

Advising Letter

Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Classical Studies

Spring 2016 Registration for Fall 2016 Term

Dear students,

As you know, registration for the spring term starts Tuesday, April 5, 2016 and ends Friday, April 15, 2016. The purpose of this letter is to underline some important things to bear in as you are finalizing your course selection.

1. This is the ideal time to make an appointment to see your faculty advisor in philosophy. Email works well for purposes of making that appointment. Or you can phone or just drop by during office hours. Our full contact information is listed here:
<http://philos.pages.tcnj.edu/faculty/>

If you are unsure who your advisor is, you can check your PAWS account. Or you can contact Cecilia Colbeth – 609.771.2539 or colbeth@tcnj.edu. Ms. Colbeth can also let you know your advisor's office hours.

2. Make sure you are acquainted with PAWS. The “what if” reports (under “advising tools”) can be particularly useful. If you need any help with the system, please contact your advisor directly.
3. The Mini-Catalog lets you know just what courses our department will offer this coming spring and gives you some detailed information about those courses. It can be found at the end of this letter and at <http://philos.pages.tcnj.edu/>. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor if you have any questions or need additional information about the course.
4. The last page of Mini-Catalog consists of a table summing up the requirements for the philosophy major as well as for the specializations in Ethics and in Law and Philosophy and for our programs in religion and classical studies. This would be a good time to review those requirements against what you have already accomplished to see what you need to do next.

To help as well, please see p. 3 below for an “idealized” sequence of courses for the philosophy major.

5. If you have already taken **PHL 120/Introduction to Logic** but no other course in philosophy, do keep in mind that you might want to take another 100-level course before you tackle our upper-level courses. Seats in both **PHL 135/Contemporary Moral Issues** and in **PHL 100/Introduction to Philosophy** should remain available for first and second year students throughout registration period. Similarly, if you've already taken PHL 100 or 135, it might be time to do PHL 120. Again, seats should remain available for first and second year students. Please do let me know if you face any obstacle there. These courses are described in the Mini-Catalog.

6. For those majors and minors who have already done some work in philosophy, our schedule features quite a number of interesting courses. It includes **PHL 205.01/History of Modern Philosophy** (required for the major); **PHL 255.01/Biomedical Ethics** and **PHL 270.01 Special Topics/Continental Philosophy** (both count as philosophy electives). Note that we are offering **PHL 421.01/Philosophy of Language** and **PHL 470.01/Advanced Topics in Philosophy: Metaphilosophy** (both courses count as philosophy electives at the 300- or 400-level), and also **PHL 430.01/Advanced Ethics** (this course can count as a philosophy elective at the 300 or 400 level and can also be used to satisfy the philosophy major's Ethics Requirement normally met by PHL 350/Ethical Theory or PHL 375/Equality in Law and Ethics). Again, please do not hesitate to contact the instructors directly for further information.
7. Especially for **juniors** You should take special care that you are on target for completing your senior capstone requirements. The one-unit Senior Project is usually completed during the spring term of the senior year but depending on the student's individual situation can be completed during the fall term instead. The two-unit Senior Thesis is typically completed over both terms of the senior year (the Senior Thesis Research in the fall and the Senior Thesis in the spring). Whether you are on the usual schedule or not, around the time of registration the term before you are ready to begin the capstone – that is, now, if you plan to start the capstone this coming fall term -- you should do the following: (A) identify the faculty member you would like to complete your senior capstone with; (B) contact that person to set up a meeting; (C) try to agree on an area of common research interest and on whether your aim should be a senior project or a senior thesis; and (D) enroll in the appropriate component of the capstone with that faculty member. That person will henceforth serve as your project or thesis advisor. And, between now and the time when you actually begin the capstone work, keep in close contact with that advisor so that any necessary preliminary groundwork can be accomplished.
8. Especially for **seniors** We are so excited and happy for you yet so hate to see you go! If you haven't yet arranged for a job or a seat in law school or graduate school or other program, please keep clearly in mind once you leave us that we will always be here to support you – to continue to serve as your advisors and to write letters of recommendation on your behalf and for anything else you may need. Your rights to our services and our enthusiasm for providing them do not end at graduation; they are yours for life. *Please* just let us know what happens next; *please* stay in touch.

With best wishes,

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Religion, and Classical Studies
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Our departmental web site, with information about the major and our other programs, courses and faculty bios can be found here: <http://philos.pages.tcnj.edu/>

Idealized Course Sequence

Freshman Year

FSP	First Seminar	1 course unit
WRI	102/Academic Writing	1 course unit
	World Language	2 course units
	Quantitative Reasoning	1 course unit
	Two electives in Philosophy (100-level; 200-level with permission)	2 course units
	One elective	1 course unit

Sophomore Year

	World Language	1 course unit
	Laboratory Science	2 course units
	Literature	1 course unit
PHL	120 Introduction to Logic <i>or</i> 220/Metalogic	1 course unit
PHL	201/History of Ancient Philosophy	1 course unit
PHL	205/History of Modern Philosophy	1 course unit
	One Elective	1 course unit

Junior Year

	Social Science/History	3 course units
PHL	350/Ethical Theory <i>or</i> 375/Law and Ethics	1 course unit
PHL	410/Theory of Knowledge <i>or</i> 420/Metaphysics	1 course unit
	One elective in philosophy (300-400 level)	1 course unit
	Two electives	2 course units

Senior Year

	Art	1 course unit
PHL	494/Senior Project <i>or</i> 495/Senior Thesis Research <i>and</i> 496/Senior Thesis	1 <i>or</i> 2 course units
	One elective in philosophy (300-400 level)	1 course unit
	Five electives	5 course units

Biomedical ethics (or bioethics) is the name given to an area of research lying on the interdisciplinary border between medicine, biology, philosophy, and law that deals with questions concerning the ethical and social policy dimensions of clinical medicine, medical research, nursing and other health care professions. The first section of the course will introduce you to major ethical theories and to the modes of moral reasoning that are employed in bioethics. The next section of the course will focus on the professional ethical responsibilities of physicians and researchers regarding their patients and human subjects in biomedical research. The third section of the course will address difficult ethical issues concerning life and death including abortion, assisted reproductive technology, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. The fourth and final section will examine the issue of justice in health care allocation and access, with special attention to the recent debates on health care reform. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 270/Topics in Philosophy: Continental Philosophy Sec.01 (81964) Haynes 11:00 – 12:20 PM TF
Prerequisites: One course in philosophy or permission of instructor.

This course addresses key differences between the Analytical and Continental traditions of Western philosophy, briefly traces the background and "split" between the two, and introduces major concepts and thinkers in the Continental tradition. Readings will include essays by Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Roland Barthes, Martin Heidegger, Walter Benjamin, and Jacques Lacan. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 421/Philosophy of Language Sec.01 (81966) Preti 2:00 – 3:20 PM MR
Prerequisite: PHL 120 and two 200-level or higher philosophy courses or permission of instructor

The main aim of this course is to investigate traditional topics like meaning, propositional content, truth, and reference, as well as contemporary controversies that arise in the intersection between philosophy of language and cognitive science. The course is designed in a way that will answer the different needs of students with different backgrounds: students with little or no background in philosophy will get a streamlined introduction to the basics of philosophy of language through readings that will focus on an area of cognitive science that speaks to their particular interest. Students with a background in philosophy will get the opportunity to apply their current knowledge of philosophical analysis and argument to a set of issues in philosophy of language through classical and contemporary material in the field. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 430/Advanced Ethics Sec.01 (82632) Roberts 3:30 – 6:20 PM T
Prerequisite: Two 200-level or higher philosophy courses and PHL 350 or PHL 375 or permission of instructor

A seminar on contemporary issues in ethical theory, applied ethics or the philosophy of law. Topics treated will vary depending on the instructor, but will always involve concentrated study at the advanced level. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 470/Advanced Topics in Philosophy: Metaphilosophy Sec.01 (81965) Kamber 3:30 – 4:50 PM MR

Metaphilosophy is the study of the nature, methods, and uses of philosophy. It asks questions like: "What is the difference between philosophy and science (or religion, or literature)?" and "Has philosophy made progress over the course of its long history?" This semester our primary text will be Rick Kamber's manuscript *Why Philosophers Can't Agree: Though Scientists Can*, and we will supplement it with related readings. Students will also be asked to present papers in philosophy that they have written or to present work in progress on their senior theses or projects. The prerequisite for this seminar is at least three courses in philosophy (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

PHL 494/Senior Project
Prerequisite: Senior status or junior status, and permission of instructor

A writing project prepared under the advisement of a member of the philosophy faculty. Students must complete a carefully researched and written, in-depth work in philosophy on a topic of significance in philosophy, selected by the student in consultation with faculty and written under the close supervision of a faculty member who serves as advisor.

PHL 495/Senior Thesis Research
Prerequisite: Senior standing as a philosophy major and permission of instructor

Independent research under the guidance of a full-time faculty member on a mutually agreed-on topic. Students will be expected to define a topic suitable for a capstone thesis, conduct a series of appropriate literature reviews, and develop a writing plan.

PHL 496/Senior Thesis
Prerequisite: PHL 495 and permission of instructor

A substantial writing project prepared under the advisement of a member of the philosophy faculty. Students must complete a

carefully researched and written, in-depth work in philosophy on a topic of significance in philosophy, selected by the student in consultation with faculty and written under the close supervision of a faculty adviser.

RELIGION COURSES

REL 110/World Religions

Sec.01 (80724) Richardson 3:30 – 4:50 PM MR

This course focuses on the 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 traditions. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

REL 111/Buddhism & Buddhist Thought

Sec.01 (82101) Thomas 9:30 – 10:50 AM TF

This course will study the historical and philosophical development of Buddhism from its origin in India to its modern day practice in Japan and Tibet. It will explore the essential teachings and practice of Buddhism both in its early and modern form found in India, Sri Lanka, China, Japan and Tibet. It will examine both primary texts from various Buddhist traditions and secondary materials in order to gain a better appreciation for this religious tradition which has survived in Asia for centuries and is gaining popularity in the West in recent times. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

REL 113/Islam and Islamic Thought

Sec.01 (82093) Thomas 11:00 – 12:50 PM TF

Course examining Islam and some of the intellectual traditions that have flourished in conjunction with it. Students will study the historical origins and essential teachings of this religion and explore some of the literary and philosophical traditions that developed from or in close connection with Islam. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Global)

REL 120/Early Judaism

Sec.01 (80729) Greenbaum 11:00 – 12:20 PM MR

This course will cover the development of Jewish history and religious life from the Biblical through the medieval periods. Particular attention will be paid to literary sources, the historical development of ideas, and Jewish ritual cycles. We will, for example, examine the development of the celebration and meaning of Jewish festivals, life cycle events and practices. Also probed will be the growth of Jewish law and understanding of Scriptures. There is no requirement for any previous understanding of Judaism—all students are encouraged to enroll. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 170/Special Topic: Mental Wellness in Jewish Thought Sec.01 (80733) Greenbaum 12:30 – 1:50 PM MR

The pursuit of mental wellness has been part of life since the dawn of time. In this course we will explore ancient and modern Jewish teachings to understand the human psyche and how it best functions. The course will include ancient meditative techniques, a dissection of the human personality, and the mind's connection to the broader universe. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 170/Special Topics: Introduction to the Bible

Sec. 02 (82118) Rech 8:00 – 9:20 AM TF

The sacred texts, collectively known as the Bible, have the greatest reach of any other form of Western literature. In this course, we will apply Biblical academic study to the literature of the books that comprise various bibles, Biblical history in Western society, the development of various biblical canons, the use of these sacred texts in history, and the technological developments that have affected the understanding of Bibles. This examination will lead to a better understanding of Bibles and how they function in our literary, political, and religious lives. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 320/Holocaust: Historical & Religious Persp.

Sec.01 (80732) Rech 9:30-10:50 AM TF

This course will provide a background to the actual events and an introduction to the historiographic, philosophical and religious dimensions of the Holocaust. The main focus of the course will be interpreting the causes, events, and lessons in light of the historical, philosophical, and religious perspectives. This course will lead students to a fuller understanding of the Holocaust and its effect on contemporary religious and philosophical life. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

REL 333/Scripture in Context (same as HIS/CLS 333)

Sec.01 (80731) Hlubik 2:00-3:20 PM MR

Scripture in Context investigates the books of the Hebrew Bible (Christian Old Testament) using contemporary historical critical, cultural, archeological, literary and other academic tools of analysis in order to provide students with a deeper appreciation of the meaning of these texts. We will examine the possible meanings which these texts had in their original written or oral forms, and how they were reinterpreted and re-edited to reflect new meanings they took on as time went on, and finally how their meanings changed when they were formed into the canons of Holy Scriptures for Jews and Christians. The course will challenge

Requirements for the Major in Philosophy
10 or 11 PHL courses, including:
Logic (1 course unit) PHL 120/Introduction to Logic <i>or</i> PHL 220/Metalogic
History of Philosophy (2 course units) PHL 201/History of Ancient Philosophy <i>and</i> PHL 205/History of Modern Philosophy
Ethics (1 course unit) PHL 350/Ethical Theory <i>or</i> PHL 375/Law and Ethics
Epistemology or Metaphysics (1 course unit) PHL 410/Theory of Knowledge <i>or</i> PHL 420/Metaphysics
Philosophy Electives (4 course units) Four additional philosophy courses including at least two at the 300 or 400 level.
Senior Capstone (1-2 course units) PHL 494/Senior Project (1 course unit) <i>or</i> PHL 495/Senior Thesis Research <i>and</i> PHL 496/Senior Thesis (2 course units)

Required Courses for Philosophy Major with Specialization in Ethics	Required Courses for Philosophy Major with Specialization in Law and Philosophy
Ten PHL courses, including:	Ten PHL courses, including:
PHL 255 (Biomedical Ethics), 350 (Ethical Theory) and 430 (Advanced Ethics); Senior capstone in ethics (10 courses total)	PHL 275 (Philosophy of Law) and 375 (Law and Ethics); Senior capstone in law and philosophy (10 courses total)
For more information, see Morton Winston.	For more information, see Melinda Roberts.

Requirements for Minor in Philosophy	Requirements for Minor in Religion	Requirements for Interdisciplinary Concentration in Religious Studies	Requirements for Interdisciplinary Minor in Classical Studies	Requirements for Interdisciplinary Concentration in Classical Studies
Five PHL courses, including:	Five courses, including:	Six courses, including:	Five courses, including:	Six courses, including:
PHL 120/Introduction to Logic; PHL 201/History of Ancient Phil. <i>or</i> PHL 205/History of Modern Phil.; Two additional PHL courses at any level; One additional PHL course at 300 or 400 level	Two REL courses Three courses from selected list	One course in each of world religions, religious culture and critical issues; two courses from social science and history, all from selected lists; one additional course approved by program coordinator	GRE 201 or LAT 201 One course in ancient history of philosophy from selected list; One course in ancient art or literature from selected list; Two additional courses approved by program coordinator	Five courses satisfying the requirements for the Classical Studies Minor; one additional course approved by program coordinator.
	For more information, see Pierre Le Morvan.	For more information, see Pierre Le Morvan.	For more information, see Holly Haynes.	For more information, see Holly Haynes.

For more information, please see <http://www.tcnj.edu/~philos/index.html>