Philosophy

332 Morton Hall
Telephone 256.824.2335
Email: heikesd@uah.edu  

Mission

To instruct people in critical and imaginative thinking, to teach Western and Eastern philosophical traditions, and to inspire the wonder at the world that Plato says begins all philosophical reflection.

The department of Philosophy offers the following degree programs:

- Philosophy, BA (http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba)
- Philosophy Minor (http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-minor)

Program Objectives

1. Enable our students both to understand and accept their responsibilities as citizens and future leaders and also to succeed in their professional lives with the skills of critical thinking, imaginative problem-solving, and rigorous thought, which philosophy instruction imparts.

2. Promote the active development and dissemination of high-quality research. Every member of the department should be actively engaged in the production and publication of original philosophical works.

3. Fulfill service responsibilities to the university, the wider philosophical community, and finally, by promoting educational programs aimed at the university and larger community, to educate the general public about the value of philosophy.

Major in Philosophy

- Philosophy, BA (http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba)

Minor in Philosophy

- Philosophy (http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-minor)

PHL 101 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Semester Hours: 3
Introduction to philosophical reflection focusing upon central problems in the major branches of the western tradition: metaphysics, epistemology and value theory.

PHL 102 - INTRO TO ETHICS
Semester Hours: 3
Major ethical positions in both classical and modern thought. The course may include a consideration of case studies drawn from practical contexts in engineering, medicine and other areas.

PHL 150 - TECH, SCIENCE & HUMAN VALUES
Semester Hours: 3
A philosophical examination of the intersection of human values with science and technology. Questions include: what exists, the nature and extent of knowledge, and moral problems posed by technical and scientific change.

PHL 201 - INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC
Semester Hours: 3
Methodology of formal and informal reasoning.

PHL 220 - PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
Semester Hours: 3

PHL 301 - ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
Semester Hours: 3
Survey of classical philosophy from the Pre-Socratics through Aristotle. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.

PHL 302 - MODERN PHILOSOPHY
Semester Hours: 3
Survey of the British and Continental traditions from Descartes through Kant. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.
PHL 303 - CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY  
Semester Hours: 3
Examination of some of the most important trends from late nineteenth through twenty-first century thought. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.

PHL 310 - PHILOSOPHY OF ART  
Semester Hours: 3
Major aesthetic theories of the western tradition, may include visual or non-visual arts. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.

PHL 311 - PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE  
Semester Hours: 3
Critical assessment of the historical and logical foundations of the natural and theoretical sciences. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.

PHL 312 - AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY  
Semester Hours: 3
Survey of American thought with emphasis upon the development of pragmatism in the work of Pierce, James, and Dewey. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.

PHL 314 - ASIAN PHILOSOPHY  
Semester Hours: 3
Survey of philosophical traditions from Asia, such as various schools of Buddhism and Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism. Topics may include: conceptions of human nature and the good life, the nature of the self and its relation to society, comparisons to philosophies from Europe and North America. Prerequisite: PHL 101 and PHL 102 and PHL 202.

PHL 317 - PHILOSOPHY OF MIND  
Semester Hours: 3
A philosophical examination of a range of models, theories, and arguments concerning the nature of mind and its relationship to the physical world. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.

PHL 320 - SYMBOLIC LOGIC  
Semester Hours: 3
Symbolic deductive logic, including propositional calculus (truth-functional logic), predicate calculus (propositional functions and quantification), and the logic of relations. Prerequisite: PHL 201.

PHL 330 - CLASSICAL POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY  
Semester Hours: 3
Careful analysis of the roots of political inquiry in selected works of ancient and medieval political philosophers. Major themes include the search for a just social order, the proper relationship between the citizen and the state, and other fundamental concepts of western political institutions. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202 or PSC 101.

PHL 332 - MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY  
Semester Hours: 3
Critical examination of the philosophical foundations for modern politics that emerged from the 15th through the 19th century in western Europe. Major themes and theorists include the concepts of individual rights, property, representation, majority rule, limited government, and revolution. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202 or PSC 101.

PHL 335 - PHILOSOPHY OF GENDER  
Semester Hours: 3
Philosophical examination of the nature and importance of gender. Topics may include: the debate between essentialist and constructionist views of gender, the political importance of gender, and the intersection of gender and other forms of identity. Prerequisite: PHL 101 or PHL 102 or PHL 202.

PHL 337 - PHILOSOPHY OF RACE  
Semester Hours: 3
Philosophical examination of the nature and importance of race. Topics may include: the debate between essentialist and constructionist views of race, the political importance of race, and the intersection of race and other forms of identity. Prerequisites: PHL 101 OR 102.

PHL 385 - SEL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY  
Semester Hours: 3
Intensive examination of particular problems, periods, or movements in the history of philosophy.
PHL 395 - JUNIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR
Semester Hours: 3

Intensive examination of particular problems, periods, or movements in the history of philosophy. Intensive examination of selected topics leading to the preparation of a substantial philosophical paper. Required of all majors. May be taken twice for credit.

PHL 397 - PHILOSOPHY INTERNSHIP
Semester Hours: 3

A supervised experience in a professional environment enhanced by a student's background in philosophy. Paid or unpaid.

PHL 399 - DIR STUDY IN PHILOSOPHY
Semester Hours: 1-3

Independent study in an area of philosophy selected in consultation with faculty advisor. Requires approval of department chair.

PHL 401 - METAPHYSICS
Semester Hours: 3

Critical examination of traditional and contemporary responses to questions about the nature of reality.

PHL 402 - EPISTEMOLOGY
Semester Hours: 3

Investigation of fundamental problems of knowledge such as the relation of knowledge and belief, truth, certainty and skepticism, perception, logic, explanation, and justification.

PHL 403 - ADV MORAL PHILOSOPHY
Semester Hours: 3

Critical examination of significant works in moral and political philosophy such as the relationship between morality and human nature, the individual and the state, and the consequences of actions.

PHL 438 - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT
Semester Hours: 3

Systematic study of recent and current thinking on issues and problems of politics, social theory, and ethics with special attention to the philosophical dimension of these issues and problems.