



PHILOSOPHY (2021-2022)

Division of Philosophical, Religious, Theological, Social & Cultural Studies

Christoffer Lammer-Heindel, Ph.D., Chair

The philosophy major has a built-in flexibility which allows students to: double major and connect as closely as possible an interest in philosophy with a major interest in another area and develop a more personal course of study in philosophy, tailored to a student’s individual interests.

The minor in philosophy is an ideal choice if a student does not have the time to pursue a major in philosophy, but nevertheless is interested in exploring life’s ultimate questions, if only in a preliminary way.

Student Learning Outcomes - Philosophy	
1.	Understand the principles of critical thinking
2.	Understand the major philosophers and philosophical issues in the history of philosophy
3.	Understand the key elements of epistemology and the philosophy of being
4.	Understand the principle philosophical approaches to the human person and their respective responses to fundamental human concerns.
5.	Understand the key ethical theories and their application to ethical dilemmas on the personal, social, and professional levels.
6.	Understand the distinctively Catholic elements within Western philosophy.
7.	Be able to engage in critical reflection on the work of particular philosophers and on philosophical texts.
8.	Be able to synthesize the work of various philosophers and various texts.
9.	Be able to engage in cogent argumentation in support of a position.

Requirements for the major in Philosophy (B.A.):

A one-hour oral comprehensive exam including a portfolio review (see the Philosophy Program Director for oral examination study guide and further details regarding the portfolio review) are required for program completion. Philosophy majors must successfully complete (with a grade of C or above) courses within the following categories:

Req	Course	Cr's
1	L.PHI-150: Logic	3
2	L.PHI-350: Human Identity in Community-AI	3
3	L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics	3
4	L.PHI-331: Knowledge, Truth, and Reality	3
5	L.PHI-XXX Additional Elective	3
6	L.PHI-XXX: Additional Elective	3
7	L.PHI-XXX: Additional Elective	3
Select two from Req 8 (taking L.PHI-110 or 150 first is strongly recommended)		
8	L.PHI-320: Ancient Philosophy	3
8	L.PHI-321: Medieval Philosophy	3

8	L.PHI-322: Modern Philosophy	3
8	L.PHI-323: Contemporary Philosophy	3
Select one from Req 9		
9	L.PHI-311: Business Ethics-AV, VX	3
9	L.PHI-313: Environmental Ethics-AV	3
9	L.PHI-315: Communication Ethics-AV, VX	3
9	L.SMG-270: Ethics in Sports-VX	3
10	L.PHI-490E: Oral Comprehensive Examination	0
30 total required credits		

What should be done to prepare for graduate school or teaching philosophy?

When seeking a solid preparation for advanced study in philosophy at the graduate level, as background for a particular profession or vocation, or as preparation for teaching philosophy, it is strongly recommended that (in addition to fulfilling the one-hour oral comprehensive exam and portfolio review requirements) the following courses be used to fulfill philosophy major requirements:

L.PHI-150: Logic
L.PHI-350: Human Identity in Community-AI
L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics
L.PHI-331: Knowledge, Truth, and Reality
L.PHI-320: Ancient Philosophy
L.PHI-321: Medieval Philosophy
L.PHI-322: Modern Philosophy
L.PHI-323: Contemporary Philosophy
L.PHI-333: Philosophy of God and Religion

One course from the applied ethics group (L.PHI-311: Business Ethics-AV, VX; L.PHI-313: Environmental Ethics-AV; Communication Ethics; SMG 270: Ethics in Sports-AV)

Requirements for the minor in Philosophy:

Philosophy minors must successfully complete (with a grade of C or above) the following courses:

Req	Course	Cr's
1	L.PHI-150: Logic	3
2	L.PHI-350: Human Identity in Community-AI	3
3	L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics	3
4	Elective (strongly recommended): L.PHI-320, 321, 322, or 323	3
5	Additional Elective	3
6	Additional Elective	3
18 total required credits		

At Loras, minor programs can be designed to fit individual needs. Following are some suggested sequences for those preparing for careers in law or business.

Suggested minor sequence for pre-law

L.PHI-150: Logic

L.PHI-350: Human Identity in Community-AI

L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics

Three additional philosophy courses

Suggested minor sequence for business

L.PHI-150: Logic

L.PHI-350: Human Identity in Community-AI

L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics

L.PHI-311: Business Ethics-AV, VX

Two additional philosophy courses

Suggested minor sequence for Ethics concentration

L.PHI-150: Logic

L.PHI-250: Human Identity in Community-AI

L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics

Three additional philosophy courses from the following courses:

- L.PHI-311: Business Ethics-AV, VX
- L.PHI-313: Environmental Ethics-AV
- L.PHI-315: Communication Ethics-AV, VX
- L.SMG-270: Ethics in Sports-VX

One 3-credit cognate course (i.e., a course from an academic program other than philosophy) may be used for the elective portion of a philosophy major or minor. The course must be related to the student's main philosophical interest and program of study and must be approved in advance by the Division Chairperson.

AREA

L.PHI-225: Art, Beauty & Meaning

L.PHI-311: Business Ethics-AV, VX

L.PHI-313: Environmental Ethics-AV

L.PHI-315: Communication Ethics-AV, VX

L.PHI-235: Science, Faith, and Knowledge (Cross-listed as L.RST-285)

GENERAL

L.PHI-150: Logic

L.PHI-110: Introduction to Philosophy-EI

HISTORICAL

L.PHI-280: Eastern Philosophy

L.PHI-320: Ancient Philosophy

L.PHI-321: Medieval Philosophy

L.PHI-322: Modern Philosophy

L.PHI-323: Contemporary Philosophy

SYSTEMATIC

L.PHI-350: Human Identity in Community-AI

L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics

L.PHI-331: Knowledge, Truth & Reality

L.PHI-333: Philosophy of God & Religion

2021-2022 PHILOSOPHY COURSES:

L.PHI-110: Introduction to Philosophy-EI

An introduction to philosophy, its nature, methodology, principal themes, questions, disagreements, and prominent philosophers, as represented in each of the four major philosophic periods: ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary. Restriction: May not take if have previously taken L.PHI-111. 3 credits.

L.PHI-111: Introduction to Philosophy: J-Term-EC

An introduction to philosophy, its nature, methodology, principal themes, questions, disagreements, and prominent philosophers, as represented in each of the four major philosophic periods: ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary. The focus of this J-term course will be on influential allegories, parables, and dialogues developed by philosophers. Restriction: First year students only, may not take if have previously taken L.PHI-110. 3 credits. January term.

L.PHI-150: Introduction to Logic

This course will teach students to develop analytical and logical reasoning skills. In addition to surveying the basic principles of informal logic and the identification of informal fallacies, students will be introduced to three formal systems of logic: term logic, propositional logic, and predicate logic. 3 credits.

L.PHI-225: Art, Beauty & Meaning

This course explores the nature of art, the meaning of beauty, and the relationship between the two by consulting selected writings and by directly experiencing and studying specific works of art (and, in some cases, by interacting with the artists who produced them). 3 credits. January term.

L.PHI-235: Science, Faith, and Knowledge

This course will provide an interdisciplinary theoretical and practical introduction to scientific literacy in the natural, human, and behavioral sciences. It aims to assist students in the construction of intellectual frameworks based in sound reason with which to consider the dynamic relationships among empirical scientific research, philosophical commitments, and theological beliefs. Students will be challenged to engage and assess scientific data as well as critically reflect on its practical, personal, and pastoral applications. This course is cross-listed as L.RST-285. The courses are identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.RST or L.PHI) that a student registers for and completes. 3 credits.

L.PHI-350: Human Identity in Community-AI

Philosophic investigation into human identity as a rational and social being, relying upon common experience, culture, and selected findings of the natural, social, and behavioral sciences; attention given to the distinct powers, performances, and place of human beings within the natural order, and insights related to the self and society, including the themes of life, mutual dependence, freedom, unity, knowledge and practical reason, and the afterlife. Prerequisites: L.LIB-100, L.LIB-105, L.LIB-110, and either L.LIB-130, L.LIB-135, or L.LIB-220. 3 credits.

L.PHI-278: Bioethics, Society & Culture

Abortion, assisted reproductive technologies, death and dying, research on human subjects, stem cell research, organ transplants, allocation of resources in a pandemic, and healthcare for the poor are examined through the lenses of philosophical ethics, Catholic moral theology, and law and public policy. Students will interact with healthcare professionals and institutions and advocacy groups, discuss contemporary films, and assess internet websites. May not enroll if have taken L.PHI-319 Neuroethics-AV. 3 credits. January term.

L.PHI-301: Foundations of Ethics

This course will examine the basic questions of morality and the answers that have been developed within the Western philosophical and Christian theological traditions. Important historical and contemporary primary source material will be examined. This course is cross-listed as L.RST-370. The courses are identical but transcripts will reflect

the course number (L.PHI or L.RST) that a student registers for and completes. Course not available to first year students. 3 credits.

L.PHI-311: Business Ethics-AV, VX

This course studies basic moral principles and theories as they apply in the evaluation of the moral issues that arise in the three basic kinds of business relationships: between the employee and the firm, between the firm and other economic agents, and between the firm and various non-business groups. 3 credits. Prerequisites: L.LIB-100, L.LIB-105, L.LIB110, and one course from L.LIB-130, L.LIB-135, or L.LIB-220. Prerequisites for VX course: Completion of the "CT" course. 3 credits.

L.PHI-313: Environmental Ethics-AV

This course studies basic moral principles and theories as they apply in the evaluation of the moral issues that arise when human beings, both individually and collectively, interact with the environment, particularly in the areas of pollution and resource depletion. Prerequisites: L.LIB-100, L.LIB-105, L.LIB-110, and one course from L.LIB-130, L.LIB-135, or L.LIB-220. 3 credits.

L.PHI-315: Communication Ethics-AV, VX

This course studies basic moral principles and theories as they apply in the evaluation of the moral issues that arise in media communications (e.g., truth, privacy, confidentiality, conflicts of interests, antisocial behavior, morally offensive content, responsibility to juveniles, social justice, and stereotypes). Prerequisites: L.LIB-100, L.LIB-105, L.LIB-110, and one course from L.LIB-130, L.LIB-135, or L.LIB-220. Prerequisites for VX course: Completion of the "CT" course. 3 credits.

L.PHI-319: Neuroethics-AV

A survey of ethical issues arising in contemporary work in neuroscience. Topics include predictive testing for neurological disorders; implications for abortion, embryonic stem cell research, and organ procurement of neurological criteria for the beginning and end of life; medical treatment decisions for brain injured persons with severely compromised consciousness; brain activity and free will; abnormal brain activity and culpability for criminal actions; enhancement of brain function; neuroimaging and privacy; and the ethics of neurological research with animal and human subjects. Prerequisites: L.LIB-100, L.LIB105, L.LIB-110, and one course from L.LIB-130, L.LIB-135, L.LIB-220. May not enroll if have taken L.PHI-278: Bioethics, Society and Culture. 3 credits.

L.PHI-320: Ancient Philosophy

A survey of Western philosophy in ancient Greek and Roman cultures. Central issues include: integration of poetic and mythic worldviews with critical thought; themes of "one and the many" and "part and whole" amid material and immaterial existence; determination, freedom, chance, and fate; the inclination toward human happiness; cognitive access to "reality" and the acts of opinion, belief, and knowledge. L.PHI-110 or L.PHI-150 strongly recommended, but not required. 3 credits.

L.PHI-321: Medieval Philosophy

A survey of Christian, Jewish and Islamic philosophy from the early middle ages through Renaissance scholasticism, with particular attention to the work of Thomas Aquinas. Either L.PHI-110 or L.PHI-150 strongly recommended, but not required. 3 credits.

L.PHI-322: Modern Philosophy

Survey of philosophical thought during the 17th and 18th centuries, noting emphases upon methodology, mathematics, science, and progress by Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. These thinkers continue to influence present attitudes toward the starting point and structure of knowledge, the possibility of metaphysics, the relation of the world to God, and our own human composition, freedom, and destiny. Either L.PHI-110 or L.PHI-150 strongly recommended, but not required. 3 credits.

L.PHI-323: Contemporary Philosophy

An examination of the principal views of God, humanity, and the world as advanced by major contemporary philosophers and philosophical movements, including existentialism and phenomenology, American pragmatic and instrumentalist philosophy, analytic and positivist philosophy, dialectical thought. Either L.PHI-110 or L.PHI-150 strongly recommended, but not required. 3 credits.

L.PHI-331: Knowledge, Truth & Reality

The study of what and how things exist in the world (metaphysics/philosophy of being), and how we cognitively experience and understand these things (epistemology/philosophy of knowledge); includes notions of being in itself, potency and actuality; causality; the properties of unity, good, and beauty; the nature of evil; intellect and sense perception; truth and falsity; and subjective states of certainty, doubt, ignorance, and error. 3 credits.

L.PHI-333: Philosophy of God & Religion

An examination of attempts to justify belief in the existence of God, the divine nature and attributes, the problem of evil, religious experience, the status of religious language, and divine action in the world, using historical, contemporary, and multicultural sources. 3 credits.

L.PHI-345: Sustainability Ethics-AV, VX

This course will integrate environmental ethics, environmental science, and community based learning in order to foster independent learning, creative inquiry, and applied ethical reasoning in the area of sustainability. The course will introduce systems thinking and engage the tradition of American environmentalism with particular attention to the tensions between 'conservationist' and 'preservationist' approaches. Approved for Community Based Learning. 3 credits.

L.PHI-348: Philosophy of Science

Examination of basic problems about the nature, goals, and methods of scientific inquiry in contrast to philosophy; analysis of scientific theories in terms of the role of mathematics, observation, causality, and demonstration; and examination of the contrast between natural and social sciences. 3 credits.

L.PHI-376: Philosophy and the Rise of Christianity-AC

This study travel course that traces how Christian thought led to new syntheses in regions where love for wisdom has not been left in ruins. Initial class meetings at Loras to engage primary texts, then travel to Sicily and Rome where on site visitation is integrated with reflection upon themes including: soul, body and the person; love and the will; women's and men's roles in political society; moral systems and virtue; God's providence and power. This course is cross-listed as L.CTL-265. The courses are identical but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.PHI or L.CTL) that a student registers for and completes. L.PHI-100 or L.PHI-220, or one other philosophy or Catholic theology course are recommended but not required. Contact the CEL/course instructor for iteration-specific details. 3 credits. January term.

L.PHI-490E: Oral Comprehensive Examination

A placeholder course which indicates attempt and completion of the required comprehensive oral examination in front of philosophy faculty members. 0 credits. Pass/fail only.