Would you like to think better? If so, this is the course for you. It will present techniques that will lead you to develop your reasoning skills. It will enable you to understand how mistakes in reasoning occur and how you can avoid making them. The course will also offer the tools you need to evaluate the kinds of claims you find in arguments you encounter every day.

If you think of your basic beliefs as marching orders for living, then you can see that checking those marching orders out might be a very practical idea. William James had something like that in mind when he said that the most important thing to know about a person is his or her philosophy. Introduction to Philosophy gets us talking about some of our basic beliefs about the world, the right thing to do, and the possibility of knowing. It is the firm conviction of many powerful thinkers that asking questions about our marching orders is the only path to freedom and human fulfillment.

*This section is blended. Course meets in person for all sessions.

The goal of our Critical Thinking course will be to systematically use examples from popular culture, the news media, advertisement, political campaigns, textbooks, and academic discourse to teach students how to: understand what an argument is; identify, construct, and assess arguments and distinguish arguments from explanations; identify premises, including hidden assumptions, and conclusions of an argument; grasp the distinction between deductive and inductive reasoning; assess compatibility and consistency among beliefs, logical conflict; understand the concepts of, and learn how to assess, argument validity and soundness; assess and construct analogies, explanations, and causal arguments; grasp the role arguments play in the building of systematic theoretical approaches, in presentation of claims (political speeches, advertisement messages, media analyses, etc.), and in everyday interactions; recognize misleading uses of language; assess credibility of purported evidence; evaluate background knowledge claims and credibility of sources of information; discern “informal” fallacies; distinguish between facts and conjectures and between factual assertions and normative claims; identify and examine whether you can resolve dilemmas; distinguish between logical and non-logical (theoretical, causal, physical, etc.) impossibility; practice semantical analysis to attain a higher level of reading comprehension; examine the fundamentals of available logical algorithms or decision making procedures for argument evaluation.

This course is blended. Course meets in person for all sessions.
This course provides students with an overview of the central theories in Philosophy of Law and offers students the opportunity to apply these theories to modern-day questions about law and government. Students will learn Philosophy of Law basics such as natural law and rule of law theories, positivism and the relationship between law and morality. Issues which revolve around such ideas as justice, criminal culpability, punishment, due process, free speech, and race/gender equality will also be discussed to show how legal theory can or ought to be applied to respond to the challenges of 21st century society.

PHIL 2102.31B SPACE AND TIME
T 2:10-4:40 PM Makridis

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of the word “time”? Or about what we mean by “space”? These concepts are elusive and mysterious; some of the most famous thinkers, artists and scientists have written about the meaning of space and time. In this course we study a few fundamental theories about space and time. We read the work of philosophers, scientists and science fiction writers. No advance knowledge of math or physics is required. This is a blended course. Course meets in person for all sessions.

PHIL 2204.31 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY
TF 9:55-11:10 AM Lovely

This course will be a broad exploration of the history of American philosophy and the development of American naturalistic philosophy. We will address philosophical ideas from Jonathan Edwards through the American Pragmatists. Readings for study and discussion will be selected from American philosophers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Charles Sanders Peirce, George Santayana and James Dewey. We will also consider some modern trends and philosophers representative of American Naturalism. Associations will be drawn between the philosophers we study and their impact upon the American character and culture, education, politics and religion.

PHIL 3303.61 BIO-MEDICAL ETHICS
W 5:25-8:00 PM DeBello

Examination of the moral and ethical questions that advances in biology and medical technology have raised: e.g., about the beginning and ending of life, genetic engineering and stem cell research. Required for biology majors, but open to other majors.

PHIL 3318.31 EXISTENTIALISM: PHILOSOPHY OF FREEDOM
MTH 2:10-3:25 Kuehl

Introduction to the study of human consciousness through the philosophical and literary works of existential thinkers such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Jaspers, Marcel, Camus, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty and Tillich.