PHILOSOPHY

The philosophical experience is considered integral to the intellectual and cultural development of today’s student. In our increasingly complex and dynamic culture, the growth of novel and changing ideas unsettles traditional patterns of thought and action. As a result, the role of philosophy becomes more vital, for it addresses the conflict between the enduring insights of the past and the new discoveries and theories of the present in an attempt to attain a coherent philosophy of life.

In whatever way the student comes to Philosophy—whether it be to satisfy a core, major, or elective requirement—the department seeks to enrich the student’s life-experience by making available the broad and generous ideas that have shaped the contemporary intellectual world. The program provides a broad range of electives dealing with historical movements, great philosophical figures of the past and present, perennial philosophical themes, and contemporary issues.

Faculty

JESSE BAILEY, PH.D
Assistant Professor

SEAMUS CAREY, PH.D.
Professor

KENNETH KNIES, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

EDWARD PAPA, PH.D.
Associate Professor

ANDREW J. PIERCE, PH.D.
Lecturer

GORDON PURVES, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

MICHAEL VENTIMIGLIA, PH.D.
Associate Professor

Major in Philosophy

The major in Philosophy requires the completion of 30 credits.

REQUIRED COURSES

PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy
PH 231 Philosophy of Knowledge
PH 251 Ethics or PH 258 Medical Ethics
Seven Philosophy electives

Note: Before Fall 2012, majors were required to take PH 212 - Practical Logic. That course has been replaced by FLO 125 - The Art of Thinking, starting in Fall 2012. As Sacred Heart University students, all Philosophy majors will take a logic and critical thinking course, typically FLO 125. See the department chair with questions about this policy.

Minor in Philosophy

The minor in Philosophy requires the completion of the following 18 credits:

REQUIRED COURSES

PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Five Philosophy electives from 200- or 300-level courses.

Associate in Arts General Studies

EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS (15 CREDITS)

PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Four Philosophy electives
Course Descriptions

† Elective Core Courses

PHCC 104 - The Human Search for Truth, Justice, and the Common Good | 3 CR
This course is the capstone course in Sacred Heart University’s Common Core sequence of study, The Human Journey. As the capstone, this course addresses the Core’s four fundamental questions of human meaning and value. This course will investigate the religious or philosophical understanding of the human condition as a theme running through the four stated questions. Students will study both classic and contemporary texts from a range of religious and some philosophical traditions, particularly the Catholic intellectual tradition. A vital component of the course will be students’ own responses to the four questions, especially as those responses evolve through the enrichment of the course material. As a capstone course, PHCC104 enables students to develop a personal, integrated set of answers to the common core questions through a range of modalities and media, including service projects, research papers, artistic productions, student “portfolios” of completed assignments for all four Core courses, and other similarly integrated and interdisciplinary work.

†PH 101 - Introduction to Philosophy | 3 CR
Philosophy is defined for the beginning student through an exploration of the historical branches of philosophy and their respective problems.

†PH 212 - Practical Logic | 3 CR
Practice of logical analysis in classroom exercises. Focuses on informal logic, how to make ideas clear, reason correctly and evaluate evidence used to substantiate a truth claim.

†PH 221 - Historical Survey of Philosophy | 3 CR
Primary texts from the philosophers of ancient Greece, the Hellenistic-Roman period and the Middle Ages. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 222 - Understanding Our Universe | 3 CR
Major philosophical, theological, scientific issues in cosmology. Creation, evolution, and fate of the universe. Design and chance, freedom and determinism, God and the universe. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 225 - Philosophy of Plato | 3 CR
The nature of the philosophical life is examined through an exploration of selected Platonic dialogues. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 226 - The Philosophy of Aristotle | 3 CR
Emphasizes the ethics, politics, and metaphysics of the Aristotelian system and its contrast to the Platonic synthesis. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 231 - Philosophy of Knowledge | 3 CR
The conditions that make knowledge possible and the criteria of truth and falsity. Selected representative historical thinkers. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 241 - Medieval Philosophy | 3 CR
The Aristotelian tradition as developed within Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 245 - The Philosophy of St. Augustine | 3 CR
Examines Augustine’s contribution to the development of Roman Catholic philosophy and theology. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 251 - Ethics | 3 CR
Primary texts from notable moral philosophers in the Western philosophical tradition, from Socrates to Rawls. Prerequisite: PH 101

†PH 255 - Political Philosophy | 3 CR
Primary texts from the history of political thought including Plato, Lao-Tzu, Aquinas,
Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Mill and Rawls. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 256 - The Philosophy of Technology | 3 CR**
Representative views of the social role of technology. Two fundamental questions are addressed. The extent of technology’s impact on social institutions and individual lives. And, to what degree is this impact beneficial or harmful? Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 258 - Bioethics: Philosophical Approaches | 3 CR**
Examines the ethical and legal issues surrounding abortion, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, genetic cloning, genetic therapy/enhancement, genetic patenting, and health care allocation. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 270 - Philosophical Anthropology | 3 CR**
Reflections on the nature and meaning of human existence, especially in contemporary philosophy such as existentialism and Marxism. Writings of Buber and Scheler on human nature are studied. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 272 - Metaphysics | 3 CR**
Four movements in the development of the Western metaphysical tradition: Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Kant and Heidegger. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 278 - East/West Comparative Philosophy | 3 CR**
Heidegger and East Asian thought, the origin of Greek and Chinese philosophy; the Kyoto school; Nishitani’s Religion and Nothingness. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 283 - Philosophical Theology | 3 CR**
The problem of God before and after Kant’s “Copernical Revolution,” phenomenology of religion and postmodern theology. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 284 - Philosophy of Film | 3 CR**
Uses contemporary films to lead students through advanced philosophical examination of issues such as epistemology, ethics, religion, technology, and the nature of the mind. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 285 - Philosophy of Performing Arts | 3 CR**
This course examines the creation, expression, and meaning of the performing arts. Through drama, music, and voice, students will critically analyze the perennial elements and structure of story and its place in uncovering and creating meaning.

**PH 299 - Special Topics in Philosophy | 3 CR**
Designates new or occasional courses that may or may not become part of the department’s permanent offerings. Courses capitalize on a timely topic, a faculty member’s particular interest, an experimental alternative to existing courses, etc. Prerequisites established by the department as appropriate for the specific course. Course title is shown on the student’s transcript. Consult the current course schedule for available topics and current prerequisites.

**PH 306 - Existentialism | 3 CR**
Nineteenth- and 20th-century existentialism, especially the thought of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre. Prerequisite: PH 101

**PH 307 - Philosophy of Lived Experience | 3 CR**
A course in the method of phenomenology, which holds that all meaning philosophical questions can be addressed though a careful examination of our own experience. This task is not easy, because many commonsense attitudes about experience
need to be called into question. Thinkers who assist in capturing and reflecting on lived experience are Heiddeger, Husserl, and Merleau-Ponty. Prerequisite: PH 101

‘PH 322 - American Philosophy and Culture | 3 CR
Interaction of American philosophical thought and the American experience as revealed in the philosophies of Edwards, Emerson, Thoreau, Peirce, James and Dewey. Prerequisite: PH 101

‘PH 360 - Evolution, Philosophy, and Christianity | 3 CR
To gain an understanding of evolutionary biology and the philosophical difficulties it creates for Christianity and our understanding of human nature. Prerequisite: PH 101

PH 362 - Philosophy of Science | 3 CR
Science is very useful, but we rarely stop to think about what kind of knowledge it is. That is the main concern of the philosophy of science. The course investigates various theories of science; the nature of the scientific method; the role of explanation, observation, and confirmation; and unique problems of knowledge that arise in a scientific context. Prerequisite: PH 101

‘PH 380 - Philosophy of Wilderness | 3 CR
The concept of wilderness has always both shaped and challenged understandings of nature, humankind, and civilization. The concept is explored in ancient philosophy, modernism, Thoreau, and contemporary ecological thought. Prerequisite: PH 101

‘PH 381 - Love in the Western Tradition | 3 CR
Examines the idea of love in the Western intellectual tradition, from the Greeks to today. Philosophical problems arising from the scientific study of love and altruism are also investigated. Prerequisite: PH 101

‘PH 382 - Problems in Contemporary Philosophy | 3 CR
Topics, selected by the instructor, such as war and peace, near-death studies, the philosophical novel, new directions in philosophy or the crisis in professional ethics. Prerequisite: PH 101

‘PH 383 - The Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas | 3 CR
The existence and nature of God, human knowledge, the state, natural and divine law, virtue, grace and the Incarnation as explicated in the Summa Theologica. Prerequisite: PH 101

PH 399 - Independent Study | 1–3 CR
An area of study for which no course is presently provided. The student must find an instructor competent in his or her proposed topic and secure the permission of the chairperson and the dean. Prerequisite: PH 101