

# Advising Letter

## Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Classical Studies

### Spring 2017 Registration for Fall 2017 Term

Dear students,

As you know, registration for the spring term starts Tuesday, April 4, 2017 and ends Friday, April 14, 2017. 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](mailto: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 201.01/Ancient Philosophy** (required for the major); **PHL 270.01/Special Topics/Philosophy and Film**; and **PHL 280.01/Feminism and Philosophy** (both count as philosophy electives). Also please note **PHL 370.01/Advanced Topics in Philosophy: The History of Modern Philosophy**; **PHL 375.01/Law and Ethics**; and **PHL 422.01/Philosophy of Mind** (all three courses count as philosophy electives at the 300- or 400-level). 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,

Melinda Roberts  
Chair of Department of Philosophy, 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

MINI-CATALOG

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & CLASSICAL STUDIES  
COURSE OFFERINGS  
FALL 2017

**PHILOSOPHY COURSES**

**PHL 100/Introduction to Philosophy**

Sec.01 (80494) McAndrews 9:30-10:50 AM MR  
.02 (80497) McAndrews 9:30-10:50 AM TF  
.03 (80500) Staff  
.04 (82437) Staff

A course that examines the fundamentals of philosophical argument, analysis and reasoning, as applied to a series of issues in logic, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Topics covered may include: logical validity, theories of knowledge and belief, the nature of mind, the nature of reality, arguments for the existence of God, and theories of right and wrong. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

**PHL 120/Introduction to Logic**

Sec.01 (80837) Le Morvan 2:00 – 3:20 PM TF  
.02 (80836) Le Morvan 3:30 -- 4:50 PM TF  
.03 (80495) Staff 12:30 -- 1:50 PM MR  
.04 (80498) Staff 2:00 – 3:20 PM MR

A course on the basic principles and techniques of correct reasoning in ordinary life and the sciences. Study of the formal systems of sentence logic and predicate logic. Translation of natural language statements and arguments and analysis and evaluation of deductive arguments through the construction of proofs. Focus particularly on the power and precision of the natural language with the aim of helping students increase their ability to think and write with creativity, precision and rigor.

(This course is recommended for pre-law students and satisfies a requirement for the Law and Society Interdisciplinary Concentration and for the Politics, Law and Philosophy Interdisciplinary minor.)

(LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing; Writing Intensive)

**PHL 135/Contemporary Moral Issues**

Sec.01 (80490) Staff 2:00 – 3:20 PM MR  
.02 (80491) Staff 3:30 – 4:50 PM MR  
.03 (80496) Staff  
.04 (80499) Staff

This course provides an introduction to ethics, one of the main branches of philosophy. It aims to familiarize students with basic concepts and theories in ethics, and with how they may be applied to a range of contemporary moral issues. Topics addressed may include racism, sexism, abortion, euthanasia, cloning, capital punishment, our obligations to the disadvantaged, the treatment of non-human animals, just war, and the like. Students will be encouraged 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. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

**PHL 201/History of Ancient Philosophy**

Sec.01 (81847) Staff

*Prerequisite:* One course in philosophy or permission of instructor

This is a survey course on Plato and Aristotle. In order to place these two philosophers within their historical context, we shall begin by exploring the thought of the Pre-Socratic Philosophers (Parmenides, Zeno, Anaxagoras and Democritus) and the Sophists (Gorgias and Protagoras). The focus of the course shall be on epistemology, metaphysics and psychology. For Plato, we shall read two or three of the early dialogues (including the Euthyphro), both the Meno and the Phaedo, and parts of the Republic. We shall also look at Plato's own criticism of the theory of the Forms in the Parmenides. For Aristotle, we shall read some of the *organon*, including parts of the Categories and the Posterior Analytics. These works provide the basis for Aristotle's own rejection of the theory of Forms and they also introduce us to his conception of 'scientific knowledge'. We shall read substantial selections from three of Aristotle's more

prominent works: the Nicomachean Ethics, the Physics, and On the Soul.  
(LL: World Views & Way of Knowing, Writing Intensive)

**PHL 270/Philosophy and Film**

Sec.01 (81999) Kamber 3:30 – 6:20 PM M

Philosophy and Film examines the philosophical significance of film as a medium, art, and image of reality. Part of this course is historical. We will begin by considering the ingenious experiments of early film-makers and then turn our attention to the aesthetics of silent film in the 1920s and the transition to talkies in the 1930s. Part of this course is conceptual. We will compare cinematic images of reality with perceptual experience and the imaginative capabilities of other art forms, especially painting and literature. We will also explore principles of film interpretation and evaluation. The largest part of this course focuses on the philosophical content of specific films. We will watch and analyze both self-consciously philosophical films, like Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors* and Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and films that lend themselves to philosophical readings like Harold Ramis' *Groundhog Day*. There will also be opportunities for students to work on films of their own choice.  
(LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

**PHL 280/Feminism and Philosophy**

Sec.01 (82379) Haynes 9:30 – 10:50 AM TF

This course examines the role of the female and the feminine in both Eastern and Western philosophical traditions, uncovering the ways in which women are either included or excluded in the development of a society's fundamental assumptions about itself. The methodology will be historical, thematic, and comparative. Beginning with poststructuralist feminist perspectives the course moves backward to the ancient Greeks to show the philosophical origins of this orientation. From the primary exclusions of women from language, reason, and the ideologies that historically accompany them, the course examines questions of women's subjectivity, and agency in the political realm.  
(LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing and Gender)

**PHL 370/Advanced Topics in Phil: History of Modern Philosophy** Sec.01 (82058) Taylor 11:00 – 12:20 PM MR

*Prerequisite:* One course in philosophy or permission of instructor.

The C18th Scottish Enlightenment had a profound influence on Anglo-American thinking, with writers such as Frances Hutcheson, Thomas Reid, Adam Smith, and David Hume shaping many of the subsequent debates in ethics, epistemology, and economics. (Indeed, Adam Smith is held to be the father of modern economics.) The thinkers of the Scottish Enlightenment combined a thoroughgoing empiricism with a commitment to the view that the use of reason could be used to discover how to make the world better. In this course we will read some of the major texts from the Scottish Enlightenment, including selections from Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nation* and *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, and Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*. Some of the concepts that we will examine in the course will be illustrated through interactive experiments. (LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

**PHL 375/Law and Ethics**

Sec.01 (81850) Roberts 3:30 – 6:20 PM T

*Prerequisite:* One course in philosophy or permission of instructor.

In this seminar, we begin with Mill's *On Liberty* and then explore the concept of privacy from both the constitutional and the moral perspective. Specifically, we shall consider cases involving commercial surrogacy, human cloning, parental rights of privacy and control over their offspring and the issue of the failed adoption. Readings for the course will come from both traditional and contemporary sources in moral philosophy and from Supreme Court and other court opinions.

(This course satisfies a requirement for the Law and Society Interdisciplinary Concentration and for the Politics, Law and Philosophy Interdisciplinary minor.)

(LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

**PHL 422/Philosophy of Mind**

*Prerequisite:* One course in philosophy or permission of instructor Sec. 01 (81851) Preti 3:30 – 6:20 PM R

In this course we will examine some foundational problems and issues in philosophy of mind and artificial intelligence. The main problem starts with the nature of consciousness: what is it? Where does it come from? Is it physical (a brain)? Is it *just* a brain? Do you taste your brain when you eat a cookie? You do? Really? Everything you eat, smell, hear,

touch, and see is brain chemicals and brains events? All your emotions *feel like a brain*? What does *that* feel like? Ok so maybe your mind (any mind) is not *just* a brain. So maybe tasting a cookie or feeling chilly is something more/other than neurochemicals or synapses firing? But if so, what?

This problem is tightly related to the problem of artificial intelligence (AI). First: what is 'intelligence'? When is it 'artificial'? Are animals intelligent? How? Are *you* intelligent? How? Are your friends/mom intelligent? How? To answer that we'll need to discuss some current models of intelligence. Our question will be: Is there any way to understand the mind as mechanical? Mechanical how? How do these models help to understand the "I" in "AI"..as well as the "A".

Once we've got a handle on what 'intelligence' can mean, we can start asking questions about our own intelligence and that of anything like it that that we build/program. Are those things robots? What's a robot? Are they zombies? What's a zombie? Are *you* a zombie? Is your mom a zombie? Should we be worried about the singularity? What is the singularity? Finally: if AIs become more and more prevalent in our lives, do we treat them like they have sensations like pain and emotions like sadness? Even if they don't? So now we have an ethics of AI problem. If they can actually feel things (if they are what's known as sentient) we have to worry about how we make them feel. We also might want to worry about making sure we don't write programs that they can subvert to hurt us. But then... that runs into autonomy issues. It's all fun and games until somebody has autonomy. (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 (80635) Ashworth 5:30 – 8:20 PM M

Sec.02 (82299) Ashworth 5:30 – 8:20 PM W

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 (81977) Thomas 9:30 – 10:50 AM MR

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 (80640) Thomas 11:00 – 12:50 PM MR

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 (80636) 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 (80639) 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 (80642) 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 170/ Topics: Intro to Christianity: History and Theology** Sec. 03 (81978) Richardson 3:30 – 4:50 PM MR

The course will explore the history of Christianity beginning with the Hebrew Scriptures and the birth of Jesus and extending up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and including its various branches. We will focus on key historical developments and link those with major concepts in theology, as they existed in those historical contexts.

(LL: World Views & Ways of Knowing)

**REL 320/Holocaust: Historical & Religious Persp.**

Sec.01 (80638) 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)

## **CLASSICAL STUDIES COURSES**

### **CLS 250/Introduction to Greek Mythology**

Sec.01 (80475) Dakin 11:00 – 12:20 PM TF  
.02 (80476) Pilney 2:00 – 3:20 PM MR  
.03 (80478) Pilney 3:30 – 4:50 PM MR

This course is an introduction to ancient Greek mythology through primary texts such as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, Sophocles' *Ajax*, et al. We shall focus on the Trojan War cycle of myths and its greatest heroes in order to understand how the ancient Greeks explored important aspects of their society through literature that ostensibly presents mythological events and characters. Attention is also given to visual representations of myth in sculpture and on vases and to differentiating the ancient Greek concept of "myth" from our own. (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts)

## **GREEK**

### **GRE 101/Greek I**

Sec.01 (81857) Haynes 11:00 – 12:20 PM TF

## **LATIN**

### **LAT 101/Latin I**

Sec.01 (80487) Dakin 9:30 – 10:50 AM TF

This course is the first part of a two-semester introduction to the elements of classical Latin, and aims at allowing students to read classical Latin texts as quickly as possible. The focus of the course is the vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of classical Latin, but linguistic and cultural history will also be treated. (LL: Language-Modern & Classical)

### **LAT 201/Intermediate Latin**

Sec.01 (80489) Haynes 2:00 – 3:20 PM TF

*Prerequisite:* LAT 102

Concentration on translation, appreciation, and interpretation of great authors of the Roman world. (LL: Language-Modern & Classical)



Requirements for Major in Philosophy
Ten PHL courses, including:
<b>Logic (1 course unit)</b> PHL 120/Introduction to Logic <i>or</i> PHL 220/Metalogic
<b>History of Philosophy (2 course units)</b> PHL 201/History of Ancient Philosophy <i>and</i> PHL 205/History of Modern Philosophy
<b>Ethics (1 course unit)</b> PHL 350/Ethical Theory <i>or</i> PHL 375/Law and Ethics
<b>Epistemology or Metaphysics (1 course unit)</b> PHL 410/Theory of Knowledge <i>or</i> PHL 420/Metaphysics
<b>Philosophy Electives (4 course units)</b> Four additional philosophy courses including at least two at the 300 or 400 level.
<b>Senior Capstone (1-2 course units)</b> 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 Melinda Roberts.	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.; One additional PHL course at any level; Two additional PHL courses at 300 or 400 level	Two REL courses; Three courses from selected list. Two of the five courses must be at the 300 or above level.	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. Two of the five courses must be at the 300 or above level.	Five courses satisfying the requirements for the Classical Studies Minor; one additional course approved by program coordinator. At least two courses must be at the 300 or above level.
For more information, see Melinda Roberts	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>