

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

Program Objectives

- To enable students to develop thoughtful attitudes toward life and the world through a confrontation with the thought of great philosophers;
- To treat such problems as the nature of our individual and social lives, the nature of the world in which we live, and the nature of our apprehension of, and response to that world. All philosophy courses will include a close reading and analysis of primary sources and a substantive writing component.

Philosophy Minor

The minor in Philosophy (<http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/philosophy-program/philosophy-minor/>) is available for students pursuing majors in other disciplines.

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy 3 credit hours

What is Philosophy? This course seeks both to convey a sense of what philosophy has been and to engage the student in a philosophical dialogue concerning perennial and contemporary issues. Among topics dealt with are: freedom, God, knowledge, morality and justice.

PHIL 105 – Philosophical Roots of American Democracy 3 credit hours

This course is designed to emphasize the philosophical roots of Democracy by reading primary works from Greek philosophy, literature, the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The students will analyze the ideals of justice, citizenship, virtue, rights, liberty, and the constitution of government and develop an understanding of what are the duties and responsibilities of informed citizens.

PHIL 110 – Introduction to Logic 3 credit hours

The systematic study of valid arguments with emphasis upon analysis and evaluation of arguments in ordinary language.

PHIL 120 – Introduction to Ethics 3 credit hours

Introduction to a philosophical analysis of the idea of an ethical life: reading and critical discussion of both historical and contemporary sources.

PHIL 126 – First Year Seminar 1 credit hour

The First-Year Seminar provides students with a multidisciplinary experience in which they approach an issue or problem from the perspective of three different academic differences. The First-Year Seminar will consist of three 1-credit hour courses taken as co-requisites in a single semester. The successful completion of all three courses satisfies the General Studies LOPER 1 course requirement. Students may take the First-Year Seminar in any discipline, irrespective of their major or minor. Students admitted as readmit students or transfer students who transfer 18 or more hours of General Studies credit to UNK are exempt from taking a LOPER 1 course.

PHIL 188 – GS Portal 3 credit hours

Students analyze critical issues confronting individuals and society in a global context as they pertain to the discipline in which the Portal course is taught. The Portal is intended to help students succeed in their university education by being mentored in process of thinking critically about important ideas and articulating their own conclusions. Students may take the Portal in any discipline, irrespective of their major or minor. Satisfies the General Studies Portal course requirement. Students may take their Portal course in any discipline. Students who transfer 24 or more hours of General Studies credit to UNK are exempt from taking a portal course.

Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

Prerequisite: First year freshman standing or sophomore standing only.

PHIL 201 – Formal Logic 3 credit hours

The formal study of valid arguments, with emphasis upon problem solving through symbolic manipulation.

PHIL 250 – Ancient Philosophy 3 credit hours

Reading and critical analysis of the texts of the philosophers of ancient Greece and Rome with an emphasis on Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

PHIL 251 – Medieval Philosophy 3 credit hours

Reading and critical analysis of the major philosophical issues of the middle ages, such as the relation of faith and reason and philosophy to theology, the interpretation of texts, and the conflict between the *vita activa* and the *vita contemplativa*.

PHIL 253 – Modern Philosophy 3 credit hours

Reading and critical analysis of texts of seventeenth and eighteenth century philosophers such as Descartes, Locke, Hume and Berkeley.

PHIL 254 – Contemporary Philosophy 3 credit hours

Study of contemporary issues and methods in Philosophy, including, but not limited to, Phenomenology, Existentialism, Analytic Philosophy.

PHIL 256 – Philosophy of Human Culture 3 credit hours

An examination of the concept of culture in the development of the individual, group or class, and of a whole society using a variety of works from Indian, East Asian, Native American, European, and/or African thinkers, and from a variety of religious traditions.

PHIL 305 – Social and Political Philosophy 3 credit hours

Study of the fundamental principles of political and social organization, and the concepts of community, justice, law and economy.

PHIL 309 – Philosophy of Mind 3 credit hours

Critical analysis of philosophical ideas of concepts such as perception, sensation, emotion, action and will.

PHIL 314 – Philosophy of Religion: Reason and Faith 3 credit hours

Problems concerning religious language, the nature and existence of God, and the purpose and meaning of religious life, including criticism thereof.

PHIL 360 – Philosophy of Science 3 credit hours

Critical study of the aims, methods and the good(s) of the sciences. Using original works in various sciences, this course will examine the why and wherefore of scientific inquiry and progress.

PHIL 388 – GS Capstone 3 credit hours

An interdisciplinary experience where students apply the knowledge, cognitive abilities, and communication skills they have gained from General Studies in designing and completing an original project or paper. Students employ methods and interpretive means of two or more disciplines to integrate knowledge and synthesize their results. Satisfies the General Studies capstone course requirement. Students may take their Capstone course in any discipline

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior level standing or within 6 hours of completing general studies requirements.

PHIL 400 – Ethics 3 credit hours

Reading and critical analysis of historic and contemporary discussions of the concept of morality.

PHIL 410 – Topics in Metaphysics 3 credit hours

Investigation of the concepts of reality, existence, truth and being. Specific topic to be announced in the class schedule.

Prerequisite: 3 hours of Philosophy at the 100 level or permission of instructor.

PHIL 420 – Independent Study 1-3 credit hours

Arrange with instructor.

Total Credits Allowed: 18.00

PHIL 425 – Aesthetics 3 credit hours

This course will study the nature and purposes of art.

PHIL 451 – Philosophy in Literature 3 credit hours

Philosophical issues as expressed in the novel, drama, and poetry.

Prerequisite: 3 hours of Philosophy at the 100 level or permission of instructor.

PHIL 490 – Seminar in Philosopher or Movement 3 credit hours

Specific philosopher or movement to be announced in the class schedule.

May be repeated as topic varies.

Total Credits Allowed: 18.00