In a certain way, philosophy needs no introduction. Each of us has had moments of wonder: “Why do we exist?” “Why is there so much suffering in the world?” “Why does the world itself exist?” This one-semester course for first-year students helps strengthen that sense of wonder by giving the student insight into what some of the greatest thinkers have had to say about these questions. Readings from Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes and Kant.

Enrollment limited to 1st year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

A study of moral philosophy with a twofold aim: (1) to give students an appreciation of the important historical and theoretical developments in moral philosophy; (2) to help students to think, write and speak clearly about important moral issues of our time. Examines both the thought of important Western philosophers such as Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill, and topics of contemporary concern in personal and social ethics.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Annually

A study of selected medieval thinkers such as Augustine, Boethius, Aquinas, Anselm, Bonaventure, and Descartes. The birth of scholasticism, A study of selected medieval thinkers such as Augustine, Boethius, Aquinas, Anselm, Bonaventure, and Aquinas. The birth of scholasticism, the decline are presented.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

An introductory study of the formal structure of reasoning patterns such as deduction. Includes an introduction to formal languages, sentential calculus, predicate calculus, and an investigation into logic’s value and limits.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

Focuses on a theme or question of general scope within continental European philosophy since Nietzsche. Topics may include subjectivity, historical consciousness, technology, and plurality. Philosophical approaches may include phenomenology, hermeneutics, existentialism, psychoanalysis, the Frankfurt School, and post-structuralism.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

We start by looking at the Presocratics (6th and 5th centuries B.C.) to witness the emergence of philosophical, scientific, ethical and religious thinking. We will follow the similarities and differences of these Presocratics to trace the kinds of questions they set and the kinds of answers they accept. Addressing many of the same questions bequeathed to them by the Presocratics, the Ancients offered new solutions. We will think with the great thinkers about alternative conceptions of the divine, first principles and causes, form and matter, atoms and the void. Wonder along with Plato, Aristotle, Lucretius and Epictetus about happiness in relation, reason and desire, and our place in society and in the universe.

One previous Philosophy course is required for first year students.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Fall

A study of selected medieval thinkers such as Augustine, Boethius, Dionysius, Anselm, Bonaventure, and Aquinas. The birth of scholasticism, an analysis of this philosophical movement in the 13th century, and its decline are presented.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Spring
PHIL 235 — Early Modern Philosophy  Course count: 1
A study of the origins of modern philosophy: Descartes' turning toward
the subject; his attempt at a justified method guided by the ideal of
mathematical certainty; his influence on the development of European
rationalism, Spinoza, Leibniz. Equal attention will be given to empiricist
philosophers such as Bacon, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume and
their approaches to philosophy and science.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Fall

PHIL 241 — Modern Philosophy  Course count: 1
A study of the later development of modern philosophy including Kant's
new evaluation of metaphysics, epistemology, the nature of the sciences
and morality and the idealist thought of Fichte and Hegel. Attention
also to the thought of those opposing idealism, especially Marx and
Kierkegaard.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Fall

PHIL 242 — Logic & Language  Course count: 1
An introduction to the 20th-century analytic philosophy and philosophy
of language, which to a large part is guided by the conviction that
traditional philosophical problems are based on linguistic and logical
confusions. Familiarizes students with the formal languages of modern
sentential and predicate logic, whose development was so important for
the philosophical thinking within this tradition. It will reflect on the
importance of language for understanding the world.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Spring

PHIL 243 — American Philosophy  Course count: 1
A survey of the beginnings and development of American philosophic
thought from the colonial period to the present. Detailed discussion of
the work of Emerson, Peirce, and James and of important movements
such as transcendentalism, pragmatism and analytic thought. One unit.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Annually

PHIL 244 — 20th Century Philosophy  Course count: 1
This course examines and compares key writings of prominent traditions
into which 20th-century Western philosophy split: analytic or Anglo-
American philosophy, continental or European philosophy, and classical
American philosophy or pragmatism. Readings will include works of
Martin Heidegger, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and John Dewey, among
others, on issues of knowledge, language, existence, and the nature of
philosophy.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 245 — Phenomenology  Course count: 1
Explores the motivation and the methods of phenomenological
philosophy. Focus is on Husserl's development of phenomenology as a
"rigorous science," and its critical revision. Topics include the relation of
Husserl's "transcendental" project to the classical metaphysical tradition,
the distinction between "pure" and "applied" phenomenology, the idea of
a phenomenological psychology, and the influence of phenomenology in
the philosophy of art. Readings include works by Husserl, Sartre, Merleau-
Ponty, and others.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 246 — Philosophy & Literature  Course count: 1
Explores the relationship between philosophy and literature. Reveals
the enormous impact of philosophy on literary texts and tries to show
how philosophy is present in all forms of intellectual life. Also tries to
take seriously literature's claim to be doing something that philosophy
itself cannot do. The authors chosen vary, but include such figures as
Shakespeare, Goethe, Nietzsche, Thomas Mann and Proust.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Literature, Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 247 — Environmental Political Philosophy  Course count: 1
The class begins with a survey of environmental philosophy, exploring
anthropocentrism, sentiocentrism, biocentrism, and ecocentrism. With
those in hand, we explore the question of what the government ought
to do about it. We then study four contemporary political theories:
liberalism, libertarianism, conservatism, and capabilities theory. Each
of these theories is deeply anthropocentric (human-centered) in its
original form, but some are easier to "green" than others and we will test
them all to see which can incorporate the values driving the different
environmental positions. Throughout we will debate whether we should
green the theories (and if so, which way?) and we will repeatedly test our
theories against real world issues: what do they tell us the government
should do about factory farming, organic food, wilderness restoration,
environmental racism, climate change, or anything else?

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 248 — Existentialism  Course count: 1
Existentialism was a movement in recent (1850-1950) French and
German philosophy that heavily influenced subsequent European
thought and literature. It saw human beings as free and troubled,
lacking guidance from tradition, God, and nature. This course explores
existentialism through a reading of its philosophical exponents
(Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Tillich) and literary and
philosophical authors (Dostoevsky, Camus). Both religious and atheistic
existentialism are considered.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years
PHIL 249 — Environmental Ethics  
Course count: 1  
What kind of person should I be? What do I owe to others, and to myself? What, if anything, do I owe to non-human others: animals, nature, the environment and what kind of role can those things play in my own moral development? This class will study three different sets of answers to those questions, as represented in the traditions of Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics, and Virtue Ethics. Each of these theories begins as anthropocentric (human-centered), but we will introduce sentiocentric, biocentric, and ecocentric commitments and see which theories can accommodate those expanded concerns. We will repeatedly test our theories, in both original and modified forms, against real world issues: what do they tell us to do about factory farming, meat consumption, animal use in medical testing, wilderness restoration, climate change, or anything else?  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Philosophical Studies  
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 250 — Medical Ethics  
Course count: 1  
Examines topics of current interest in biomedical ethics, and the role moral philosophy plays in public debate about controversial issues. Aim is to help students think, speak, and write clearly about these issues. Discusses moral justification and an overview of several types of ethical theory. Considers such issues as the physician-patient relationship, truth-telling and confidentiality, informed consent, reproductive technologies, abortion, the right to die, euthanasia and assisted suicide, the AIDS epidemic, human genetics, and justice in the distribution of health care.  
Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Philosophical Studies  
Typically Offered: Annually

PHIL 252 — Process Philosophy  
Course count: 1  
Process philosophy developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Europe and America in response to the theory of evolution. It is a metaphysics of nature holding that everything real is in the process of change or evolution, and that purposes, values, meanings, and minds must emerge from the natural processes described by modern science. Some drew religious implications as well. We will critically evaluate this tradition, examining among others Charles Peirce, William James, Henri Bergson, Alfred North Whitehead, and John Dewey.  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Philosophical Studies  
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 255 — Asian Philosophy  
Course count: 1  
What is the ultimate goal of human existence, if any? Are there qualities of persons or actions that promote harmony with the community or with nature at large? Is there a soul that exists beyond this life? Is there really a self at all? Is there a permanent reality beneath the visible world of change or is the motley of change all there is to the world? We shall explore these fundamental philosophical questions through key Asian traditions of wisdom such as Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism and Buddhism. Not only is an understanding of these wisdom traditions valuable in themselves, it will also help us understand better the Asian nations which social, political, ethical and cultural practices are founded on Asian philosophy.  
Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Cross-Cultural Studies, Philosophical Studies  
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 260 — Philosophy Of Art  
Course count: 1  
By reflecting on what philosophers have said about art, this course investigates the idea that art itself performs a philosophical, perhaps even a moral, function. Art is supposed by many to have the power to reveal something, and to be in some way “good” for us. In considering whether this is so, we have to confront two basic questions. The first is: Are there any “truths” about art (about what art is, about the purpose of art, about what makes art good or bad, etc.)? The second is: does art really reveal “truths” (What kind of truths? Truths about what? Can these truths be rationally articulated? If not, why should we take art seriously?) We shall concentrate on these, and related questions. Readings from Plato, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Freud, Heidegger, Kandinsky, and Iris Murdoch.  
Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Philosophical Studies  
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 261 — Philosophy Of Mind  
Course count: 1  
Questions concerning the nature of the mind and its relation to the body or questions about the essential capacities of human beings distinguishing them from plants, animals, and machines are raised. Different traditional and contemporary themes about the nature of the mind are discussed critically. Emphasizes topics such as the mind-body problem, the nature, the explanation of action, and the problem of intentionality.  
Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Philosophical Studies  
Typically Offered: Annually
PHIL 263 — The Art of Living Course count: 1
Living is not just a biological process, but an art difficult to master and often even too complex to understand. Philosophers have always dealt with this issue, but not in a sufficiently systematic way. In the course of the semester we will examine a few philosophical recommendations as to how to live our lives (Plato, Montaigne, and Hartmann), as well as several recommendations as to how to develop one’s humanity as fully as possible as presented by various religious traditions (Christianity, Hinduism, and Taoism).

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 265 — Political Philosophy Course count: 1
Political philosophy addresses the questions of how and toward what end ought human beings live together, what a just and good society would be, and what makes power legitimate? These questions are pursued through a reading of the history of Western political thought, including the work of Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, and Locke. Recent liberal theory also examined, focusing on the justice of welfare spending and the proper limits on government, using for example the work of John Rawls and Robert Nozick.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies, Social Science
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 267 — Contemporary Political Philosophy Course count: 1
Examines the nature of liberal democratic politics in its relation to morality. The central question is: what are the rightful limits on and concerns of the government, law, and politics of a "liberal," that is, free and democratic, society? "Neutralist" liberals argue that maximum individual liberty requires government neutrality toward particular moral ends or notions of the good life. Others, especially "communitarians" and "civic republicans," fear that neutrality undermines both morality and community, and argue that government must promote both through endorsing some notion of the good life. What is the proper balance of liberty and morality? This question is pursued through the work of a number of important, most recent and American, political theorists.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies, Social Science
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 273 — Philosophy Of Medicine Course count: 1
The philosophy of medicine includes the metaphysical, epistemological and methodological aspects of medical practice and medical research. This course explores some of the theoretical and conceptual issues that form the basis for medical knowledge and thus influence the practice of medicine. Topics include the nature of health and disease, normality and pathology, the assumptions and goals of medicine, changes in the theoretical structure of medicine over time, the nature of medical knowledge, and methods of reasoning in medical research and practice.

Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 274 — Philosophical Anthropology Course count: 1
We will explore the philosophy of culture through a reading of 20th-century philosophical and related writings, trying to discern what difference culture makes to our understanding of human beings. That is, what does the recognition that humans are fundamentally cultural beings do to our ethics, politics, and account of human mind and knowing? We will confront problems of cultural relativism, the role of cultural identity in politics, and what some claim is our contemporary "clash of civilizations", reading, among others, Ernst Cassier, Ernest Gellner, Johann Huizinga, and Samuel Huntington.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 277 — Philosophical Perspectives On Women Course count: 1
Surveys the classic literature of Western philosophical views on women and the feminist response to it. Attention to feminism as a method of analysis as well as to representative issues whose philosophical significance has been identified by feminism, e.g. gender, friendship, dependence.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 282 — Philosophy Of Religion Course count: 1
This course is divided into two parts, both of which confront concepts and names for God with experiences of evil. The first part studies the tradition of theodicy, with attention to Augustine, Boethius, Leibniz and contemporary liberation theology. The second part looks closely at the experience of extreme evil in genocide. Readings from P. Levi, E. Eiesel, E. Levinas, P. Celan and post-Holocaust "death of God" thinking.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 284 — Phil Foundations - Catholicism Course count: 1
This course will examine some of the philosophical foundations of Roman Catholicism and, more generally, of Christianity. We will consider the human capacity to know God, the nature of the Triune God, and our response to God in Church and Sacraments. Special emphasis will be placed on the philosophical ideas that helped to shape the expression of foundational Christian doctrine. Readings will include selections from Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, St. Augustine, St. Anselm, St. Thomas Aquinas and other authors.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies, Studies in Religion
Typically Offered: Alternate Years
PHIL 289 — Ethical Issues/Death & Dying  Course count: 1
The ethical problems involved in caring for the terminally ill are among the most controversial issues of our day. This course examines ethical, philosophical, and public policy dimensions of death and dying. Topics include the definition of death, truth-telling with dying patients, suicide, euthanasia, deciding to forgo life-sustaining treatment, decisions on behalf of children and incompetent adults, the debate about futile care, and public policy issues.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Philosophical Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 301 — Moral Psychology  Course count: 1
This course addresses the nature of moral agency and moral reasoning from an interdisciplinary perspective. It will try to develop a philosophically plausible and a psychologically realistic account of human beings who are capable of acting for moral reasons. At the center of the discussion is the following question: How is it possible to conceive of human beings to be motivated by something other than pure self-interest as moral philosophers constantly assume if we are also biological organisms, a product of evolution and a process of survival of the fittest? Particularly important for our purpose is the question of whether our ability to empathize or sympathize with other people leads to altruistic and moral motivations. Readings will include Aristotle, Hume, Smith, Kant, Schopenhauer, Batson, DeWaal and others.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 302 — Corporate Moral Agency  Course count: 1
The course explores the question of whether highly organized collectives (corporations, governments, colleges, etc.) qualify as moral agents. If they do, then they have moral obligations and it is wrong when they lie, cheat, or steal. If they dont, then they dont have moral obligations and it isnt wrong when they lie, cheat, or steal. Thats an unattractive result, but holists claiming that such collectives are moral agents face a difficult challenge. The holist has to demonstrate that (1) the collective entity exists, that it cannot be reduced to its members; (2) the entity qualifies as an agent, with beliefs, desires, and the ability to act on them; and (3) the entity has the additional capacities necessary for moral agency (including free will). That is the path we will trace in this course, drawing on contemporary analytic work in metaphysics, philosophy of mind, agency, and ethics to see whether collectives can meet the standards established there. Throughout, we will consider the implications for either the Enron scandal, NASAs failures with the Challenger and Columbia shuttles, the Penn State/Jerry Sandusky scandal, or the Countrywide mortgage scandal student choice. By the end, students should be able to (1) adopt a position on each of these core questions, supporting their position with reference to the contemporary literature and responding to criticisms, and (2) draw a conclusion about the situations involving the contemporary issue we choose to explore.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 307 — Metaphysics & Natural Science  Course count: 1
This is a course naturalistic metaphysics which compares the speculative conceptions of philosophers to recent work in the natural sciences (this semester, physics). Readings of three 19th - and 20th-century "process" philosophers (Schelling, Peirce, Whitehead) who hoped to answer fundamental metaphysical questions from a naturalistic perspective. Each is coupled with a scientist's exposition of relevant parts of contemporary physical theory, particularly, the Big Bang origin of the universe (Weinberg), complex systems (Prigogine), and quantum mechanics (Polkinghorne). Goal is to use the science to educate the philosophy, and the philosophy to educate the science, hence to understand the natural world through a dialogue between the two.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 309 — Approaches to Medical Ethics  Course count: 1
This course will examine the development and history of some of the most important approaches to medical ethics. It will examine three of the most important theoretical approaches: the principle-based common morality theory of Tom Beauchamp and James Childress; the libertarianism of H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr.; and the virtue ethics of Edmund Pellegrino and David Thomasma. Many issues of contemporary concern in medical practice and research will be addressed in conjunction with the study of these theories. We will critique the contemporary practice of bioethics.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 311 — The Nature of Morality  Course count: 1
Prerequisite: One previous philosophy course.
GPA units: 1

PHIL 332 — Problems in Phenomenology  Course count: 1
Selected issues or texts in the Phenomenological good is explored in depth.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 335 — Philosophical Naturalism  Course count: 1
Philosophical naturalism holds that all reality is in or is continuous with physical nature, hence nothing is supernatural, purely non-physical or "ideal." This also means the conclusions of natural science are directly relevant to the philosophical investigation of reality (that is, metaphysics). The historical problem for this view is to account for things that appear to be non-physical, like life, consciousness, knowledge, numbers, possibilities, God. This course encounters a variety of recent naturalisms to see whether they can handle these issues, reading John Dewey, W.V.O. Quine, Justus Buchler, Hans Jonas, and Hilary Putnam.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course. Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years
PHIL 354 — Plato Course count: 1
Platonism has fallen on hard times in the contemporary philosophical marketplace. As a way of thinking about ethical, epistemological, or metaphysical issues, it is seen as an enterprise which is more or less bankrupt. The goal of this seminar is to overcome the modern prejudice against Platonism by rereading Plato, and understanding what he really has to say. Do his works represent a coherent philosophical vision? If so, what does this vision offer us?

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 361 — Confucian Values & Human Rights Course count: 1
Discourse about Confucian values, frequently known as "Asian Values," provided strong resistance to Western rights. Arguing that human rights are not universal because of their origin in the West, Asian nations urge that consideration be given to their cultural and historical situations which justify their own brand of human rights. Confucian values are being invoked by the Chinese government in political discussions with the U.S. This seminar focuses on primary texts by Confucius, Mencius and two other early Confucian texts, in order to understand the philosophical concepts which constitute Confucian values. We will survey some contemporary literatures on human rights to come to an understanding of the highly contested concept of human rights. Ultimately, we examine what values are Confucian, whether they are compatible with human rights, (especially the first- and second-generation rights), and if one of these is prior to the other for Confucianism. We ask if there are resources within Confucian values which can contribute to a better understanding of human rights.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course. Enrollment is limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Cross-Cultural Studies

PHIL 362 — Augustine Course count: 1
This seminar introduces the thought of Augustine through study of some main works in relation to key themes in Greek philosophy (chiefly Plotinus) and Christian theology. Augustine's Confessions are generally read, but depending on the topical focus in a given year, this may be followed by study of his City of God, De Trinitate, or passages from other works.

Prerequisite: One previous Philosophy course.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PHIL 400 — Tutorial Course count: 1
Independent study of various topics of special interest to individual students and faculty directors. Normally, tutorials will only be offered for topics that are not covered by regularly offered courses.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 494 — Honors Thesis Course count: 1
In their senior year, students admitted into the Philosophy Honors Program are required to enroll in two consecutive semesters of the honors tutorial in order to work on their honors thesis under the direction of their advisor. Two semester credits are granted at the end of the second semester. One unit each semester.

GPA units: 0

PHIL 495 — Honors Thesis Course count: 1
In their senior year, students admitted into the Philosophy Honors Program are required to enroll in two consecutive semesters of the honors tutorial in order to work on their honors thesis under the direction of their advisor. Two semester credits are granted at the end of the second semester.

GPA units: 2
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring