**PHILOSOPHY**

**Departmental Office:** 708 Philosophy; 212-854-3196  
[www.philosophy.columbia.edu](http://www.philosophy.columbia.edu)

**Director of Undergraduate Studies:** David Albert, 706 Philosophy; 212-854-3519; da5@columbia.edu

**Economics-Philosophy Adviser:** Jessica Collins, 714 Philosophy; 212-854-3970; jdc9@columbia.edu

Students interested in philosophy may pursue a major either in philosophy or in economics-philosophy. Because philosophy treats issues fundamental to both the sciences and the humanities, students are also welcome to combine their philosophy major with work in other fields. Before declaring a major in philosophy or economics-philosophy, and before deciding to combine philosophy with another discipline, students should meet with the director of undergraduate studies to formulate the program best for them.

Philosophy majors are given a foundation in logic and philosophical methodology, and are asked to confront fundamental questions in the main areas of philosophy: epistemology and metaphysics, ethics and political philosophy, philosophy of mind and language, and history of philosophy. The department requires that all majors take at least one seminar (PHIL UN3912), designed to allow students to focus on particular philosophical issues or texts in greater depth. Outstanding seniors may also pursue their own philosophical project in a senior thesis.

Over and above the courses required of all majors, there is room for considerable flexibility. Through an appropriate choice of electives from among the department's offerings (and from related courses in other departments), there are special opportunities for focusing more intensively on one or two subfields of philosophy, e.g., logic and the philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of science, ethics and political philosophy, or the history of philosophy. Students should consult with the director of undergraduate studies on how best to pursue such programs.

**Study Abroad: Reid Hall, Paris**

For information on the Columbia in Paris Program at Reid Hall, including summer courses, consult the [Columbia University in Paris Bulletin](http://philosophy.columbia.edu/content/senior-thesis-philosophy) (available in 606 Kent and online at the Office of Global Programs website), call 212-854-2559, or send an email to reidhall@columbia.edu.

For information on applicability of Reid Hall courses to the major or concentration, consult the director of undergraduate studies.

**Grading**

Courses in which a grade of D has been received do not count toward the major or concentration requirements.

**Senior Thesis**

Undergraduates majoring in Philosophy or Economics-Philosophy may propose to write a senior thesis. Students who wish to write a thesis should approach a faculty member at the end of their junior or beginning of their senior year, and begin working on the proposal early in the fall semester of their senior year. Proposals are due in early December, and will be reviewed by a committee which will include the Director of Undergraduate Studies; students will be notified of the committee's decision within two weeks. Students whose proposals are approved should register for their faculty advisor's section of Supervised Independent Research for the spring term of the senior year. Theses are due in early April.

Students who have a grade point average of 3.6 or above in the major and who complete a thesis will be placed into consideration for departmental honors, though any senior may complete a thesis regardless of their grade point average (upon approval of the proposal).

See the full policy and procedure concerning senior theses on the [departmental webpage](http://philosophy.columbia.edu/content/senior-thesis-philosophy).

**Departmental Honors**

Departmental honors are highly competitive. Normally no more than 10% of the majors graduating in the department each year will receive departmental honors.

In order to qualify for departmental honors in philosophy, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.6 in the major.

For students with a GPA of 3.6 or above, there are two possible routes to consideration:

1. A student may complete a senior thesis; those students who complete senior theses will automatically be considered for honors without having to be nominated.
2. A student may be nominated by a faculty member early in the spring semester of the senior year; nominated students will be invited to submit a writing sample at least 15 pages in length. A nominated student who is also writing a thesis may submit their thesis as the writing sample, or may choose to submit a different work.

Both the senior theses and writing samples are due in early April. The departmental honors committee will then review the submitted material and the academic records of the writers, and will report to the full faculty.

The full faculty will then decide which students to recommend for departmental honors to the Columbia College and General Studies administrations.

**Professors**

David Albert  
Akeel Bilgrami  
Taylor Carman (Barnard)  
Haim Gaifman  
Lydia Goehr  
Robert Gooding-Williams  
Axel Honneth  
Wolfgang Mann  
Christia Mercer  
Michele Moody-Adams  
John Morrison (Barnard)  
Fred Neuhouser (Barnard)  
Christopher Peacocke  
Carol Rovane  
Achille Varzi  
Katja Vogt

**Associate Professors**

Justin Clarke-Doane  
Jessica Collins
Tamar Lando  
Karen Lewis (Barnard)

**Assistant Professors**

Allison Aitken  
Melissa Fusco  
Dhananjay Jagannathan  
Francey Russell (Barnard)

**Affiliated Faculty**

Souleymane Bachir Diagne (French and Romance Philology)  
Jon Elster (Political Science)  
Kent Greenawalt (University Professor)  
Wayne Proudfoot (Religion)  
Gayatri Spivak (University Professor)

**Major in Philosophy**

Students considering a major in philosophy are strongly encouraged to meet with the director of undergraduate studies early in their sophomore year. All majors must consult with the director of undergraduate studies each term before registering for classes in order to plan and update their individual programs of study.

Students planning to major in philosophy are advised to begin with PHIL UN1010 METHODS/PROB OF PHILOS THOUGHT. Beginning students are especially encouraged to take 2000-level courses, both in the history of philosophy and in systematic philosophy. These courses are typically less specialized and less narrowly focused than higher-numbered ones. More advanced students are encouraged to take 3000-level courses. The department requires that all majors take at least one seminar, PHIL UN3912.

*PLEASE NOTE* PHIL UN1401 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC does not count for credit towards the undergraduate major in philosophy.

The concentration requires a minimum of 24 points in philosophy, chosen from courses prefixed with UN or GU. There are no specific courses required for the concentration.

Students may choose courses prefixed with GR only with the instructor’s permission.

PHIL UN3912 is open to junior and senior concentrators who have taken at least four courses in philosophy.

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**Major in Economics-Philosophy**

Please read Guidelines for all Economics Majors, Concentrators, and Interdepartmental Majors in the Economics section of this Bulletin.

Economics-Philosophy is an interdisciplinary major that, while introducing students to the basic methodologies of economics and philosophy, stresses areas of particular concern to both. These include subjects such as rationality and decision making, justice and efficiency, freedom and collective choice, and the logic of empirical theories and their testing. Many of the issues are dealt with historically, and classic texts of Plato, Kant, Mill, Marx, and Smith are reviewed.

Two advisers are assigned for the interdepartmental major, one in the Department of Economics and one in the Department of Philosophy. Please note that the Economics adviser can only advise on the Economics requirements and the Philosophy adviser can only advise on the Philosophy requirements.

The Economics-Philosophy major requires a total minimum of 54 points: 25 points in Economics, 16 points in Philosophy, 6 points in Mathematics, 3 points in Statistics, and 4 points in the interdisciplinary seminar as follows:

**Economics Core Courses**

<table>
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<td>PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3211</td>
<td>INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON UN3213</td>
<td>INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3412</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMETRICS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Mathematics Sequence**

Select a mathematics sequence

**Statistics**

Select a statistics course

**Economics Electives**

Three electives are required; refer to the Economics section of this bulletin.

**Philosophy Courses**

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<tr>
<td>PHIL UN3411</td>
<td>SYMBOLIC LOGIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL UN3701</td>
<td>ETHICS (a social or political philosophy course may be substituted, please consult the Philosophy DUS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL UN3551</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE</td>
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</table>
or PHIL UN3960 EPISTEMOLOGY
PHIL GU4561 PROBABILITY # DECISION THEORY

Seminar
ECPH GU4950 ECONOMICS # PHILOSOPHY (or another seminar in philosophy or economics approved by advisers in both department)

Students who declared before Spring 2014:
The requirements for this program were modified in 2014. Students who declared this program before Spring 2014 should contact the director of undergraduate studies for the department in order to confirm their options for major requirements.

Fall 2023

PHIL UN1001 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY. 3.00 points.
Survey of some of the central problems, key figures, and great works in both traditional and contemporary philosophy. Topics and texts will vary with instructor and semester

PHIL UN1010 METHODS/PROB OF PHILOS THOUGHT. 3.00 points.
Critical introduction to philosophical problems, ideas and methods

PHIL UN2101 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I. 4.00 points.
Corequisites: PHIL V2111 Required Discussion Section (0 points). Exposition and analysis of the positions of the major philosophers from the pre-Socratics through Augustine. This course has unrestricted enrollment

PHIL UN2110 PHILOSOPHY # FEMINISM. 3.00 points.
Is there an essential difference between women and men? How do questions about race conflict or overlap with those about gender? Is there a normal way of being queer? Introduction to philosophy and feminism through a critical discussion of these and other questions using historical and contemporary texts, art, and public lectures. Focus includes essentialism, difference, identity, knowledge, objectivity, and queerness

PHIL UN2685 INTRO TO PHIL OF LANGUAGE. 4.00 points.
This course gives students an introduction to various topics in the Philosophy of Language

PHIL UN3000 BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY. 3.00 points.
Buddhist philosophers generally agree about what doesn't exist: an enduring, unitary, and independent self. But there is surprisingly little consensus across Buddhist traditions about what does exist and what it's like. In this course, we will examine several Buddhist theories about the nature and structure of reality and consider the epistemological and ethical implications of these radically different pictures of the world. We will analyze and evaluate arguments from some of the most influential Indian Buddhist philosophers from the second to the eleventh centuries, including Nāgārjuna, Vasubandhu, Dignāga, Candrakīrti, Śāntarakṣita, Śāntideva, and Ratnakīrti. Topics will include the existence and nature of the external world, the mind, and the self; practical and epistemological implications of the Buddhist no-self principle; personal identity; the problem of other minds; and causal determinism and moral responsibility

PHIL UN3264 19TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY: HEGEL. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: Phil UN2201 or PHIL UN3251

PHIL UN3353 EUROPEAN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: one philosophy course.
PHIL UN3411 SYMBOLIC LOGIC. 4.00 points.
Corequisites: PHIL V3413 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
Advanced introduction to classical sentential and predicate logic. No
previous acquaintance with logic is required; nonetheless a willingness
to master technicalities and to work at a certain level of abstraction is
desirable.
Spring 2024: PHIL UN3411
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<td>Justin Clarke-Doane</td>
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PHIL UN3551 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE. 3.00 points.
Enrollment limited to 40.
Prerequisites: one philosophy course or the instructor's permission.
Philosophical problems within science and about the nature of scientific
knowledge in the 17th-20th centuries. Sample problems: causation
and scientific explanation; induction and real kinds; verification
and falsification; models, analogies and simulations; the historical
origins of the modern sciences; scientific revolutions; reductionism
and supervenience; differences between physics, biology and the
social sciences; the nature of life; cultural evolution; human nature;
philosophical issues in cosmology
PHIL UN3601 METAPHYSICS. 4.00 points.
Corequisites: PHIL V3611 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
Systematic treatment of some major topics in metaphysics (e.g. modality,
causation, identity through time, particulars and universals). Readings
from contemporary authors
Fall 2024: PHIL UN3601
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PHIL UN3701 ETHICS. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: one course in philosophy.
Corequisites: PHIL V3711 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
Prerequisites: one course in philosophy. Corequisites: PHIL V3711
Required Discussion Section (0 points). This course is mainly an
introduction to three influential approaches to normative ethics:
utilitarianism, deontological views, and virtue ethics. We also consider the
ethics of care, and selected topics in meta-ethics
Spring 2024: PHIL UN3701
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PHIL UN3751 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. 3.00 points.
Six major concepts of political philosophy including authority, rights,
equality, justice, liberty and democracy are examined in three different
ways. First the conceptual issues are analyzed through contemporary
essays on these topics by authors like Peters, Hart, Williams, Berlin,
Rawls and Schumpeter. Second the classical sources on these topics are
discussed through readings from Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Marx, Plato,
Mill and Rousseau. Third some attention is paid to relevant contexts of
application of these concepts in political society, including such political
movements as anarchism, international human rights, conservative,
liberal, and Marxist economic policies as well as competing models of
democracy
Spring 2024: PHIL UN3751
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PHIL UN3756 Critical Philosophy of Race: What is Race?. 3.00 points.
This course is a philosophical examination of the meaning and
significance of the concept of race. The course will chiefly aim to answer:
What do we mean by the term "race"? And why is it often tied to the
existence of racism? From where does the concept come? And what
role did "race" play in the philosophical thought and the culture of
Western modernity? Among the questions that can be asked are, How do
concepts of race contribute to the formation and justification of various
economic, political, and social institutions and practices, such as slavery,
colonialism, and segregation? However, we will also inquire at the end of
the course whether "race" is always a destructive concept, or whether it
can be re-defined as part of a liberation project centered on racial identity:
the appreciation and celebration of racial difference and solidarity
PHIL UN3858 CULTIVATING INDIVIDUALITY. 3.00 points.
Talk about "individuality", about being (or becoming) "yourself" is
all around us. But what exactly does this mean? What is genuine
individuality, and how can we develop it, in ourselves (though self-
development) and in others (by designing appropriate educational
institutions)? What is the relationship between being an individual and
being a part of society? Is there a tension between the non-conformism
often associated with genuine individuality on the one hand, and the
demands of community and good citizenship, on the other? Can
educational institutions be designed to fulfill both those demands
(to the extent they are distinct)? And how might oppressive social
institutions hinder the development of “individuality”? In this course, we
will explore these and related questions by drawing on both the classics
of philosophy of education (Plato, Rousseau, Nietzsche, Dewey, Du
Bois), and on relevant literary material that is in conversation with the
philosophical texts (Rilke, Tolstoy, Woolf)
PHIL UN3768 ALLIES, ADVOCATES, ADVERSARIES. 3.00 points.
This course will survey political and epistemological questions that are
centered around living in a society with oppression, including: What is
oppression? What does it mean to be an ally? When is it right to speak for
others and advocate for their interests? Do we have a duty to dissent and
protest under certain circumstances? What is solidarity and how can we
act in solidarity with others?
PHIL UN3863 HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING. 3.00 points.
"What is it to be happy?" Philosophers have passionately debated this question from antiquity until now. Especially in times when happiness seems difficult to find, we naturally want to know what happiness is and how best to secure it. In this course, we will consider happiness in relation to well-being, examining four major theories of well-being (hedonism, desire-fulfillment theories, objective list theories, and eudaimonism/perfectionism). We will gain a nuanced understanding of each view by juxtaposing their ancient and modern advocates and opponents.

PHIL UN3912 SEMINAR. 3.00 points.
Required of senior majors, but also open to junior majors, and junior and senior concentrators who have taken at least four philosophy courses. This exploration will typically involve writing a substantial research paper. Capped at 20 students with preference to philosophy majors.

PHIL UN3960 EPISTEMOLOGY. 4.00 points.
Corequisites: PHIL UN3963
Corequisites: PHIL W3963 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
What can we know? What is knowledge? What are the different kinds of knowledge? We will read classic and contemporary texts for insight into these questions.

**PHIL UN3996 SUPERVISED SENIOR RESEARCH. 3.00 points.**
Spring 2024: PHIL UN3996

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Spring 2024: PHIL UN3996

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PHIL UN3997 SUPERVISED SENIOR RESEARCH. 3.00 points.
Supervised research usually with the goal of writing a senior thesis, under the direction of individual members of the department.

PHIL UN3997
Spring 2024: PHIL UN3997
Course | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
---|---|---|---|---|---
PHIL 3997 | 025/00754 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am | Taylor Carman | 3.00 | 0/5
PHIL 3997 | 026/00758 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am | Karen Lewis | 3.00 | 0/5
PHIL 3997 | 027/00756 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am | John Morrison | 3.00 | 0/5
PHIL 3997 | 028/00757 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am | Frederic Neuhouser | 3.00 | 1/5
PHIL 3997 | 029/00759 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am | Francey Russell | 3.00 | 1/5
PHIL 3997 | 030/00870 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am | Christopher Prodoehl | 3.00 | 1/1

PHIL GU4424 MODAL LOGIC. 3.00 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

PHIL GU4424
Fall 2024: PHIL GU4424
Course | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
---|---|---|---|---|---
PHIL 4424 | 001/12319 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am | Tamar Lando | 3.00 | 14/20

PHIL GU4495 PERCEPTION. 3.00 points.
This course addresses the fabulously rich range of issues about the nature of perception, including: perceptual mental representation and its content; computational explanation; justifying beliefs; knowledge and thought about perception; and perception of music. Perception is an interdisciplinary subject par excellence. Readings will be drawn from philosophy and psychology, aesthetics, and artificial intelligence.

PHIL GU4561 PROBABILITY # DECISION THEORY. 3.00 points.
Examines interpretations and applications of the calculus of probability including applications as a measure of degree of belief, degree of confirmation, relative frequency, a theoretical property of systems, and other notions of objective probability or chance. Attention to epistemological questions such as Hume’s problem of induction, Goodman’s problem of projectibility, and the paradox of confirmation.

PHIL GU4602 PHILOSOPHICAL TEXTS IN GREEK. 3.00 points.
Careful reading and translation of a major philosophical text in ancient Greek to be chosen by the course participants in consultation with the instructor. Special attention is to be paid to the linguistic and conceptual problems of translating ancient Greek philosophical texts. Prerequisite: equivalent of at least two years of study of ancient Greek at university level.

PHIL GU4675 THE DIRECTION OF TIME. 3.00 points.
A survey of the various attempts to reconcile the macroscopic directionality of time with the time-reversibility of the fundamental laws of physics. The second law of thermodynamics and the concept of entropy, statistical mechanics, cosmological problems, the problems of memory, the possibility of multiple time direction.

Spring 2024

PHIL UN1010 METHODS/PROB OF PHILOS THOUGHT. 3.00 points.
Critical introduction to philosophical problems, ideas and methods.

PHIL UN1401 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC. 3.00 points.
Explicit criteria for recognizing valid and fallacious arguments, together with various methods for schematizing discourse for the purpose of logical analysis. Illustrative material taken from science and everyday life.

PHIL UN2201 HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: PHIL UN2211 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
Prerequisite: PHIL UN2101 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
PHIL UN2201 is not a prerequisite for this course. Exposition and analysis of the metaphysics, epistemology, and natural philosophy of the major philosophers from Aquinas through Kant. Authors include Aquinas, Galileo, Gassendi, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. This course has unrestricted enrollment.
PHIL UN3131 ARISTOTLE. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: One philosophy course or permission of the instructor. Introduction to Aristotle’s philosophy through analysis of selected texts.

PHIL UN3411 SYMBOLIC LOGIC. 4.00 points.
Corequisites: PHILV3413 Required Discussion Section (0 points). Advanced introduction to classical sentential and predicate logic. No previous acquaintance with logic is required; nonetheless a willingness to master technicalities and to work at a certain level of abstraction is desirable.

Spring 2024: PHIL UN3411
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
PHIL 3411 001/11496 T Th 7:40pm - 8:55pm 309 Havemeyer Hall Justin Clarke-Doane 4.00 34/100
PHIL 3411 AU1/18957 T Th 7:40pm - 8:55pm Other Justin Clarke-Doane 4.00 2/2

PHIL UN3685 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE. 3.00 points.
This course is a survey of analytic philosophy of language. It addresses central issues about the nature of meaning, including: sense and reference, speech acts, pragmatics, and the relationship between meaning and use, meaning and context, and meaning and truth.

PHIL UN3912 SEMINAR. 3.00 points.
Required of senior majors, but also open to junior majors, and junior and senior concentrators who have taken at least four philosophy courses. This exploration will typically involve writing a substantial research paper. Capped at 20 students with preference to philosophy majors.

Spring 2024: PHIL UN3912
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
PHIL 3912 001/00018 W 4:10pm - 6:00pm 214 Milbank Hall Christopher Peacocke 3.00 19/20
PHIL 3912 002/11566 T 4:10pm - 6:00pm 401 Hamilton Hall Jennifer McDonald 3.00 10/20

Fall 2024: PHIL UN3912
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
PHIL 3912 001/12280 W 10:10am - 12:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall Dhananjay Jagannathan 3.00 16/20
PHIL 3912 002/13514 T 2:10pm - 4:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall Michele Moody-Adams 3.00 15/20
PHIL 3912 003/12281 T 6:10pm - 8:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall Melissa Fusco 3.00 8/20
PHIL UN3998 SUPERVISED INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH. 1.00-3.00 points.

Spring 2024: PHIL UN3998

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PHIL GU4337 EARLY TWENTIETH CENT PHILOS. 3.00 points.

PHIL GU4810 LATTICES AND BOOLEAN ALGEBRA. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: PHIL UN3411 or 4801

Prerequisites: PHIL UN3411 or 4801 This course is designed as an introduction to lattices and Boolean algebras. In the first part of the course, we study partial orders and view lattices both as partial orders and as algebraic structures. We study some basic constructions involving sublattices, products of lattices, and homomorphic images of lattices. In the second part of the course, we study Boolean algebras, with an aim to proving several representation theorems: first, a representation theorem for finite Boolean algebras, and toward the end of the course, the famous Stone Representation Theorem. We end the course with a look at the connection between classical mereology (or the theory of parthood) and complete Boolean algebras.

PHIL GU4481 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE. 3.00 points.

PHIL GU501 EPISTEMOLOGY. 3.00 points.

PHIL GU4900 TOPICS IN EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY. 3.00 points.

Open to undergraduates with previous work in the history of philosophy and to graduate students. Focuses either on an important topic in the history of early modern philosophy (e.g. skepticism, causation, mind, body) or on the philosophy of a major figure in the period (e.g. Descartes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Gassendi, Conway).

ECPH GU4950 ECONOMICS # PHILOSOPHY. 4.00 points.

Open only to economics-philosophy majors who are in their senior year.

Prerequisites: ECON W3211, ECON W3213, ECON W3412. Students will be contacted by the Economics department for pre-enrollment.

Prerequisites: ECON W3211, ECON W3213, ECON W3412. Students will be contacted by the Economics department for pre-enrollment. Explores topics in the philosophy of economics such as welfare, social choice, and the history of political economy. Sometimes the emphasis is primarily historical and sometimes on analysis of contemporary economic concepts and theories.

Spring 2024: ECPH GU4950

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PHIL GU4170 MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY. 3.00 points.

PHIL GU4431 INTRODUCTION TO SET THEORY. 3.00 points.