

# PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

This is a list of the Philosophy (PHIL) courses available at KPU.

For information about transfer of credit amongst institutions in B.C. and to see how individual courses transfer, go to the BC Transfer Guide [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca)

## **PHIL 1100** **3 Credits**

### **Introduction to Philosophy**

Students will study central topics in the major areas of philosophy. They will examine a variety of philosophical perspectives on issues such as mind-body problem, the nature of reality, the limits of human knowledge, morality and moral judgement, and the justification of religious beliefs.

## **PHIL 1101** **3 Credits**

### **Philosophy, Culture, and Identity**

Students will be introduced, through literary and philosophical works, to issues connected with how the modern identity is formed and how it is constituted in Western culture.

## **PHIL 1110** **3 Credits**

### **Confronting Moral Issues: Introduction to Ethics**

Students will consider the meaning and justification of moral judgment by examining various views on whether or not morality has an objective basis. They will be introduced to leading theories of ethical conduct and will learn to apply these theories to contemporary moral problems and workplace situations.

## **PHIL 1111** **3 Credits**

### **Sustainability: Analysis and Ethics**

Students will study elements of traditional philosophy courses such as critical thinking, philosophy of science, and ethics to provide a detailed analysis of a variety of concepts of sustainability. They will examine sustainability policies and practices related to the environment, social equity, and economics.

Note: This course is cross-listed with POST 1100. Students may not get credit for both courses.

## **PHIL 1112** **3 Credits**

### **Environmental Ethics**

Students will examine central problems in environmental ethics. They will investigate the philosophical implications of various views about humans' relationship to nature, and consider topics such as the extent of our obligations to non-human animals, to the environment, and to future generations.

## **PHIL 1145** **3 Credits**

### **Critical Thinking**

Students will study the process of argument reconstruction and evaluation. They will focus on skills necessary that will enable them to distinguish argumentative from non-argumentative writing, rationally persuasive from rhetorically persuasive arguments, and strong from weak arguments. Students will be expected to analyze arguments from a variety of contexts such as newspaper editorials, advertising and surveys.

## **PHIL 1150** **3 Credits**

### **Introduction to Formal Logic**

Students will study the basic techniques of formal deductive logic. They will learn the semantics and syntax of two artificial languages-sentential logic ( SL ) and predicate logic ( PL )-with emphasis given to the former. With the aid of the formal techniques learned in this course, students will gain insight into the nature of rational argument and sound reasoning.

*Attributes: QUAN*

## **PHIL 1155** **3 Credits**

### **Introduction to Scientific Reasoning**

Students will examine the methodology behind arguments and experimentation in science, including the careful analysis of data, measurement of probability, and the formulation of various explanatory hypotheses. In so doing, they will become familiar, not only with how scientists go about their work, but with the philosophical foundations of scientific reasoning.

*Attributes: QUAN*

## **PHIL 2106** **3 Credits**

### **Ancient Greek Philosophy**

Students will examine the philosophical developments in ancient Greece that gave rise to Western Philosophy, with particular emphasis on one or more of Socrates, Plato or Aristotle.

## **PHIL 2107 (formerly PHIL 1107)** **3 Credits**

### **Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant**

Students will study some of the major philosophical texts from the modern period, beginning from the time of Descartes. They will apply methods of philosophical analysis to these texts in the exploration of epistemological, metaphysical, ethical and social-political questions.

*Prerequisites: 3 credits from courses in PHIL*

## **PHIL 2110** **3 Credits**

### **Moral Theory**

Students will examine some of the major normative ethical theories. They will study classic works representing the major ethical traditions, including virtue theory, deontology, social contract theory, and utilitarianism. They will examine concepts such as duty, virtue, well-being or happiness, and right action. Students will obtain a critical grasp of these ethical theories and concepts by reading classic works.

*Prerequisites: 3 credits from courses in PHIL*

## **PHIL 2115** **3 Credits**

### **Asian Philosophy**

Students will critically examine selected representative schools of philosophy in Asian traditions, including Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen Buddhism. They will explore such topics as reality, self, knowledge, ethics, and death.

## **PHIL 2117** **3 Credits**

### **Social and Political Philosophy**

Students will examine selected central problems in social and political philosophy. They will investigate such topics as the justification of the state, the tension between individual freedom and social constraint, and theories of social justice.

**PHIL 2120 (formerly PHIL 1120) 3 Credits**  
**Philosophy of Religion**

Students will examine arguments for and against the existence of God, as well as other traditional problems of theology, from a philosophical perspective. In the course of such examinations, they will use both classic and contemporary sources.

**PHIL 2210 (formerly PHIL 1210) 3 Credits**  
**Epistemology**

Students will study traditional themes in epistemology. Using classical and contemporary readings, they will examine problems related to the justification of beliefs, the nature of truth, and theories describing the foundations of knowledge.

*Prerequisites: 3 credits from courses in PHIL or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 2215 (formerly PHIL 1211) 3 Credits**  
**Metaphysics**

Students will study some of the main traditional topics of metaphysics. Using classical and contemporary readings, they will investigate problems related to mind-body interactionism, space and time, free will and fatalism, and theories of reality and truth.

*Prerequisites: 3 credits from courses in PHIL or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 3010 3 Credits**  
**Health Care Ethics**

Students will study various ethical and meta-ethical theories and will apply them to moral dilemmas in health care at the clinical, professional, and organizational levels. They will analyze various case studies that will help them develop competence in moral reasoning as it relates to personal, professional, and societal values-including (but not restricted to) the abortion and euthanasia debates, patient autonomy and the right to refuse treatment, two-tier health care, allocation of scarce resources, patient abuse and management of patient behaviour, alternative therapies, and the patient-caregiver relationship.

Note: This course is intended for the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. It will not count as upper-level PHIL credits for Philosophy BA degree programs.

*Prerequisites: 45 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher*

**PHIL 3033 (formerly ENTR 3033) 3 Credits**  
**Business Ethics**

Students will study various ethical and meta-ethical theories, and will apply them in standard business contexts -- such as employer-employee relations, risk analysis, occupational and product safety, environmental protection, and multinational practices. Students will acquire the tools to allow them to make ethical business decisions.

Note: This course is intended for BBA students. It will not count as upper-level PHIL credits for Philosophy BA programs.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher*

**PHIL 3040 3 Credits**  
**Philosophy of Art**

Students will investigate central questions about the nature and value of art (e.g., painting, sculpture, music, literature, and film). They will critically examine attempts to answer questions such as the following: What is art? Is there a difference between aesthetic judgments and mere judgments of taste or subjective preference? What is beauty? Should moral considerations affect our evaluations of art?

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL, or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 3100 3 Credits**  
**Great Philosophers of the 20th Century**

Students will examine the life, work, and influence of one or more notable 20th Century philosopher(s). They will apply principles of rhetoric and philosophical analysis through close reading of selected texts, informed discussion, and formal writing.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL, or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 3101 (formerly PHIL 2101) 3 Credits**  
**20th Century Analytic Philosophy**

Students will acquire a detailed historical and conceptual framework for the assessment of 20th Century philosophical analysis. They will study issues raised by Russell and others near the beginning of the 20th Century. Students will then consider the historical and conceptual unfolding of various alternative approaches to these issues by later 20th Century analytical philosophers. They will focus on a technical examination of concepts such as: truth, reference, description, and meaning.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL, or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 3105 3 Credits**  
**Life and Death**

Students will study various ethical and metaphysical issues surrounding human existence and mortality. In particular, they will investigate the two central questions, "What is a good life?" and "Is death bad for the person who dies?" Using a variety of philosophical sources, they may also examine a number of related issues, including the possibility of life after death, the relationship between personal identity and immortality, the reasons why killing is generally considered wrong, and the moral status of abortion, euthanasia, and suicide.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL, or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 3109 3 Credits**  
**Foundations in Ethics**

Students will investigate central questions about the nature and foundations of ethical judgement. They will examine a variety of perspectives on such issues as the objectivity and prescriptivity of moral judgement.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL, or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 3110** **3 Credits**  
**The Possibility of Knowledge**  
Students will investigate central questions about the nature and foundations of epistemic judgement. They will examine a variety of perspectives on such issues as the justification of knowledge claims and the internalism/externalism debate in epistemology.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL, or permission of the instructor*

**PHIL 3118** **3 Credits**  
**Ethics and Public Policy**  
Students will critically examine ethical issues in public policy through readings in classic and/or contemporary texts. They will consider topics such as policy governing life and death, sex and reproduction, freedom of speech, punishment, and the environment.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from PHIL.*

**PHIL 3119 (formerly PHIL 2119)** **3 Credits**  
**Contemporary Moral Theory**  
Students will consider selected problems associated with various philosophical approaches to morality. They will investigate standard moral perspectives such as Utilitarianism, Kantianism, Contractarianism, Feminist Ethics, and Virtue Theory, in order to assess their philosophical strengths and weaknesses by introducing theoretical as well as practical considerations.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from PHIL.*

**PHIL 3120** **3 Credits**  
**Free Will and Determinism**  
Students will examine the philosophical problems involved in assigning moral responsibility in a world governed by causes which are, ultimately, outside of our control. Using both classic and contemporary sources, they will evaluate the reasoning behind deterministic theories that deny the reality of free will, claiming that all events, including human actions, have prior causes that render them inevitable.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL*

**PHIL 3150 (formerly PHIL 1250)** **3 Credits**  
**Advanced Formal Logic**  
Students will be introduced to contemporary symbolic logic. They will gain a working understanding of some symbolic languages, propositional logic and first-order predicate logic. Students will also discuss syntax and semantics at an elementary level, and soundness and completeness of first-order logical systems will be proved.

*Prerequisites: Either (a) PHIL 1150 or (b) Level C1 as defined in the Math Alternatives Table*  
*Attributes: QUAN*

**PHIL 3220** **3 Credits**  
**Empiricism**  
Students will study the motivations and influence of empiricism—the epistemological theory that genuine information about the world must be acquired by a posteriori or experiential means, so that nothing can be thought without first being sensed. They will analyze and compare the views of prominent empiricists such as Francis Bacon, John Locke, George Berkeley, David Hume, and John Stuart Mill.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3225** **3 Credits**  
**Rationalism**  
Students will study the motivations and influence of rationalism—the epistemological view that regards reason as the chief source and test of knowledge. They will analyze and compare the views of prominent rationalists such as René Descartes, Benedict Spinoza, Gottfried Leibniz, and Immanuel Kant.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3320** **3 Credits**  
**Personal Identity**  
Students will investigate various philosophical puzzles surrounding the problem of personal identity. In particular, they will contemplate the central metaphysical question, under what circumstances is a person existing at one time identical with a person existing at another time? Students will also examine problems related to the connection between personal identity and physical continuity, the psychological underpinnings of selfhood, and the relationship between personal identity and immortality.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3425** **3 Credits**  
**Language and Meaning**  
Students will examine the nature of language through the study of topics such as truth, reference, meaning, linguistic structure, speech acts and context of use.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3430** **3 Credits**  
**Philosophy of Mind: Consciousness**  
Students will investigate central questions about the nature of consciousness and the place of the mind in the physical world. They will examine competing approaches to the explanation of mental phenomena.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3510** **3 Credits**  
**Confronting Moral Issues: Bio-medical Ethics**  
Students will examine moral problems, and proposed solutions to moral problems, in the context of health care. They will focus on case studies drawn from the bio-medical and health care fields.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3512** **3 Credits**  
**Confronting Moral Issues: The Natural Environment**  
Students will examine moral problems, and proposed solutions to moral problems, that pertain to the environment and human interaction with the environment. Students will examine content drawn from current issues.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3533** **3 Credits**  
**Confronting Moral Issues: Business Ethics**  
Students will examine moral problems and proposed solutions to moral problems that arise in a business context. They will apply moral theories and models for decision-making to specific scenarios.

*Prerequisites: 18 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 3900** **3 Credits**  
**Honours Research and Thesis I**  
Students will conduct a literature review on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. They will explore a topic, narrow the topic and formulate a significant research problem. Students will carry out preliminary interpretive and analytical work on the problem.

Note: This course is the first part of a two-course series which culminates in an honours thesis. PHIL 4900 is the second part of the series.

*Prerequisites: 24 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher from PHIL (B+).*

**PHIL 4040** **3 Credits**  
**Topics in the Philosophy of Art**  
Students will study a selected topic or body of work in the philosophy of art. Using a variety of classic and contemporary sources, they will consider one or more problems related to the nature of art (e.g., art as imitation, art as representation, art as expression, the relationship between art and form, the relationship between art and the aesthetic experience) or the nature of a specific form of art (e.g., painting, sculpture, music, literature, film). Students will discuss topics(s) that may be associated with a particular movement, time period, or philosophical figure.

Note: This is a seminar-based course. Students may take this course more than once, as topics vary, with permission of the department chair. The topic in a given semester will be determined in advance by the department. Please check with the department for the current topic.

*Prerequisites: 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 6 credits from courses in PHIL, or permission of the instructor.*

**PHIL 4110** **3 Credits**  
**Topics in Ethics**  
Students will engage in an in-depth study of a selected topic in applied ethics, normative ethics, or metaethics, which may be associated with a particular movement, time period, or philosophical figure.

Note: This is a seminar-based course. Students may take this course more than once, as topics vary, with permission of the department chair. The topic in a given semester will be determined in advance by the department. Please check with the department for the current topic.

*Prerequisites: 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 6 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 4117** **3 Credits**  
**Topics in Social and Political Philosophy**  
Students will study a selected theme, issue, or body of work in the area of socio-political philosophy. They will examine one or more theoretical approaches-e.g., Marxism, feminism, liberalism, communitarianism, post-modern political theory-and then consider the implications of the examined approach(es) for issues like the nation state, globalization, restructuring, and the social policies surrounding welfare and health care.

Note: This is a seminar-based course. Students may take this course more than once, as topics vary, with permission of the department chair. The topic in a given semester will be determined in advance by the department. Please check with the department for the current topic.

*Co-requisites: 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 6 credits from courses in PHIL.*

*Attributes: QUAN*

**PHIL 4120** **3 Credits**  
**Topics in Philosophy of Religion**  
Students will study a selected theme, issue, or body of work in the philosophy of religion. Using a variety of textual sources and strict principles of philosophical analysis, they will consider one or more problems related to traditional arguments for God's existence, arguments against the existence of God, the role of faith in religious belief, the status of miracles, the relationship between science and religion, or the relationship between religion and morality.

Note: This is a seminar-based course. Students may take this course more than once, as topics vary, with permission of the department chair. The topic in a given semester will be determined in advance by the department. Please check with the department for the current topic.

*Prerequisites: 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 6 credits from PHIL.*

**PHIL 4210** **3 Credits**  
**Topics in Epistemology**

Students will study a selected topic or body of work in the field of epistemology. Using a variety of classic and contemporary sources, they will consider one or more themes related to defining knowledge, scepticism and the Pyrrhonian problem, foundationalism and coherentism, epistemic justification, contextualism and relativism, epistemology and science, or the relationship between epistemology and human cognition. Students will discuss topic(s) that may be associated with a particular movement, time period, or philosophical figure.

Note: This is a seminar-based course. Students may take this course more than once, as topics vary, with permission of the department chair. The topic in a given semester will be determined in advance by the department. Please check with the department for the current topic.

*Prerequisites: 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 6 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 4215** **3 Credits**  
**Topics in Metaphysics**

Students will study a selected topic or body of work in the field of metaphysics. Using a variety of classic and contemporary sources, they will consider one or more themes related to the nature of universals and particulars, time and space, appearance and reality, persistence and change, personal identity, free will and determinism, causation, the nature of physical substance, or the feasibility of metaphysics as a genuine philosophical pursuit. Students will discuss topic(s) that may be associated with a particular movement, time period, or philosophical figure.

Note: This is a seminar-based course. Students may take this course more than once, as topics vary, with permission of the department chair. The topic in a given semester will be determined in advance by the department. Please check with the department for the current topic.

*Prerequisites: 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 6 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 4430** **3 Credits**  
**Topics in the Philosophy of Mind**

Students will study a selected theme, issue, or body of work in the philosophy of mind. Using a variety of textual sources and strict principles of philosophical analysis, they will consider one or more problems related to the traditional mind-body debate, the nature of consciousness, mental causation, psycho-physical supervenience, or intentionality. Students will discuss topic(s) that may be associated with a particular movement, time period, or philosophical figure.

Note: This is a seminar-based course. Students may take this course more than once, as topics vary, with permission of the department chair. The topic in a given semester will be determined in advance by the department. Please check with the department for the current topic.

*Prerequisites: 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 6 credits from courses in PHIL.*

**PHIL 4900** **3 Credits**  
**Honours Research and Thesis II**

Students will develop a philosophical position on a research question while working closely with the instructor. They will prepare an extended written discussion of the position developed in a format typical of articles in professional philosophical journals or otherwise suitable as an honours thesis.

Note: This course is a continuation of PHIL 3900.

*Prerequisites: PHIL 3900 (B+)*