

INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY (HYBRID)
FALL 2025

PHIL 1301-901 Tuesdays 12:30-1:45pm Classroom Hall 219	PHIL 1301-905 Tuesdays 2:00-3:15pm Classroom Hall 204	PHIL 1301-903 Tuesdays 3:30-4:45pm Classroom Hall 204
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INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, PhD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to philosophy that will explore what some past and present philosophers (and you) have to say about themes central to our lives, such as happiness, knowledge, reality, and ethics. As we work through these themes, we will also develop intellectual virtues essential to good thinking, including clarity, charity, and curiosity. This is a hybrid course that includes required weekly in-person meetings and asynchronous online components.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Communicate effectively about central themes in the history of philosophy and demonstrate an understanding of philosophical texts and arguments through both speaking and writing.
- Apply critical thinking skills to develop and evaluate philosophical questions and arguments.
- Identify and critically examine unexamined assumptions in your own thinking.
- Demonstrate skills in personal and social responsibility through self-assessment and engagement with ethical issues facing individuals and groups.

REQUIRED TEXT

The Deepest Human Life: An Introduction to Philosophy for Everyone. Scott Samuelson.
University of Chicago Press, 2015 (print or eBook)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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| 1. Reading Journal Entries | 20% of final grade |
| 2. Quizzes | 20% of final grade |
| 3. Exams (3) | 60% of final grade (20% each) |
| 4. Attendance | |