

# PHILOSOPHY

Philosophical study presents an occasion to develop critical life skills that prepare students for a wide horizon of career choices and professional opportunities as they learn to address and think through a complex world of both longstanding and emergent issues. Our programs are designed to acquaint and familiarize students with a pluralistic range of ideas, problems, and thinkers. Course offerings include Dr. Chuck Ward's "Knowledge, Reality and Science Fiction," Dr. Jen Miller's "Love & Sexuality," and Dr. Kaiser Ortiz's "Global Ethics & Social Justice." The formal study of philosophy through any one of our four programs provides students with experiences, skills, and resources that become pathways to competitive law school admissions, graduate schools, and other areas of study and practice after college. Philosophy courses are open to all students.

## the programs

- Certificate in Ethics and Society (<https://catalog.millersville.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/ethics-society-certificate/>)
- Ethics and Society Minor (<https://catalog.millersville.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/ethics-society-minor/>)
- Philosophy Minor (<https://catalog.millersville.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-minor/>)
- Philosophy, B.A. (<https://catalog.millersville.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba/>)

## the faculty

**Kaiser Ortiz, John;** Associate Professor  
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
B.A., University of Texas-Pan American, 1999; M.A., University of Oregon, 2005; Ph.D., Ibid., 2007

**Miller, Jennifer;** Assistant Professor  
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
B.S., Portland State University, 1986; Ph.D., University of Oregon, 1994

**Ward, Charles;** Professor  
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
B.S., California State University at Long Beach, 1985; m>A., Ibid., 1989; M.A., Johns Hopkins University, 1992; Ph.D., Ibid., 2001

## the courses

**PHIL 100: 3 s.h.**  
**Introduction to Philosophy (G1)**  
A beginning study of some of the major philosophical issues and thinkers.

**PHIL 120: 3 s.h.**  
**Introduction to Ethics (G1)**  
Examines major philosophical approaches to ethical thinking and moral judgment, offering tools for a clearer understanding of ethical decision-making in our daily lives. Consideration of a range of perennial and contemporary ethical and social problems.

**PHIL 179: 3 s.h.**  
**Experimental**  
Experimental

**PHIL 201: 3 s.h.**  
**Philosophical Psychology (G1)**  
Intensive study of selected problems, figures or movements in psychology with emphasis on the philosophical foundations or implications. Offered annually.

**PHIL 202: 3 s.h.**  
**Love and Sexuality (G1)**  
Various viewpoints regarding both the nature of love and of human sexuality. Offered annually.

**PHIL 202H: 3 s.h.**  
**Hon: Love & Sexuality (G1)**

**PHIL 211: 3 s.h.**  
**Introduction to Logic (G1)**  
Principles of correct thinking; deductive inference; inductive inference; use and misuse of language in reasoning.

**PHIL 220: 3 s.h.**  
**Existentialism (G1)**  
Study of the works of important existentialist thinkers including Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky, Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, Beauvoir and others. Issues addressed include human freedom, the problem of life's meaning, the relation between the individual and society, the grounds of human relations, Existentialism and the problem of race, Existentialism and Feminist thought, and others. Discussion of existentialist themes in literary, cinematic and other artistic endeavors.

**PHIL 260: 3 s.h.**  
**Food, Ethics & Society (G1)**  
Examines the ethical problems society faces in regards to food production and consumption practices, offering tools for balancing the nutritional, public health, and normative needs of communities and individuals.

**PHIL 279: 3 s.h.**  
**Experimental**  
Experimental

**PHIL 280: 3 s.h.**  
**Thanatopsis: Viewing Death (G1)**  
Various ways people have confronted death and have sought to understand it. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 281: 3 s.h.**  
**Bus. & Prof. Ethics (G1)**  
Examines basic ethical concepts, principles and theories, as well as applications of them to a range of issues in business and professional contexts. Students will explore case studies in a range of organizational and social settings; standards of professional ethics in various disciplines; and best practices relating to ethical conduct in various contexts. Prerequisite: ENG 110.

**PHIL 285: 3 s.h.**  
**Biomedical Ethics (G1)**  
A study of biomedical moral and ethical problems. Offered annually.

**PHIL 291: 3 s.h.**  
**Black, Latin & Native Am Phil. (D)**  
Examines patterns of moral origins.

**PHIL 300: 3-12 s.h.**  
**Co-Op Ed Experience in Phil**  
Co-Op Ed Experience in Phil

**PHIL 312: 3 s.h.****Mathematical Logic (G1)**

First-order predicate calculus with identity and functional symbols. Offered annually. Prereq: PHIL 211 or some background in mathematics.

**PHIL 313: 3 s.h.****World Religions (G1)**

A study of the contents of certain living world religions. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 313H: 3 s.h.****HNRS:World Religions (G1)****PHIL 314: 3 s.h.****Philosophy of Science (G1, W)**

The structure of scientific explanation; the logic character of scientific laws and theories; convention and description in science; probability and induction; the scientific method in the behavioral sciences. Offered periodically. Prereq: ENGL 110.

**PHIL 321: 3 s.h.****Ancient Philosophy (G1, W)**

The pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Offered in fall. Prereq: ENGL 110.

**PHIL 321H: 3 s.h.****Hnrs:Ancient Philosophy (G1, W)**

Hnrs:Ancient Philosophy

**PHIL 322: 3 s.h.****Modern Philosophy (G1, W)**

Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant. Offered in spring. Prereq: ENGL 110.

**PHIL 322H: 3 s.h.****Hnrs:Modern Philosophy (G1, W)**

Hnrs:Modern Philosophy

**PHIL 327: 3 s.h.****Philosophy in Film (G1)**

Investigation of philosophical themes, problems and questions raised in film. The medium of film provides a rich and lively context to explore traditional and current issues pertinent to the discipline of philosophy. Offered annually.

**PHIL 327H: 3 s.h.****HNRS:Philosophy in Film (G1)****PHIL 328: 3 s.h.****Philosophy Classics (G1, W)**

One or more major works or of a major philosopher or philosophers. May be taken any number of times for credit. Offered annually. Prereq: ENGL 110.

**PHIL 328H: 3 s.h.****Hnrs:Philosophical Classics (G1, W)**

Hnrs:Philosophical Classics

**PHIL 331: 3 s.h.****American Philosophy (G1)**

A study of philosophy in America. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 341: 3 s.h.****Philosophy of Language (G1, W)**

Philosophical analyses of language and meaning across multiple philosophical traditions (e.g. Analytic Philosophy; Continental Philosophy; American Pragmatism; Feminism). Prereq: ENGL 110

**PHIL 345: 3 s.h.****Humanity and Environment (P)**

Critical examination of the ways in which our understanding of the natural world affects our relationship with it as well as our concepts of human nature and society. Emphasis will be on how knowledge gained through the biological sciences (historically and presently) changes the way we think about ourselves and our place in the natural world. Specific topics include the social impact of evolutionary theory, sociobiology and evolutionary psychology, genetic engineering and aspects of environmental philosophy. Offered periodically. Prereq: COMM 100, ENGL 110 and junior status.

**PHIL 347: 3 s.h.****Phil of City, Tech & Publ Hlth (G1)**

Examines major philosophical approaches, debates, and intersections between philosophy of the city, philosophy of technology, and public health. Offers tools for a clearer understanding of the competing tensions of city life, technological advancement, and problems of public health that affect the quality of our daily lives. Consideration of a range of perennial and contemporary social, technological, and public health problems.

**PHIL 351: 3 s.h.****Contemporary European Philosophy (G1)**

A study of the European philosophical traditions of hermeneutics, phenomenology, existentialism and structuralism in their historical context, their relations to contemporary culture, particularly to psychology, literature, theology and political action. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 361: 3 s.h.****Asian Philosophy (G1)**

A study of significant ideas in the philosophical thought of Asia. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 373: 3 s.h.****Knowledge, Reality & Sci Fict (G1)**

Examines philosophical theories of reality (metaphysics) and knowledge (epistemology). Uses science fiction as a vehicle for exploring these ideas. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 379: 3 s.h.****Experimental**

Experimental

**PHIL 381: 3 s.h.****Global Ethics & Social Justice (G1, W)**

A philosophical examination of ethical issues emergent through globalization. Topics addressed may include wealth and resource distribution in a global economy; environmental crises, disaster, and government responses to them; social justice and social protest movements; philosophies of non-violence; peace studies and global conflict resolution.

**PHIL 382: 3 s.h.****Philosophy of Religion (G1)**

An examination of the justifiability of religion and of the nature of the religious experience, especially religious language. Offered infrequently.

**PHIL 383: 3 s.h.****Philosophy of Art (G1, W)**

The history of the philosophy of art; an analysis of the aesthetic experience, the aesthetic object and the creative act. Emphasis will be placed on an analysis of the concepts employed in the criticism of literature, painting and music. Offered periodically. Prereq: ENGL 110.

**PHIL 391: 3 s.h.****Gender, Utopia, Human Nature (P)**

Utopian thought, from classical philosophy to contemporary science fiction. Shows how different cultures have portrayed gender and gender roles as fixed by human nature or as manifestations of alterable social institutions. Prereq: COMM 100, ENGL 110, junior status and two courses in one area of the social sciences or two courses in philosophy. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 400: 3-12 s.h.****Co-Op Ed Experience in Phil**

Co-Op Ed Experience in Phil

**PHIL 401: 3 s.h.****Philosophy and Neuroscience (G1)**

An examination of the inter-relation of philosophy and neuroscience. Our growing knowledge of the brain and nervous system has profound implications for a range of traditional philosophical issues including the nature of consciousness, personal identity, free will, action-theory and ethics/decision-making. Reciprocally, philosophy provides critical and interpretive tools for better understanding the methods and significance of findings in neuroscience. Topics covered in this course include: perception, the self and self-awareness, neuroscience of free will, neuroethics, and the cognitive neuroscience of language.

**PHIL 407: 3 s.h.****Political and Social Philosophy (G1)**

An examination of political and social philosophies with a view to discovering their relation to present political and social realities. Offered periodically.

**PHIL 460: 3 s.h.****Philosophy of Law & Human Right (G1)**

Examines theories and practices related to philosophy of law, including topics in legal studies/legal theory, legal reasoning and deliberation, jurisprudence, and human rights.

**PHIL 471: 3 s.h.****Advanced Seminar in Philosophy (G1, W)**

Explores the core philosophical issues concerning theories of truth, knowledge and objective values. Emphasizes the development of the skills of critical reading and writing as well as performing philosophical research. May be taken any number of times for credit. Offered annually. Prereq: ENGL 110 and 3 credits in PHIL at the 200 level or higher or permission of instructor.

**PHIL 479: 3 s.h.****Experimental**

Experimental

**PHIL 498: 1-6 s.h.****Independent Study**

For further information on independent study, see the Special Academic Opportunities section.

**PHIL 499: 1-4 s.h.****Departmental Honors**

Departmental Honors

**PHIL 500: 3-12 s.h.****Co-Op Ed Exp In Phil**

Co-Op Ed Exp In Phil