

## PHILOSOPHY (PHI)

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Why philosophy? In the second century A.D. Justin Martyr set out to find peace and union with God. He thought he could find what he needed in philosophy. As he reports in his Dialogue with Trypho, he sought that peace from a Stoic, from a professional philosopher, from a Pythagorean, and from a Platonist.

After long years of studying (especially Plato), Justin was approached by a venerable old man, someone who knew God firsthand. "In ancient times," the old man explained, "long before the day of these pretended philosophers, there lived certain men, happy, just, and beloved by God, who spoke by the Holy Spirit and foretold many things that have since come to pass. We call them prophets - their writings still remain and those who read them with faith draw great benefits, concerning the beginning and the end of all things, and all a philosopher ought to know - for above all demonstration they were worthy witnesses to the truth."

At these words Justin says that his heart burned within him. As he writes, "That is how and why I became a philosopher. I wish that everyone would make a resolution like my own, and not keep himself a stranger to the words of the Savior."

This is how and why philosophy is practiced at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Each and every philosophy course at WLC is an invitation and an opportunity to join in the Great Conversation. For centuries, thoughtful people have been asking questions about goodness and God, immortality and the soul, what we can know and how we know it, how to make sense of our world, and more. All philosophy classes provide the opportunity to participate in that ancient contemporary discussion.

Throughout, students work diligently to be CHRISTocentric, biblical, confessional. This is how and why we practice philosophy! A student of philosophy is participating in an ancient and always relevant discipline. He or she is also practicing philosophy with a strong apologetic purpose. Writing in the first century A.D., the apostle Peter urges us, "Always be ready to give a reason (an apologetic, a carefully-thought-out explanation) to everyone who asks you to give an account of that hope you have among yourselves" (1 Peter 3:15).

The philosophy courses have been crafted to serve the student in whichever discipline(s) one is majoring and to help him or her to become an even more interesting and interested human being - no matter what vocation or which graduate courses one follows after college. For the undergraduate who is especially interested in philosophizing, a minor in philosophy are offered.

### Course of Study

A minor in philosophy consists of at least 21 credits in philosophy including:

1. Core courses: PHI 101, 102 and 201.
2. Period courses: at least 6 credits from PHI 320, 321, and 322.
3. Topical courses: At least 6 credits from PHI 202, 203, 323, x91, 199-499.

A maximum of 6 credits from other disciplines are allowed to count toward the minor upon review and discipline approval.

### Course Descriptions

#### PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy. 3 cr.

Students survey some of the most significant questions, ideas, and arguments that have defined Western philosophical thought with a particular focus upon the ancient Greek philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Topics include reality, order, knowledge, ethics, values, law, government, society, liberty, equality, art, and beauty among others. Emphasis is placed on reading from the original texts, learning how to analyze the logical structure of arguments, developing one's own logical positions, and observing the connections among various thinkers with the goal of applying their ideas toward understanding the world today. All of this is accomplished within a Christian worldview.

#### PHI 102 Logical Reasoning and Argumentation. 3 cr.

An introductory level course designed to develop student's argumentation, critical thinking, and logical reasoning skills. Students will learn to identify, analyze, and critique many types of deductive and inductive logical arguments. These include categorical syllogisms, propositional logic, analogies, causal inferences, and inductive generalizations. Identifying many examples of logical fallacies in reasoning is also strongly emphasized. Students are also introduced to the Socratic method via reading Plato's Apology and Crito.

#### PHI 201 Ethics. 3 cr.

Ethics examines the why behind what we value, do, and hold as rules or standards. From Plato and Aristotle to Nietzsche and Sartre, this course first investigates how ethical thought has developed throughout history. Careful attention is then also given to biblical ethics and the ethics of Martin Luther. Finally, the course engages contemporary ethical issues in areas such as medicine, business, economics, religion, sexuality, and politics, among others. Prerequisite: THE 100, 105, or 110; PHI 101 also recommended.

#### PHI 202 Apologetics. 3 cr.

"Always be prepared to give an apologetic, a carefully considered answer, to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." A rigorous introduction to the ministerial use of reason. The thoughtful consideration of select articles of Christian doctrine with a mind toward the philosophical and intellectual character of credal Christianity. Practice in the dialogic possibilities of introducing Christian truth to the educated. Works of 20th-century apologists such as C.S. Lewis. Acquaintance with current resources for evaluating post-modern society in light of the Christian worldview. Prerequisite: PHI 102 or discipline approval.

#### PHI 203 Philosophy of Human Nature. 3 cr.

"What then is Man?" One aspect of the course is the contemplation of ten theories of human nature from Confucianism and Upanishadic Hinduism to Scripture, from Plato and Kant to Marx, Freud and Sartre, behavioral psychology and evolutionary psychology. These theories are critically considered both in terms of philosophy of mind (consciousness and self) and moral philosophy (self and others). A consideration of a text such as Taylor's Sources of the Self comprises a second aspect of this class. Prerequisite: PHI 101 or discipline approval.

**PHI 321 Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy. 3 cr.**

A detailed exploration of the ideas put forth by Medieval and Renaissance philosophers and theologians from late Antiquity through the Reformation period (200's AD – 1500's AD). Students will read primarily from the original texts focusing on the epistemological, metaphysical, ethical, theological, political, and economic debates that linked the philosophers and their schools of thought – noting how these individuals and their views still shape our world. Philosophers examined include: Justin Martyr, Origen, Augustine, Boethius, Anselm, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, William of Ockham, John Duns Scotus, Peter Abelard, Catherine of Sienna, Machiavelli, Erasmus, Thomas More, Martin Luther, and John Calvin. Emphasis is placed on reading from the original texts, analyzing the logical structure of arguments, developing one's own logical positions, and observing the connections among these various thinkers with the goal of applying their ideas toward understanding the world today. All of this is accomplished within a Christian worldview. Prerequisite: PHI 101 and PHI 102, or discipline approval.

**PHI 322 Western Philosophy Since the Enlightenment. 3 cr.**

A detailed exploration of the ideas put forth by Western philosophers and theologians from 1600's through today. This includes René Descartes, David Hume, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, George Berkley, Immanuel Kant, Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, G.W.F. Hegel, Friedrich Nietzsche, Karl Marx, Soren Kierkegaard, Jean-Paul Sartre, John Dewey, Ludwig Wittgenstien, C.S. Lewis, William James, and W.V.O. Quine. Emphasis is placed on reading from the original texts, analyzing the logical structure of the arguments, developing one's own logical positions, and observing the connections among various thinkers with the goal of applying their ideas toward understanding the world today. All of this is accomplished within a Christian worldview. PHI 101 and PHI 102, or discipline approval.

**PHI 323 Philosophy of Law. 3 cr.**

What is law? What is the relationship between law and morality? What ends should the law serve? How are judges and justices to interpret the meaning of the law to particular cases? When, if ever, is it justified to disobey the law? These questions will be explored from various philosophical perspectives. These include natural law theory (Stoics, Thomas Aquinas, John Locke), command theory (John Austin), legal positivist theories (J.S. Mill, H.L.A. Hart, Oliver Wendell Holmes), and legal interpretivist theory (Ronald Dworkin). Emphasis is placed on reading from the original texts, applying the theories toward analyzing actual legal cases and public policies, as well as developing one's own logical positions on these questions. All of this is accomplished by placing each theory within a Christian worldview. Prerequisite: PHI 101 and either POL 200 or PHI 102, or discipline approval.

**PHI x91 Selected Topics. 3 cr.**

This course is a full-semester, intensive examination of one significant philosophical topic such as (but not limited to): existentialism, feminist philosophy, philosophy of literature, political philosophy, analytic philosophy (Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein; Quine, Davidson, Rorty) and philosophical hermeneutics. The topic is announced by the discipline. This course may be repeated for credit. Prereq: varies with topics.

**PHI 199-499 Independent Study. 1-3 cr.**

By arrangement with discipline. Prereq: PHI 101, 102 (or 202), 201, 203 and a 300-level course, or discipline approval.