Graduate Course Schedule

AY 2026–2027

Department of Philosophy

Loyola University Chicago

AY 26-27 At A Glance

**Students may take both courses numbered PHIL 490 despite the shared course number. They will appear with different titles on transcripts and meet different distribution requirements as outlined below.*

Fall 2026 Graduate Courses

Course	Instructor
PHIL 401: Plato's Early Dialogues	Möbus
PHIL 420: Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*	Cutrofello
PHIL 433: French Existential Phenomenology	Andrews
PHIL 449: Philosophy of Language	Mousavian
PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy: Foucault	Oksala
PHIL 483: Philosophical Questions in Human Rights	Gordon

Spring 2027 Graduate Courses

Course	Instructor
PHIL 407: Medieval Commentaries on the Nicomachean Ethics	Hartman
PHIL 432: Heidegger's *Being and Time*	Gaffney
PHIL 453: Philosophy of Technology	Dunch
PHIL 462: Kant's Moral Philosophy	Fisher
PHIL 480: Foundations of Modern Political Philosophy	Ingram
PHIL 490*: Latin American Philosophy	Gordon
PHIL 490*: Critical Phenomenology	Oksala

Distribution Requirements

Distribution requirements for the PhD in Philosophy, the MA and AMP in Philosophy, and the MA and AMP in Social Philosophy are included with the course descriptions below. Students in all programs may only count a course toward one distribution requirement even when multiple requirements are listed for a particular course. Courses that count for electives for a degree program are also indicated below, but students should consult the GPD about possible exceptions. Please consult the Philosophy Graduate Handbook and/or the online academic catalog for your degree requirements.

Jesuits who enrolled in the MA in Soc. Phil in Fall 2024 or later: Please consult the GPD about distribution requirements for your track.

Course Flags

Course flags indicate which courses are recommended for students depending on program requirements, academic background, and interests/goals. These flags do not denote requirements but instead should be helpful guidelines for students and advisors. All courses flagged as Introductory Writing and Research Skills are particularly well-suited to students in their first years of study. The description of each course flag is included below:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

(Strongly recommended for all first-year students regardless of degree program): The course includes assignments and discussions that introduce students to graduate level writing and research skills in philosophy.

Interdisciplinary/Cross-listed

The course includes interdisciplinary material or introduces students to interdisciplinary approaches to research in philosophy and may be cross-listed with other departments.

Engaged Learning

(Recommended for students in the MA or AMP in Social Philosophy): The course can accommodate students interested in integrating service or internship work with work in the classroom, either by virtue of the topics it engages and/or flexible assignment options.

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

The course can be clustered into a primary or secondary area of focus for students in the MA/AMP in Social Philosophy. Courses without this flag may also be clustered. These flags are guidelines and actual course clusters for focus areas will be determined through advising. MASP Focus Areas include but are not limited to: Philosophy of Law/Social and Political Philosophy, Bioethics, Critical Philosophy of Race, Feminism, International Issues and Perspectives, Human Rights and/or Human Security, Environmental Justice, AI/Technology Ethics.

Advanced/Specialized

The course is best for students at more advanced levels and assumes that students will already have taken foundational graduate coursework at Loyola or elsewhere.

Fall 2026 Course Descriptions

PHIL 401: Plato's Early Dialogues

Instructor: Prof. Freya Möbus

Time: TBA

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Plato's early dialogues. We will investigate what exactly philosophy is, according to Socrates, and how it differs from other disciplines like rhetoric. While examining how Socrates does philosophy, we will analyze some of Socrates' philosophical core beliefs about the good life, human psychology, and the generation of human actions, such as "doing wrong is worse than suffering wrong," "when one has done wrong, it is better for oneself to be punished than to get away without punishment," and "when we do wrong we do not do what we want to do." Meetings are discussion-based & student-led.

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Ancient

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Ancient

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Elective

PHIL 420: Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*

Instructor: Prof. Andrew Cutrofello

Time: TBA

Course Description:

In this advanced graduate seminar, we will focus on Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* or "Science of the Experience of Consciousness" as it was originally called. We will see how Hegel introduces his "system" by reconstructing its genesis. We will pay particularly close attention to Hegel's relation to his predecessors, especially Plato, Aristotle, and Kant. We will also discuss the complex reception history of the text from Marx and Kierkegaard to contemporary commentators such as Charles Taylor, Robert Pippin, Robert Brandom, Catherine Malabou, and Slavoj Žižek. Of the five English translations available we will concentrate on Michael Inwood's, but others are worth consulting (as is, of course, the original German). By the end of the semester students will write a paper of the sort that could be submitted to a conference or journal.

Course Flags:

Advanced/Specialized

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: M&E, Modern

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Modern

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Elective

PHIL 432: Existentialism and Phenomenology

Topic: *French Existential Phenomenology*

Instructor: Professor Michael Andrews

Time: TBA

Course Description:

This foundational graduate seminar will introduce students to French existential phenomenology, approaching this area of philosophy as a moment (post-WW2 Paris), a condition (liberation from Nazi occupation), a school of thought (existentialism), a method of inquiry (phenomenology), and a group of French writers who engage in thematic conversation with one another: Jean-Paul Sartre, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Simone de Beauvoir, Albert Camus, Emmanuel Levinas, Jacques Derrida, Frantz Fanon, Paul Ricoeur, Julia Kristeva, Jean-Luc Nancy, Jean-Luc Marion.

Our focus in the first half of the course will be Jean-Paul Sartre, including *Transcendence of the Ego*, "Existentialism is a Humanism," *The Words*, *Nausea* along with several of his plays, and *Being and Nothingness*, particularly Sartre's exploration of phenomenological ontology and his critique of Husserl's description of consciousness and social constitution theory.

In the second half of the course, we will explore Sartre's impactful influence on the "French school of existential phenomenology," both in terms of implications and applications. We will begin by investigating concrete implications indebted to Sartre's phenomenological methodology as developed in key sections of several classic French texts, including Merleau-Ponty's *The Phenomenology of Perception*; de Beauvoir's *The Ethics of Ambiguity*; Camus's *Myth of Sisyphus*; and Derrida's "Violence and Metaphysics." Then, we will turn our attention to the existential applications of Sartre's work as evidenced through Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* and Kristeva's *Powers of Horror*, as well as the "theological turn" in French phenomenology as depicted by Nancy's "The Forgetting of Philosophy," Levinas's *Time and the Other*, Ricoeur's *Oneself as Another*; and Marion's "Saturated Phenomena."

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

Interdisciplinary/Cross-Listing

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: M&E, Ethics/Social and Political, Continental

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Continental

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political Philosophy

PHIL 449: Philosophy of Language

Topic: *Meaning and Truth – Silencing, Porn, and Slurs*

Instructor: Prof. Seyed Mousavian

Time: TBA

Course Description:

What is a language? What is meaning? What is truth? These are the three main questions of the classical philosophy of language. We will begin with Wittgenstein and Chomsky and then study Frege, Russell, and Kripke, among others. This will complete the first part of the course on the theories of meaning and truth. In the second part, we will move to Austin's Theory of Performative Utterances and Strawson's Speech Act Theory, as well as their applications. Austin's theory of "performative utterances", as a reaction to Vienna Circle's Verificationism, is intended to open space for a theory of meaning according to which for an expression to mean something is for someone to do something with the expression. Meaning becomes an act; this picture of meaning radically differs from both Frege-Russell's and the Vienna Circle's. Then, in the third part of the course, we will try to apply the theories we have learned to some practical issues, for example: various forms of "silencing" and "refusal", problems that pornography (as speech-act) may raise, and the semantics and pragmatics of slurs. At the end, we will be back to Wittgenstein's question: What is a language?

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

Interdisciplinary/Cross-listing

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: M&E; Analytic Philosophy

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Analytic Philosophy

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Elective

PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy: Foucault

Instructor: Prof. Johanna Oksala

Time: TBA

Course Description:

Michel Foucault has become one of the most cited authors in the humanities and social sciences. A stream of posthumous publications, including his lectures at the Collège de France and the fourth volume of the History of Sexuality, Confessions of the Flesh, have ensured a continuously growing body of Foucault scholarship. In this course, we will study Foucault's philosophy by reading a selection of texts from his most important genealogical works from the 1970s, as well as studying some of recently published new lectures and manuscripts.

Course Flags:

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Ethics/Social and Political, Continental

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Continental

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political and/or PHIL 480 requirement

PHIL 483: Philosophical Questions in Human Rights

Instructor: Prof. Joy Gordon

Time: TBA

Course Description:

This course addresses a variety of philosophical issues within human rights. We'll start with some texts that point to different approaches in conceptualizing human rights, as well as an overview of the major human rights instruments in international law and global governance. We'll look at such questions as the concept of rights, and its empirical and Marxist critics; the shift over the last decade in the ethical framework for understanding torture; hermeneutical issues that emerge in human rights treaties; the different ways that gender comes into play within human rights; the thorny problem of how to determine intent in cases of genocide; and issues of sovereignty when countries seek to assert extraterritorial jurisdiction over human rights violations that take place in other parts of the world.

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

Interdisciplinary/Cross-Listing

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Ethics/Social and Political, Analytic

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Analytic

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political

Spring 2027 Course Descriptions

PHIL 407: Medieval Philosophy

Topic: *Commentaries on Aristotle's* Nicomachean Ethics

Instructor: Prof. Peter Hartman

Time: TH 4:15PM–6:45PM

Course Description:

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, where he develops a theory of ethics we now call "virtue theory", was and remains influential; during the High Middle Ages thinkers as diverse as Thomas Aquinas and John Buridan wrote extensive commentaries on it, attempting to synthesis Arisottle's ethics with catholic theological premises. We will look at this reception of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, with a special focus on John Buridan's question commentary using the new English translation of this work. We will cover topics such as the acquisition of virtues, the role that virtues play in medieval ethical thought, the so-called virtues of intellect (science, wisdom, prudence), the will, as well as justice and economics.

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Medieval, Ethics/Social and Political

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Medieval

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social Political

PHIL 432: Heidegger

Topic: *Being and Time*

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Gaffney

Time: T 4:15PM–6:45PM

Course Description:

Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time* (1927) resets the terms of phenomenology, hermeneutics, and existential thought and remains foundational for continental philosophy today. This seminar will introduce students to the central themes and methods of *Being and Time* by reading them in relation to a concept that remains as pressing for us now as it was for Heidegger in 1927: being-with (*Mitsein*).

Being-with concerns the intersubjective constitution of human existence or Dasein. It indicates that while my existence may be mine alone, who I am is never given as an isolated subject but is instead always in relation, shaped by and responsive to the others with whom I share the world. Phenomenological inquiry into intersubjective experience was not new in 1927. What distinguishes *Being and Time* is Heidegger's discovery of a tension internal to this relational structure. Dasein is inclined toward belonging, desiring to be at home in its relations. Yet, it initially does this by rendering itself, the world, and others more proximate, accessible, and familiar, which is to say, by reducing them. Heidegger thus exposes a vulnerability to inauthentic and totalizing forms of communal life that is not accidental but internal to Dasein's existential constitution as being-with. The question is whether authentic being-with—a form of communal life that neither reduces singular Dasein nor severs it from its relations—is possible. As important as Heidegger's discovery is, his answer to this question is brief and, in the eyes of his greatest students and most astute commentators, underdeveloped.

The provocation of this course is that the ontological and existential implications of this text cannot be thought apart from the ethical, social, and political consequences of Heidegger's notion of being-with. We will therefore read existence, facticity, being-in-the-world, care, anxiety, being-toward-death, authenticity, and historicity in view of this concept. A century after its publication, we will also consider its relevance today. At a moment when the vulnerability Heidegger diagnoses is on full display, the question of whether authentic being-with is possible, and what it might look like, can be taken up with renewed urgency.

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Continental, M&E, Ethics/Social and Political

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Continental
MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political

PHIL 453: Philosophy of Technology

Topic: *The Concept of Technology from Antiquity to Modernity*

Instructor: Prof. Matt Dunch

Time: W 11:30AM–2:00PM

Course Description:

The seminar examines the hopes and fears of our AI age from the millennia-long philosophical engagement with devices born of human skill. The progression is chronological. It traces the concept of technology from its roots in the *technē* of Greek antiquity and the *ars* of Latin antiquity and the Middle Ages to the industrial-age German concept of Technik and finally to technology in its current uses. In parallel, the seminar explores a conceptual development from *jì* (skill) in China from antiquity until the late nineteenth century, when technology, both the things and the concept, globalizes. Along this journey, the seminar highlights the various antecedents to "thinking machines," the ways philosophers have distinguished human intelligence from, and elided it with, mechanized intelligence, and the threats and opportunities that machines, from levers to computers, pose to human flourishing. The chronology stops with GOFAI (Good Old-Fashioned AI) in anticipation of Professor Vukov's Fall 2027 Seminar on philosophies of Silicon Valley. The seminars are designed to be taken together—this is recommended but not required.

Course Flags:

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: M&E, Ethics/Social and Political
MA and AMP in Philosophy: Elective
MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political

PHIL 462: Kant's Moral Philosophy

Instructor: Prof. Naomi Fisher

Time: T 10:00AM–12:30PM

Course Description:

In this course, we will examine both the foundations and content of Kant's moral philosophy. We will begin with works such as the *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* and the *Critique of Practical Reason*, and then move on to discuss the manner in which Kant's moral philosophy is intertwined with his work on religion, politics, and history. To this end we will read portions of Kant's *Metaphysics of Morals*, some essays on politics, as well as portions of Kant's *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*.

Course Flags:

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Modern, Ethics/Social and Political

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Modern

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political

PHIL 480: Social and Political Philosophy: Foundations of Modern Political Philosophy

Instructor: Prof. David Ingram

Time: TH 10:00AM–12:30PM

Course Description:

The course surveys the foundations of modern political philosophy. Selections from the following philosophers will be assigned: Hobbes; Locke; Rousseau; Kant; Hegel; Marx; and Rawls. Topics to be discussed will include: The moral foundations of political authority, rights, and duties (social contract theory) and the political economy of social freedom and self-actualization (philosophy of history).

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

Interdisciplinary/Cross-Listing

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Modern, Ethics/Social and Political

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Modern

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political Philosophy and/or PHIL 480 requirement

PHIL 490: Current Philosophical Issues: Latin American Political Philosophy

Instructor: Prof. Joy Gordon

Time: M 4:15–6:45PM

Note: Taking this PHIL 490 does not preclude you from taking the other PHIL 490 being offered this semester.

Course Description:

This course will look at indigenous social and political thought, including early Aztec and Mayan texts as well as contemporary Mayan writings; Latin American Marxism, including Mariategui, Sandino, Guevara, and Castro; dependency theory; decolonial theory, including Bolivar, Marti, Mignolo, and Lara-Bonillo; feminist theory, including Ortega, Lugones, Anzaldua, and Schutte; and liberation theology, including Dussel, and the statement of the Latin American bishops at Medellín.

Course Flags:

Introductory Writing and Research Skills

Interdisciplinary/Cross-Listing

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Ethics/Social and Political

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Elective

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Non-European Traditions, Ethics/Social and Political Philosophy

PHIL 490: Current Philosophical Issues: Critical Phenomenology

Instructor: Prof. Johanna Oksala

Time: M 11:30AM–2:00PM

Note: Taking this PHIL 490 does not preclude you from taking the other PHIL 490 being offered this semester.

Course Description:

In recent years, phenomenology has taken a critical turn, seeking to provide a method for analyzing and criticizing contemporary sociopolitical problems. This course explores the possibilities and challenges of critical phenomenology through three topics: gender, race, and non-human animals. Readings bring canonical thinkers, such as Simone de Beauvoir and Frantz Fanon, into conversation with contemporary critical phenomenologists.

The course is intended for both students who are new to phenomenology, as well as for those already familiar with the work of some of the thinkers studied in it. It offers students an up-to-date understanding of recent developments in phenomenology, as well as a renewed perspective on some of its key questions and challenges.

Course Flags:

MA/AMP in Social Philosophy Area of Focus

Distribution Requirements:

PhD: Continental, Ethics/Social and Political

MA and AMP in Philosophy: Continental

MA and AMP in Social Philosophy: Ethics/Social and Political Philosophy