

# **PHILOSOPHY**

**Degree offered:** BA

**Minor:** Yes (See Catalogue for requirements.)

## **Courses appropriate for beginning students:**

- 101 Introductory Seminar in Philosophy. This writing-intensive course, intended for first and second year students, provides an in-depth exploration of philosophical approaches and ideas in the context of a specific topic in philosophy. Possible topics include the philosophy of sex, death, film, media, and the meaning of life. (F2)
- 150 Social and Political Philosophy. An examination of significant themes and questions related to the constitution and maintenance of social and political relations, addressed through a survey of major philosophical figures. Topics include justice, identity, the contest between individual and state, war and peace, and various ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, communism/socialism, totalitarianism, cosmopolitanism, libertarianism, contractarianism, anarchism). (F2, F8)
- 201 Ancient Philosophy. An examination of Ancient philosophies, such as those of the Presocratics, Plato, Aristotle, Epicureans and Stoics. Issues addressed include the human good, the relation of the human to the cosmos, the nature and role of reason, and the relation between reason and pleasure. (F1)
- 203 Early Modern Philosophy. An examination of major representatives of Early Modern Philosophy, focusing on the works of Descartes, Hume, and Kant. Major themes are their epistemological and ethical theories. Issues to be considered include such things as the nature and role of rationality, the relation of the sensuous and the rational, the exercise of freedom, and the existence of God. (F1)
- 206 Logic. An examination of argumentation, with emphasis on identifying, analyzing, and evaluating arguments. Issues to be considered include methods in categorical and truth-functional logic, induction, and fallacies. Offered both fall and spring, but this course fills quickly. (F6)
- 240 Philosophy of Religion. An exploration of central problems in contemporary philosophy of religion, such as the arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the meaningfulness of theological language, and the relationship of faith and reason. (F1)
- 250 Topics. Though the specific topic studied varies, this course is suitable for all students. (Typically F1, depending on the topic)

## **Courses required for majors and appropriate for beginning students:**

- 201, 203 and 206 are required for the major (and minor).

**Required courses in other departments:** None

**Recommended courses in other departments:** None

**Latest time to begin a major and graduate on schedule:**

- Fall semester of junior year

**AP credit:** None

**Courses that close quickly:**

- 105 Social and Political Philosophy
- 201 Ancient Philosophy
- 203 Early Modern Philosophy
- 206 Logic

**Courses that must be taken in sequence:**

- None, though we recommend taking courses in the History of Philosophy sequence in chronological order (hence, Philosophy 201, 202, 203, 315) when possible. Additionally, we strongly encourage students to take Philosophy 201 and 203 prior to the beginning of the Junior year, as these courses are foundational for upper level courses.