



Faculty: Mr. Allis, Chairperson; Mr. Dell'Olio, Mr. La Porte*, Mr. Mulder, Mr. Perovich, Ms. Simon.

'Philosophy' comes from two Greek words meaning 'love of wisdom.' This may still be the best short definition of philosophy. The trouble with it, of course, is that it expresses an ideal, and an ideal whose meaning is vague. What, after all, is 'wisdom;' and in what does wisdom consist? Is wisdom like knowledge? Science? Practical knowledge? Yes — and no. Perhaps the best way to describe this 'love of wisdom' would be to say that it is the desire to find out what is real and true, to understand, and to be better off as a consequence of this. But how shall inquiry proceed? What is it to 'understand'? And how might a human being be really 'better off'? These are themselves among the fundamental questions of philosophy. They lead us to issues in the theory of reality, the theory of knowledge, moral and political philosophy, and aesthetics.

Philosophy is a kind of "calling," a kind of "vocation." It is not primarily a career, a profession, a job. It is a calling to anyone who wishes to take life reflectively and thoughtfully, rather than just acting on prevailing assumptions, habits, and prejudices. This is not to say that in thinking philosophically we need to separate ourselves from worldly activities; rather it is to say that we have the opportunity to bring critical judgment to bear upon the practices of social, political, religious, scientific, artistic, and business life with a view toward reform and improvement. But philosophy is first of all a deepening of one's own self.

MAJORS AND NON-MAJORS

Students can pursue their goals through a single course in philosophy or through any number of combinations of courses short of a major. Others will want to make the history of philosophical thought and its special fields of inquiry the core around which their overall education is built and will become majors. Still others will want to combine a philosophy major with a major in some other field. Recent fields combined with philosophy in joint majors include:

- Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, English, History, Mathematics, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Social Work.

Hope College philosophy majors can be found

- doing graduate work in philosophy at major universities
- practicing pediatric medicine in Grand Rapids
- practicing law at Southeastern Michigan Poverty Law Center
- pursuing careers in medicine, law, business, and human services
- teaching philosophy in colleges
- teaching in high schools
- serving as president of a theological seminary
- engaging in computer science research
- pastoring churches of various denominations
- serving as an executive of a major denomination

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY

Cultural Heritage I and II (or acceptable alternative), plus a minimum of 24 additional credits from Department of Philosophy courses, following these guidelines:

200 — Informal Logic (2 credits) or 201 — Formal Logic (4 credits)

450 — Seminar in Philosophy

One course from List II, one from List III, and one from List IV (See course listings.) (12 credits)

*Sabbatical Leave, Academic Year 2004-05

PHILOSOPHY

At least one other elective (at least 4 credits)

Total Credits Required: 24 minimum in philosophy

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY

Cultural Heritage I and II (or acceptable alternative), plus a minimum of 16 additional credits from Department of Philosophy courses, following these guidelines:

200 — Informal Logic, 201 — Logic, or Communication 160 — Analytic Skills in Communication

Three courses from among List II, List III, and List IV (See course listings.) (courses must be taken from at least two different Lists). (12 credits)

Total Credits Required: 16 minimum in philosophy

MAJORS AND MINORS IN PHILOSOPHY can complement and enrich other areas of study in a way that makes good sense of a student's vocational perspective. Specific examples of courses which might appeal to students with particular interests include the following:

1. PRESEMINARY STUDENTS

231. Medieval Philosophy; 235. Asian Philosophy; 331. Philosophy of Religion; 340. History of Ethics; 344. Twentieth Century Ethics

2. PRELAW STUDENTS

201. Logic; 341. Ancient and Medieval Political Thought; 342. Modern Political Thought; 343. Twentieth Century Political Thought; 344. Twentieth Century Ethics; 375. Philosophy of Law

3. PREMEDICAL STUDENTS

331. Philosophy of Religion; 344. Twentieth Century Ethics; 360. Philosophy of Science

4. FUTURE EDUCATORS IN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

331. Philosophy of Religion; 373. Aesthetics; 380. Existentialism; 385. Post-modernism

5. FUTURE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS

280. Knowledge and Knowers; 325. Philosophy of Mind; 341. Ancient and Medieval Political Thought; 342. Modern Political Thought; 373. Twentieth Century Political Thought

NOTE: 200 and 300 level courses do not have any special prerequisites. All are welcome.

I. FUNDAMENTALS OF PHILOSOPHY

195. Topics in Philosophy — A half-semester course designed to introduce students to a selected significant topic and to applications of philosophical methods for critical reflection upon it. Recommended as a good introduction to philosophical thinking, but not required nor can it substitute for any of the courses on lists II, III, or IV for the major or minor. The topic in Fall 2004 will be "Introduction to Philosophy: The Body." Future topics will be "Introduction to Philosophy through Film," "Introduction to Philosophy: War and Peace," "Sexual Ethics," and "Business Ethics."

*Two Credits Allis Fall Semester 2004, First Half of Semester
Perovich Spring Semester 2005*

200. Informal Logic — An introduction to and examination of some of the basic forms of reasoning and argument we use in everyday life, and then an exploration of applications of these kinds of reasoning to current events and philosophical arguments.

Two Credits Staff Spring Semester 2005, Both Halves of Semester

PHILOSOPHY

201. Logic — The study of the structure of reasoning. This course will introduce students to techniques for recognizing, formalizing, and evaluating the logical structures of arguments. Students will be taught symbolic languages, how to translate English arguments into those languages, and proof and testing procedures using the languages. This course will, along with introducing students to the rudiments of logic, explain how logic is employed in the articulation and solution of problems in various subdisciplines of philosophy. (Not recommended as an introduction to philosophy but, given its usefulness as a basis for many other courses, it should be taken early by philosophy majors and minors.) *Four Credits Staff Fall Semester 2004*

II. KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY

280. Knowledge and Belief — “All men by nature desire to know,” says Aristotle in his *Metaphysics*. This famous quote raises numerous questions. What is knowledge? Why do we want it? How do we know when we have it? This course will examine these and related questions, such as “Can we be certain of anything?” “What are the sources of knowledge?” “Is scientific knowledge easier to attain than moral or religious knowledge?” *Four Credits La Porte Spring Semester 2006*

325. Philosophy of Mind — Philosophy of mind deals with very basic questions of who we are. What is the relation between our minds and our bodies in general and our brains in particular? What are the characteristics of the mind that make us (or seem to make us) unique? The course will explore such issues as dualism and materialism, the problems of sensation and of intentionality, computer models for the mind, the nature of human action, and freedom of the will. *Four Credits Perovich Fall Semester 2005*

331. Philosophy of Religion — A study of the nature and theory of religion, including the following topics: the nature and existence of God; the concept of faith; the nature of religious experience and religious language; and the theory of religious pluralism. Cross-listed with Religion. *Four Credits Staff Spring Semester 2005*

360. Philosophy of Science — An examination of several philosophical issues raised by the physical and biological sciences, their history and the technological developments they generate. Topics include: what science is, whether its development is rational and progressive, how the meaning of scientific concepts is to be understood. *Four Credits La Porte Alternate Years*

III. VALUES AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

235. Asian Philosophy — An introduction to the philosophical traditions of India and China focusing primarily on the classical texts of these traditions: the *Vedas*, *Upanishads*, *Bhagavad-Gita*, Hindu and Buddhist sutras, *Analects* of Confucius, *Tao Te Ching* of Lao Tzu, and Zen koans. Issues to be explored include the nature of reality, the self, the divine, happiness, ethics, the just society, knowledge, and spiritual liberation. Comparisons to western philosophical concepts will be made where appropriate. *Four Credits Dell'Olio Alternate Years*

343. Twentieth Century Political Philosophy — The theory of the liberal democratic state in the 20th century. Attention to such central concepts as capitalism, socialism, communism, freedom, equality, justice. Readings from Lenin, Mussolini, Hayek, Rawls, Nozick, Habermas, against the background of Locke and Marx. Cross-listed with Political Science. *Four Credits Allis Alternate Years*

344. Twentieth Century Ethics — An examination of three main types of ethical theories: duty-based theories, virtue-based theories, and consequence-based theories.

PHILOSOPHY

Also includes a discussion of the nature and point of ethics, and an examination of what ethical theories have to say about particular ethical issues. Cross-listed with Religion. *Four Credits Simon Spring Semester 2005*

373. Aesthetics — An investigation of some of the philosophical issues raised by the arts: What is art? What is beauty? How is art to be understood, appreciated and evaluated? In what way can works of art be said to possess meaning or truth? What is the role for the arts in our lives? Both historical and contemporary views will be studied and an attempt will be made to explore how philosophical ideas apply to productions drawn from many different artistic fields. *Four Credits Perovich Alternate Years*

375. Philosophy of Law — What is law, and what gives law the obligatory force it has? In this course we will investigate such issues as the nature of law, the relation of law to morality, and problems with interpreting and applying the law, especially the Constitution. Cross-listed with Political Science. *Four Credits Allis Fall Semester 2004*

380. Existentialism — A study of selected works of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre. Themes include: the question of being and human being; freedom and responsibility; authenticity; anxiety, guilt, and death; truth; technicity; and art. *Four Credits Dell'Olio Alternate Years*

385. Postmodernism — Postmodernism has been characterized more as a “mood” than a set body of doctrine, a “constellation” of concerns that has arisen in the aftermath of World War II and the Holocaust. Postmodern concerns challenge central tenets of Enlightenment rationalism regarding the self, knowledge, language, logic, reality, and power. The “roots” of postmodern thinking in the work of Nietzsche, Freud, and Heidegger will be explored, along with such thinkers as Lyotard, Foucault, Derrida, Rorty, and Habermas and feminist challenges to Enlightenment rationality. *Four Credits Dell'Olio Spring Semester 2005*

IV. THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

230. Ancient Philosophy — Western philosophy from its beginning to the Middle Ages, including such figures as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, and St. Augustine, through a study of primary texts. Partial fulfillment of the Cultural Heritage requirement. *Four Credits Staff Both Semesters*

231. Medieval Philosophy — Western philosophy during the Middle Ages, focusing primarily on the development of Christian philosophy in such figures as Augustine, Boethius, Pseudo-Dionysius, Eriugena, Anselm, Abelard, Bonaventure, Aquinas, Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham. Representative Jewish and Islamic philosophers will also be studied. Topics to be discussed include the relationship between faith and reason, the nature and existence of God, the problem of evil, the immortality of the soul, the nature of knowledge, the nature of happiness and virtue, and the journey of the soul to God. *Four Credits Dell'Olio Fall Semester 2004*

232. Modern Philosophy — An introduction to the developments in European philosophy from Descartes to Kant. Authors to be studied include Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume, and Kant. Issues to be explored include knowledge and skepticism, appearance and reality, the existence of God, and the nature of the human mind. Partial fulfillment of the Cultural Heritage requirement. *Four Credits Staff Both Semesters*

233. Nineteenth Century Philosophy — An introduction to the developments in European philosophy from German Idealism to Nietzsche. The course begins by examining the great Idealist systems of Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel, and their pessimistic counterpart in the philosophy of Schopenhauer, then turns to the very

PHILOSOPHY

different critiques of the Hegelian synthesis offered by Kierkegaard and Marx, and concludes with a look at the challenge to philosophical systematizing offered by Nietzsche. Issues to be discussed include the relation of God to philosophy, including both the ability of philosophy to provide a philosophical system capable of capturing the divine nature and also the “death of God,” whether philosophy can discern the direction and purpose of history, and the significance of the individual.

Four Credits Perovich Fall Semester 2004

340. History of Ethics — This course will examine some of the major philosophers of the Western tradition, including Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume, Kant, and Mill. The course will evaluate what they and others have said concerning the nature and content of ethics.

Four Credits Simon Alternate Years

341. Ancient and Medieval Political Thought — We will examine such thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Aquinas, Hobbes, Descartes and Machiavelli on such issues as: human nature, the good life, the role of government, the relation between the individual and the government, the meaning of freedom, the need for social order. We will also investigate how modern political thought differs from ancient and medieval views. Cross-listed with Political Science.

Four Credits Allis Alternate Years

342. Modern Political Thought — We will examine such thinkers as Machiavelli, Hobbes and Locke on the rise of modern democracy; the ideas surrounding the American and French Revolutions; and the challenges to liberal democracy put forward by Rousseau and Marx on such issues as: human nature, the good life, the role of government, the relation between the individual and the government, the meaning of freedom, the need for social order. We will also investigate how modern political thought differs from ancient and medieval views. Cross-listed with Political Science.

Four Credits Allis Alternate Years

V. SPECIAL STUDIES

295. Studies In Philosophy — A lecture or seminar class in a special topic of philosophy.

Two or Four Credits Staff

450. Capstone Seminar in Philosophy — A topical seminar dealing with significant thinkers, issues and approaches within philosophy. For philosophy majors, the seminar serves as a capstone course within the major. The topic of the seminar for Fall 2004 is “Virtue Ethics.” While the topics of the seminar vary, it is the goal of the course to provide appropriate opportunities for students to exercise the skills needed for reading philosophy and for thinking, writing and interacting with others philosophically. Philosophy majors will complete their major portfolios as part of the required work for the course. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Four Credits Dell’Olio Fall Semester 2004

490. Independent Study — Prerequisite: departmental approval of a student-proposed project prior to enrollment in the course. Such a project might be an internship; but in any case it would include a significant piece of philosophic writing. (See also under General Academic Regulations, statement about Honors Independent Study or Research.) A student intending to enroll in 490 should plan ahead to study with the professor whose expertise and interests most clearly correspond to the student’s interests and intentions.

Two, Three or Four Credits Staff Both Semesters

495. Topical Seminars — Seminars in topics not ordinarily offered in the department curriculum, focusing upon philosophic writing and the critique of papers in class. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Four Credits Staff When Feasible