COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

PHL U100 Philosophy at Northeastern 1 SH
Intended for freshmen in the College of Arts and Sciences. Introduces freshmen to the liberal arts in general; familiarizes them with their major; helps them develop the academic skills necessary to succeed (analytical ability and critical thinking); provides grounding in the culture and values of the University community; and helps them develop interpersonal skills—in short, familiarizes students with all skills needed to become a successful university student.

PHL U101 Introduction to Philosophy 4 SH
Introduces students to philosophy by acquainting them with the theories and arguments of classical and contemporary philosophers and by teaching skills of constructing and analyzing arguments. Emphasizes philosophical inquiry. Topics include the basis of morality, free will vs. determinism, the existence of God, the problem of suffering, and the nature of knowledge.

PHL U102 Introduction to Contemporary Moral Issues 4 SH
Focuses on current controversial issues and moral debates. Specific topics vary but include subjects like abortion, euthanasia, global poverty, economic justice, affirmative action, gender relations, animal rights, the environment, the death penalty, war, cloning, and same-sex marriage. Offers an opportunity to learn to apply both the methods of philosophical analysis and various ethical and political theories to these controversies.

PHL U103 Women's Studies 4 SH
Overviews an interdisciplinary field that continues to vitalize our understanding of the world theoretically, methodologically, and practically. Seeks to understand and change the gender hierarchies that shape and constrain people’s lives. Examines various perspectives on the social construction of gender—what it means socially to be a woman or man—and the ways in which gender is a central organizing principle in our lives. Examines, analyzes, and challenges gender differences, stereotypes, and inequalities. Researchers in the field also inquire into the ways in which women deploy their gender identities to participate in social movements, both political and religious, to address issues of women’s health and control over reproduction, as well as to challenge social norms in their roles as writers, artists, and activists. Same as INT U103, HST U103, and SOC U103.

PHL U104 Goddesses, Witches, Saints, and Sinners: Women in Western Religions 4 SH
 Begins with an analysis of the theory that original Western religion was goddess centered. Examines image, text, and ritual in the ancient world to analyze this theory and to explore what some scholars call the patriarchalization of these primal religions. Looks at the way that goddesses of the ancient world became saints or sinners under the newly constituted patriarchy. Includes a consideration of scripture such as the Hebrew Bible, Greek Testament, and Qu’ran as well as noncanonical texts. Prereq. Not open to students who have completed PHL U103 except by permission of instructor.

PHL U105 Introduction to Scientific Method 4 SH
Offers a philosophical introduction to the scientific world picture. Traces the development of the concepts basic to science from the Greeks to the present century, emphasizing the scope and limits of scientific explanation, the relation of theory and observation, and the relations between the sciences.

PHL U110 Introduction to Religion 4 SH
Seeks to identify and appraise different ways of being religious: primitive, mystical, dogmatic, and ritualistic. Emphasizes appreciating the unique standpoint that each requires, how each sees the world in a radically different way, and how that leads to distinctive ways of life.

PHL U114 Critical Reasoning 4 SH
Introduces the skills and techniques of reasoning, stressing applications to issues in diverse professional, personal, and social contexts.

PHL U115 Introduction to Logic 4 SH
Introduces the logic of propositions and the syllogism. Examines principles of critical reasoning and fallacies. Offers practice in applying logical techniques to the creation and criticism of arguments. Same as LIN U115.

PHL U130 Ethics: East and West 4 SH
Explores claims in both Eastern and Western philosophy that a way of life exists that leads to happiness, power, and wisdom. Focuses on such questions as: Is there a best way to live? Is there a way a human being should live? Studies the thought of such philosophers as Socrates, Buddha, Plato, Aristotle, Lao Tzu, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, Aquinas, and Spinoza, as well as studies some of the classical Hindu and Buddhist texts.
PHL U145 Technology and Human Values  4 SH
Examines the changing values of the modern, technologically
advanced world. Attempts to increase our understanding of the
supposed breach between the literary and scientific cultures,
the diverse approaches towards their reconciliation, and the
human dimensions of science and technology. Topics include
the neutrality of technology with respect to good or evil
uses, technology as an instrument for human liberation, and
the issue of proper and effective modes of controlling
technology in today's world.

PHL U150 Understanding the Bible  4 SH
Introduces students to the Old and New Testaments, so that
they may enter into a dialogue with the Bible, understanding
not only what it says, but why it is said that way. To do this,
discussion focuses on the Bible's social, political and cultural
backgrounds.

PHL U165 Moral and Social Problems in Health Care  4 SH
Introduces ethical theories and moral principles, and then uses
these theories and principles to analyze the moral problems
that arise in the medical context. Topics include euthanasia,
medical paternalism, informed consent, patient confidentiality,
the right to die, the ethics of medical research, abortion, the
right to health care, distribution of scarce medical resources,
and the ethical implications of health maintenance
organizations.

PHL U170 Business Ethics  4 SH
Examines ethical principles and considerations involved in
making moral business decisions. Studies basic ethical
viewpoints as a foundation; analyzes specific characteristics of
business life through case studies and examples. Topics
include corporate responsibility, employee rights, conflict of
interest and roles, advertising and information disclosure,
environmental issues, and self- and governmental regulations.

PHL U180 Environmental Ethics  4 SH
Focuses on a current ecological crisis and addresses the values
that underlie our concern over this crisis, whether the values at
issue are anthropocentric or biocentric. Explores the ethical
implications these ecological concerns have for our individual
lifestyles, and for our role as members of communities.

PHL U200 Symbolic Logic  4 SH
Focuses on the syntax and semantics of propositional logic and
first-order quantification theory. Considers relations between
these systems and natural language. Covers analysis of the
notion of derivation within a system, the notion of logical
consequence, and practice in analyzing logical structure in
natural language sentences. Same as LIN U215.

PHL U220 The Meaning of Death  4 SH
Offers an inquiry into different philosophical and religious
perspectives on death and life after death, including an
examination of some powerful contemporary accounts of
personal confrontation with death along with investigations
into attitudes toward death in other traditions (for example, Hinduism and Buddhism).

PHL U230 Sound, Music, and Religion  4 SH
Explores the relationship between religion, sound, and musical
expression. Particular attention is paid to the interpretive and
symbolic understandings of sonic expressions of religiosity
including chanting, mantra use, choir and congregational
singing, and speaking in tongues. Objectives are to familiarize
the students with some of the key sonic expressions within the
Christian, Islamic, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions, to explore
the methods of studying musical and sonic theology, and to
analyze these traditions' own debates about the use of sound
and music in religious practice.

PHL U231 Image and Icon in South Asia  4 SH
Explores the relationship between South Asian religions and
artistic expression. Examines the variety and identifying
features of many Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist temples and
images. Particular attention is paid to the interpretive and
symbolic understandings of these expressions. Explores the
idea of the embodiment of a deity within an image and
challenges such an idea in the readings. This course's
objectives are: to familiarize the students with the iconography
of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism in South Asia; to explore
the methods of studying iconography and visual theology; and
to analyze these traditions’ own debates about the use of icons
and images.

PHL U265 Latin American Religions  4 SH
Explores the major religious traditions of Latin America-
indigenous, Christian, and African-and how they have
influenced one another, resulting in the syncretisms and
religious cultures of our own day.

PHL U270 Western Religions  4 SH
Explores how Western religion is grounded in the experience of
God's presence, which transcends and transfigures the life of
the individual and the community. This encounter is the
essence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Drawing on
autobiography and biography, this course delves into the
personal religious quests of such major religious thinkers as St.
Augustine, St. Theresa, Martin Luther, Elie Wiesel, Richard
Rubenstein, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Mohammed.
PHL U272 Ethics in the World’s Religions 4 SH
Examines the ethical systems emerging from various religions. Includes Eastern religions with an emphasis on the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and the different stances taken within the branches of each religion. Explores, for example, different perspectives among various types of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Examines the religious ethics of various indigenous peoples, Native Americans, Australian Aborigines, Maori, and some of the African peoples.

PHL U273 Jainism 4 SH
Explores Jainism, one of the world’s oldest religious traditions. The Jain community—a small but influential one mostly concentrated in western India—presents us with a complex and fascinating philosophy, a lively temple and ritual culture, and a full year of fasts and festivals. Jainism offers both the most thorough examination of the value of nonviolence and an unprecedented prominence of women within the tradition both in the texts and in practice. Finally, Jainism is a religion of people, and the course examines both their religious lives and the ways their religion affects their socioeconomics. An in-depth look at Jainism demonstrates its importance in the development of Asian religions.

PHL U275 Eastern Religions 4 SH
Examines Hinduism, Jainism, Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto within South Asia (India) and east Asia (China and Japan). Combines readings in primary source materials (the religious texts of these traditions) with secondary examinations of the historical and doctrinal developments within each tradition and region. This course intends to give students a context in which to examine the ways in which religions develop in interlocking sociocultural and political contexts and to provide a grounding in the lived experiences of these religious traditions.

PHL U276 Indian Religions 4 SH
Traces the development of religious thought in India. South Asian religion is marked by the ongoing dialogues between the South Asian traditions we call Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism (as well as Buddhism and Islam, which are covered in separate courses). The interaction between these traditions shows the ways each defined itself independently and in response to challenges presented by the others.

PHL U280 Islam 4 SH
Explores the history of Islam, its conflicts with the West in past and present, Islamic beliefs, the future of Islam as a world religion, and relations of Islamic faith. Examines social, political, and legal issues as well as the more familiar religious and theological questions.

PHL U285 Jewish Religion and Culture 4 SH
Explores the basic features of Judaism in the ancient, rabbinic, and modern periods. Employs an historical critical approach to the formative texts and their interpreters. Analyzes Jewish practices within specific historical contexts and discusses the ways in which practices relate to the texts and history of Judaism. Examines the rich varieties of Jewish cultural expressions. Same as INT U285.

PHL U286 American Judaism 4 SH
Explores Jewish theology, ethics, thought, and praxis in the United States beginning with the arrival of the first Jewish settlers in colonial times and culminating with an inquiry into the contemporary scene. Explores topics such as the challenges Judaism faced as it confronted a culture in which religion was both personal and voluntary; responded to the horrors of Hitler’s Germany; engaged the issues raised with the re-establishment of the nation of Israel; faced the developments of new forms of Judaism; and reacted to issues of Jewish identity, diversity, and gender as they were raised in the late twentieth century.

PHL U290 Chinese Philosophy and Religion 4 SH
Offers a study of Chinese philosophy as developed in the traditions of Confucianism, Taoism, and the I Ching.

PHL U295 Religious Perspectives on Health and Healing 4 SH
Explores aspects of the historical, religious, and cultural context for contemporary alternatives in health care, beginning with an examination of several examples of traditional healing practices and their accompanying religious and philosophical views about human life. Explores this “holistic” tradition in two frames of reference: the ascendancy of scientific rationalism over religion; and the takeover, by male-dominated professions, of healing functions that society has traditionally assigned to women (that is, the rise of obstetrics and the suppression of midwifery). Emphasizes major women healers of the nineteenth century. Includes some contemporary efforts at integration of scientific and traditional values in the modern health-care system.

PHL U300 Mysticism 4 SH
Looks primarily at mysticism in the major world religions, with an emphasis on Western mystics. Investigates the role of mysticism in some of the tribal religions of Africa and North America and compares the perceptions of the various forms. Looks at the ways in which the mystics are part of the larger traditions, such as cabala within Judaism, mysticism within Christianity, and Sufism within Islam. Describes the extent to which the cultural settings of the religions play a role in the form of mysticism that arises in the dominant religion. Prereq. 4 SH of philosophy and religion or permission of instructor.
Course Descriptions

PHL U301 Philosophical Problems of Law and Justice 4 SH
Focuses on general questions about the law: What is the nature and proper scope of the law? How should the law be enforced and are there alternatives to punishment? How can laws be properly interpreted? Examples of legal controversies are related to the theories studied. Prereq. 4 SH of philosophy at the 100-level or sophomore standing.

PHL U302 Philosophical Problems of War and Peace 4 SH
Concentrates on ethical and philosophical issues about war and peace. Focuses on the nature and justification of war, moral questions about tactics in war, ideas for avoiding war, concepts of and strategies for attaining peace, and the morality of relations between nations. Prereq. 4 SH of philosophy at the 100-level or sophomore standing.

PHL U303 Social and Political Philosophy 4 SH
Focuses on basic questions about the nature of the state and the relationship of individuals to the state. What basis is there for individuals to obey the laws of the state? What conditions must a government meet to be legitimate? What justification can be given for democratic forms of government? Also examines what sorts of controls the state should exert over citizens, and what benefits citizens have a right to expect from the state. Includes readings from both classical and contemporary sources. Prereq. 4 SH of philosophy at the 100-level or sophomore standing.

PHL U304 Philosophical Problems of Economic Justice 4 SH
Attempts to answer the questions: What is economic justice? What are the criteria by which we tell whether a society is (or is not) an economically just society? Looks at views on these issues developed by advocates of capitalism, socialism, and the welfare state. Prereq. 4 SH of philosophy at the 100-level or sophomore standing.

PHL U314 Biblical Prophets and Their Interpreters 4 SH
Analyzes several key prophets of the Hebrew Bible, such as Amos, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. Explores the cultural and historical contexts in which their prophecies originally arose. Examines the various ways in which prophecy has been interpreted within both Judaism and Christianity. Prereq. 4 SH of philosophy and religion or permission of instructor.

PHL U316 Interpreting the Bible 4 SH
Offers students the opportunity to understand the Bible as it is continually interpreted by believing communities in their own social and religious contexts. By appreciating the process of scriptural interpretation and the various sources of authority for it, allows us to see contemporary theological conflicts in a broader perspective. Prereq. PHL U150.

PHL U322 Responses to the Holocaust 4 SH
Examines the variety of responses to the mass death brought on by the Holocaust. Examines the responses of theology, and literature, as well as relevant ethical issues. Prereq. One philosophy course.

PHL U325 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy 4 SH
Examines the writings of two major medieval Christian philosophers (Augustine and Aquinas), two major medieval Muslim philosophers (al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd [Averroës]), and two major medieval Jewish philosophers (Saadia Gaon and Maimonides). Focuses on the following themes: the conception of sin, God’s existence, the problem of God’s foreknowledge and our free will, God’s nature, God’s justice, the creation of the universe, the priority of reason versus faith, the literal versus metaphorical nature of religious language, and the soul’s immortality. Prereq. 8 SH of philosophy.

PHL U327 Medieval Western Philosophy 4 SH
Examines the writings of two major medieval Christian philosophers (Augustine and Aquinas), two major medieval Muslim philosophers (al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd [Averroës]), and two major medieval Jewish philosophers (Saadia Gaon and Maimonides). Focuses on the following themes: the conception of sin, God’s existence, the problem of God’s foreknowledge and our free will, God’s nature, God’s justice, the creation of the universe, the priority of reason versus faith, the literal versus metaphorical nature of religious language, and the soul’s immortality. Prereq. 8 SH of philosophy.

PHL U330 Modern Philosophy 4 SH
Focuses on the hundred years between 1650 and 1750, sometimes called “the century of genius.” It was a period in which philosophers reacted to the new scientific discoveries of Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo. Out of this reaction came new ways of thinking about the nature of knowledge and the nature of reality. Focuses on such major figures as the rationalists Descartes, Leibniz, and Spinoza, and the empiricists Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U335 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy 4 SH
Examines the writings of two major medieval Christian philosophers (Augustine and Aquinas), two major medieval Muslim philosophers (al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd [Averroës]), and two major medieval Jewish philosophers (Saadia Gaon and Maimonides). Focuses on the following themes: the conception of sin, God’s existence, the problem of God’s foreknowledge and our free will, God’s nature, God’s justice, the creation of the universe, the priority of reason versus faith, the literal versus metaphorical nature of religious language, and the soul’s immortality. Prereq. 8 SH of philosophy.

PHL U340 Philosophy of Human Nature 4 SH
Focuses on various attributes of human beings, such as intelligence, sexuality, and language, in the context of biological, psychological, linguistic, and philosophical views of human nature. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U343 Existentialism 4 SH
Examines existentialist philosophy in its greatest representatives, such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Camus, and Sartre. Focuses on central themes including self-alienation, inauthenticity, authenticity, and existential experiences. Prereq. Three philosophy courses.
PHL U350 Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy 4 SH
Examines some of the main ideas and thinkers in twentieth-century continental philosophy as represented by such philosophers as Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Ricoeur, Gadamer, Habermas, and Derrida. Prereq. PHL U325 and PHL U330.

PHL U355 Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy 4 SH
Explores some of the main ideas and thinkers in twentieth-century analytic philosophy as represented by such philosophers as Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, the logical positivists, Quine, Popper, and Rawls. Prereq. PHL U325 and PHL U330.

PHL U360 American Philosophy 4 SH
Studies major American thinkers including the classic pragmatists Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, John Dewey, as well as their predecessors and successors. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U385 History of Jewish Rationalism 4 SH
Studies the Jewish rational tradition from Philo (first century C.E.) to Spinoza (seventeenth century C.E.). Emphasis is on tracking the development of the rationalist commitment within the tradition and its interaction with religious doctrine and faith. Among the thinkers studied are Philo, Saadia Gaon, Judah Halevi, Maimonides, Gersonides, and Spinoza. Prereq. PHL U325 and PHL U330 or permission of instructor.

PHL U387 Religion, Nation, and Identity in Modern Jewish Thought 4 SH
Examines the thought of major Jewish thinkers of the modern era. May include such figures as Spinoza, Mendelssohn, Buber, Rosenzweig, Kaplan, Heschel, and Rubenstein. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U390 Cults and Sects 4 SH
Offers an examination of the varieties of religious experience from the perspectives of sociology and psychology of religion. Focuses on such cultic and sectarian groups as Christian Science, the American Shakers, the Unification Church, the Hare Krishna movement, and the Black Muslims. Provides students the opportunity to acquire critical investigative tools with which to analyze different religious expressions. Prereq. PHL U150 or two philosophy courses.

PHL U393 Asian Religions in the United States 4 SH
Examines challenges from Americans to Asian religions and from Asians to the American interpretations of Asian religions. Asian religions in the United States include two basic groups of believers. The first are the immigrant communities and their children who retain their religion and reinterpret this tradition in the North American setting. The second group are American converts to Asian religions who recreate the traditions to answer their needs. While no religion is static, the movement of a tradition to a new land always involves a certain amount of reinterpretation. Also explores some of the challenges of a study such as this class. Prereq. PHL U275 or permission of instructor.

PHL U395 Ramayana 4 SH
Examines the Ramayana, the story of Ram, Lakshmana, Sita, and Hanuman—from Ram’s exile and Sita’s abduction to the victorious battle to recapture her—one of the world’s great epics and a central religious story for Hindus. Explores the classical Sanskrit Ramayana, regional variants, subverted interpretations, and pop culture representations. From Sanskrit text recitation to ritual dance-drama performances, from comic books and a television series to Hindu nationalist politics, the Ramayana has provided a ground for debates about what it means to be a good king, what it means to be a good person, and also what it means to be Hindu. All texts are read in English. Prereq. PHL U275 or permission of instructor; prior knowledge about Hinduism would be very useful.

PHL U398 Religion and Culture in Indian Cinema 4 SH
Explores the intersecting discourses of gender, nationalism, and religion in India through the lens of Hindi cinema and the framework of the expanding scholarship on Indian cinema. Film is a particularly powerful medium for analyzing the representations of a culture. India boasts the largest film industry and film viewing audiences in the world. The course centers around Hindi popular cinema (Bollywood) but includes films from art cinema (New Cinema) and diaspora films for contrast with the mainstream cinema. Students are expected to watch films weekly and read corresponding work in cinema studies, gender studies, and religious studies. All films are subtitled in English. Same as CIN U398. Prereq. PHL U275 or permission of instructor.

PHL U410 Religion and Spirituality in the African Diaspora 4 SH
Examines religious thought and rituals and its Diaspora in a comparative context. Topics include traditional religions, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism in Africa and the diaspora. Emphasizes the transformation of religions practiced in Africa when African captives were forced into the three slave trades affecting the continent of Africa: trans-Saharan, Indian Ocean, and transatlantic. Same as AFR U410. Prereq. Sophomore standing or above.
PHL U435 Moral Philosophy 4 SH
Explores two basic questions: What sorts of things are good or bad? What actions are right or wrong? Covers major philosophical theories about the nature of morality—whether it is relative or absolute, whether it accords or conflicts with self-interest. Such classic theories as utilitarianism and Kant are examined as well as contemporary developments and debates. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U440 Aesthetics 4 SH
Explores aesthetics, the philosophical analysis of concepts and the solution of problems that arise contemplating the arts. It is concerned with the nature of artistic expression and with the standards for judging art. Aesthetics asks the following questions: What features make objects beautiful or ugly? Are aesthetic qualities objective or “in the eye of the beholder”? Are there objective standards for the evaluation of art? Also considers how we can justify interpretations of art, music, or literature. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U445 Philosophy of Religion 4 SH
Asks the basic question, “Does God exist?” Examines several major arguments affirming and criticizing the notion of God’s existence. Explores a central problem in recent philosophy of religion of whether or not it makes any sense to speak of the truth or falsity of religious belief, as well as the implication an answer to that issue has for religious life. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U460 Philosophy and Literature 4 SH
Provides the student the opportunity to learn to recognize, appreciate, and criticize philosophical themes in literature. Includes readings from acknowledged classics by philosophical authors. Prereq. Two philosophy courses.

PHL U465 Advanced Medical Ethics 4 SH
Designed for students with a background in moral philosophy or medical ethics. Takes an in-depth look at one major moral problem in medicine. Topics may include AIDS, euthanasia, or reproduction. Prereq. PHL U165 or PHL U435.

PHL U480 Environmental Philosophy 4 SH
Examines philosophical issues that arise in the context of human interactions with the natural environment. Emphasis is on the conceptual dimensions of these issues. Although many of these issues are ethical, they are also metaphysical and epistemological. There are also a number of significant methodological questions that arise in addressing them. Prereq. PHL U180, PHL U435, or permission of instructor.

PHL U500 Theory of Knowledge 4 SH
Focuses on questions about the nature and justification of claims to knowledge. Is there genuine knowledge? How do we tell when a belief or theory is sufficiently justified to count as knowledge? Discusses theories such as various forms of rationalism, empiricism, and skepticism. Requires careful reading of works by such influential thinkers as René Descartes, Bertrand Russell, A. J. Ayer, and T. S. Kuhn. Prereq. PHL U330 and two philosophy courses.

PHL U505 Metaphysics 4 SH
Considers central problems and theories concerning the nature of reality, with special attention to such areas as the relation between mind and matter, free will and determinism, and criteria of existence. Prereq. PHL U330 and two philosophy courses.

PHL U510 Philosophy of Science 4 SH
Focuses on the nature of scientific method, scientific theories, and scientific explanations. Examines the central question of why science is thought to provide the most reliable account of the nature of reality. Considers various theories about the nature and reliability of science. Prereq. Three philosophy courses.

PHL U515 Advanced Logic 4 SH

PHL U520 Philosophy of Logic 4 SH
Examines philosophical problems and theories about the nature of logic. Prereq. Permission of instructor.

PHL U525 Philosophy of Social Science 4 SH
Examines philosophical issues that arise in the social scientific study of human beings and human societies. Do the social sciences use the same means as the natural sciences? Or must human beings be understood in special ways? Are there laws of human and social behavior? Prereq. Three philosophy courses.

PHL U530 Philosophy of Psychology 4 SH
Examines issues and problems that arise in the study of the mind and consciousness. Prereq. PHL U330 and two philosophy courses.
PHL U535 Philosophy of Mind 4 SH
Seeks to show what puzzles and problems result from an honest attempt to answer these questions in a reasonable way: What is the relation between mind and body? Is the mental merely a function of bodily process and behavior, or does it somehow exist "over and above" the material? How are self-knowledge and knowledge of other minds achieved, and what is the relation between words and thoughts? Examines classical sources, such as Descartes and Locke, and contemporary sources, such as Wittgenstein and Putnam. Also seeks to arrive some answers—however tentative or provisional—to these questions. Constantly challenges students to think and write well about these difficult subjects. Prereq. PHL U330 and two philosophy courses.

PHL U540 Philosophy of Language 4 SH
Examines prospects for a theory of language, its syntax, and its semantics. Examines contrasts between theory of reference and theory of meaning. Asks whether there are universals of language. Analyzes relations between linguistics and psychology. Includes readings from Frege, Quine, Russell, Chomsky, and Fodor. Same as LIN U540. Prereq. PHL U115 or LIN U115 and PHL U215 or LIN U215 or permission of instructor.

PHL U545 Religion and Politics in South Asia 4 SH
Analyzes how to think critically both about the ways religion is presented to us and the connections we make between political movements and religious groups. Explores questions such as: What could it mean for politics to be religious and for religions to be political? Are “religious conflicts” essentially religious? What is the relationship between socioeconomic movements and religion? Do religions take the blame for political movements? Focuses on two South Asian communal conflicts that are couched in terms of religious identity: the Hindu-Muslim conflicts and Hindu-Sikh conflicts. Uses primary and secondary sources to study these conflicts to analyze the workings of religious rhetoric and political rhetoric about religions. Prereq. PHL U275 or permission of instructor.

PHL U546 Advanced Biblical Studies: Hebrew Bible 4 SH
Studies a book or genre of texts of the Hebrew Bible in English translation. Designed for the student who has successfully completed course work in biblical studies at the college level, it addresses questions of authorship, form, original meaning, setting, and purpose. Prereq. PHL U150.

PHL U547 Seminar: Apocalypticism 4 SH
Designed to explore Jewish and Christian apocalypticism from the time it bursts onto the scene c. 165 BCE through its contemporary popular expressions. Begins with an in-depth look at the biblical materials contained in Daniel and Revelation, explores apocryphal and pseudepigraphal texts, and examines millenarian and messianic expectations in their historical perspectives. Prereq. PHL U150 and 8 SH of philosophy and religion.

PHL U605 Advanced Seminar: Spinoza 4 SH
Examines the political, religious, and philosophical writings of Spinoza. Emphasizes understanding Spinoza’s work in its historical context as well as examining his thought for insights applicable to our own time. Prereq. 16 SH of philosophy and religion.

PHL U606 Seminar: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies 4 SH
Focuses on the history of the study of religion as it developed during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Examines readings from a wide range of foundational thinkers and contemporary scholarship to illustrate the roots of religious studies and the state of the field today. Designed to simultaneously acknowledge the interdisciplinary nature of religious studies by asking students to read in several methodological schools while allowing each student to pursue a particular school in more depth. Includes theorists from anthropology, comparative method, cultural studies, hermeneutics, history of religions, mythology, phenomenology, philosophy of religion, ritual and performance studies, sociology, psychology, and visual theology. Offers an opportunity for students to see the ways religious studies methodologies speak to each other and how they might be used to examine particular religious phenomena. Prereq. 16 SH in philosophy and religion.

PHL U901 Topics in Philosophy Seminar 4 SH
Focuses on one specific problem or issue in philosophy. Topics vary, and students may register for the course more than once. Prereq. Four philosophy courses.

PHL U902 Great Philosophers Seminar 4 SH
Focuses on the writings of a major philosopher. Subjects include Plato, Aquinas, Locke, Hegel, and Heidegger. Specific philosophers vary, and students may register for the course more than once. Prereq. Four philosophy courses.

PHL U903 Seminar in Religion 4 SH
Examines topics including theodicy, cosmogony, contemporary issues in religion, and comparative ethics. Topics vary, and students may register for the course more than once. Prereq. Three religious studies courses.

PHL U904 Major Figures in Religious Studies 4 SH
Focuses on the work of one figure important in the field of religion. Subjects include Augustine, Calvin, Luther, Weber, and Eliade. Topics vary, and students may register for the course more than once. Prereq. Four religious studies courses.

PHL U906 Topics in Religious Studies 4 SH
Focuses on a topic of special importance in the study of religion. Topics vary and students may take the course more than once. Prereq. Two courses in religious studies or permission of instructor.
PHL U910 Research Internship 4 SH
Seeks to familiarize students with at least one of the three stages of an advanced research project: securing research funds, using substantive research and research techniques, and publishing and presenting research results. Students may opt to take this practicum in conjunction with a writing project of their own. In addition to helping students develop additional knowledge of the research resources that are available, this course is intended to develop their critical skills. Fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences experiential education requirement for philosophy majors. Prereq. Permission of instructor.

PHL U915 Teaching Internship 4 SH
Centers on two issues central to the pedagogical enterprise; namely, course design and implementation. Involves discussions with the supervisor, observation of teaching techniques, test development, discussion leading, and lecture presentation. Students work with the instructor in one course, assist in syllabus development, observe and lead several discussions, and present a lecture or lectures on one topic to be determined during the syllabus development. Fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences experiential education requirement for philosophy majors. Prereq. Six philosophy courses and permission of instructor.

PHL U921 Directed Study 1 SH
PHL U922 Directed Study 2 SH
PHL U923 Directed Study 3 SH
PHL U924 Directed Study 4 SH
Offers independent work under the direction of members of the department on a chosen topic. Course content depends on instructor. Prereq. Permission of instructor.

PHL U954 Experiential Education Directed Study 4 SH
Draws upon the student’s approved experiential activity and integrates it with study in the academic major. Restricted to those students who are using it to fulfill their experiential education requirement. Prereq. Permission of instructor.

PHL U970 Junior/Senior Honors Project 1 4 SH
Focuses on in-depth project in which a student conducts research or produces a product related to the student’s major field. Culminating experience in the University Honors Program. Combined with Junior/Senior Project 2 or college-defined equivalent for 8-credit honors project. Prereq. Honors program participation.

PHL U971 Junior/Senior Honors Project 2 4 SH
Focuses on second semester of in-depth project in which a student conducts research or produces a product related to the student’s major field. Culminating experience in the University Honors Program. Prereq. PHL U970 and honors program participation.