

Faculty Member: Dr. Daniel Schneider

Ancient Philosophy (PHL 205) and Modern Philosophy (206)

PHL 205 Ancient Philosophy and PHL 206 Modern Philosophy are both “History of Philosophy” courses. However, it is better to say that they are courses that explore how people in radically different times and cultures tried to make sense of the world, and themselves, and from these inquiries, came up with an account of how best to live. These classes then develop **Adaptability**. Students learn to read texts written with unfamiliar prose and learn to make sense of unfamiliar concepts. Students develop their **Communication** skills—they learn to write cogent essays and to explain complex and abstract ideas. Being core philosophy classes students taking these courses develop **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving** skills. They learn to assess arguments and to employ concepts and interpretive puzzles. More than that, they apply these skills to tackle the great questions about our world and our place within it. Hence, even in PHL 205 Ancient Philosophy, a course you might think has little to do with careers or accountability, students think deeply about the importance of **Accountability** in terms of personal virtues and about **Career and Self Development**, as consider and evaluate competing goals and desires. In both PHL 205 and PHL 206 students consider a plurality of approaches to the universal problems of the human condition and so develop an awareness of their unique position in world history, and a sense of the contingencies of their own era crucial to appreciate the importance of **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**.

Modern Philosophy (PHL 206)

There are a series of assignments in **PHL 206** called **TIACs**: Text. Interpretation. Analysis. Critique. These assignments are designed to further **Adaptability, Communication Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**. Students are given a short paragraph of difficult philosophical text in these assignments. They then offer an interpretation of the text that captures what they take to be the authors main point. They then offer an analysis of this text: They formulate the argument the author is giving. Finally, they critique the argument: Is the argument sound? Is it convincing?

Course: Ancient Greek Philosophy (PHL 205)

In PHL 205 there are a series of reaction journals: Free form low stake writing assignments where students apply concepts from ancient philosophy to their own lives. For example, students might chase down the ultimate explanation for what they want to achieve in life...and why. These reaction journals are in a sense, “free for all’s”—if a student is interested in writing about something else, they can—the goal here is mainly to work on **Communication** skills.

Course: Introduction to Logic (PHL 100)

PHL 101 Introduction to Logic could be called **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**. This course teaches the art of thinking. Students learn skills in this class pertinent to the GRE, MCAT, LSAT—and to any aspect of life where determining the truth or the facts of the matter might be relevant. **Collaboration and Leadership** is also developed. This course features a good amount of group work. Students are encouraged to collaborate on homework, and groups even work together on an exam.