

PHILOSOPHY/ PHILOSOPHIE

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Philosophy Department offers a range of degree programs and certificates: a Specialized Honours BA, a Specialized Honours iBA, an Honours BA, an Honours iBA, an Honours Double Major BA, an Honours Double Major iBA, an Honours Major/Minor BA, an Honours Major/Minor iBA, an Honours Minor BA, a Bachelor of Arts, and the Certificate in Law and Social Thought. You can find detailed requirements for these degree programs [here](#), and for the Certificate [here](#). Here's a rough sketch of what you would need for an Honours BA:

- one of two introductory courses for majors, 1690 "Introduction à la philosophie : Les grands penseurs" and 2605 "Truth, mind and reality"
- a logic requirement (2640 "Logic" or a Modes 17xx "Critical thinking" / "Logique formelle et informelle")
- one of two second-year courses in the history of philosophy, 2620 "Reason and feeling in modern philosophy" and 2645 "Ancient philosophy and political theory"
- upper-level courses in each of three areas: theoretical philosophy (including epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind), practical philosophy (ethics, political philosophy), and history of philosophy

WHAT SHOULD I START WITH?

First year:

- 1611/1612 for a taste of philosophy
- or jump straight into 1690 or 2605
- and a Modes 17xx course
- 2923/2925 if you know you want the CLST

Second year:

- 1690 or 2605 if you haven't already taken them
- ditto for 2923/2925
- 2620 or 2645
- 2640
- and start in on upper-level courses

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS/ DESCRIPTIONS DE COURS

GL/PHIL 1611 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

Fall Session

This course introduces students to some of the enduring problems of Philosophy; problems that have interested generations of philosophers and yet resist definitive solution. In this course, we focus on Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. Some of the fundamental questions considered in the study of Ethics are: Is morality all relative, or are there any absolute standards, standards that are universally applicable? Is the morality of an act completely determined by its consequences? Are we capable of acting contrary to our own self-interest? Why should we be moral? In the final section on Philosophy of Religion we consider questions such as: Does Pascal's Wager justify religious belief? Is human freedom compatible with divine foreknowledge? Would a perfectly good, all-powerful God permit evil and suffering in the world?

Readings will be drawn from historical and contemporary sources.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 1611 3.0
Course credit exclusion: GL/PHIL 1410 3.00 and AP/PHIL 1000 6.00
Professor: B. Logan

This course is open to students in their first or second year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 1612 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY II

Winter Session

This course introduces students to some of the enduring problems of Philosophy; problems that have interested generations of philosophers, and yet resist definitive solution. We begin with fundamental issues at the core of Epistemology (Theory of Knowledge), such as: What is knowledge? Can anything be known with certainty? Can we have knowledge of the past? Of the future? How can inductive reasoning be justified? The course then turns to topics in Metaphysics. Questions studied in this area include: Is a human being a purely physical entity, or is there something such as a mind or soul? Is human freedom possible? Can we be responsible for our actions?

Readings will be drawn from historical and contemporary sources.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 1612 3.0
Course credit exclusion: GL/PHIL 1420 3.0
Professor: T. Kostroman

This course is open to students in their first or second year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 1690 6.0 INTRODUCTION À LA PHILOSOPHIE : LES GRANDS PENSEURS

Ce cours cherche à mettre en évidence les fondements philosophiques de la pensée occidentale par l'étude d'œuvres marquantes. Le choix des textes au programme vise plusieurs buts à la fois :

- Initier les étudiants à l'histoire de la philosophie occidentale ;
- les sensibiliser, en même temps, aux problèmes philosophiques et aux solutions classiques qui y ont été apportées ;
- mettre en lumière les sources et les présuppositions de nos propres façons de penser (autant en science qu'en morale ou en politique) ; et — mettre aussi en lumière, plus particulièrement, les rapports qu'ont entretenus la philosophie et les sciences auxquelles elle a donné naissance.
- En plus d'une certaine dose de culture générale, les étudiants devraient en principe obtenir ainsi des repères leur permettant de mieux se situer dans leur milieu culturel et de mieux apprécier la place qu'ils occupent dans le monde d'aujourd'hui.

Identique à : GL/HIST/HUMA 1690 6.0
Professeur : G. Moyal

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première ou deuxième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.

GL/PHIL 2605 6.0 TRUTH, MIND AND REALITY

This course is an introduction to central areas and problems of philosophy, as considered from a contemporary analytic perspective. It is divided into three sections: (i) Theory of Knowledge (ii) Metaphysics and (iii) Philosophy of Mind. In the first section, Theory of Knowledge, we will be concerned with questions such as:

What is knowledge? What are the scope and limits of our knowledge? What should we believe? In the second segment, Metaphysics, the course will deal with issues such as: Are universals real? What is causality? The last section, Philosophy of Mind, will take on problems such as: What is the relation between the mental and the physical? What is the self? What are the conditions of personal identity?

This course is particularly recommended for those who intend to go on in Philosophy.

Students who have little or no previous experience with Philosophy should seriously consider taking GL PHIL 1611 3.0 and 1612 3.0 before attempting PHIL 2605 6.0.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 2605 6.0
Professor: Jill Cumby

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 2615 3.0 MORAL QUESTIONS AND SOCIAL POLICIES

Winter Session

This course examines a select number of moral issues, and their social policy implications, which arise in connection with human persons, animals, and the environment. Topics include concepts of personhood, the definition of death, abortion, doctor-assisted suicide, the morality and legalization of euthanasia, the ethical treatment of animals and the environment, stem cell research, and human cloning.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 2615 3.0
Professor: R. Davis

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 2617 3.0 THE QUEST FOR MEANING

Fall Session

Questions and topics to be discussed in this course: Can life have meaning? Whose criteria count in assessing the meaningfulness of a human life? Is human life absurd? Self-realization, satisfaction and happiness, the inevitability of death and the significance of suffering.

Cross-listed to: GL/HUMA 2617 3.0

Professor: J. Cumby

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 2640 6.0 LOGIC

Logic, in the philosophical tradition, is the study of the general principles which make certain patterns of argument reasonable and others unreasonable. The focus will be on acquiring methods to assist us in appraising our reasoning as correct or incorrect, valid or invalid. These methods will, of course, vary with the area of logic being studied. The course will cover propositional logic, predicate logic and the logic of relations. As well, we will pursue those philosophical issues which arise naturally in the study of logic.

Cross-listed to: GL/LIN/MODR 2640 6.0
Professor: T. Kostroman

Note: This course may be taken to satisfy the Modes of Reasoning requirement.

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 2645 6.0 ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL THEORY

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle are the three most important and therefore most famous philosophers of antiquity. (They were friends more or less, and lived roughly at the same time around 400 B.C.). They raised and answered questions which have stood the test of time: the questions still arouse curiosity and provoke ingenuity in answering them. They raised questions like 'What is justice?', 'What is the nature of human sexuality?', 'What would the best political community be like?', 'What does it mean to say something is?', 'What is art?', and many others.

Their reasons for raising such questions, the way they raise them, and how they answer them are as interesting as their answers. Some of their answers have been disproved; although in the attempt to do so many alternatives have been proposed. (Understanding the original answers can shed light on understanding the more familiar alternatives.) To say that their direct and indirect influence on us, how we think, how we talk, what we believe, has been immeasurably great is to say too little. Sometimes they are amusing.

Cross-listed to: GL/POLS/ SOSC 2645 6.0
Course credit exclusion: AP/PHIL 2015 3.0 and GL/PHIL 2630 6.0
Professor: J. Gonda

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 2690 3.0 LOGIQUE SYMBOLIQUE

Session d'hiver

Ce cours vise à munir l'étudiant des moyens puissants d'analyse et de critique du raisonnement que met à sa disposition la logique moderne, dite « symbolique ». Il ne suppose aucune connaissance préalable de logique. Après une brève revue des règles de déduction naturelle, le cours portera sur les règles de quantification, et sur les relations. Nous amorcerons, si nous en avons le temps, une introduction à la logique inductive.

Identique à : GL/LIN 2690 3.0 ; GL/MODR 2690 3.0 (FR)

Professeur : G. Moyal

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première, deuxième ou troisième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.

GL/PHIL 2923 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND SOCIAL THOUGHT

Fall Session

An introduction to philosophical reasoning as it pertains to questions concerning law and society. More specifically, we'll ask what justification there is for having a legal system. Is law necessary to protect individuals against one another, or perhaps to realize a higher value? Or is the legal system an institution that a fully developed society could do without? What would an ideal state look like? What aspects of human life would it regulate? How much decisional power would it grant its citizens? We will examine the theories of several great philosophers on these and related questions.

Cross-listed to: GL/SOSC 2923 3.0

Professor: L-P. Hodgson

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 2923 3.0 INTRODUCTION AU DROIT ET À LA PENSÉE SOCIALE

Session d'automne

Une introduction au raisonnement philosophique tel qu'il s'applique aux questions concernant le droit et la société. Nous poserons notamment la question de savoir dans quelle mesure il est justifié d'avoir un système juridique. Un tel système est-il nécessaire, soit pour protéger les individus les uns contre les autres, soit pour réaliser une autre valeur importante? Faut-il plutôt dire que les institutions juridiques seraient superflues dans une société pleinement développée? Comment ces institutions doivent-elles idéalement être structurées? Quelle place doivent-elles laisser à la participation des citoyens? Nous examinerons les théories de plusieurs philosophes importants sur ces questions.

Identique à : GL/SOSC 2923 3.0

Course credit exclusion : AP/PHIL 2015 and GL PHIL 2630 6.00

Professeur : L-P. Hodgson

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première, deuxième ou troisième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.

GL/PHIL 2925 3.0 LAW, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Winter Session

An introduction to legal reasoning and selected issues involved in understanding a legal system. We will also consider the nature of legal rights, justice and the relations between law and morality.

Cross-listed to: GL/SOSC 2925 3.0

Professor: Frédéric Côté-Boudreau

This course is open to students in their first, second or third year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 2925 3.0 PHILOSOPHIE DU DROIT

Session d'hiver

Ce cours est une introduction au raisonnement juridique dans ce qu'il a de particulier ; nous y aborderons quelques sujets propres à faire mieux comprendre ce qu'est un système juridique. Y seront étudiés également la nature des droits

définis par la loi, la nature de la justice, ainsi que les rapports entre la morale et le droit.

Identique à : GL/SOSC 2925 3.0
Professeur : Frédéric Côté-Boudreau

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première, deuxième ou troisième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.

GL/PHIL 3220 3.00 AN INTRODUCTION TO EXISTENTIALISM

Winter Session

This course examines some of the central thinkers and themes in existentialist thought. The themes include the nature of the self, authenticity, the basis for morality, radical freedom, atheism, the limitations of reason and the relationship between reason and faith.

Course credit exclusion: AP/PHIL 2120 3.00.
Professor: T. Kostroman

GL/PHIL 3237 3.00 MORAL PHILOSOPHY I

Fall Session

What makes an action right or wrong, and how can we be sure we are making good moral choices? Are there even objective truths about the nature of right and wrong, and how can this be so, given the variety of moral views people have? If there are moral truths, how can we come to learn about them, and why should they matter to us? What lies at the heart of morality – reason, emotion, character, or something else? What makes some people lack basic moral competence? In this survey of major western ethical theories, we will investigate these questions. This course will introduce the theories of Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Kant, and Mill, in addition to looking at a variety of contemporary work in ethics. We will aim to connect questions in normative ethics (what is right and wrong?) to questions in metaethics (what is the nature of moral properties and judgments?) and moral psychology (how does moral agency work?).

Course credit exclusion: GL/PHIL 3643 3.00.
Professor: I. Ilyes

GL/PHIL 3450 3.0 PHILOSOPHY OF TIME

Fall Session

Time appears to be an absolutely central aspect of reality: perhaps more pervasive even than space, since mental phenomena are arguably temporal but not spatial. Yet some philosophers have claimed that time is not real. What, then, is time? This course treats, from an analytic perspective, a range of philosophical problems arising from reflection on that question. Possible topics include time's reality, the nature of tense, identity through time, the direction of time, and time travel.

Professor: T. Kostroman

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 3642 3.0 BUSINESS ETHICS

Winter Session

This course is an examination of the central moral issues raised by business activities and practice. It begins with an exploration of various utilitarian and respect-for-persons ethics, and traces out the very different results they yield in ethical decision-making. Then, by way of case studies, we will examine a host of specific business-related issues: employee rights, affirmative action, "reverse discrimination," fairness in advertising, and the duties of corporations in protecting the environment.

Cross-listed to: GL/ECON/SOSC 3642 3.0
Course credit exclusion: AP/PHIL 3050 3.00.
Professor: R. Davis

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 3654 3.0 (EN) THE MORAL LIMITS OF THE CRIMINAL LAW

Fall Session

This course considers what types of conduct the state may legitimately criminalize, and what justification it must have for doing so. Are paternalistic or moralistic laws ever justifiable? What is the place of the criminal law in a free society?

Cross-listed to: GL/SOSC 3654 3.0
Professor: A.-A. Cormier

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 3654 3.0 (FR) LES LIMITES MORALES DU DROIT CRIMINEL

Session d'automne

Ce cours considère quels types de conduit l'État peut criminaliser, et le type de justification requis pour ce faire. Le paternalisme ou le moralisme légal sont-ils justifiables ? Quelle est la place du droit criminel dans une société libre ?

Identique à: GL/SOSC 3654 3.0
Professeur: A.-A. Cormier

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de troisième ou quatrième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.

GL/PHIL 3910 3.0 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Fall Session

Language interests us because of its centrality to our self-conception as describers of reality. It also plays a key methodological role in understanding diverse problems in philosophy.

This course will introduce students to such topics as meaning, truth, translation, reference, pragmatics, and the relation between language and thought.

Prerequisite: 6 credits in Philosophy, or LIN, or in MODR (the 17xx series), or permission of the instructor.
Cross-listed to: GL/LIN 3910 3.0, GL/MODR 3910 3.0
Professor: C. Campbell

This course is open to students in their second, third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 4217 3.0 THE POSSIBILITY OF KNOWLEDGE

Fall Session

This course examines some of the central issues in contemporary theory of knowledge: the possibility of knowledge, how it might be acquired, and whether it can be extended by deductive reasoning.

Prerequisite: 12 credits in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.
Professor: R. Davis

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 4612 3.0 CONTEMPORARY MORAL PHILOSOPHY

Winter Session

This course proposes an advanced study of central questions in contemporary moral philosophy. Topics may include the different ethical theories (such as Kantianism, consequentialism, and contractualism) or specific moral problems (such as moral responsibility, demandingness, and duties to non-human animals).

Prerequisite: 12 credits in Philosophy or permission of the instructor.
Crosslisted to: GL/SOSC 4612 3.0
Course credit exclusion: GL/PHIL/SOSC 3643 3.00.
Professor: L.-P. Hodgson

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 4625 3.0 PHILOSOPHICAL PARADOXES

Winter Session

A study of rationality in belief and action approached through the paradoxes which each presents. We are also interested in the sort of reasoning which generates paradoxes, and what is required to resolve them. Topics include: The Prediction Paradox, Newcomb's Problem and the Prisoner's Dilemma.

Prerequisite: 12 credits in PHIL
Integrated with: GS/PHIL 5040
Crosslisted to: GL/MODR 4625 3.0
Professor: C. Campbell

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/PHIL 4626 3.0 CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Winter Session

This course addresses some of the central themes of contemporary political philosophy. Since the publication of John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice* in 1971, the field of political philosophy has grown more quickly than any other branch of philosophy. This course covers central topics and authors of this provocative area of philosophy.

Prerequisite: 12 credits in Philosophy or permission of the Department.
 Crosslisted to: GL/POLS 4626 3.0
 Integrated with: GS/PHIL 5626 3.0
 Course credit exclusion: AP/PHIL 4180 3.00.
 Professor: L-P. Hodgson

This course is open to students in their third or fourth year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

MODES OF REASONING

The Modes of Reasoning courses described in the following pages are those offered by the Department of Philosophy.

Note that these courses are not philosophy courses and therefore do not count as credits toward a philosophy major; however, they can be used to satisfy the logic requirement for a philosophy major. Only one Modes 17xx 6.0 course may be taken for credit.

GL/MODR 1711 6.0 CRITICAL THINKING

Section A: R. Davis
 Section B: [closed for registration]
 Section C: T. Kostroman

Section M, Winter Accelerated: V. Lehan

The principles of logic underlie everything which will be taught in this course. In one part of the course, we will concentrate on the way in which these principles are manifested in ordinary language. We will first learn how to recognize the arguments in a text and how to develop greater comprehension of what one reads by analyzing the author's arguments into premises and conclusions. A significant proportion of the course will deal with techniques for distinguishing good and bad arguments — both deductive and inductive (probabilistic) arguments. Other topics will include an examination of some of the common fallacies which we frequently commit and accept.

Having mastered the basic tools of critical thinking, we will apply them to a discussion of selected philosophical problems. These problems may include: fatalism with regard to the future; faith versus reason. There will also be a section devoted to legal reasoning.

The primary concern of the course will be to develop skills in critical thinking, and clear and coherent writing.

This course is open to students in their first or second year of study. Others may register with permission of the instructor.

GL/MODR 1716 6.0 LOGIQUE FORMELLE ET INFORMELLE

Ce cours intéressera ceux et celles qui veulent améliorer leurs capacités d'identifier, d'évaluer et de présenter arguments et explications. On étudiera la logique

propositionnelle élémentaire, les diverses fonctions du langage dans l'argumentation, les critères des définitions, les distinctions entre les raisonnements déductifs et non-déductifs (par ex. : les raisonnements par analogie). Les arguments analysés dans ce cours seront tirés de diverses sources et diverses disciplines (par ex. : revues savantes et populaires). Une partie de ce cours sera consacrée au raisonnement juridique.

Identique à : GL/LIN 1716 6.0

Professeur : G. Moyal

Ce cours est ouvert aux étudiants de première ou deuxième année. Les autres étudiants doivent obtenir l'approbation du professeur.