

Philosophy and Religion

Faculty: Kamber, Chair; Le Morvan, Preti, Roberts, Sisko, Winston

Philosophy, as a discipline, is the systematic examination of the most fundamental questions that human beings ask. Philosophy explores such matters as the nature of reality, the nature and source of knowledge, the nature and basis of ethics, and the relationship between mind and body. The study of philosophy makes a valuable contribution to one's personal development and is a keystone of a liberal education. The philosophy major combines a thorough study of philosophies that have shaped Western civilization with rigorous training in the analysis of argument and in the development of a systematic set of reasoned philosophical views of one's own.

Philosophy majors and minors may elect to pursue either the general course of study in philosophy or, if they choose, a major or minor concentration either in the area of philosophy and law or in the area of ethics. The general course of study in philosophy is designed for students who have broad interests in philosophy or who wish to prepare for graduate school in philosophy. The concentration in philosophy and law is designed for students with an interest in law or in legal and political theory. The concentration in ethics is designed for students with interests in theoretical or applied ethics, or medicine, nursing, and other professions in the fields of ethics, health care, and biomedical research.

The study of philosophy provides a powerful perspective on other academic subjects ranging from literature and art to biology and mathematics as well as an exceptionally strong background for such diverse professions as teaching, journalism, medicine, ministry, and business as well as law. A major or minor in philosophy can thus be profitably combined with a variety of other majors.

The religion courses explore the phenomenon of religion and its place in human life and provide critical insight into the fundamental tenets and practices of the major religious traditions. The minor in religion allows a sustained and deeper study of these matters. It is a valuable background for careers in social work and counseling as well as for the various religious vocations.

Philosophy Major (PHIA)

Philosophy majors, whether pursuing the general course of study in philosophy or concentrating in philosophy and law or in ethics, are required to complete a total of 12 PHIL courses, for a total of 37 credits:

Logic (3/4 cr.)

PHIL/PHL 120/Introduction to Logic

or

PHIL 220/Metalogic

Ethics, Politics, or Law (3/4 cr.)

PHIL/PHL 235/Contemporary Moral Issues

or

PHL 240/Political Philosophy

or

PHIL 255/Biomedical Ethics

or

PHL 275/Philosophy of Law

History of Philosophy (9 cr.)

PHIL 201/Ancient Philosophy

PHIL 205/Modern Philosophy (1600–1800)

PHIL 301/Seminar in Ancient Philosophy

or

PHIL 305/Seminar in Modern Philosophy

Metaphysics or Epistemology (3 cr.)

PHIL 310/Metaphysics

or

PHIL 315/Theory of Knowledge

Senior Thesis (4 cr.)

PHIL 495/Senior Thesis Research

or

PHIL 497/Honors Independent Study in Philosophy

PHIL 496/Senior Thesis

or

PHIL 498/Senior Honors Thesis

Five additional philosophy courses (15 cr.) including at least three at the 300 level.*

*PHIL 497 or 499 may be substituted where equivalent.

Senior Thesis: A “capstone experience” is one in which knowledge and skills developed throughout the program are brought to bear in a unified way on a research or other project presented to the department. In the philosophy major this is Senior Thesis Research (PHIL 495) and the Senior Thesis (PHIL 496), resulting in an extended paper of approximately 25–40 pages, prepared under the close supervision of a member of the department’s philosophy faculty. At the end of the semester, students meet for 45 minutes with a committee of the department, including the faculty adviser, to present and discuss the thesis. The committee awards the grade for the course, which is based primarily on the quality of the written work. In regard to topic, students are advised either to select one that builds on work already done in earlier courses or to consider doing an independent study (PHIL 499) on that topic in the prior semester.

Note: The “transformed” philosophy major, as well as the “transformed” minors and concentrations in philosophy will be options for students who matriculate during the 2003-2004 academic year. The requirements for the transformed programs may be obtained from the department chairperson.

Philosophy Major Concentrations: Philosophy and Law, Ethics

Students who wish to pursue a concentration within the major will be required to select specified courses as options and a thesis topic particularly related to the concentration, as follows:

Philosophy and Law

PHL 275/Philosophy of Law
PHIL 375/Equality, Ethics, and the Law
Senior thesis on a topic in the area of philosophy and law.

Ethics

PHIL/PHL 235/Contemporary Moral Issues
or
PHIL 255/Biomedical Ethics
PHIL 350/Ethical Theories
or
PHIL 355/Reason, Human Nature, and Ethics
Senior thesis on a topic in the area of ethics.

Students interested in pursuing a concentration in philosophy and law should contact Professor Roberts or the chair of the department. Students interested in pursuing a concentration in Ethics should contact Professor Winston or the chair of the department.

Philosophy Minor

Philosophy minors may elect to pursue either the general course of study in philosophy or, if they choose, a minor concentration either in the area of philosophy and law or in the area of ethics. All minors, whether pursuing the general course of study in philosophy or concentrating in philosophy and law or in ethics, are required to complete a total of six PHIL courses, for a total of 18 credits:

PHIL/PHL 120/Introduction to Logic
PHIL/PHL 200/Basic Philosophical Issues
PHIL 201/Ancient Philosophy
or
PHIL 205/Modern Philosophy

*Two additional PHIL courses at any level.

*One additional PHIL course at 300 level.

Students in The College Honors Program should note that those HONR courses designated as “Philosophy” in subject areas may be counted toward the philosophy minor. In particular, HONR 203 may substitute PHIL/PHL 200, HONR 200 for PHIL 201, and any HONR course designated “Philosophy” for an “additional PHIL course.” Substitution for PHIL 300-level requirement, however, requires permission of the department chair.

Philosophy Minor Concentrations: Philosophy and Law, Ethics

Philosophy minors concentrating in philosophy and law or in ethics must insure that, in choosing courses that satisfy the above-listed requirements, they also satisfy certain additional requirements of the concentrations. In particular, minors concentrating in philosophy and law must complete PHL 275 and PHIL 375. Minors concentrating in ethics must complete either PHIL/PHL 235 or PHL 255 and either PHIL 350 or 355. Because the philosophy minor may be tailored to any number of specific needs and interests, students who are considering a minor in philosophy may wish to consult with the department before selecting a particular sequence of courses.

Honors in Philosophy

The department awards honors in philosophy at graduation to students who have completed a distinguished undergraduate record in philosophy including a senior thesis of exceptional quality. A typical honors thesis is about 50 to 60 pages in length, although both shorter and longer theses have been the basis for an award of honors. The program takes two semesters, one in which a topic is chosen, supervised research is conducted, and a draft of a portion of the thesis is prepared (PHIL 497)*; and a second, in which additional research is conducted and the full thesis is written under close supervision (PHIL 498). At the end of the semester, the student meets for 45 minutes with a committee of the department, including the faculty adviser, to present and discuss the thesis.

To apply for the program, students must have completed: 1) at least 24 credits in philosophy with a cumulative average of 3.6 or better for those courses including: 2) at least six credits in courses at the 300 level; and must 3) secure the agreement of a member of the philosophy faculty to serve as supervisor. Application should be made to the department chair; admission will be decided by a vote of the department, based on the quality of the applicant's overall record.

To complete the program and graduate with honors in philosophy, a student must: 1) complete the major in philosophy with a cumulative average in philosophy courses of 3.55 or better; 2) complete PHIL 497 on the topic of his or her thesis under the supervisor's guidance; and 3) complete PHIL 498 with a grade of at least an A-. The grade will be awarded by the examining committee (see above) based on the quality both of the written work and of the oral presentation and discussion.

*PHIL 499 may be substituted where equivalent.

Course Sequence

Many students who choose to major in philosophy do so late in, or after, their freshman year; and some courses are offered only in alternate years. The program which follows is thus an idealized sequence; the exact semester and particular order in which the courses are taken will probably vary. To ensure that students entering the major in their sophomore or junior year complete the program on a timely basis, specific requirements may be waived for students who have covered the pertinent subject matter in other ways. For example, a combination of other courses may be counted as the equivalent of a particular course requirement; many courses in The College Honors Program will satisfy one or another philosophy requirement; and where necessary students can complete course requirements on an independent study basis. The waiving of a requirement does not, however, reduce the total number of credits required for the major.

During academic year 2003-2004, The College of New Jersey is in the process of transformative curricular change. Therefore only the course of study for first-year students entering in 2003-2004 is set out below. These students should consult their advisors when planning courses for future years. Supplements to this online bulletin also will be available on an ongoing basis.

Freshman Year

WRI	102/Academic Writing	4
IDSC	151/Athens to New York	3
	<i>or</i>	
FSP	101/First Year Seminar	4
	Foreign Language	6
	Mathematics (GE)	6/8
PHIL/PHL	120/Introduction to Logic	3/4
	<i>or</i>	
PHIL	220/Metalogic	3
PHIL/PHL	235/Contemporary Moral Issues	3/4
	<i>or</i>	
PHL	240/Political Philosophy	4
	<i>or</i>	
PHIL	255/Biomedical Ethics	
	<i>or</i>	
PHL	275/Philosophy of Law	4
PHIL	One additional PHIL course	3
	Total for year	30

COURSES (updated 11/5/03)

PHIL/PHL 120 Introduction to Logic 3/4 cr.

(3 class hours)

(every semester)

Instruction in the basic principles and techniques of correct reasoning in ordinary life and the sciences. Analysis and evaluation of deductive arguments via formal and informal methods, detection of common fallacies, and inductive and statistical reasoning.

“Transformed” Introduction to Logic [PHL120] will focus particularly on the power and precision of the natural language, as well as an increased ability to write and think with creativity, precision and rigor.

- PHIL/PHL 200/Basic Philosophical Issues** **3/4 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (every semester)
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western
 An introductory-level study of several issues from the major areas of philosophy, such as: the nature of reality, the existence of God, free will and determinism, the nature and sources of knowledge, the nature and basis of morality, the proper structure of society, and the proper role of government. Explores alternative positions on the issues selected and the arguments by which they have been defended in classical and contemporary philosophical writings, and develops methods for rationally evaluating these arguments. “Transformed” Basic Philosophical Issues [PHL 200] will focus particularly on opportunities for proficiency in core philosophical abilities for all students, and opportunities for mastery of core skills for philosophy majors who will go on to further work in philosophy.
- PHIL 201/Ancient Philosophy** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (annually)*
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western
 Traces the development of philosophy in the West from its beginnings in 6th-century B.C. Greece through the thought of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, especially on questions concerning reality, knowledge, human nature and motivation, love, the good life, and the ideal society. Attention is also given to post-Aristotelian ancient thought and to the influence of the Greek philosophers on the Western tradition to the present day.
**Subject to minor variations.*
- PHIL 203/Philosophical Issues in Philosophy, Fiction, and Film** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (every semester)
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western
 An introductory study of selected issues from major areas of philosophy. This course addresses issues such as: “What is the nature of reality?” “Is there any knowledge of which we can be certain?” “How ought one live?” “What do we owe to other people?” “Why be moral?” “What is justice?” “Does God exist?” “How are the human mind and body related?” “Can animals think?” “Could a computer be conscious?” “Do humans have free will?” “Is time travel possible?” This course examines issues, not only as they are debated in philosophical texts, but also as they are expressed or suggested by literary works and films. Students are expected to gain familiarity with standard methods for rationally evaluating arguments for philosophical responses to these issues as well as with creative means for envisioning what the world or society would be like if a particular response were correct. Students are also encouraged to develop and defend their own views. (Students who have successfully completed either PHL 200 or HONR 203 may not enroll in this course.)
- PHIL 205/Modern Philosophy (1600–1800)** **3 cr.**
 (annually)*
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western
 Traces the development of major philosophical ideas in the West from the beginning of the 17th century to the close of the 18th century. Philosophers whose works are examined typically include some or all of: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Emphasis on the development of epistemology and metaphysics during the Enlightenment.
**Subject to minor variations.*
- PHIL 210/Chinese Philosophy** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (occasionally)
 An introduction to the problems and concepts of Chinese philosophy. Areas covered include early and later metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and philosophy of religion. Topics are typically selected from: the 100 schools, Confucianism, Idealism, Legalism, Taoism, Chinese Buddhism, Consciousness-only school, Neo-Confucianism, Chinese Yoga, and Maoist Philosophy.
- PHIL 215/American Philosophy** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (occasionally)
 Major American thinkers and movements from the pre-Revolutionary period to the present. A selection will be made from: Jonathon Edwards, the founding fathers, Emerson, Thoreau, Pierce, James, Dewey, Quine, Putnam, and Rorty; and transcendentalism, idealism, and pragmatism.
- PHIL 220/Metalogic** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (alternate years)
 Deductive reasoning using formal logical systems; sentential calculus, natural deduction, truth trees, predicate calculus, quantification, mixed quantification, relations, identity, and definite descriptions. Selected topics in logical theory and the philosophy of logic.
- PHIL 230/Philosophical Issues in Science** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (alternate years)
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion

This course is designed to give students a thorough understanding both of scientific reasoning and of its philosophical foundations. Topics will include the historical development of scientific and philosophical reasoning from the ancient Greeks through Kant, distinctions between science and pseudoscience, the hypothetico-deductive method, the use of theoretical models, and techniques for decision making in issues of public importance.

PHIL/PHL 235/Contemporary Moral Issues 3/4 cr.

(3 class hours)
(every semester)

Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western

This course will examine the basic concepts and theories in ethics and apply them to the analysis of a range of controversial contemporary issues such as racism, sexism, the treatment of the handicapped, abortion, euthanasia, cloning, capital punishment, our obligations to the disadvantaged, the treatment of non-human animals, just war, and the like. "Transformed" Contemporary Moral Issues [PHL 235] will encourage students to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own moral values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated.

PHL 240/Political Philosophy 4 cr.

(3 class hours)
(annually)*

This course will provide a systematic rather than a historical survey of the main issues in political philosophy. The main topics to be discussed include: the justification of political authority, modern social contract theories of the state, conceptions of distributive justice, and contemporary liberal, communitarian, and cosmopolitan theories of political organizations. Significant attention will be given to contemporary debates in political philosophy such as humanitarian intervention, and duties beyond borders.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHIL 245/Existentialism 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)

A critical study of the history, themes, and insights of the existentialist movement. This course emphasizes the distinctive (and often conflicting) ideas of key figures associated with the movement such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Sartre.

PHIL 246/Aesthetics 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(occasionally)

A critical examination of principal issues and theories in the philosophy of art and beauty. Readings include works by philosophers of historical importance such as Plato and Aristotle as well as the writings of contemporary aestheticians. Consideration is also given to selected issues associated with particular arts such as meaning in music and the interpretation of poetry.

PHL 250/Philosophy of Religion 4 cr.

(3 class hours)
(annually)*

Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western

(Same as HONR 272, Philosophy of Religion.)

This course critically examines major issues, views, and positions in the philosophy of religion. Topics treated include the nature of religion and divinity, religious diversity, the problem of evil, philosophical arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, ethics and religion, and science and religion. Students will be encouraged to learn from great thinkers of the past and of the present, to examine their own religious values and beliefs, and to take reasoned and informed stands on the issues treated.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHL 255/Biomedical Ethics 4 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)*

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

Biomedical ethics is the name given to an area of research lying on the border between medicine, biology, philosophy, and law which deals with questions concerning the ethical and social implications of the use of biomedical technologies in clinical practice and medical research. Topics likely to be discussed include: patient autonomy vs. medical paternalism, confidentiality, termination or withholding of life-saving treatment, implications of new reproductive technologies, experimentation with human subjects, and issues of just allocation in health care delivery. Emphasis will be placed on both the acquisition of theoretical and conceptual understanding, through course readings and lectures on concepts in ethical theory, and on the development of practical skills of moral reasoning and ethical decision-making. To address the latter goal, there will be a considerable number of ethical case analyses and the occasional use of "ethics committee simulations" in class. Course requirements will include: a series of short case analyses, an oral presentation, and a term paper on a topic selected by the student with instructor guidance.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHL 275/Philosophy of Law 4 cr.

(3 class hours)
(annually)

Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western

Aims (i) to provide an understanding of the core debate in philosophy of law regarding the relationship between law and morality, (ii) to present and make distinctions among the leading theories regarding the nature of law, including classical natural law theory, positivism, formalism, legal realism, the “new naturalism” and critical legal theory, (iii) to identify and understand the problem of indeterminacy in the law and (iv) to give each student the opportunity to articulate his or her own creative solution to that problem.

PHIL 298/Special Topics in Philosophy 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(occasionally)

200-level seminar on a problem, text, philosopher, historical period, or other philosophical topic not covered in depth in regular courses. Topics will vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of the department.

PHIL 301/Seminar in Ancient Philosophy 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)*

Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of instructor

Concentrated study of the works of one or more major philosophers or themes of the ancient period. Reading of primary sources combined with study of contemporary commentary and criticism. May be repeated for credit with permission of the department.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHIL 305/Seminar in Modern Philosophy 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)*

Prerequisite: PHIL 205 or permission of instructor

Concentrated study of the works of one or more major philosophers or philosophical movements of the modern period. Reading of primary sources combined with study of contemporary commentary and criticism. May be repeated for credit with permission of the department.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHL 306/20th-Century Philosophy 4 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)*

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

The aim of this course is to help students achieve detailed understanding of the conceptual puzzles and problems in the areas of philosophical logic, semantic theory, and consciousness that had their roots in the 19th century and were developed more fully in the 20th century. The course will encourage a thorough understanding of the work of the major figures of 20th century philosophy, including Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Sartre, DeBeauvoir, James, Peirce, Quine, and Kripke, by way of comparison and contrast of their concerns and arguments.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHIL 310/Metaphysics 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)*

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

Influential conceptions of reality and human nature. Their consequences for such issues as universals, causation, the interrelation of the sciences, the existence of God, the mind/body relation, free will, and the destiny of man.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHIL 315/Theory of Knowledge 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)*

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

Classical and contemporary theories of concepts and meaning, knowledge, belief, certainty, and truth. The relationship of sensation and perception to the acquisition of knowledge. The possibility of non-sensory knowledge. Skepticism.

**Subject to minor variations.*

PHIL 320/Philosophy of Mind 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(occasionally)

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

This course will examine a range of issues related to the mind-body problem including: thought, emotion, self-knowledge, consciousness, imagination, the minds of animals, and theories of artificial intelligence. Some attention will also be given to theoretical and methodological questions in current cognitive science.

PHIL 330/Philosophy of Science 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(occasionally)

Prerequisites: One course each in philosophy and a science, or permission of instructor

Philosophical problems of the natural sciences. Causality and natural law; explanation and confirmation; reduction; theoretical entities; and theories of truth.

PHIL 335/Philosophy of Biology **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: One course each in philosophy and biology, or permission of instructor

This course will examine some of the fundamental philosophical problems within biology—particularly evolutionary and developmental biology. These include: evolution as a scientific theory, fitness and adaptation, the units of selection, species concepts, sociobiology, developmental systems, and the adequacy of genetic explanations.

PHIL 340/Language and Reality **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

Meaning, truth, relations between language and the world, relations between language and mind, necessary statements, synonymy, and the varied use of language. Selected topics in syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

PHIL 347/Philosophy and Literature **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: One course in philosophy, literary theory, literary criticism, or permission of the instructor

A study of literary works and the nature of literature from the vantage point of philosophy. Using a variety of literary, critical, and philosophical texts, this course examines similarities and differences between literary works (belles-lettres literature) and other forms of verbal expression.

PHIL 350/Ethical Theories **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

Examines major theories in ethics and metaethics: utilitarianism, deontology, virtue-oriented ethics, relativism, intuitionism, emotivism, natural law, and theories of justice and rights. Concentrated study of works of major historical and contemporary thinkers.

PHIL 355/Reason, Human Nature, and Ethics **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

Investigates a selection of philosophical issues in ethics whose resolution must be guided by a conception of reason, a conception of human nature, or both, such as: whether the end justifies the means; whether moral reasons are reasons for everyone; whether morality is the same as (or a species of) rationality; whether moral judgments are objective (and, if so, how that objectivity is established); whether morality is essentially egoistic or altruistic (or neither); whether the demands of egoism, friendship and love, and morality are compatible; what virtues are and whether a satisfactory account of morality must make central reference to virtues.

PHIL 375/Equality, Ethics, and the Law **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(annually)

Prerequisite: PHIL 275 or permission of the instructor

Concentrated analysis of legal and moral issues relating to equality, including issues of the interpretation, application and moral assessment of the constitutional guaranty of “equal protection.” The two basic questions—“What is it that shall be made equal, and for whom?”—will be addressed by way of a discussion of such issues as alternative theories of equality (including theories of equality of resources and equality of welfare); women’s rights of equality; and children’s rights of equality. A number of practical problems related to equality will be considered, including some of: abortion as an issue of equality; liberty and equality; children’s constitutional rights; affirmative action; and equality in the family.

PHIL 398/Advanced Topics in Philosophy **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

300-level seminar on a problem, text, philosopher, historical period, or other philosophical topic not covered in depth in regular courses. Topics will vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of the department.

PHIL 495/Senior Thesis Research **2 cr.**

(annually)*

Prerequisite: Senior standing in the department

Guided independent study in preparation for the writing of a senior thesis.

*Subject to minor variations.

- PHIL496/Senior Thesis** **2 cr.**
 (annually)*
Prerequisite: PHIL 495
 The writing of an undergraduate thesis under close faculty supervision. This thesis will be evaluated in accordance with the department's written standards and procedures.
**Subject to minor variations.*
- PHIL 497/Honors Independent Study in Philosophy** **3 cr.**
 (annually)*
Prerequisite: Admission to departmental honors program
 Guided independent study in preparation for the writing of the senior honors thesis.
**Subject to minor variations.*
- PHIL 498/Senior Honors Thesis** **4 cr.**
 (annually)*
Prerequisite: PHIL 497
 The writing of an undergraduate thesis whose scope and quality warrant honors recognition under the close supervision of a faculty member. This thesis will be evaluated in accordance with the department's written standards and procedures.
**Subject to minor variations.*
- PHIL 499/Independent Study in Philosophy** **3 cr.**
 (every semester)
Prerequisite: Permission of the department
 Independent study of a particular philosophical topic, in close consultation with a member of the department.

Religion

- RELG 200/Basic Issues in Religion** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (every semester)
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion
 Characterization of religious phenomena and their relationship to human understanding of oneself and society. The course is an opportunity to look at religion sympathetically but critically.
- RELG 210/World Religions** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (every semester)
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, non-Western
 An exploration of the world's major religious traditions. Students will examine and compare the essential teachings, and the historical and cultural context, of most or all of the following: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and one or more additional non-Western tradition(s).
- RELG 211/Religion and Religious Thought (Non-Western)** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (every semester)
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, non-Western
 An examination of a major non-Western religion and some of the intellectual traditions that have flourished in conjunction with the evolution of that religion. Students will study the historical origins and essential teachings of a particular religion and explore some of the literary and philosophical traditions that developed from or in close connection with that religion. Among the religions that are most likely to be taught under this course are: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Taoism. Since the religions examined will change from semester to semester, this course may be repeated for credit with permission of the department.
- RELG 212/Religion and Religious Thought (Western)** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (every semester)
 Perspectives on the World: Philosophy/Religion, Western
 Courses offered under this title (Judaism and Christianity) have the same description as RELG 211, but deal with Western rather than non-Western traditions.
- RELG 220/Scientific Study of Religion** **3 cr.**
 (3 class hours)
 (occasionally)
 Investigation of some major methods of studying and interpreting the varieties of religious experience. Religion as a psychological, sociological, and transcultural phenomenon; and the methodology of religious study.

RELG 240/Problems of Religious Thought 3 cr.

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Examination of basic questions of religious thought. Nature of religious experience; ongoing relationship of religion and philosophy, e.g., existentialism in religion; and status and validation of truth claims in differing religions.

RELG 260/History of Jewish and Christian Thought 3 cr.

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Consideration of major Jewish and Christian thinkers, trends and movements from the Diaspora to the time of the Reformation. The world of the Talmud, and the emergence of classical Christianity.

RELG 270/Contemporary Religious Issues 3 cr.

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Important contemporary trends, developments, and movements in Western religion. Viewpoints of such leading thinkers as Barth, Buber, Rosenzweig, Tillich, Niebuhr, Bonhoeffer, Maritan, Chardin, and Rahner.

RELG 298/Special Topics in Religion 3 cr.

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

200-level seminar on a problem, text, religious thinker, historical period or other topic in religion not covered in depth in regular courses. Topics will vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of the department.

RELG 398/Advanced Topics in Religion 3 cr.

(3 class hours)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: One course in religion or permission of instructor

300-level seminar on a problem, text, religious thinker, historical period or other topic in religion not covered in depth in regular courses. Topics will vary. May be repeated for credit with permission of the department.

RELG 499/Independent Study in Religion 3 cr.

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

Independent study of a particular topic in religion, in close consultation with a member of the department.
