

Student Learning Outcomes for Philosophy Courses

PHIL 103: Critical Thinking

- SLO 1. When presented with an argument, the student is able to assess the *soundness* of the argument by assessing *deductive validity* using appropriate deductive techniques (and assessing the truth or epistemic value of the premises using reliable sources of information).
- SLO 2. When presented with an argument, the student is able to assess the *cogency* of the argument by assessing *inductive strength* using appropriate inductive techniques (and assessing the truth or epistemic value of the premises using reliable sources of information).
- SLO 3. When presented with a theoretical hypothesis or a pseudo-scientific claim, the student is able to evaluate it using appropriate explanatory criteria.
- SLO 4. At the end of the course, the student is able to construct a novel, interesting, and logically correct argument that avoids fallacies. The student is also able to represent the logical structure of the argument (in standard logical form), as well as express and defend the argument as a short essay.

PHIL 200: Introduction to Logic

- SLO 1. Ability to represent the form of an argument by translating English statements into a formal language using truth-functional operators and (multiple) quantifiers.
- SLO 2. Ability to use formal techniques to determine logical properties of individual statements and logical relationships that hold between pairs of statements—such as contradiction, contingency, consistency, equivalence, etc.
- SLO 3. Ability to construct proofs for valid arguments and theorems in truth-functional and predicate logic (or show that an argument is invalid) using appropriate techniques—such as truth tables, truth trees, Venn diagrams, natural deduction, etc.
- SLO 4. Ability to apply Bayes's Theorem, in conjunction with the rules of probability, to determine the probability of a hypothesis (or the comparative probabilities of two hypotheses) given information about antecedent probability and explanatory power.

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy

- SLO 1. Ability to formulate some of the core questions of philosophy and understand various philosophical responses to them in their historical context.
- SLO 2. Ability to analyze and evaluate philosophical claims, arguments, and theories using rigorous philosophical methods (such as logical analysis and the identification of fallacies).
- SLO 3. Students will embody the qualities of an open-minded but critical thinker in the examination or formation of their philosophy.

PHIL 160 and 175: History of Philosophy (Ancient and Modern)

- SLO 1. Ability to compare, contrast, analyze, and evaluate the views of the most influential Western philosophers and philosophical movements from a particular historical period—as found in primary or secondary sources—using rigorous philosophical methods.
- SLO 2. Students will embody the qualities of an open-minded but critical thinker in the examination or formation of their philosophy.

PHIL 240: Ethics

- SLO 1. Ability to explicate, analyze, compare, and evaluate a variety of theories in normative ethics or meta-ethics using rigorous philosophical methods.
- SLO 2. Ability to apply moral theories and concepts to contemporary problems—such as war, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, etc.
- SLO 3. Students will embody the qualities of an open-minded but critical thinker in the examination or formation of their moral philosophy.

PHIL 300: World Religions

- SLO 1. Ability to interpret ritual practices, art, and writing of a religious tradition—using the methods of scholarship and historical criticism—in order to ascertain their function or meaning.
- SLO 2. Ability to compare and contrast the beliefs and practices of various religious traditions—including variations and disputes *within* the tradition—in their historical and contemporary contexts.
- SLO 3. Ability to critique the philosophical worldview (metaphysical and moral) of a religious tradition—using rigorous philosophical methods and drawing on the perspectives of alternative philosophies.

PHIL 320: Asian Philosophy

- SLO 1. Ability to compare, contrast, analyze, and evaluate the views of influential Asian philosophers and philosophical movements—as found in primary or secondary sources—using the techniques of critical thinking.
- SLO 2. Students will embody the qualities of an open-minded but critical thinker in the examination or formation of their world view.