

# WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy is to be studied, not for the sake of any definite answers to its questions ... but rather FOR THE SAKE OF THE QUESTIONS THEMSELVES; because these questions enlarge our conception of *what is possible*, enrich our intellectual imagination and diminish the dogmatic assurance which closes the mind against speculation; but above all because, through the greatness of the universe which philosophy contemplates, THE MIND ALSO IS RENDERED GREAT....

from *The Problems of Philosophy*, by Bertrand Russell, British philosopher, 1872-1970



Philosophy courses at OU will train you to think and reason clearly, whatever the subject matter. We give you the opportunity to develop this talent while studying some of the most exciting and influential ideas ever put forward.

Many of our students go on to successful careers as teachers, lawyers, doctors, business professionals, or members of the clergy. Some philosophy majors even become writers, movie directors, and (of all things) philosophy professors.

Large-scale studies have consistently shown that philosophy majors have among the top scores on tests for admission to graduate and professional schools (the GRE, LSAT and GMAT). The combination of verbal ability and reasoning skills fostered in philosophy is unmatched in any other discipline. Many students come to philosophy for these benefits ... and stay for love of the ideas they encounter.

# PHILOSOPHY

## FALL 2009 INTRODUCTORY COURSES

### PHIL 1013 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

[IV-WC: Humanities - Western Civilization and Culture]

Philosophy uses reason to analyze beliefs about life's most fundamental questions. It is a kind of self-examination in which you explore what you think and reflect on whether you have good reasons for your opinions. In this course you will examine beliefs about fundamentally important issues, such as the nature of reality, the nature of the mind, the existence of God, what can be known about the world, and what makes actions moral.

MWF: 10:30-11:20 or 11:30-12:20    TTh: 10:30-11:45 or 4:30-5:45    W: 6:30-9:20    and Online

### PHIL 1103 CRITICAL REASONING

[III-SS: Social Science - Social Sciences]

The purpose of this course is to improve your skills at critical thinking. We will focus on real-world reasoning, especially examining ways in which people reason badly. Awareness of these pitfalls, coupled with practice at avoiding them, can make you a better reasoner. Topics may include biases and distortions in perception and memory, the effects of context and emotions on thought, prejudice, social aspects of reasoning, and superstition and pseudoscience.

MWF: 10:30-11:20    TTh: 3:00-4:15

### PHIL 1113 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

[I-M: Symbolic and Oral Communication - Mathematics]

What does it mean to *be logical*? At least in part it means to reason clearly and have the ability to provide good arguments in support of your claims. Logic is the study of basic rules of clear reasoning and argument. This course will introduce you to the central concepts of *deductive logic* - the logic by which premises may provide infallible support for conclusions. It will teach you techniques for assessing such important logical properties as *consistency among statements* and the *validity of arguments*.

MWF: 9:30-10:20 or 2:30-3:20    TTh: 12:00-1:15

### PHIL 1213 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

[IV-WC: Humanities - Western Civilization and Culture]

How should we live? What is the nature of a just society? Can the diverse moral values of different cultures be reconciled? What is the ultimate foundation of morality? This course introduces you to the tools you need to think critically about such questions and surveys some of the answers philosophers have offered. It also applies philosophical theories to specific moral issues such as poverty and famine, the environment, business transactions, euthanasia, abortion, and whether animals have rights.

MWF: 9:00-10:15, 9:30-10:20 or 12:30-1:20    M: 6:30-9:20

### PHIL 1223 INTRO TO ASIAN PHILOSOPHY

[IV-Non-W: Humanities- Non-Western Civilization and Culture]

This course surveys some of the most important philosophies and philosophical texts from Asia. While the traditions of Asia are often grouped together under the rubric "Eastern Philosophy," we shall see that there are many diverse traditions and will pay particular heed to their differences in both content and methodology. We will attend in particular to the Indian traditions of Hinduism, Jainism, and early Buddhism; the Chinese traditions of Confucianism and Daoism; and Japanese varieties of Buddhism. Students will be expected to complete short essays and tests with short answer and essay questions.

TTh: 9:00-10:15

*Intro Philosophy classes are a great way to satisfy Gen Ed requirements. The Gen Ed area for each course is listed next to its title.*

*For More information about the Philosophy Department  
Please visit our website: [www.ou.edu/ouphil](http://www.ou.edu/ouphil)*