PHILOSOPHY

Director of undergraduate studies: Kenneth Winkler, 406A C, 432-1679, kenneth.winkler@yale.edu; philosophy.yale.edu

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Professors  George Bealer, Seyla Benhabib, Stephen Darwall, Michael Della Rocca, Keith DeRose, Paul Franks, Tamar Gendler (Chair), John Hare, Karsten Harries, Verity Harte, Laurence Horn, Shelly Kagan, Joshua Knobe, Thomas Pogge, Carl Posy (Visiting), Scott Shapiro, Sun-Joo Shin, Steven Smith, Jason Stanley, Zoltán Szabó, Kenneth Winkler, Gideon Yaffe

Assistant Professors  Daniel Greco, Raul Saucedo, Bruno Whittle

Lecturers  Benjamin George, Aaron Norby, John Pittard, Sam Shpall

Philosophy courses numbered 100 through 199 are introductory. They are open to all students and have no prerequisites. Courses numbered 200 through 399 are intermediate. Some have prerequisites; others do not, and may be taken as a student’s first course in philosophy, though such a student should consult the instructor first. In general, it is a good idea to take a broadly based course in any area of philosophy before taking a specialized course.

Courses numbered 400 through 479 are seminars. These advanced courses are intended primarily for juniors and seniors, though other students may be admitted with the instructor’s permission. Undergraduates should be sure they have enough background to take such a course, including previous work in the same area of philosophy. Students with questions should consult the instructor.

The standard major  Prerequisite to the Philosophy major are two introductory or intermediate philosophy courses. The major requires twelve courses (including the prerequisites and the senior requirement) that collectively expose students to a wide range of philosophy and philosophers. The Philosophy curriculum is divided into three broad groups: history of philosophy (PHIL 125–174, 200–264, 400–424), metaphysics and epistemology (PHIL 265–319, 425–449), and ethics and value theory (PHIL 175–199, 320–399, 450–479). In history of philosophy, majors are required to take (a) either PHIL 125 and 126 or both terms of Directed Studies, and (b) an additional, third course in history of philosophy. Majors are encouraged to take PHIL 125 and 126 as early as possible; these courses may be taken in either order. Majors must take two courses in metaphysics and epistemology and two courses in ethics and value theory. Majors must also take two seminars and satisfy the senior requirement as described below.

Beginning with the Class of 2015, majors are also required to complete a course in logic, such as PHIL 115, and they are encouraged to do so by the fall of their junior year.

All courses in Philosophy count toward the twelve-course requirement. With approval from the director of undergraduate studies, courses offered by other departments may be counted toward the major requirements, though no more than two such courses will normally be allowed.

Specific regulations for the group requirements are as follows:

1. Some introductory courses, including PHIL 115, First-Order Logic, do not count toward a group requirement. Other courses count toward a group requirement unless they are otherwise designated.

2. Courses automatically count toward the group under which they are listed in this bulletin. In rare cases, a course will be designated as counting toward a second group, although no single course can be counted by the same student toward two group requirements. In addition, students may petition to have a course count toward a group other than the one under which it is listed in this bulletin, though the presumption will be against such petitions.

3. Courses taken in other departments and applied to the major will not normally count toward a group requirement. Students may petition for credit toward a group requirement, though the presumption will be against such petitions.

Credit/D/Fail courses  No more than one course taken Cr/D/F may be counted toward the major, with the permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

The senior requirement  The senior requirement is normally satisfied by completing a third philosophy seminar. Students taking a seminar to satisfy the senior requirement are expected to produce work superior in argument and articulation to that of a standard seminar paper. To this end, students taking a seminar for the senior requirement must satisfy additional requirements that are delineated in the syllabus or during the first class session, and that may include (a) additional readings, (b) submission of a complete draft of the final paper by the eighth week of the term that will then be significantly revised, and (c) one-on-one or small-group meetings with the instructor to discuss class material, the additional readings, and drafts in preparation.

In special cases, students may meet the senior requirement through either a one-term or a two-term independent project supervised by an instructor (PHIL 490, 491). Students must petition to fulfill the senior requirement through an independent project, and approval is not guaranteed. Applicants must submit a proposal to the director of undergraduate studies, in consultation with an appropriate supervisor, by the end of the term prior to beginning the independent study.
Each major should, by October 1 of the junior year, secure the agreement of a member of the Philosophy department to serve as adviser for the year. The adviser aids the student in choosing courses and in planning for the senior year. All senior majors must have their schedules signed by the director of undergraduate studies.

**Psychology track**  The psychology track is designed for students interested in both philosophy and psychology. Prerequisite to the major in the psychology track are two courses in philosophy or psychology. Majors in the track must take seven courses in philosophy and five in psychology, for a total of twelve, including the prerequisites and senior requirement. The seven philosophy courses must include (a) two courses in the history of philosophy, usually PHIL 125 and 126 or DRST 003 and 004, (b) two seminars, one of which may be in the Psychology department, with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies, and (c) at least two courses at the intermediate or advanced level that bear on the intersection of philosophy and psychology, at least one of which must be a philosophy seminar. Courses satisfying (c) must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies. The five psychology courses must include PSYC 110 or its equivalent. Each major must also satisfy the senior requirement as described above for the standard major. No more than one course taken Cr/D/F may be counted toward the requirements of the major, with the permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

Beginning with the Class of 2015, majors in the psychology track are also required to complete a course in logic, such as PHIL 115, and they are encouraged to do so by the fall of their junior year.

Students interested in philosophy and psychology should also consider the major in Cognitive Science.

**Other majors involving philosophy** Majors in Mathematics and Philosophy and in Physics and Philosophy are also available. For information, see under those headings.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

**Prerequisites**  
Standard track—any 2 intro or intermediate phil courses; Psychology track—any 2 courses in phil or psych

**Number of courses**  
Both tracks—12 term courses, incl prereqs and senior req

**Distribution of courses**  
Standard track—3 courses in hist of phil (incl DRST 003 and 004, or PHIL 125 and 126), 2 in metaphysics and epistemology, and 2 in ethics and value theory; 2 phil sems; Psychology track—7 courses in phil, as specified; 5 courses in psych; Both tracks—Class of 2015 and subsequent classes—1 course in logic

**Specific courses required**  
Standard track—PHIL 125 and 126, or DRST 003 and 004; Psychology track—PSYC 110 or equivalent

**Senior requirement**  
Both tracks—a third sem in phil, or a one- or two-term independent project (PHIL 490, 491)

---

**Introductory courses**

*PHIL 083a, Democracy and Political Philosophy*  
Jason Stanley
The use of propaganda and rhetoric in political campaigns, and its implications for democratic systems of government. Conditions necessary for a state to be considered democratic; the dependence of democracy on speech; distinguishing speech that is propaganda from speech that is not; reasons to view propaganda and misleading rhetoric as inconsistent with the existence of a democratic state. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  
HU

*PHIL 112a, Problems of Philosophy*  
Daniel Greco
Exploration of perennial philosophical problems, including differences between knowledge and opinion, the objectivity or nonobjectivity of moral judgment, the nature of consciousness, the existence of God, the nature and possibility of free will, and how people remain the same over time as their bodily and psychological traits change. Readings from both classical and influential contemporary works.  
HU

*PHIL 115a, First-Order Logic*  
Bruno Whittle
An introduction to formal logic. Study of the formal deductive systems and semantics for both propositional and predicate logic. Some discussion of metatheory.  
QR

**HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY**

*PHIL 125a / CLCV 125a, Introduction to Ancient Philosophy*  
Verity Harte
An introduction to ancient philosophy, beginning with the earliest pre-Socratics, concentrating on Plato and Aristotle, and including a brief foray into Hellenistic philosophy. Intended to be taken in conjunction with PHIL 126.  
HU

*PHIL 126b, Introduction to Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant*  
Michael Della Rocca
An introduction to major figures in the history of modern philosophy, with critical reading of works by Descartes, Malabranche, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Intended to be taken in conjunction with PHIL 125 although PHIL 125 is not a prerequisite.  
HU

**ETHICS AND VALUE THEORY**

*PHIL 175a, Introduction to Ethics*  
Karsten Harries
The question of what constitutes the good life, and the different answers to that question given by Plato, Bentham, Kant, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche.  
HU

EP&E: Intro Ethics
PHIL 179b, Life  Shelly Kagan
Examination of elements that may contribute to a good life, including the question of which truly have value and why. Factors to consider in choosing a career; the significance of the decision whether to have children; the value of education; the importance of love and accomplishment.  HU

Intermediate courses

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 204a / GMST 381a, Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason  Paul Franks
An examination of the metaphysical and epistemological doctrines of Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason. Prerequisite: PHIL 126 or DRST 004.  HU

PHIL 208b / HUMS 333b, Four Condemnations: Philosophy and Religion in Conflict  Karsten Harries
An examination of four famous condemnations: the Condemnation of 1277; the condemnation of Meister Eckhart in 1328; the condemnation and execution of Giordano Bruno in 1600; and the condemnation of Galileo Galilei in 1633. Demonstration that the issue in each case was the shape and legitimacy of the modern age.  HU

PHIL 216b / GREK 438b, Plato’s Republic, Book Eight  Verity Harte
Reading and discussion of the Greek text of Plato’s Republic, Book Eight, focused on Plato’s psychological and political theory. Contrasts between the philosophical ideal and various nonideal conditions of city and of person. Prerequisites: GREK 131 and 141 or equivalents.  LS, HU

PHIL 220a / JDST 272a / RLST 120a, Medieval Philosophy  Paul Franks and Stephen Ogden
Introduction to central problems and themes in medieval philosophy. The confrontation between Greek philosophy and the Abrahamic or scriptural religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; conceptions in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and ethics to which the encounter gave rise. Philosophers include Augustine, Saadia, al-Farabi, al-Ghazali, Maimonides, ibn-Rushd, Aquinas, Crescas, and Ockham.  HU

PHIL 260b / AMST 260b, American Philosophy  Kenneth Winkler
A survey of American philosophy from colonial times to the middle of the twentieth century. Topics include European justifications of colonization and conquest; the spiritualist metaphysics of George Berkeley and Jonathan Edwards; slavery and abolition; and transcendentalism (Emerson, Thoreau). Particular attention to classical pragmatism, with readings in Peirce, James, Dewey, and their critics. Some discussion of recent reinterpretations of pragmatism by such writers as Quine, Richard Rorty, and Cornel West.  HU

PHIL 261b / GMST 212b / HUMS 330b, Realism, Idealism, and Romanticism  Paul Franks
Investigation of the possibility of individual agency and absolute reason in modernity. Introduction to figures from classical German philosophy such as Kant, Goethe, Mendelssohn, Jacobi, Fichte, Schelling, Schlegel, and Hegel. Themes include realism, idealism, romanticism, skepticism, nihilism, freedom, individuality, systematicity, and ironic romance.  HU

METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY

PHIL 267a, Mathematical Logic  Sun-Joo Shin
An introduction to the metatheory of first-order logic, up to and including the completeness theorem for the first-order calculus. Introduction to the basic concepts of set theory. Prerequisite: PHIL 115 or permission of instructor.  QR Math: Logic/Foundations

PHIL 269b, The Philosophy of Science  Daniel Greco
Central questions about the nature of scientific theory and practice. Factors that make a discipline a science; how and why scientific theories change over time; interpreting probabilistic claims in science; whether simpler theories are more likely to be true; the laws of nature; whether physics has a special status compared to other sciences; the legitimacy of adaptationist thinking in evolutionary biology.  HU

PHIL 270b, Epistemology  Keith DeRose
Introduction to current topics in the theory of knowledge. The analysis of knowledge, justified belief, rationality, certainty, and evidence.  HU

PHIL 271a / LING 271a, Philosophy of Language  Zoltán Szabó
An introduction to contemporary philosophy of language, organized around four broad topics: meaning, reference, context, and communication. Introduction to the use of logical notation.  HU

PHIL 274a / JDST 335a, Concepts of God in Jewish Philosophy  Gabriel Citron
Introduction to Jewish philosophy, from Philo to Maimonides and Spinoza to Levinas. Focus on different conceptions of God and their interrelations. Corporeal views of God and their culmination in pantheism and panentheism; incorporeal conceptions of God and their apotheosis in negative theology; contemporary existential understandings of God.  HU

PHIL 275b, Mathematics, Intuition, and Ontology  Carl Posy and Carl Posy
Ontological and epistemological issues raised by contemporary mathematics. Whether mathematical objects exist and, if they do, how they relate to ordinary objects. Ways in which knowledge about mathematical objects resembles or differs from ordinary empirical
knowledge. The influence of such debates on the development of mathematics itself. Historical case studies introduce mathematical notions and place issues in philosophical context.  

PHIL 277b, Frege and Analytic Philosophy  Jason Stanley  
Gottlob Frege's view of arithmetic as an abstract reality no less real than the ordinary objects of sight and touch. His attempt to place arithmetic on an absolutely firm foundation, and wider views of meaning and representation that emerged from the attempt. Frege's contributions to logicism, analytic philosophy, and the notation for quantification and variables; his influence on the emerging discipline of logic and on later study of the meaning properties of natural languages. Prerequisite: PHIL 115 or equivalent, or with permission of instructor.  

PHIL 281b, Infinity  Bruno Whittle  
The idea of infinity. Traditional and contemporary versions of the paradoxes of space, time, and motion, as well as the paradoxes of classes, chances, and truth. Some elementary arithmetic, geometry, probability theory, and set theory.  

PHIL 301a, Causation  Zoltán Szabó  
The metaphysics of causation. Topics include what sorts of entities are causes and effects, how causation differs from mere regularity, the causal efficacy of the mind, free will, and natural teleology. Prerequisite: a course in philosophy.  

ETHICS AND VALUE THEORY  

PHIL 326b / RLST 402b, The Philosophy of Religion  John Pittard  
The relation between religion and ethics, traditional arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, the problem of evil, miracles, immortality, science and religion, and faith and reason.  

PHIL 328aG / PLSC 293aG, European Political Thought from Weber to Derrida  Seyla Benhabib  
A survey of major themes in twentieth-century Continental political thought. Topics include reason and rationalization in modernity; legality, legitimacy, and sovereignty; decline of the public sphere; origins of totalitarianism; and communicative ethics and the inclusion of the “other” in the new Europe.  

PHIL 333a, Rationality  Stephen Darwall and Alexander Worsnip  
Examination of normative assumptions about when a piece of behavior or state of mind counts as rational or irrational. Philosophical problems, puzzles, and paradoxes about rationality of belief and action. Belief consistency; pragmatic reasons for belief; the rational response to disagreement; conceptions of preference and rational choice; feminist accounts of rationality. Enrollment limited. Prerequisite: a course in philosophy.  

PHIL 334a / PLSC 281a / RLST 273aG, Ethical and Social Issues in Bioethics  Stephen Latham  
A selective survey of issues in biomedical ethics. Comparison of different points of view about biomedical issues, including religious vs. secular and liberal vs. conservative. Special attention to issues in research and at the beginning and end of life.  

PHIL 337a / PLSC 307a, Rawls, Recognition, and Equality  Thomas Pogge  
John Rawls’s domestic theory of justice and its appeals to respect and equality. Recent work on the concept of recognition and its relationship to distributive justice. Contemporary variants of liberal egalitarianism, including luck egalitarianism, the capability approach, and democratic equality. Whether equality as a normative ideal is best understood in terms of relationships among persons or of patterns of distribution.  

Seminars  

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY  

*PHIL 400aG / GREK 403a, Aristotle’s Physics, Book II  Verity Harte  
Reading and discussion of the Greek text of Aristotle’s Physics, Book II. Aristotle’s core conception of nature and his physical theory. Prerequisites: GREK 131, 141, and PHIL 125 or equivalents, or with permission of instructor.  

*PHIL 409bG / JDST 275b, The Philosophy of Maimonides  Gabriel Citron  
Introduction to the philosophical system of the medieval Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides. His radically nonanthropomorphic conception of God; his resultant understanding of the nature of man and the ends of life; and the ways in which he took ethics, religion, and politics to be structured toward the fulfillment of those ends.  

*PHIL 410b / EALL 308bG / HUMS 305b, Sages of the Ancient World  Michael Hunter  
Comparative survey of ancient discourses about wisdom from China, India, the Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Topics include teaching, scheming, and dying.  

*PHIL 415a, Hume  Kenneth Winkler  
A study of Hume’s epistemology and metaphysics and his science of human nature. Topics include our knowledge of space and time; inductive reasoning; the nature and representation of causation; the origin and justification of belief in an external world; personal identity; the normative bearing of naturalized epistemology; the explanation and justification of religious belief; and the attractions and limits of skepticism. Readings in Book I of A Treatise of Human Nature, An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, and Dialogues concerning Natural Religion.
Central topics in philosophical psychology from works by Plato and Aristotle. The nature of specific psychological faculties and activities, such as perception, memory, desire, imagination, emotion, and reasoning. HU

Examination of issues in contemporary philosophy on which Kantian perspectives shed light. Topics include skepticism, transcendental arguments, truth, the unity of the proposition, the unity of consciousness, paradoxes of knowledge, foundations of logic and mathematics, and realism and antirealism. HU

Locke’s thinking about political resistance, religious toleration, and political economy examined in light of the writings and activities of his contemporaries. Introduction to methodological questions in the history of political thought. WR, HU

An examination of philosophical themes in Arendt’s political theory. The Life of the Mind and writings on human rights; theories of judgment and the will; action, narrative, and interpretation. Readings from works by Arendt, Heidegger, Ranciere, Balibar, and Butler. SO

The history of the concept of sovereignty, including current debates over its meaning in political philosophy, international relations, and jurisprudence. Discussion of how these debates relate to both historical and contemporary political problems. SO

Exploration of natural language metaphysics—metaphysical views implicitly favored by human languages. The mechanism whereby language can be the source of views about reality. Topics include existence, identity, parthood, time, modality, and teleology. HU

Examination of texts in the arts, humanities, and sciences that engage the problem of other minds, either directly or indirectly. Ethical, religious, and legal principles that have been derived from considering the question of other consciousness. Prerequisite: an introductory course in philosophy, or with permission of instructor. HU

A technical exposition of Gödel’s first and second incompleteness theorems and of some of their consequences in proof theory and model theory, such as Löb’s theorem, Tarski’s undefinability of truth, provability logic, and nonstandard models of arithmetic. Prerequisite: PHIL 267 or permission of instructor. QR, HU

Semantic paradoxes and the question of how to give adequate accounts of truth and of propositions in light of them. Readings include recent work on languages that contain their own truth predicates and on attempts to give consistent accounts of structured propositions. HU

Modal logic and its semantics, and their implications for metaphysics. Readings from works by Ruth Barcan Marcus, Saul Kripke, Robert Stalnaker, George Boolos, and Timothy Williamson. Prerequisite: PHIL 115 or equivalent. HU
**PHIL 434a**, The Epistemology of Disagreement  John Pittard  
Investigation of the epistemic significance of disagreement. Whether one can reasonably maintain confident belief in the face of disagreement with apparently qualified thinkers; recent responses to that question from conciliationists and anticonciliationists. Related issues in the theory of rationality.  
HU

**PHIL 435b / CGSC 435b / PSYC 435b**, Philosophy for Psychologists  Aaron Norby  
Central issues in philosophy of mind and their relations with contemporary psychology. Scientific psychology versus philosophy as the better approach to addressing the questions raised. Prerequisite: PHIL 181 or equivalent.  
HU

**PHIL 436b / LING 169b**, Meaning  Laurence Horn and Benjamin George  
Analysis of selected classic readings in the study of meaning. Problems of sense and reference, presupposition, speaker intention, semantics of descriptions, names, and natural kinds. Historical tensions concerning the relationship between logical formalism and ordinary language; debates about the role of context in theories of meaning. Readings from works by Frege, Russell, Strawson, Donnellan, Austin, Grice, Kripke, and Putnam.  
SO

**PHIL 438b**, Ontological Collectivism  Raul Saucedo  
Systematic development of a collectivist approach to questions of fundamental ontology, with attention to monist, pluralist, and structuralist alternatives. Questions about plurals, ontological priority, parts and wholes, internal relatedness, and emergence. Readings from both classic and contemporary sources.  
HU

**ETHICS AND VALUE THEORY**

**PHIL 455b / EP&E 334b**, Normative Ethics  Shelly Kagan  
A systematic examination of normative ethics, the part of moral philosophy that attempts to articulate and defend the basic principles of morality. The course surveys and explores some of the central normative factors relevant in determining the moral status of a given act or policy (features that help make a given act right or wrong). Brief consideration of some of the main views about the foundations of normative ethics (the ultimate basis or ground for the various moral principles). Prerequisite: a course in moral philosophy.  
HU

**PHIL 456a / HUMS 329a / PLSC 296a**, Twentieth-Century Ethical Theory  Steven Smith  
Close reading of works by three major figures in twentieth-century political philosophy—Isaiah Berlin, Michael Oakeshott, and Leo Strauss. The authors’ critiques of social science, and their views on the Enlightenment and on the role of the university in a free society.  
SO

**PHIL 457a / EP&E 235a / PLSC 283a**, Recent Work on Justice  Thomas Pogge  
In-depth study of one contemporary book, author, or debate in political philosophy, political theory, or normative economics. Focus varies from year to year based on student interest and may include a ground-breaking new book, the life’s work of a prominent author, or an important theme in contemporary political thought.  
HU

**PHIL 459a**, Twentieth-Century Ethical Theory  Sam Shpall  
Study of major developments in twentieth-century moral philosophy through close reading of core texts in metaethics. Foundational issues about the nature and status of moral discourse; questions about the relationship of morality to rationality. Recommended preparation: a course in ethics.  
HU

**PHIL 460b / EP&E 467b / HUMS 304b**, Theories of Punishment  David Goldman  
The nature, function, and justification of punishment as understood by thinkers such as Plato, Bentham, and Hegel. The significance of criminal wrongdoing to which punishment is a response; the social roles that punishment might or does serve; relations between political authority and the justification of criminal punishment; specific practices, such as the lex talionis and capital punishment; the twentieth-century debate between utilitarians and retributionists.  
HU

**PHIL 461b / AFAM 269b / EP&E 458b / PLSC 315b**, Egalitarianism  Christopher Lebron  
The concept of equality in normative political theory explored through contemporary philosophical texts. Reasons why oppressed, marginalized, and systematically disadvantaged groups express their claims in terms of equality; racial inequality as a case study.  
SO

**Tutorial and Senior Essay Courses**

**PHIL 480a or b, Tutorial**  Kenneth Winkler  
A reading course supervised by a member of the department and satisfying the following conditions: (1) the work of the course must not be possible in an already existing course; (2) the course must involve a substantial amount of writing, i.e., a term essay or a series of short essays; (3) the student must meet with the instructor regularly, normally for at least an hour a week; (4) the proposed course of study must be approved by both the director of undergraduate studies and the instructor.  

**PHIL 490a and PHIL 491b, The Senior Essay**  Kenneth Winkler  
The essay, written under the supervision of a member of the department, should be a substantial paper; a suggested length is between 8,000 and 12,000 words for one-term projects, and between 12,500 and 15,000 words for two-term projects. Students completing a one-term project should enroll in either 490 in the fall or 491 in the spring. Students completing a two-term project should enroll in both
490 and 491. The deadline for senior essays completed in the fall is December 6; the deadline for both one- and two-term senior essays completed in the spring is April 25.

Graduate, Divinity, and Law School courses that count toward the major

Some Graduate, Divinity, and Law School courses are open to qualified undergraduates with permission of the instructor and the director of graduate studies or the dean or registrar of the Divinity or the Law School. (See "Courses in the Yale Graduate and Professional Schools" in section K of the Academic Regulations.) With permission of the director of undergraduate studies, relevant Graduate, Divinity, and Law School courses may count toward the major. Course descriptions appear in the Graduate, Divinity, and Law School bulletins.