

# Philosophy (PHIL)

*CIW - Satisfies EMU Core Christian Identity and Witness requirement.*

- 201 Introduction to Philosophy** **3**  
An introduction to major philosophical systems and selected transitional thinkers who have helped to shape the Western intellectual heritage. The focus is on metaphysics (the nature of reality at its most fundamental level) and epistemology (how and what we can know). The course also addresses how the great transitions in thought have influenced our view of God, moral values, truth and the meaning of existence. (CIW)
- \*212 Ways of Knowing** **3**  
Students engage watershed questions of human knowing such as: how do we know? When can we know that someone is wrong regarding their knowledge claims? What is truth? Just how important is truth? Issues of perspective, context, social construction of knowledge and gender and cultural difference will be explored. (CIW)
- \*223 Logic and Critical Thinking** **3**  
Introduction to deductive and inductive rules of reasoning with attention to both formal and informal fallacies. Emphasis on practical applications of critical thinking to everyday problems. (Spring 2011)
- \*312 Ancient Philosophy** **3**  
Students read, interpret and understand original philosophical texts from Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine in order to understand the classical Western conceptions of reality, knowledge and humanity. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (Fall 2011)
- \*323 Philosophy of Science** **3**  
Students engage epistemological questions emerging from the practices and claims of scientific inquiry including scientific explanation, theory formation, and hypothesis confirmation. Issues discussed include scientific claims of truth, theory construction, scientific and other paradigms, and the implications of scientific theories and claims for understanding reality. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (CIW) (Spring 2011)
- \*334 Ethics: Conceptions of Personal Good** **3**  
Students encounter classical conceptions of ethics and morality articulated by Aristotle, Kant, Mill and the traditions of ethical virtue. The course will explore the relative importance of reason, character and good consequences in determining the right and the good. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (CIW) (Fall 2010)
- \*341 Politics: Conceptions of Common Good** **3**  
The course examines competing theories and conceptualizations of justice in human arrangements. Theories articulated by Plato, Hobbes, and contemporary libertarian, communitarian, utilitarian and fairness based thinkers are explored. Limited applications of the theories to questions of distributive justice are presented. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (CIW) (Spring 2012)
- \*352 Modern Philosophy** **3**  
Students read, interpret and understand original texts from Descartes, Hobbes, Hume, Locke, Berkeley, Leibniz, Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Mill in order to understand the modern Western conceptions of reality, knowledge and humanity. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor.

**\*363 Contemporary Philosophy****3**

An introduction to the contemporary postmodern situation. The writings of Hegel, Marx, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, as well as other influential thinkers, will be studied. Attention will also be given to marginalized viewpoints. Since philosophical concerns always arise in specific historical and social contexts, special attention will be given to the interrelationship between styles of thinking and ways of life. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor.

**\*412 Philosophy of Religion****3**

This course examines issues that arise from a tradition of philosophical reflection upon the language and truth claims of religion. Issues receiving careful attention are the classic proofs of God's existence, the problem of evil, the religious truth claims, and the question of miracles and human destiny. Both religious and non-religious attempts to "make sense" of religious language are investigated. (CIW) (Fall 2010)

**\*434 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy****3**

This class changes content as new issues in contemporary philosophy arise and old issues are revisited with new insight. The success of neuroscience is raising philosophical questions concerning the nature of the human being and the possibility of reducing mental events to brain events. The awareness of pluralism, particularly religious pluralism, raises philosophical questions concerning the nature of truth and the adequacy of human language and conceptual schemes in our attempts to make sense of the world and God. (CIW)

**499 Independent Study****1-3**