

Philosophy and Religious Studies

Web Site: <http://www.odu.edu/philosophy> (<http://www.odu.edu/philosophy/>)

Dylan Wittkower, Chair
James R. Van Dore, Chief Departmental Advisor
Office: (757) 683-3861

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy with three concentration options: general, political and legal studies, and religious studies. The program is dedicated to instruction in critical reading and critical thinking that supports students in discovering, clarifying, and reformulating their values and beliefs through open inquiry that looks across and is informed by the wide diversity of human experience. Students interested in the study of religion can minor in religious studies or choose religious studies as their major concentration.

Bachelor of Arts–Philosophy Major

Four-Year Plan - Philosophy - BA (<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/philosophyandreligiousstudies/philosophy-ba-fouryearplan/>)

- *The four-year plan is a suggested curriculum to complete this degree program in four years. It is just one of several plans that will work and is presented only as broad guidance to students. Each student is strongly encouraged to develop a customized plan in consultation with their academic advisor. Additional information can also be found in Degree Works.*

Lower-Division General Education

Written Communication *	6
Oral Communication	3
Mathematics	3
Information Literacy and Research **	3
Language and Culture ***	0-12
Human Creativity	3
Interpreting the Past	3
Literature	3
Philosophy and Ethics ****	0-3
The Nature of Science	8
Impact of Technology *****	0-3
Human Behavior	3
Total Hours	35-53

* Grade of C or better required in ENGL 110C before declaring major.

** Can be satisfied by PHIL 290G, REL 147G, and REL 260G

*** BA students must have competence through the 202 level; competence is not met by completion of an associate degree.

**** Can be satisfied in the major by PHIL 303E, PHIL 344E, PHIL 345E, PHIL 355E, or PHIL 442E.

***** Can be satisfied in the major by PHIL 383T.

Major Requirements

Students must complete all core requirements plus the requirements for their selected concentration for a total of 33 credit hours in 300- and 400-level

philosophy (PHIL) and religious studies (REL) courses; at least 9 hours must be at the 400 level.

Core Requirements

Topics core	9
PHIL 300	Knowledge and Reality
PHIL 301	Ethics and Metaethics
PHIL 491W	Seminar in Philosophy
Select one:	3
PHIL 330W	Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 331	Modern Philosophy
PHIL 332	Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 431	Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
Select another course from the list above OR one of the courses below:	3
PHIL 305	American Pragmatist Philosophy
PHIL 404	Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy
PHIL 406	Contemporary Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 411	Post-Modernism and Post-Structuralism
PHIL 425	Kant and Hume
PHIL 430	Marx and Hegel
Total Hours	15

General Concentration

Logic	3
PHIL 340	Logic
Philosophy Electives	15
Choose five additional PHIL courses at the 300 or 400 level.	
Total Hours	18

Religious Studies Concentration

The religious studies concentration is designed for students looking to understand the role of religion in human culture and to expand their cultural competency.

Islam

Choose one Islam course.	3
REL 352	Islam
REL 400	Sacred Texts of Islam
REL 403	Gender and Sexuality in Islam

Judaism and Christianity

Choose one Judaism and Christianity course.	3
REL 311	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
REL 312	New Testament
REL 333	Historical Jesus
REL 350	Judaism
REL 351	Christianity
JST 300	Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Asian Religions

Choose one Asian Religions course.	3
PHIL 353	Asian Religions
PHIL 480	Hinduism
PHIL 481	Buddhism
PHIL 482	Chinese Religion and Philosophy
PHIL 485	Japanese Religion and Philosophy
REL 483	Tibet, Happiness, and this Precious Life

Religious Studies Electives	9
Choose three additional PHIL or REL courses at the 300 or 400 level.	

Total Hours **18**

Political and Legal Studies Concentration

The political and legal studies concentration is aimed at students interested in social and political philosophy, particularly those planning to attend law school.

Logic	3
PHIL 340	Logic
Select two:	6
PHIL 365	Race & Power
PHIL 402	Gender and Philosophy
PHIL 410	Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 412	Philosophy of Law
PHIL 430	Marx and Hegel
Select two more courses from the courses listed above OR from the courses below:	6
PHIL 303E	Business Ethics
PHIL 344E	Environmental Ethics
PHIL 345E	Bioethics
PHIL 355E	Cybersecurity Ethics
PHIL 411	Post-Modernism and Post-Structuralism
PHIL 442E	Studies in Applied Ethics
Philosophy Elective	3
Choose one additional PHIL course at the 300 or 400 level.	
Total Hours	18

Electives

Elective courses will be needed to meet the minimum 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Upper-Division General Education

- Option A. Approved Minor, 12-24 hours; also second degree or second major
- Option B. Interdisciplinary Minor, 12 hours specified by the department, 3 of which may be in the major area of study
- Option C. An approved certification program such as teaching licensure
- Option D. Two Upper-Division Courses from outside the College of Arts and Letters or from the Social Science Component within the College of Arts and Letters that are not required by the major (6 hours).

Requirements for Graduation

- Minimum grade point average of 2.00 overall and in the major
- 120 credit hours, of which 30 hours overall and 12 hours of upper-level courses in the major must be from Old Dominion University.
- Completion of ENGL 110C and ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C with a grade of C or better
- Grade of C or better in one writing intensive (W) course in the major
- Completion of Senior Assessment

Double Majoring in Philosophy and Political Science

The Departments of Political Science and Geography and Philosophy and Religious Studies have established an arrangement that makes it possible to complete a double major in as few as 57 hours, little more than the 48 hours needed for a major in one and minor in the other. Philosophy majors in the Political-Legal Studies concentration double majoring in political science may count any two of the following political science courses toward their philosophy major:

POLS 309	Race, Culture and Public Policy
POLS 310	Political Theory
POLS 312	American Political Thought
POLS 403	First Amendment Freedoms

POLS 408	American Constitutional Law: Individual Rights
POLS 409	American Constitutional Law: Powers of Government
POLS 419	Jurisprudence

These courses will count as Political-Legal electives; students will still be required to take 6 hours of Political-Legal core courses. Students doing the linked BA/MA in Philosophy and Humanities can count only one 500-level political science course as a "bridge" course. Certain political science "topics" courses may be counted as philosophy electives with prior approval from the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department. Political Science will also double count up to two select philosophy courses for double majors; for details, see the Political Science and Geography section of this catalog (<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/politicalscienceandgeography/#doublemajoringinphilosophyandpoliticalsciencetext>).

Students interested in double majoring in philosophy and a subject other than political science should consult the chief departmental advisor; there may be some opportunity for double counting at least one class.

Linked BA in Philosophy and MA in Humanities

The linked BA in philosophy and MA in Humanities makes it possible for exceptional philosophy majors to count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both an undergraduate and graduate degree. Students must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 discrete credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 30 discrete credit hours for the graduate degree). For more information, consult the Humanities section of this catalog (<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/humanities/>).

Philosophy Minor

Philosophy Courses	12
Any four PHIL courses at the 300 or 400 level.	
Total Hours	12

For completion of a minor, a student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all upper-level courses specified as a requirement for the minor and complete a minimum of six hours in the minor through courses offered by Old Dominion University.

Religious Studies Minor

Religious Studies Courses	12
Any four REL classes at the 300 or 400 level.	
Total Hours	12

For completion of a minor, a student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all upper-level courses specified as a requirement for the minor and complete a minimum of six hours in the minor through courses offered by Old Dominion University.

Applied Ethics Minor

Ethics Core	3
PHIL 301	Ethics and Metaethics
Select three courses from the following:	9
PHIL 303E	Business Ethics
PHIL 344E	Environmental Ethics
PHIL 345E	Bioethics
PHIL 355E	Cybersecurity Ethics
PHIL 365	Race & Power
PHIL 402	Gender and Philosophy
PHIL 410	Social and Political Philosophy

Total Hours 12

For completion of a minor, a student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all upper-level courses specified as a requirement for the minor and complete a minimum of six hours in the minor through courses offered by Old Dominion University.

Political and Legal Studies Minor

Select two courses from the following: 6

PHIL 301	Ethics and Metaethics
PHIL 331	Modern Philosophy
PHIL 340	Logic
PHIL 365	Race & Power
PHIL 402	Gender and Philosophy
PHIL 410	Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 412	Philosophy of Law
PHIL 430	Marx and Hegel
PHIL 431	Nineteenth-Century Philosophy

Select two additional courses from the courses listed above OR from the list below: 6

PHIL 303E	Business Ethics
PHIL 344E	Environmental Ethics
PHIL 345E	Bioethics
PHIL 355E	Cybersecurity Ethics
PHIL 442E	Studies in Applied Ethics

Total Hours 12

For completion of a minor, a student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all upper-level courses specified as a requirement for the minor and complete a minimum of six hours in the minor through courses offered by Old Dominion University.

Advanced Placement

Since the study of philosophy and religion involves intensive work with sophisticated texts and extensive analytical and critical writing, credit by examination is not usually appropriate. Students who believe that there are reasons why they should be considered for exceptions to this policy should present their cases in writing to the chair of the department, who, when appropriate, will refer them to the departmental committee. Generally, such things as "reading on one's own" are not considered an adequate basis for such a petition. Students who have earned credit for one of the introductory philosophy and ethics way of knowing courses (e.g., PHIL 110P, PHIL 120P, PHIL 126P, PHIL 150P, REL 150P, PHIL 155E, REL 155E, PHIL 227E, PHIL 228E, PHIL 230E, PHIL 235E, REL 235E, or PHIL 250E) may not receive credit by examination for another of them.

PHILOSOPHY Courses

PHIL 110P. Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credits.

An introduction to basic concepts, methods and issues in philosophy, and a consideration of representative types of philosophical thought concerning human nature, the world, knowledge, and value.

PHIL 120P. Logic and Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of the principles of correct reasoning and the types of fallacious reasoning. Includes an examination of the philosophical and historical context of logic, and the application of logical methods to philosophical questions.

PHIL 126P. Honors: Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credits.

Open only to students in the Honors College. A special honors section of PHIL 110P.

PHIL 150P. Life, Death, and Meaning. 3 Credits.

What is the meaning of life, and what role might the end of life play in living meaningfully? This course provides an introduction to philosophy and religious studies through an investigation of different views on death and the meaning of life from diverse cultures and identities. (Cross-listed with REL 150P).

PHIL 155E. Human Nature. 3 Credits.

What ways of thinking, feeling, and acting are essentially human? This course focuses on some of the most influential and fascinating philosophical and religious accounts of human nature from diverse cultural perspectives. Topics may include the nature of human beings in relation to God, society, ethics, politics, knowledge, the environment, freedom, evolution, the mind, language, race, gender, and technology. (Cross-listed with REL 155E).

PHIL 195. Study Abroad: Introduction to Philosophy. 3 Credits.

This course is the study abroad equivalent of PHIL 110P, an introduction to basic concepts, methods and issues in philosophy, and a consideration of representative types of philosophical thought concerning human nature, the world, knowledge, and value.

PHIL 202G. Information Literacy for Cybersecurity. 3 Credits.

This course provides an in-depth introduction to information literacy from library and information science, information ethics, and computer science perspectives along with applications to cybersecurity research and professional activity. This course is aligned with Old Dominion University's general education learning outcomes for information literacy. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 227E. Honors: World Religions: Beliefs and Values. 3 Credits.

Open only to students in the Honors College. A special Honors section of PHIL 250E.

PHIL 228E. Honors: Introduction to Ethics. 3 Credits.

Open only to students in the Honors College. A special Honors section of PHIL 230E.

PHIL 230E. Introduction to Ethics. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the study of ethics through philosophical reflection on a variety of moral issues of contemporary significance. Topics covered will vary by semester and instructor, and may include issues drawn from professional fields such as business, medicine, and information technology, plus matters of public concern like the environment, the treatment of animals, the use of military force, social justice, and civil and human rights.

PHIL 235E. Love, Sex, and Desire. 3 Credits.

Is love universal or culturally bound? Is sexual desire biologically driven or learned? This course provides an introduction to Philosophy and Religious Studies through an investigation of love, sex, and desire vis-a-vis ethical values and societal norms. (Cross-listed with REL 235E).

PHIL 250E. World Religions: Beliefs and Values. 3 Credits.

A comparative and philosophical study of major world religions in the Eastern and Western traditions with particular attention being paid to their views about the basis of right action and the nature of good and evil. Other points of comparison include the foundations of religious knowledge and belief, the meaning of human life, divinity, and death and immortality. A student with credit for PHIL 150P cannot receive credit for PHIL 250E.

PHIL 270P. Truth and Perception. 3 Credits.

What is truth? How do we know when something is real or fake? Are you certain that other people perceive the world in the same way you do? In this course we'll try to answer questions like these and more through an exploration of the relationship between our minds, our bodies, and the world around us.

PHIL 290G. Philosophy of Digital Culture. 3 Credits.

This course provides practical training in information access, critical information assessment, and ethical information use in a theoretically-oriented research context, as well as a theoretical exploration of issues in information literacy, the ethics and politics of online informational spaces, and the philosophy of digital culture.

PHIL 300. Knowledge and Reality. 3 Credits.

Metaphysics is the study of the ultimate nature of reality and epistemology is the study of what we can know about reality. This introduction to metaphysics and epistemology will engage with views of what exists and how we can know about it from a diverse collection of traditions and figures. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and 3 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 301. Ethics and Metaethics. 3 Credits.

An examination of the philosophical foundations of ethical inquiry from a diverse collection of traditions and figures, including historically marginalized voices. Various ethical systems are considered, and different views of metaethics and moral psychology may be as well. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and 3 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 303E. Business Ethics. 3 Credits.

A philosophical examination of ethical issues that arise in business and commerce. Topics discussed will vary by semester and instructor, but may include affirmative action, ethical versus unethical sales and marketing techniques, the obligations of business to society (if any), and the moral foundations of capitalism. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 305. American Pragmatist Philosophy. 3 Credits.

This course is an examination of the writings of some of the major American philosophers in the Pragmatist tradition. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C, and six credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 313. Philosophy of Religion. 3 Credits.

An analytical and critical consideration of the philosophical foundations of religion. Such topics as the existence of God, the problem of evil, theism and atheism, prayer, and immortality are discussed. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 324. Philosophy of Art. 3 Credits.

A study of the various theories of art and human creativity in the context of historical and cultural backgrounds. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 330W. Ancient Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of the thought of the classical Greek and Roman philosophers from the sixth century B.C. to the fifth century A.D. This is a writing intensive course. Prerequisites: Junior standing, a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 331. Modern Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of the thought of the major Western philosophers through the eighteenth century, including the empirical tradition of Bacon, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume, the rationalistic tradition of Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz, and the critical philosophy of Kant. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 332. Medieval Philosophy. 3 Credits.

This course examines the significant contributions of medieval philosophers to the development of philosophy of religion as well as other fields, including philosophy of language, logic, and ethics. Students examine the writings of medieval philosophers from Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 340. Logic. 3 Credits.

A study of the basic concepts and methods of logic as they occur in ordinary language, formal logical arguments, and an elementary logical system. Traditional Logic is emphasized, but some elements of Modern Logic are also introduced. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 344E. Environmental Ethics. 3 Credits.

An examination of the nature and basis of human obligations for the welfare of the environment with special attention to the foundations of ethical decision making. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 345E. Bioethics. 3 Credits.

An examination of the philosophical foundations of ethical decision making in biology, medicine, and the life sciences. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 353. Asian Religions. 3 Credits.

A study of religious and philosophical traditions of India, China and Japan. Primary emphasis will be given to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 355E. Cybersecurity Ethics. 3 Credits.

This course examines ethical issues relevant to computing and information technology, including: privacy; freedom of speech and content control on the Internet; individual and social responsibility; cybersecurity; cybercrimes; social impact of computers and other digital technologies; and ethical obligations of IT professionals. Students will gain a broad understanding of central issues in cyberethics and the ways that fundamental ethical theories relate to these core issues. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 365. Race & Power. 3 Credits.

This course will draw on historical and contemporary scholarship to explore the evolution of the concept of race in relation to different theories of power. Topics may include how to define race, how people are racialized, genocide and social death, the use of racial epithets, cultural appropriation, ally-ship, and the role of activism. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and 3 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 369. Practicum. 3 Credits.

The course offers three forms of practical experience for philosophy majors: Professional (for students anticipating careers in relevant professions, including philosophy); Classroom (for students anticipating graduate study and a teaching career); Civic/Social Affairs (for students interested in grassroots activism). Consult the department for details and certain specific prerequisites. Prerequisites: junior standing; minimum of 15 credit hours in philosophy.

PHIL 383T. Philosophy of Technology & Innovation. 3 Credits.

This course engages in a critical exploration of what technology is as a human practice and how it develops over time in ways that influence and are influenced by society, culture, and human values. Students will also learn responsible, inclusive, and creative design and development practices through an understanding of how social structures are embedded in technology. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

PHIL 395. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to academic advisors. Prerequisites: Junior standing or approval of the department chair.

PHIL 396. Topics in Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to academic advisors. Prerequisites: Junior standing or approval of the department chair.

PHIL 400/500. Philosophy and Video Games. 3 Credits.

An examination of the metaphysical, aesthetic, and ethical philosophical issues that accompany the creation, play, and critique of video games. Students will learn and analyze theories about what games are. They will think about and discuss the aesthetic qualities of video games and critically engage with attempts to fit video games into the larger art world. Students will engage with moral issues that arise from creating and consuming video games with morally problematic content. Finally, students will learn how to think critically about and interpret larger philosophical problems raised by video games and their themes. Prerequisites: Junior standing and a grade of C or better in PHIL 110P or ENMA 480, or instructor permission.

PHIL 402/502. Gender and Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A philosophical survey of approaches to understanding gender and gender differences. The course will also serve as an introduction to feminist philosophy, with a particular emphasis on feminist ethics. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 404/504. Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of influential contemporary movements in European philosophy. Emphasis will be given to the writings of Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Gadamer, Derrida, and Foucault. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 406/506. Contemporary Analytic Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of the twentieth-century analytic tradition, including such thinkers as Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Carnap, Ryle, Wisdom, and Austin. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 410/510. Social and Political Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A philosophical analysis of the relation between man, society, and the state, studying about a dozen philosophers since Plato on such topics as justice, authority, law, freedom, and civil rights. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 411/511. Post-Modernism and Post-Structuralism. 3 Credits.

This course is an examination of intellectual currents in postmodernism and post-structuralism as they pertain to central questions in social and political thought. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 412/512. Philosophy of Law. 3 Credits.

An examination of the nature of law and philosophical issues concerning the law. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 417/517. Philosophy of Education. 3 Credits.

Considers the relationship of philosophy and education. Topics considered include: philosophy as a foundation for education, education as an institution, and educational and philosophical issues as they relate to each other. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 423/523. Philosophy of Work. 3 Credits.

An examination of philosophical issues surrounding the practice of work. Topics to be discussed may include the definition of work, alienation, exploitation, whether there is a right to work or a right not to work, religious perspectives on work, and gender issues in work. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 425/525. Kant and Hume. 3 Credits.

This course is an examination of the philosophical writings of Hume and Kant and their influence. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C, and six credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 430/530. Marx and Hegel. 3 Credits.

This course is an examination of the philosophical writings of Hegel and Marx and their influence. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C and six credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 431/531. Nineteenth-Century Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of significant intellectual innovations and revolutions in nineteenth century European thought that helped shape the modern mind. Emphasis will be given to the writings of Kant, Schopenhauer, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 434/534. Contemporary Theory of Knowledge. 3 Credits.

This course provides students with a problem-oriented, critical, and comparative understanding of problems in contemporary epistemology. Topics include skepticism and responses thereto, analyses of knowledge, the externalist versus internalist debate, foundationalism and coherentism, and social approaches to knowledge including contextualism and feminism. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 435/535. Philosophy of Psychology. 3 Credits.

An examination of various ways in which the mind has been understood in philosophy and in psychology and of the methods that have been used in the study of the mind. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 440/540. Philosophy of Science. 3 Credits.

A study of the concepts and philosophical problems in the sciences: scientific reasoning, confirmation, explanation, laws, meaning, theories, revolutions, progress, and values. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C, or ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 442E/542. Studies in Applied Ethics. 3 Credits.

An intensive examination of ethical issues in a particular field or profession; an emphasis on ethical theory underlying practical decisions. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and Junior standing.

PHIL 451/551. Native American Philosophy. 3 Credits.

This course will provide students with an introduction to Native American philosophies with a focus on issues of identity, genocide, personhood, gender, sovereignty, and decolonization. Topics will be approached through a consideration of Native American philosophical methodologies and Native views regarding metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. (Cross-listed with REL 451) Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and 3 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

PHIL 480/580. Hinduism. 3 Credits.

An intensive study of the basic teachings of Hinduism as manifested in its sacred writings. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 481/581. Buddhism. 3 Credits.

A study of the origin, historical development, and contemporary status of Buddhism, in terms of its religious and philosophical elements and its influence in Asian cultures. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 482/582. Chinese Religion and Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of Chinese thought emphasizing Early and Classical Confucianism and Taoism, Chinese Buddhism, and NeoConfucianism. Modern currents of Chinese thought is also discussed. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 485/585. Japanese Religion and Philosophy. 3 Credits.

A study of the religious and philosophical traditions of Japan. Emphasis will be given to Shintoism, Buddhism, and Neo-Confucianism and their contemporary status and influence in Japanese culture. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 491W/591. Seminar in Philosophy. 3 Credits.

Intensive examination of the thought of one major philosopher or philosophical movement. This is a writing intensive course. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C/ENGL 221C/ENGL 231C and 6 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 495/595. Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.

The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: appropriate survey course or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 496/596. Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.

The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: appropriate survey course or permission of the instructor.

PHIL 497/597. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.

Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: senior standing and approval of the department chair.

PHIL 498/598. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Philosophy. 1-3 Credits.

Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: senior standing and approval of the department chair.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES Courses

REL 147G. Cults and Conspiracies. 3 Credits.

This course will explore why people believe conspiracy theories and why people become dedicated to religious cults or new religious movements, and will provide training in tools and strategies for examining truth claims of various groups.

REL 150P. Life, Death, and Meaning. 3 Credits.

What is the meaning of life, and what role might the end of life play in living meaningfully? This course provides an introduction to philosophy and religious studies through an investigation of different views on death and the meaning of life from diverse cultures and identities. (Cross-listed with PHIL 150P).

REL 155E. Human Nature. 3 Credits.

What ways of thinking, feeling, and acting are essentially human? This course focuses on some of the most influential and fascinating philosophical and religious accounts of human nature from diverse cultural perspectives. Topics may include the nature of human beings in relation to God, society, ethics, politics, knowledge, the environment, freedom, evolution, the mind, language, race, gender, and technology. (Cross-listed with PHIL 155E).

REL 235E. Love, Sex, and Desire. 3 Credits.

Is love universal or culturally bound? Is sexual desire biologically driven or learned? This course provides an introduction to Philosophy and Religious Studies through an investigation of love, sex, and desire vis-a-vis ethical values and societal norms. (Cross-listed with PHIL 235E).

REL 260G. Muslims & Media. 3 Credits.

Television, film, and journalism play an influential role in introducing Muslim life to broad audiences. This course provides an introduction to the representation of Islam in news and popular culture over the past century. In examining the relationship between Muslims and media we will develop information literacy skills and learn how to critically evaluate and interpret these sources.

REL 311. Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. 3 Credits.

An investigation of the Hebrew Bible on the basis of Biblical criticism and research. Attention is given to the cultural and historical background of these writings. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

REL 312. New Testament. 3 Credits.

An investigation of New Testament literature and thought on the basis of Biblical criticism and research. Attention is given to the religious and cultural background of early Christianity, particularly in late Judaism. Prerequisites: junior standing and three semester hours in philosophy, or permission of the instructor.

REL 333. Historical Jesus. 3 Credits.

This course examines the several quests to uncover the historical reality behind Jesus of Nazareth in modern biblical-historical scholarship, including the work of scholars like Albert Schweitzer, Rudolph Bultmann, and the many contemporary inquirers. Students are expected to have some familiarity with the New Testament and/or early Christianity. Prerequisites: Junior standing and three semester hours in REL or PHIL.

REL 350. Judaism. 3 Credits.

This course is a basic introduction to Judaism. We will explore the fundamental tenets of Jewish belief, examine primary expressions of Jewish ritual and practice, discuss the historical development of Judaism, and explore sacred texts, secular Yiddish texts, and contemporary issues confronting Jews and Judaism. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

REL 351. Christianity. 3 Credits.

A study of the Christian tradition, including its primary texts, historical development, intellectual tenets, and contributions to human culture. Specific attention will be given to Christianity as a way of life. Prerequisites: three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

REL 352. Islam. 3 Credits.

A study of the Islamic tradition, including its primary texts, historical development, intellectual tenets, and contributions to human culture. Specific attention will be given to Islam as a way of life. Prerequisites: three semester hours in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

REL 395. Topics in Religious Studies. 3 Credits.

The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule booklet and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: 3 hours in PHIL or permission of the instructor.

REL 396. Topics in Religious Studies. 3 Credits.

The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: three hours in PHIL or REL or permission of the instructor.

REL 400/500. Sacred Texts of Islam. 3 Credits.

The course will examine the Qur'an, the scripture of Islam, as well as other sacred texts such as the Hadith literature (sayings of Muhammad) and the Sira literature (accounts of Muhammad's life). This course will explore the role of these literatures in the faith, culture, and history of Islam. Our survey will include explorations of the history and reception of various texts, their literary and stylistic features, and various themes such as mystical, legal, modern, and feminist interpretations. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

REL 403/503. Gender and Sexuality in Islam. 3 Credits.

This course explores the shifting constructions of gender and sexuality in Muslim communities from the early period until the present, considering feminism, patriarchy, gender identity, masculinity, femininity, homosexuality, heteronormativity, and transgender people. Prerequisites: ENGL 211C, ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and three credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

REL 451/551. Native American Philosophy. 3 Credits.

This course will provide students with an introduction to Native American philosophies with a focus on issues of identity, genocide, personhood, gender, sovereignty, and decolonization. Topics will be approached through a consideration of Native American philosophical methodologies and Native views regarding metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. (Cross-listed with PHIL 451) Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and 3 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of instructor.

REL 483/583. Tibet, Happiness, and this Precious Life. 3 Credits.

Throughout this course, students will examine Tibetan texts and artifacts that address the meaning of happiness and the human condition. The course covers the indigenous religion Bön; the four main Tibetan Buddhist traditions (Nyingma, Sakya, Kagyu, and Geluk), Islam in Tibet, and contemporary social issues, such as gender, identity politics, and the use of social media. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C and 3 credit hours in PHIL or REL, or permission of the instructor.

REL 495/595. Topics in Religious Studies. 1-3 Credits.

The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: 3 hours in PHIL or REL or permission of the instructor.

REL 496/596. Topics in Religious Studies. 1-3 Credits.

The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects that, because of their specialized nature, may not be taught regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: three hours of PHIL or REL or permission of the instructor.

REL 497/597. Tutorial Work in Religious Studies. 1-3 Credits.

Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

REL 498/598. Tutorial Work in Religious Studies. 1-3 Credits.

Independent reading and study of a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: permission of the instructor.