

Philosophy

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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 103 - INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

Semester Hours: 3

Methodology of formal and informal reasoning.

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 220 - CRIT THINKING FOR INTEL ANALYS

Semester Hours: 3

Examines critical reasoning strategies designed to correct cognitive biases and improve tradecraft skills in the context of intelligence analysis.

PHL 301 - ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Semester Hours: 3

Survey of classical philosophy from the Pre-Socratics through Aristotle. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

PHL 302 - MODERN PHILOSOPHY

Semester Hours: 3

Survey of the British and Continental traditions from Descartes through Kant. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

PHL 303 - CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Semester Hours: 3

Examination of important trends in the Continental tradition from nineteenth through twenty-first century thought.

PHL 310 - PHILOSOPHY OF ART

Semester Hours: 3

Major aesthetic theories of the western tradition, may include visual or non-visual arts. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

PHL 311 - PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Semester Hours: 3

Critical assessment of the historical and logical foundations of the natural and theoretical sciences. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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 - FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY

Semester Hours: 3

Philosophical examination of issues related to feminism and feminist theory. Topics may include: women in the history of philosophy, contemporary feminist political theory, feminist ethics, feminist epistemology, or gender theory (including racial and sexual identity). Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

PHL 385 - SELECTED TOPICS

Semester Hours: 3

Intensive examination of particular problems, periods, or movements in the history of philosophy. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

PHL 395 - 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. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

PHL 397 - PHILOSOPHY INTERNSHIP

Semester Hours: 1-3

A supervised experience in a professional environment enhanced by a student's background in philosophy. Paid or unpaid. Prerequisites: 18 hrs of PHL, JR/SR standing, minimum 3.0 GPA in PHL Major, approval of department chair.

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. Prerequisite: 3 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

PHL 401 - METAPHYSICS

Semester Hours: 3

Critical examination of traditional and contemporary responses to questions about the nature of reality. Prerequisite: 6 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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. Prerequisite: 6 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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. Prerequisite: 6 hrs of PHL, except PHL 201.

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. Prerequisite: 6 hrs of PHL or PSC, except PHL 201.