

PHILOSOPHY

Hearnes Hall 312, 417.625.9659

Faculty Simpson - Head, Brown

Mission

The Department of Philosophy provides students with Core Curriculum introductory courses in philosophy that provide training and experiences in critical thinking and problem-solving. Philosophy courses also help prepare students majoring in certain other fields, and the department offers a minor in philosophy for students whose plans include graduate study and careers in certain fields, such as medicine, law, theology, and public service.

Philosophy deals with basic questions from all areas of life and thought—science, religion, art, morality, and politics—and helps students refine their views on these subjects. Most importantly, philosophy teaches students how to think: how to analyze problems into their essential elements, how to decide which proposed solution to a problem is supported by the best evidence, how to separate relevant from irrelevant points, and how to state issues clearly and precisely. While some philosophy students go to graduate school and become professional philosophers, most go on to careers in such areas as law, medicine, theology, business, government, and public service. Philosophy students are highly successful in gaining admittance to law schools, medical schools, graduate schools of management, and theological seminaries.

The Department offers a minor in philosophy, which consists of 18 credit hours. Students are required to complete a course in Critical Thinking (Phil 140), a course in Ethics (Phil 212, Phil 312, PSc 411 or a suitable Selected Topics Course) and two courses in the History of Philosophy (Phil 301 and 302). Two courses are elective, at least one of which must be at the 300 level or above.

For additional information contact:

Dr. Dale W. Simpson
Office: Hearnes Hall 314
Phone: 417.625.9640
Email: simpson-d@mssu.edu

Course Descriptions

Phil 140 (S) 3 hrs. cr.

Critical Thinking

Introduction to logic, with special emphasis on common errors and fallacies in reasoning.

Phil 201 (Even-F, S, Honors) 3 hrs. cr.

Introduction to Philosophy

Comparative survey of major types of philosophy and of representative problems in philosophy. (Satisfies 3 hours of Core Curriculum requirements in Area 2C, Humanities and Fine Arts.)

Phil 212 (S, Odd) 3 hrs. cr.

Ethics

Exploration of the problems of value and personal moral standards, comparative survey of major ethical systems and evaluation of the chief ethical struggles in contemporary society. (Satisfies 3 hours of Core Curriculum requirements in Area 2C, Humanities and Fine Arts.)

Phil 298 (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

Topics in Philosophy

Studies in a variety of philosophical subjects. Topic open.

Phil 301 (F, Odd) 3 hrs. cr.

Ancient Philosophy

Historical study of ancient philosophy, with special emphasis on the writings of Plato and Aristotle. Prerequisites: 3 hours of philosophy or permission of instructor.

Phil 302 (S, Even) 3 hrs. cr.

Modern Philosophy

(Writing Intensive)

A survey of the major schools of western philosophy from 1550 to 1850. Prerequisites: 3 hours of philosophy or permission of instructor and Eng 101 and 102 or 111.

Phil 312 (Su-Internet, Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

Biomedical Ethics

A comprehensive investigation of ethical problems relating to health care and the practice of medicine, including study of such issues as euthanasia and the right to die, abortion, confidentiality, patient rights and professional responsibilities, allocation of medical resources, and medical experimentation

Phil 313 (Demand) 2 hrs. cr.

Medical Ethics

An exploration focusing on recent important ethical problems relating to health care and the practice of medicine.

Phil 320 (F) 3 hrs. cr.

Comparative Religion

A philosophical and historical survey, emphasizing the world's major living religions. (Meets Core Curriculum requirements in Area 5, International Cultural Studies.)

Phil 420 (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

Philosophy of Science

Investigation of the nature and scope of scientific inquiry. Topics include the logic of scientific reasoning, the nature of scientific theories, the conceptual presuppositions of science, and the relation between the natural and social sciences.

Phil 498 (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

Advanced Topics in Philosophy

Comprehensive analysis of selected topics in philosophy. For upper division students.

Phil 499 (Demand) 1-3 hrs. cr.

Independent Study

Individually directed study in selected areas for advanced students. Prerequisite: GPA of 3.0 in philosophy. Enrollment must be approved by adviser, department head, and school dean.