



THE ACADEMY EDUCATES, TRAINS AND INSPIRES MEN  
AND WOMEN TO BECOME OFFICERS OF CHARACTER.

## PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

### Suggested Course Sequence

3rd-Class Year	2nd-Class Year	1st-Class Year
Chem 200	Aero Engr 315	Academy Opt
Econ 201	BehSci 310	AstroEngr310
English 211	Biology 315	Geo 310
EngrMech 220	ECE 315	History 300
MSS 200	English 411	Mgt 400
Philos 310	Law 220	MSS 400
Philos 370	Math 300	Open Academic Opt
Philos Opt	Philos 311	Philos Opt 2
Physics 215	Philos 401	Philos Opt 3
Pol Sci 211	Philos 495	Philos Opt 4
	Philos Opt 1	Philos Opt 5
		SocSci 412

## PHILOSOPHY (Philos)

Offered by the Department of Philosophy (DFPY).

**Philos 200. Introduction to Philosophy.** An introduction to basic deductive and inductive logic through a study of important philosophical texts from antiquity to the modern era. Cadets will gain a sense of philosophy's history and scope while learning what makes a good argument.

**Philos 310.Ethics.**A critical study of several major moral theories and their application to contemporary moral problems with special emphasis on the moral problems of the profession of arms. Highlights the officer's responsibilities to reason and act ethically; develop critical thinking skills; know civic, cultural, and international contexts in which the U.S. military operates; and learn influential normative theories about ethics and the foundations of character.

**Philos 310S.Scholars Ethics.** This course is the Academy Scholars Program version of Philos 310, Ethics. A critical study of several major moral theories and their application to contemporary moral problems with special emphasis on the moral problems of the profession of arms. Highlighted are the officer's responsibilities to reason and act ethically; develop critical thinking skills; know civic, cultural, and international contexts in which the U.S. military operates; and learn influential normative theories about ethics and the foundations of character.

**Philos 311.War, Morality, and the Military Profession.** Examines in-depth the moral issues raised by the profession of arms. Presumes an understanding of moral theory, as a minimum: relativism, egoism, utilitarianism and deontology. May be taken as a sequel to Philos 310, or substitutes for Philos 310 (with department approval) if the student has independently studied ethical theory.

**Philos 320. Ethics and Technology.** A study of ethical theories and their application to issues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), e.g.: safety and liability in engineering, professional responsibility to clients and employers, professional code of ethics, ethics of research including collection and uses

of data, ethical implications of human enhancements, cyber ethics, ethical uses of space, issues in environmental ethics, and the ethics of pedagogy in STEM disciplines. Although the course will focus on ethics, cadets may elect to explore related issues in other sub-disciplines of philosophy, e.g., the epistemology of artificial intelligence and aided perception, and the metaphysics of functions.

**Philos 330. Introduction to the Philosophy of Science.** Analyzes the basic assumptions and principles of the sciences. Types of topics considered include the scientific method, scientific laws, theory construction, scientific explanation, probability, the relationship between the social sciences and the physical sciences, and the relationship between the sciences and the humanities, especially in the formation of values.

**Philos 370. Introduction to Symbolic Logic.** Advanced course in logic examining propositional and predicate languages, model theory, quantifiers, proofs, identity theory and properties of logical systems.

**Philos 382. American Philosophy.** Examines the philosophic background of Puritanism, the Revolutionary period, transcendentalism and pragmatism with special reference to the thought of major American philosophers such as Pierce, James, Royce, Santayana, and Dewey.

**Philos 391. Ancient Western Philosophy.** Surveys selected philosophers and schools of thought from the 6th century BCE to the 3rd century CE. Major philosophers of this era include the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Antisthenes, Aristotle, Epicurus, Epictetus, Plotinus, and others. Major schools of thought include the Academics, Cynics, Peripatetics, Epicureans, and Stoics.

**Philos 392. Western Medieval Philosophy.** Surveys selected philosophers and schools of thought from the 4th through the 16th centuries. Major philosophers of the era include Augustine, Boethius, Al Farabi, Avicenna, Anselm, Averroës, Maimonides, Aquinas, Duns Scotus, William of Ockham, and others. The period is characterized by attempts to reconcile classical philosophy with the revealed religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

**Philos 393. Modern Western Philosophy.** Surveys selected philosophers and schools of thought from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Major philosophers of this era include Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Mill, Kierkegaard, Marx, Nietzsche, and others. Major schools of thought include Rationalism, Empiricism, Skepticism, and German Idealism.

**Philos 394. Contemporary Topics in Philosophy.** In-depth study of central themes and issues in philosophy examined through the works of contemporary philosophers (those from the 20th century through today.) Topics may require a historical survey to provide context for examining contemporary developments.

**Philos 395. Philosophy of Law.** Serves as an introduction to legal philosophy and its relations to moral reasoning. Emphasizes the nature of law, its authority, its relations to morals, the controversies over judicial decision-making, the justification of states interfering with the liberty of its individual citizens, the various different or competing senses of "justice," the question of responsibility and the justification of legal punishment.

**Philos 401. Comparative Religion.** A philosophical survey of selected world religions, possibly including "extinct" religions now known only through texts and other artifacts. Surveys faith traditions in every offering of this course including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. See course syllabus for additional traditions to be examined in a given semester.

**Philos 402. Philosophy of Religion.** Considers concepts of the divine, grounds for belief in a deity, theories of salvation, the problem of evil, the roles of revelation and reason in religion, problems of religious language, and the role of religion in moral theory.

**Philos 410. Medical Ethics.** Ethics applied to biomedical issues using a seminar approach. Considers ethical problems including informed consent, refusal of treatment, suicide, killing and letting die, paternalism, allocation of health care, patient confidentiality, codes of medical ethics and specific case analyses.

**Philos 423. LEMMings in Film.** Philosophers have long taken the studies of language, epistemology, metaphysics, and mind to be closely related. (“Like everything metaphysical, the harmony between thought and reality is to be found in... grammar...” – Wittgenstein.) Hence the ubiquity of so-called LEMMING courses in philosophy departments. This course uses films (e.g., Tarkovsky’s *Stalker*, Kieslowski’s *Dekalogue – Two*, Malle’s *My Dinner with André*, Nolan’s *Memento*, STTNG’s *Darmok*, Axel’s *Babette’s Feast*) as a prism to cast light on seminal LEMMING texts from antiquity to the present (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Berkley, Locke, Hume, Kant, Wittgenstein, Frege, Quine, Heidegger, Austin, Tarsky, Davidson, Kripke, Putman).

**Philos 495. Seminar in Philosophy.** Selected topics in philosophy.

**Philos 499. Independent Study.** Philosophical research guided by an instructor. Topics and meetings arranged with the instructor.