

MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY (36CH)

Requirements for Master of Arts in Philosophy (12 Credit Core Curriculum)

PHIL 520 – Introduction to Moral Philosophy 3CH

This course will start with a few moral issues, including abortion and our obligation to others. We then take up issues about the nature of morality as a whole such as whether there is a single true morality. We end by considering moral theories that attempt to formulate basic principles of morality.

Book Used: *Ethical Theory an Anthology*, By: Russ Shafer-Landau

PHIL 550 – Philosophy of Metaphysics 3CH

This course focuses on numerous core topics in current investigative metaphysics (approximately, the study of the elemental nature of reality) such core topics are: 1. Universe & Existence, 2. Modality (Necessity, Possibility), Causation, Time and Space, Persistence and many other topics.

Book Used: *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*, 2nd. edition. Edited by Michael J. Loux, (Routledge, 2008). ISBN#: 10: 0415962382, ISBN#: 13: 978-0415962384

PHIL 525 – Philosophy of Nature 3CH

This course will provide a philosophical account of the nature of change, including classical insights (Aristotle, Aquinas) and contemporary issues in cosmology, the methods of science and philosophy, the nature of causality, time and infinity.

Book Used: *Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

_____ *M. Dodds, “Top Down, Bottom up or Inside Out? Retrieving Aristotelian Causality in Cotemporary Science,” may be found online:*

<http://www.ndedu/Departments/Maritain/ti/doods.htm>

PHIL 530 – Ancient and Medieval Philosophy 3CH

This course is a survey of western philosophy from the 6th-century B.C. Pre-Socratics to the 16th - Century Scholastics. The course will focus on Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, and St. Thomas Aquinas, using the twin themes of nature and human nature as an occasion for (a) formulating with some precision the main metaphysical and ethical problematic that emerge from the works of Plato and Aristotle, (b) investigating the influence of Plato and Aristotle on the Catholic intellectual tradition, and (c) exploring in some depth the relation between faith and reason as articulated by the medievalists.

Book Used: James Jordan's, *Western Philosophy: from Antiquity to the Middle Ages*

12CH

ELECTIVES: (24 CH) (8 COURSES)

PHIL 522 – Epistemology

3CH

This course will focus on the field of epistemology. Topics include the analysis of knowledge, a priori knowledge, immediate perceptual justification, foundational vs. coherence views, internalism vs. externalism, naturalized epistemology, and skepticism.

Book Used: Sosa, Ernest, Jaegwon Kim, Jeremy Fantl, and Matthew McGrath, eds. *Epistemology: An Anthology*, 2nd. Ed., Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2008.

PHIL 505 – Modern Philosophy

3CH

This course focuses on the modern philosophers such as: Rene Descartes, George Berkeley, David Hume, Georg Hegel, Gottfried Leibniz, Benedict de Spinoza, Immanuel Kant, and Frederich Nietzsche.

Readings can be found in the Internet:

- R. Descartes: Meditations (1641), Rules for the Direction of the Mind (1701)
- G. Berkeley: Principles of Human Knowledge (1710)
- D. Hume: An Enquiry of Human Understanding (1748)
- G. Hegel: Phenomenology of Mind (1807)
- Notes from the Underground by Dostoevski or Emile by Rousseau
- G. Leibniz: The Monadology (1698)
- B. de Spinoza: The Ethics (1677)
- I. Kant: Critique of Pure Reason (1787)
- G. Hegel: The Philosophy of Right (1844)
- F. Nietzsche: Genealogy of Ethics (1887)

PHIL 515 – World Religions

3CH

This course will focus on the major religions of the world, and the philosophical problems that arise from their doctrines and practices. There is no decision as to which religion is the right one. The question of which religion, if any, is the truth is a good question, and one we all have to answer, but our aim is to understand, as sympathetically as possible, what these religions are like. Only when you have done that can you make a sound decision about what to believe.

Book Used:

Mary Pat Fisher, *Living Religions*, 8th. edition

PHIL 517 – Logic

3CH

This course will focus in learning how to differentiate good from bad arguments. The approach is two-sided: 1. the analysis and classification of fallacies and 2. the analysis as well as the construction of valid arguments. Thus, the student will learn the differences between an argument and an explanation, the difference between deduction and induction, and the differences among truth, validity, and soundness in argumentation. You will learn some of the very effective methods of analysis and criticism.

Book Used:

I.M. Copi and Carl Cohen, *Introduction to Logic*, New York: Prentice Hall, 2001 (11th. edition).

PHIL 501 – History of Philosophy

3CH

This course will focus on the story and history of philosophy in the contemporary world in its developmental stages of long and gradual beliefs, methods, and positions which have been put forward, scrutinized over long periods of time and emerged into their current form.

Book Used:

Cahn, Steven M. *Classics of Western Philosophy*, 5th. Edition.

Wikipedia on Classical Philosophy

PHIL 520 – Philosophical Theology

3CH

This course will focus and describe the process of doing theology with the aid and support of philosophical reflection, language, and methods. Philosophical theology is sometimes viewed as a sub-category of philosophy of religion, providing ways to understand different doctrines or theological concepts through the use of philosophy.

Book Used:

The Philosophy of Religion Reader ed. By Chad Meister

Philosophy of Religion: A Beginner's Guide by Taliaferro

PHIL 521 – Philosophy of Man

3CH

This course examines Man's search for meaning within the totality of his Phenomenological experiences, using various existential writings as the point of departure for personal reflections. The discussion revolves around the triadic structures of his phenomenological experience: his relationship with himself; with others and with the Absolute Thou.

Book Used:

Dy, Manuel B., Jr., *Philosophy of Man: Selected Readings*. Goodwill Trading Co: Quezon City, 1986.

PHIL 523 – Contemporary Philosophy

3CH

This course is to investigate, understand and appreciate the philosophical texts of various contemporary philosophers. Topics such as phenomenology, analytical philosophy, linguistic philosophy, existentialism, hermeneutics, and many other topics will be dealt with.

Book Used:

Braid and Kaufmann, Twentieth-Century Philosophy (Prentice Hall, 2003)

PHIL 540 – Ethics

3CH

This course focuses on several topics: 1. what is the nature of the life of excellence? 2. What is the ultimate worth of the goals you seek? 3. How do you rightly obtain your life goals? Even though these questions are simply stated, they prove to be most complex and difficult to clarify. The objective of the course is to establish some good answers to these questions in light of a critical analysis of several theories of ethics including those of Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Mill, Epicureanism, Stoicism, utilitarianism and egoism.

Book Used:

John Hospers, Human Conduct: Problems of Ethics (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1995).

PHLRES 600- Research Thesis (OPTION) 6CH

If the student opts to do the research thesis he/or she would need to read the text: **FROM BEGINNING TO END: INTERNET RESEARCH AND THE WRITING PROCESS**, BY: JOHN H. MORGAN AND RUSSELL NEITZK (SOUTH BEND, IN: CLOVERDALE BOOKS, 2007).

The student will write a 5,000-7,500 word from the first six chapters in the book to show academic research. This will be e-mailed to the instructor, before the student starts his/or her research thesis.

