Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS  Jacob Bauer  
PHL 2050-A01  9:50-11:30  Monday-Thursday  
Like philosophers through the ages, students in this class will pursue the “big questions” of life. We will discuss such perennially fascinating topics as: Can you survive the death of your body, and if not, can it be bad for you to die? Is there a God? Is it rational to be moral? Are there “right answers” to ethical questions, or is ethics just subjective? What is the meaning of life? We will examine these questions by reading selections from classic philosophical texts, and put our own beliefs about them under critical scrutiny. Our goal in these discussions will be to appreciate the complexities and difficulties such questions raise for our most fundamental and deeply held beliefs. This course fulfills the Area 4: Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum.

SYMBOLIC LOGIC  William Irvine  
PHL 2230-B01  1:30-3:10  Monday-Thursday  
If you are a functioning adult, you are logical. In this course, we will delve deeper into logic by developing a symbolic language that captures the logic of English sentences. We will then learn how to logically manipulate those sentences. This course meets the Qualitative Methods requirement all CoLA majors must fulfill.

PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES  William Irvine  
PHL 4710-B01  11:40-1:20  Monday-Thursday  
In the Philosophy of Physical Science we explore the scientific method and its philosophical implications. Early in the course, we examine the difference between science and religion by taking a look at the debate between evolution, creationism, and intelligent design. Then we consider the “deep ancestry” of modern human beings, exploring not just our family trees but our position in the tree of life. We trace this tree back to its root—the origin of life on earth. We also examine the history of the genes in our DNA as well as the history of the individual atoms that comprise us. In this last examination, we consider scientific theories about the origin of the universe and the reasons scientists have for proposing those theories. This course meets the Qualitative Methods requirement all CoLA majors must fulfill.
PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Keith Sims  
PHL 4720-A01  
11:40-1:20  
Monday-Thursday  
This course will be a generalized introduction to the philosophical analysis of the assumptions, presuppositions, and conceptual problems that are inherent within the specific disciplines that make up the social sciences, namely, economics, psychology, political science, and sociology.  
This course meets the Qualitative Methods requirement all CoLA majors must fulfill.