

Intro to Philosophy (Hybrid)
Spring 2024

PHIL 1301-900, Tuesdays 8:00am-9:15am
PHIL 1301-901, Tuesdays 11:00am-12:15pm
PHIL 1301-902, Tuesdays 9:30am-10:45am

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Merritt Rehn-DeBaal, PhD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to philosophy that will unpack what some past and present philosophers (and you) have to say about themes central to many of our lives—themes like happiness, knowledge, reality, and ethics. As we work through these themes, we will also cultivate some of the intellectual virtues that are integral to being a good thinker, including clarity, charity, and curiosity. This is a hybrid course with required weekly in-person meetings AND asynchronous online components.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Communicate about central themes in the history of philosophy and demonstrate understanding of philosophical texts and arguments in speaking and in writing.
- Apply critical thinking skills to develop and evaluate philosophical questions and arguments.
- Identify unexamined (or under-examined) assumptions in your 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

1. Reading Journal Entries (10) 20% of final grade (2% each)
2. Participation Logs (2) 20% of final grade (10% each)
3. Exams (3) 60% of final grade (20% each)
4. Attendance