G, 202G, 348, 350, or 355 and junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

Major texts and authors of the Western and Asian traditions will be compared and contrasted. Emphasis will be placed upon modern intellectual developments in the cultures of China, India, Japan, Europe, and the United States. Selections from the major writings of Neo-Confucianism and Neo-Taoism in China, of the schools of the Vedanta and Yoga in India, of contemporary sects of Buddhism in Japan, and of European existentialism and the tradition of Analytic Philosophy in England and the United States will be read and discussed. Such thinkers as Wang Yang Ming, Chu Hsi, Shankara, Krishnamurti, Dogen, Nishida, Heidegger, and Wittgenstein will be covered.

PHIL 374. Business Ethics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Fall and Spring.

Examines the role of ethics in the business context. The utilitarian and Kantian theories are dealt with to suggest solutions to ethical problems in these and similar areas: fairness in hiring and promotion policies; the employee's right to privacy and legitimate employer interest; the polygraph; management philosophies; conflicts of interest and bribery; responsibility to the consumer for information and safety; fair treatment of women and minorities; youth, age, and seniority; care for nature and the environment.

PHIL 376. Environmental Ethics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Alternate years.

The course will analyze the major philosophical issues in the field of environmental ethics. Some of the topics will include the historical roots of the environmental crisis, a land ethic, intrinsic natural value, biocentrism, and

biodiversity, the role of science and the scientific method, the aesthetic value of nature, animal rights, strong and weak anthropocentrism, Ecotheology, Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, environmental economics, Buddhist and Taoist attitudes toward nature. In addition to Western metaphysical and ethical systems, non-Western cultures and primal societies will be considered. The course will read and discuss major articles and essays in the literature of the environmental movement.

PHIL 380. Philosophy of Tragedy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

The purpose of this course is to discern the history of philosophy the tension between a rational world view and what may be called a "tragic consciousness" which challenges any absolute claims for philosophy, science, or ethics, and thus may be considered as a precursor to twentieth-century postmodern deliberations upon the validity of any absolute moral claims. Specifically, this course will explore the tensions and affinities among art, metaphysics, and ethics, particularly through the discourse of philosophers upon the art form of tragedy. Through this study, students will gain an understanding that the questions raised in both philosophy and in art seek meaning and value for human existence. Works to be studied include Sophocles' *Antigone*, Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Poetics*, Kant's *Critique of Judgement*, Heidegger's *Introduction to Metaphysics* and *The Origin of the Work of Art*, and Merleau-Ponty's *Eye and Mind*.

PHIL 382. Philosophy of Technology (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

Course will examine the nature of technology in terms of how it relates to traditional philosophical issues in the theory of knowledge, metaphysics, religion, philosophical anthropology, the distinction between human and machine, and in theories of culture and social values. Current developments in information technology, telecommunications, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, and computer technology will be considered in particular. The course will combine traditional philosophical concerns with the latest developments in technology.

PHIL 383. Applied Social Ethics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every two years.

The purpose of this course is to enlighten students who plan to work in service-oriented fields (such as social work, education, psychology, or nursing) of the ethical, social, and political issues, which will arise in their professional decision-making. Specific emphasis will be placed upon the study of fundamental ethical theories (Kantian, Utilitarian, Feminist, etc.) and the application of these theories to professional situations where moral dilemmas may arise. Professional issues to be considered include: informed consent, confidentiality, professional-client relationships, and the allocation of scarce resources. Specific codes of eth-

ics, such as those of social work and nursing, will be addressed. This course also will give special attention to vulnerable populations, groups which have been excluded from society's dominant power bases. Topics to be discussed in this area include: definitions of social justice and injustice, racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, disability, work and welfare issues, family and reproductive issues, affirmative action, education, identity politics, and cultural pluralism. Case studies will mediate the discussion of these issues.

PHIL 384. Medical Ethics (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.
Fall, Spring and Summer.*

The focus is on value issues in medicine. The aspects of moral theory relevant to problems in medicine are treated, and recent biomedical technology is examined briefly to discover where value issues arise. The moral problems attending birth and death are treated, abortion and the beginning of human life, severe congenital defects, rights of the dying, the definition and the determination of death. Moral issues in the relation between the health care provider and the patient are treated: confidentiality, informed consent, how much the patient should be told, screening for genetic disease, etc., experimenting with human subjects. Also covered are the moral problems of behavior modification and control; genetic engineering, psychosurgery, the insanity plea, and involuntary commitment. Finally, attention is also devoted to problems of social justice and health care delivery: medicine in the market place, the health maintenance organization, the putative right to health care, and the allocation of scarce resources.

PHIL 386. Values and Postmodernity (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.
Offered once every two years.*

The rapid changes of the twentieth century, often called a postmodern era, have significantly challenged modern enlightenment ideals of individuality, free will, justice, and the good life. This course will consider, from the perspective of postmodernity, the dynamic relationship between the personal and the political. Although primary emphasis will be given to nineteenth- and twentieth-century texts, historical readings will also be included. Suggested readings include selections from Marx, Nietzsche, Arendt, Derrida, Foucault, Lyotard, Deleuze and Guattari, as well as readings from the areas of American pragmatism, feminism, and multiculturalism.

PHIL 388. Crisis and Culture (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.
Offered once every two years.*

Many of the cultural institutions of the West have become fragmented and weakened by the rapid scientific and technological advances of the last century, which often have challenged traditional conceptions of who we are as human beings and how we find meaning in our existence. Friedrich Nietzsche argued that this crisis of culture resulted from a fundamental "devaluation" of our values. This course will

explore what factors may have led to this devaluation of values or "nihilistic" attitude, as well as how we can again instill our culture and our lives with meaning, even if not in any absolutist sense (the "revaluation" of values). Besides Nietzsche, authors to be studied include Freud and Heidegger; readings from critical theory and feminism may also be included.

PHIL 395. Special Topics in Philosophy (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: three hours of philosophy or consent of instructor.
Fall and Spring.*

The following topics or similar ones will be offered on the basis of student interest: eras such as British empiricism; elementary logical theory; and methods of inductive reasoning, philosophy of law, philosophy of mind.

PHIL 399. Philosophy of the Holocaust (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of the instructor.
Offered once every three years.*

This course will examine the events of the Holocaust and the philosophical reflections that the Holocaust has provoked. A concrete and existential understanding of the perspectives, beliefs and experiences of the victims, perpetrators, accomplices, and bystanders is sought through reading first hand accounts and video footage. The ideological foundations of National Socialism as a political, social, economic, and philosophical movement will be studied by looking at its racial and political theories, its eugenics policies, its theories of history, technology, culture and the land. The course will consider the theories of evil, theories of human nature, the concept of technology, the concept of God, the concept of culture and civilization, the use and abuse of language, the meaning of the Holocaust, the relation between power and politics, the dilemma of choice, the difficulty of "representing" the Holocaust, the incomprehensibility of the Holocaust, the uniqueness and universality of the Holocaust, and Holocaust denial.

PHIL 451. Great Ancient Philosophers (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.
Offered once every three years.*

A comprehensive examination of the writings of one of the major thinkers of the ancient or medieval period, such as Parmenides, Plato, or Aristotle, Confucius, Chuang Tzu, Mo Tzu, and Nagarjuna.

PHIL 452. Great Modern and Contemporary Philosophers (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.
Offered once every three years.*

A comprehensive examination of the writings of one of the major thinkers of the period from the 1500 A.D. to the present, such as Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Shankara, Wang Yang Ming, and Ghandi.

PHIL 460. Formal Logic (3-3-0)

*Prerequisite: PHIL 101 or its equivalent.
Offered once every three years.*

This course is an examination of formal languages. The aim will be to introduce students to some of the basic compo-

nents of some commonly used formal languages. Some of the languages to be investigated include mathematics, traditional symbolic logic, computer languages and other languages where symbols and formal syntactic rules predominate. The course will focus on the interface between natural language and formal languages and consider how formal languages serve as useful tools and whether or not formal languages provide insight into natural languages and into traditional epistemological issues.

PHIL 465. Advanced Critical Thinking (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: PHIL 101 or its equivalent.

Offered once every three years.

Both theoretical and operational problems of advanced critical thinking are considered, e.g. that of generalizability or the role of skills and dispositions in recent work by Robert H. Ennis. Advanced problems of argument analysis e.g. the distinction of linked and convergent, the merits of different analytical schemes, criteria for premise relevance, the relation of argument to explanation and inference, as well as arguments by analogy and conditional arguments, are among topics to be considered in such writers as Trudy Govier, Alec Fisher, and James K. Freeman. Different theories of informal logical fallacies will be examined in the work of John Woods, Douglas N. Walton, Ralph H. Johnson, and J. Anthony Blair.

PHIL 490W. Senior Seminar-WI (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 101-102 or 123 effective fall 04-spring 06, and Philosophy major with senior standing.

Fall or spring.

The course has a seminar format in which students are guided in the writing of a major research paper. In addition to instructor supervision, students provide feedback, commentary, and analysis of each other's work. Required for all philosophy majors. Satisfies Writing Intensive Requirement

PHIL 491. Practicum (credits vary)

Prerequisite: philosophy major with senior standing.

Offered on request.

This course provides opportunities for students interested in applying critical thinking, value analysis, and philosophical concepts generally, to field and professions outside the academic setting. Students are placed in national and regional environmental programs, hospices, national intelligence agencies, and in hospital administrations.

PHIL 495. Advanced Topics in Philosophy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: six hours of philosophy or consent of instructor.

Offered once every three years.

The following topics or similar ones will be offered on the basis of student interest: areas such as presocratic philosophy; modal logic; philosophy of language; philosophy of mind; action theory; decision theory; theories of justice.

PHIL 499. Independent Study (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: Philosophy major with senior standing.

Offered on request.

A research project involving substantial reading on a spe-

cific problem, theme, or the work of an individual philosopher. The research is supervised by a staff member who must approve the project before registration. A research paper is required.

THE CURRICULUM IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RSTD 211G. Introduction to World Religions I (3-3-0)

Fall, Spring and Summer.

An introduction to major ancient and modern religious traditions of the world, such as Goddess religions, indigenous American, African, and Australian religions, the religions of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome, Hinduism, Buddhism, and modern Asian and Middle Eastern religions (i.e., Sikhism, Baha'i, and Japanese new religions). In the course of exploring the historical and conceptual aspects of these religions, thematic issues, such as myth, ritual, the problem of evil, and the epistemological status of religion will be addressed.

RSTD 212G. Introduction to World Religions II (3-3-0)

A continuation of RSTD 211G (each course is self-contained and may be taken out of order).

Fall, Spring and Summer.

Using the same approach described in the preceding entry, this course will explore a number of ancient and modern religious traditions, such as Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, modern Western religions (Protestantism, Mormonism, Christian Science, and contemporary New Age movements).

RSTD 232. The Vision of Christianity (3-3-0)

Offered once every two years.

An introduction to major events, persons, issues, and ideas within the development of the Christian tradition. Special attention is given to the early years of formation within the worlds of Palestinian Judaism and of the Roman Empire and to modern tensions with science and secularism. Topics include: theological debates regarding the nature of Jesus, the Trinity, the nature of salvation, faith and reason; the development of the church as an institution; the authority of the Bible; the role of rituals and sacraments.

RSTD 320. The Vision of Hinduism (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Offered once every two years.

An ancient Hindu visionary proclaimed, "Truth is one, though religious teachers call it by many names" (*Rig-Veda*). In other words, truth is universal and not the possession of any one religion. Yet, due to the different contexts within which human beings experience the sacred, there are many different ways of envisioning the universal truths of religion. Hinduism is rich with such visionary encounters with truth, as expressed, for instance, in the Vedas, the Upanishads, Vedanta, and Yoga. Depending on the focus of the course when it is offered, these topics may be addressed along with others, such as the guru-disciple relationship, worship of the gods, temple architecture and rituals, caste, paths to enlightenment, mythology, devotional poetry, and religious philosophy.