

Philosophy Courses for Pre-Med and Pre-Health Professionals

Philosophy courses enrich preparation for pre-medical and pre-health professional training by providing a valuable foundation in professional ethics. Here are a few useful courses that pre-med and other healthcare-oriented undergraduates take at the Department of Philosophy. For a full listing of philosophy courses please see the [Bulletin](#).

PHIL 2941. Honors Philosophy of Biology. 3 Credit Hours.

This course explores a range of philosophical questions about biology, such as: What is the nature of biological explanation? Are there laws of biology? Is the current debate about creationism and intelligent design a scientific debate? Is there a unique taxonomy of biological organisms? Has human nature evolved? What is genetic determinism and is there any evidence for it? This course is geared toward scientifically-minded philosophers, philosophically minded scientists, and everyone in between.

PHIL 3218. Philosophy of Medicine. 3 Credit Hours.

Philosophy of Medicine is a new and growing field in philosophy of science and the medical humanities, which looks at the specific characteristics of theories in medicine and ways of knowing in medicine. It asks questions such as: What is the meaning of illness and of health? Are some diseases (e.g. end stage renal disease, chronic fatigue syndrome, ADHD) partly or wholly socially constructed? What are the differences between conventional and alternative or non-Western approaches to illness and healing? What is "evidence based medicine," and what are its limitations? What is the new technique of "narrative medicine?" What is meant by claiming that medicine is an "art" as well as a science? We will learn about the "biopsychosocial" model of clinical care, causation and genetic disease, the classification of diseases and phenomenological accounts of illness.

PHIL 3249. Ethics in Medicine. 3 Credit Hours.

Exploration of ethical issues generated by the application of scientific and technological advances to the preservation, destruction, and programming of human life. Topics may include: ethics of medical research, abortion, euthanasia, behavior control, allocation of scarce medical resources, and the ethics of patient-physician interaction.

PHIL 3949. Honors Ethics in Medicine. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is an exploration of ethical issues generated by the application of scientific and technological advances to the preservation, destruction, and programming of human life. Topics may include: ethics of medical research, abortion, euthanasia, behavior control, allocation of scarce medical resources, and the ethics of patient-physician interaction.