Introduction to Philosophy Courses

The Department of Philosophy and Religion has a variety of 100 and 200 level courses to help both PAR and non-PAR students gain an understanding of introductory topics in philosophy.

- **PAR 110: Introduction to Logic**
  This course constitutes a general introduction to the central concepts, methods, and rules of elementary logic. One of the primary aims of studying logic is to develop the skills needed to distinguish good arguments from bad ones, to construct good arguments of one's own, and to evaluate the usually bad arguments of others. Topics covered include concepts, methods, and laws of informal reasoning and formal logic.

- **PAR 101: Invitation to Philosophical Thinking**
  University Studies course: partially satisfies historical and philosophical approaches, satisfies critical thinking.

- **PAR 115: Introduction to Ethics**
  This course is an introduction to philosophical ethics. Ethics is a major branch of philosophy that seeks to help us understand our responsibilities, our actions, and our motivations in social situations. Three distinct sorts of problems are covered: what is morality? What principles or methods should I use to determine what I ought to do? How can I apply ethical theory to real life ethical questions?

- **PAR 201: History of Western Philosophy I**
  A survey of Western philosophical thought in ancient and medieval times. Emphasis on the Greek origins of the philosophical tradition. Readings from the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, Roman philosophy and such Christian thinkers as Augustine and Thomas Aquinas.

- **PAR 202: History of Western Philosophy II**
  A survey of Western philosophical thought from the beginning of the modern era to the present. Emphasis on the rationalist and empiricist traditions. Readings from such philosophers as Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, Kant and Russell.

- **PAR 215: Bioethics**
  The primary purpose of this course is to explore some the ethical issues confronting modern medicine. We will consider such questions as, what ethical obligations does a physician have to her patient? Can a physician lie to her patients? Is it ever morally permissible for a physician to deliberately end her patient’s life? When, if ever, is abortion morally permissible? Are fetuses persons? Does the right to life trump all other moral rights? When, if ever, is genetic engineering permissible?

  University Studies course: partially satisfies historical and philosophical approaches.