

**Oklahoma State University Philosophy Department**  
**Course Descriptions**

- 1013 (H) Philosophical Classics. Basic works by great thinkers, including Plato, Descartes and Hume.
- 1213 (H) Philosophies of Life. Introductory ethics and social philosophy, moral decision making, the good life, social values, freedom and responsibility.
- 1313 (A) Logic & Critical Thinking. Formal and informal reasoning, common fallacies, definitions and language functions, patterns of explanation. Practical criticism and development of every day arguments.
- 2113 (H) Introduction to Philosophy. Selected philosophical problems: the nature of reality, knowledge, value, social ideals and religion.
- 3003 (A) Symbolic Logic. Propositional logic and predicate logic with identity. Formal analysis of language.
- 3113 (H) Ancient & Medieval Philosophy. Main systems of Western thought from the Greeks to 15th century Europe. Emphasis on Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas.
- 3213 (H) Modern Philosophy. Major philosophers and problems in Western thought from the 16th through the 19th century. Emphasis on Descartes, Hume and Kant.
- 3413 (H) Ethics. Contemporary and classical views on the nature of moral judgments, moral value, relativity and objectivity, freedom and responsibility.
- 3513 (H) Social Philosophy. Major social thinkers and contemporary issues. Social authority, human rights, political forms and justice. Emphasis on Aristotle, Locke, Mill and Marx.
- 3613 (H) Philosophy of Religion. Nature of religion, religious experience and religious language. God concepts, theistic arguments, God and evil, God and immortality.
- 3713 (H) Philosophy of Education. Classical and contemporary philosophers who have systematically developed their ideas about education, including Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, Locke and Dewey.
- 3803 (H) Business Ethics. Ethical issues in business, such as employer-employee duties and loyalties, advertising uses, preferential treatment practices. Analytic grounding in basic theories of ethics.
- 3813 (H) Recent American Philosophy. Dominant trends in American philosophy during the last 100 years, with emphasis on pragmatism.
- 3823 (H) Engineering Ethics. Philosophical analysis of moral issues in engineering practice, such as whistle-blowing, conflicts of interest and product liability. Professional code of ethics.
- 3833 (H) Biomedical Ethics. Moral problems brought about by recent developments in scientific research and medical technology. Abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, and human experimentation.
- 3843 (H) Philosophy of Law. Prerequisite: upper-division standing. Philosophical issues related to U.S. law. The relationship between law and morality, the nature and functions of law, and grounds of liability.

- 3913 (H) Existentialism. Selected writings and themes in the development of existentialism and related intellectual movements. Subjectivity, phenomenological description, hermeneutics, freedom and value; and such writers as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Marcel and Buyer.
- 3920 Contemporary Philosophical Problems. Selected contemporary problems and discussions.
- 3923 Contemporary Issues in Philosophy. Selected current controversies and recent trends in philosophy.
- 3933 (H) Creation and Evolution. Critical examination of claims that various Creationist/Intelligent Design models offer better scientific explanations for selected biological phenomena than does the current dominant view of Darwinian Evolution.
- 3943 (H, I) Asian Philosophy. Three main streams of Asian thought: Indian, Chinese and Buddhist. How various thinkers in the three traditions have dealt with questions of being and becoming, knowledge, ethics and society.
- 4003\* Mathematical Logic and Computability. Prerequisites: 3000 or 3003 or MATH 3613 or consent of instructor. The basic meta-theorems of first order logic: soundness, completeness, compactness, Löwenheim-Skolem theorem, undecidability of first order logic, Gödel's incompleteness theorem. Enumerability, diagonalization, formal systems, standard and nonstandard models, Gödel numberings, Turing machines, recursive functions, and evidence for Church's thesis. Same course as CS 4003 and MATH 4003.
- 4013 (H) Perspectives on Death and Dying. Issues that arise as individuals confront the fact of mortality. Dying patients, the ethical issues of euthanasia and suicide, the process of grief, death in literature and the arts, and philosophical and religious views on immortality.
- 4113 (H) Philosophy of Art and Literature. Nature of aesthetic objects and experiences; form, meaning and value in the arts; the function of art in society; criteria of criticism of the arts.
- 4313 (H) Philosophy of Mind. Problems in philosophical psychology. Mind and body, freedom and determinism, personal identity and survival, self-knowledge, analysis of mental concepts.
- 4453 (H) Philosophy in Literature. Selected literary works examined for philosophical ideas and themes. Attention to the interrelation of form and content. Thematic approach.
- 4543 Philosophy of Language. Prerequisites: 1313 or 3003. A survey of the development of the philosophy of language, including works of philosophers such as Frege, Wittgenstein, Russell, Strawson, Searle, Donnellan, Grice, and Kripke.
- 4553 Contemporary Ethical Theory. Debate in ethical theory since Moore. The naturalistic fallacy, intuitionism, and value realism.
- 4713 (H) Philosophy of Science. Philosophical issues related to science and its role in society. Topics include science and common sense, laws and theories, causality, nature of scientific progress.
- 4733 (H) Philosophy of Biology. Selected philosophical topics, such as Darwinism and other theories of evolution, physical reductionism, and issues of genetic engineering.
- 4943 Indian Philosophy. Prerequisite: 3943 or consent of instructor. Study of texts and themes in two main traditions of Indian Philosophy: Hinduism and Buddhism. How these schools present the fundamental nature and knowledge of reality, human existence, the divine, and enlightenment.

- 4953 East Asian Philosophy. Prerequisite: 3943 or consent of instructor. Study of texts and themes in the Chinese and Japanese traditions: Confucianism, Daoism and Zen. How these schools present the fundamental nature and knowledge of reality, human existence, community and enlightenment.
- 4983\* Metaphysics and Epistemology. Prerequisite: 12 credit hours of philosophy. The study of the fundamental nature of reality and human knowledge of it.
- 4990\* Special Studies in Philosophy. 13 credits, maximum 10. Selected philosophical topics or works.
- 4991\* Contemporary Philosophical Research. Prerequisites: upper-division-standing, at least 12 hours in philosophy completed. Study of leading edge research in philosophy through presentation and discussion of current philosophy journal articles with faculty.
- 4993 Senior Honors Thesis. Prerequisites: departmental invitation, senior standing, Honors Program participation. A guided reading and research program ending with an honors thesis under the direction of a faculty member, with second faculty reader and oral examination. Required for graduation with departmental honors in philosophy.
- 5000\* Thesis in Philosophy. 16 credits, maximum 6. Supervised individual work on a thesis for a master's degree.
- 5203\* Pro-Seminar. Introduction to professional oral and written communication in philosophy.
- 5210\* Seminar on a Major Philosopher. 3 credits, maximum 9. Prerequisite: three courses in philosophy. The writings of a major philosopher and related material.
- 5303\* Topics in Philosophy of Religion. An examination of central topics in the philosophy of religion, such as the existence of God, the problem of evil, divine attributes, miracles, revelation, faith and reason, religious pluralism and exclusivism, and morality.
- 5310\* Seminar on a Field of Philosophy. 3 credits, maximum 9. Prerequisite: three courses in philosophy. Selected topics in one field of philosophy.
- 5313\* Topics in Social Political Thought. Consideration of a single topic (e.g. justice), topics (e.g. distributive justice and citizenship) of a single philosophical school, or movement (e.g. Marxism) or several movements and schools (e.g. Marxism and liberalism).
- 5323\* Seminar in Ancient Philosophy. Prerequisite: 3113. Philosophical problems that characterize ancient Philosophy: form and matter, one and many, universal and particular, actuality and potentiality, stability and change, substance and accidents, first principles and elements. Close reading of Plato and Aristotle.
- 5333\* Seminar in Modern Philosophy. Prerequisites: 3213 or 3313. Examination of the metaphysical and epistemological systems of philosophers over 17th-19th century Europe such as Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Kant and Hegel.
- 5343\* Seminar in East and West Comparative Philosophy. Prerequisite: 3943. Critical comparison between West European and East Asian traditions of philosophy, such as being and nonbeing, the nature of truth, self, human being, ethics, human rights, community and religion.
- 5353\* Seminar in Contemporary Continental Philosophy. Prerequisites: 3213 or 3313. Themes such as presence and absence, intentionality and constitution, meaning and "being," identity and

difference, history and consciousness, practice and power, construction and deconstruction. Philosophers such as Merleau, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Derrida and Foucault.

- 5363\* Topics in Metaphysics. Prerequisites: 3113 or 3213 or 4983. Selected topics that may be approached from an historical or contemporary standpoint, such as idealism, realism, causation, time, universals, personal identity, possibility, and free will.
- 5373\* Contemporary Epistemology. Prerequisites: 3213 or 3113 or 4983. Recent approaches to the theory of knowledge. Origin and justification of belief and certainty, roles of the senses and the mind, and the nature of truth.
- 5383\* Seminar in American Philosophy. Selected philosophical schools or traditions influential in American thought, such as transcendentalism, pragmatism, or naturalism.
- 5393\* German Idealism. Prerequisites: 3113 or 3213. Selected major works of post-Kantian German Philosophy, such as the nature of a philosophical system, identity, and self-consciousness.
- 5423\* Topics in Ethical Theory. Prerequisite: 3413. Central problems in ethical theory, such as ethical realism/antirealism, motivational internalism/externalism, and problems within specific normative systems.
- 5433\* Topics in Philosophy of Law. Prerequisite: 3843. In-depth examination of selected topics in philosophy of law, such as punishment, jurisprudence, and principles of legislation. Seminar format.
- 5443\* Topics in Biomedical Ethics. Prerequisite: 3833. In-depth examination of selected topics in biomedical ethics, such as implications of the Human Genome Project, ethics of human reproduction, and research ethics. Emphasis on contemporary philosophical thought. Seminar format.
- 5453\* Topics in Professional Ethics. In-depth study of ethical issues faced by business and engineering professionals (e.g., social effects of advertising, environmental impact of professional practice, product safety and consumer protection, whistle-blowing and confidentiality).
- 5513\* History of Educational Philosophy. Outstanding western educational theories. Emphasis on Plato, Aristotle, Quintilian, Comenius, Locke, Rousseau and Dewey.
- 5610\* Philosophical Issues in Education. 23 credits, maximum 3. Contemporary issues in educational theory and practice. The relation of education to political thought, religion, public law and culture.
- 5713\* Contemporary Philosophies of Education. Analysis of contemporary educational philosophies, with attention to recommended aims, curricula and methods.
- 5910\* Research Problems in Philosophy. 13 credits, maximum 10. Prerequisite: consent of instructor and department head. Individual or group research on specific philosophical problems.