

# Requirements for Major in Philosophy Major

180 College of Arts and Sciences/Philosophy

## Requirements for the Major in Philosophy

All prospective majors must consult and register with the departmental chief adviser.

1. A minimum of 30 hours of philosophy, with at least 24 hours in courses numbered 200 or above, and at least 12 hours in courses numbered 300 or above;
2. PHIL 400;
3. *At least one of the following courses:*  
PHIL 110. Intro to Logic & Critical Thinking  
PHIL 211. Intro to Modern Logic; and
4. *At least three of the following courses:*  
PHIL 231. History of Philosophy (Ancient)  
PHIL 232. History of Philosophy (Modern)  
PHIL 301. Theory of Knowledge  
PHIL 302. Intro to Metaphysics  
PHIL 320. Ethical Theory

Independent study courses (PHIL 299 and 399) must be antecedently approved by a Department of Philosophy undergraduate adviser if they are to count toward satisfying the major requirements. No minor is required.

**Program Assessment.** In order to assist the department in evaluating the effectiveness of its programs, majors will be required to complete an annual survey in the spring semester.

Results of participation in this assessment activity will in no way affect a student's GPA or graduation.

## Requirements for the Minor in Philosophy

1. A minimum of 15 hours in philosophy, with at least 12 hours in courses numbered 200 or above, and at least 6 hours in courses numbered 300 or above;
2. *At least two of the following courses:*  
PHIL 211. Intro to Modern Logic  
PHIL 231. History of Philosophy (Ancient)  
PHIL 232. History of Philosophy (Modern)  
PHIL 301. Theory of Knowledge  
PHIL 302. Intro to Metaphysics  
PHIL 320. Ethical Theory

## Recommendations for Prelaw and Premed Students

The following courses are recommended for the minor in philosophy for students preparing for admission to law school or medical school.

### Prelaw

1. PHIL 211. Intro to Modern Logic;
2. *At least one of the following courses:*  
PHIL 221. Political Philosophy  
PHIL 230. Philosophy of Law;  
PHIL 325. Advanced Social Political Philosophy
3. *At least one of the following courses:*  
PHIL 301. Theory of Knowledge  
PHIL 302. Intro to Metaphysics  
PHIL 320. Ethical Theory

### Premed

1. PHIL 211. Intro to Modern Logic;
2. *At least one of the following courses:*  
PHIL 213. Medical Ethics  
PHIL 317. Intro to Philosophy of Science
3. *At least one of the following courses:*  
PHIL 301. Theory of Knowledge  
PHIL 302. Intro to Metaphysics  
PHIL 320. Ethical Theory

**Graduate Work.** The advanced degrees of master of arts and doctor of philosophy are offered. For details of these programs, see the *Graduate Studies Bulletin*.

**Prerequisites.** There are no prerequisites for courses below the 300 level. The prerequisites for courses at the 300 level are 3 hours or permission, unless otherwise stated. The prerequisites for courses at the 400 level are 9 hours of philosophy or permission, unless otherwise stated.

## Courses of Instruction (PHIL)

[ES][IS] 101. **Introduction to Philosophy** (3 cr)  
Historical-cultural introduction to philosophy. Considers a broad range of philosophical problems in relation to the major historical and cultural conditions which have influenced their formulations and proposed solutions. Topics: the principles of rational inquiry; the nature of knowledge; the metaphysics of mind, world, and God; and the sources and authority of morality.

[ES][IS] 106. **Philosophy and Current Issues** (3 cr)  
Critical survey of current issues and the role of philosophy in attempts to resolve them. Recent topics: sexual morality, pornography and the law, capital punishment, sexism and racism, extraordinary treatment for the terminally ill, abortion, church and state, and nuclear war and disarmament.

[ES][IS] 110 [110x]. **Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking** (3 cr)  
Introduction to the principles of correct reasoning and their application. Emphasis on improving skills of thinking and reading critically, analyzing and evaluating arguments objectively, and constructing sound arguments based on relevant evidence.

[ES][IS] 116. **Philosophy and Religious Belief** (3 cr)  
Introduction to philosophical issues about the nature and justification of religious belief. Issues include the conception of God in Judaism and Christianity; the role of faith, reason, and religious experience in religious belief; the traditional arguments for the existence of God; the problem of evil; the idea of immortality; the relations between religion and science and religion and morality.

[ES][IS] 182. **Alpha Learning Community Freshman Seminar** (3 cr) *Requires enrollment in the Alpha Learning Community Program. PHIL 183 is normally taken in the next term.*  
Topic varies.

[ES][IS] 183. **Alpha Learning Community Freshman Seminar** (3 cr) *Prereq: PHIL 182. Requires enrollment in the Alpha Learning Community Program.*  
Topic varies.

[ES][IS] 189H. **University Honors Seminar** (3 cr) *Prereq: Good standing in the University Honors Program or by invitation. University Honors Seminar 189H is required of all students in the University Honors Program.*  
Topic varies.

[ES][IS] 211. **Introduction to Modern Logic** (3 cr)  
Methods of deductive thinking, with applications to deductive inferences in science and everyday life. Emphasis on applications of logic in other areas such as mathematics and morality.

[ES][IS] 213. **Medical Ethics** (3 cr)  
Philosophical study of moral problems in modern medicine, exploring such issues as the allocation of scarce medical resources, patients rights, research on human subjects, abortion, the care of seriously impaired newborns, and socialized medicine and the right to health care.

[ES][IS] 216. **Introduction to Psychology and Philosophy** (PSYC 216) (3 cr)  
Exploration of a number of topics to which both psychological research and philosophical reflection are relevant. Include two kinds of cases: where psychological findings bear on the resolution of some traditional philosophical issues and where philosophical analysis and criticism can be helpful in understanding or assessing a psychological theory or finding.

[ES][IS] 218. **Philosophy of Feminism** (WMNS 218) (3 cr) *Lec.*  
Fundamental assumptions and philosophical foundations of varieties of feminist thought. Nature of gender, gender identity, sex differences, and the role of science in defining sex and gender.

[ES][IS] 220. **Elements of Ethics** (3 cr)  
Wide range of basic issues in ethical theory, typically including: the nature of justice; the objectivity of moral values; the source of moral obligation; and the conditions of the good life. Each issue approached through historically important texts such as Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Kant's *Groundwork*, and Mill's *Utilitarianism*.

[ES] 221. **Political Philosophy** (3 cr)  
Basic concepts and problems of political theory. Freedom, equality, democracy, justice, and the relation of the individual to the state.

[ES][IS] 221H. **Honors: Political Philosophy** (3 cr)  
*Prereq: Good standing in the University Honors Program or by invitation.*  
Basic concepts and problems of political theory. Freedom, equality, democracy, justice, and the relation of the individual to the state.

[ES][IS] 223. **Introduction to the Philosophy of History** (3 cr)  
Nature and grounds of historical knowledge; objectivity vs. subjectivity in the writing of history; historical explanation; and patterns in human history. Primary sources include Hegel, Marx, and Toynbee.

[ES][IS] 230. **Philosophy of Law** (3 cr)  
Philosophical problems of the law and of legal systems. Includes legal reasoning, judicial interpretation, legal language and definition, legal obligation, law and morality, and legal paternalism. Concepts of law, constitutionality, legislative intent, fair trial, criminal responsibility, punishment, fault, and strict liability. Applications to social issues of individual freedom, human rights, privacy, discrimination, and justice.

[ES][IS] 231. **History of Philosophy (Ancient)** (3 cr)  
Beginnings of Greek philosophy: the pre-Socratics and the systems of Plato and Aristotle with emphasis on historical connections and the critical interpretation of texts.

[ES][IS] 232. **History of Philosophy (Modern)** (3 cr)  
Survey of the more important systems in Western philosophy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with emphasis on historical connections and the critical interpretation of texts.

[ES] 265. **Philosophy of Religion** (3 cr)  
Introduction to the philosophical understanding of religion. Includes a number of views on the nature of God, on the possibility of knowledge of God's existence through either argumentation or religious experience, and on the relation between religion and morality.

299. **Independent Study in Philosophy** (1-24 cr) *Prereq: Permission.*

[ES][IS] 301. **Theory of Knowledge** (3 cr) *Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.*  
Introduction to some major problems of epistemology, with emphasis on the understanding and evaluation of the problems, rather than on learning what various philosophers have said about them. Treats such questions as the nature and scope of knowledge; the sources of knowledge in perception, memory, and reasoning; the nature of evidence and its relation to knowledge; the possibility of knowledge of the mental lives of others; the nature and justification of inductive reasoning; and the concept of causality and its relation to explanation.

[ES][IS] 302. **Introduction to Metaphysics** (3 cr) *Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.*  
Introduction to some main problems, and some central concepts, of metaphysics. Focuses on the nature of being and existence, and on various questions concerning the relations between different kinds of entities: minds and bodies, causes and effects, universals and particulars, etc.

[ES][IS] 314. **Problems in the Philosophy of Mind** (3 cr) *Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.*  
Major problems in the philosophy of mind: the relation between the mental and the physical; the role of mental concepts in explaining human actions; the possibility of life after death; the concept of a person; the structure of character and personality; and the analysis of various important mental concepts, such as thought, belief, desire, emotion, sensation, and pleasure.

[ES] 317. **Philosophy of Science** (3 cr) *Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.*  
Critical analysis of the philosophical foundations of the sciences. Nature of theories, observation in science, the interpretation of theories, the scientific method, explanation, interfield relations, patterns of scientific development, and the role of philosophy in science studies in general.

[ES][IS] 320. **Ethical Theory** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Morality, considering the major views in normative ethics as well as a broad range of questions in theoretical ethics centering on the nature of morality and its place in human life.

[ES][IS] 323. **Topics in Applied Ethics** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Application of systematic moral theories to specific moral issues. Issues of social justice and environmental, journalistic and medical ethics.

[ES][IS] 325. **Advanced Social Political Philosophy** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Various competing contemporary philosophical approaches to issues of social justice, with special attention to issues of individual rights, political liberty, and distributive justice.

[ES][IS] 327. **Aesthetics** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Critical exposition of the main classical and contemporary theories of art: Expressionist, Formalist, and Representationalist. Theories considered in definition of art, of aesthetic judgment, of art criticism, and of aesthetic value. Examples drawn from painting, literature, music, and movies.

[ES] 331. **Hellenistic Philosophy** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Philosophy after Aristotle in the classical period, including the Stoics, Epicureans, and Skeptics, emphasizing historical connections and critical textual interpretation.

[ES][IS] 332. **Spinoza** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Philosophy of Spinoza, focusing on his principal work, the *Ethics*. Various metaphysical and epistemological aspects of Spinoza's thought, including his ideas on the nature and existence of God, the relation between mind and body, and relations between language, truth and reason.

[ES][IS] 335. **History of Medieval Philosophy** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Philosophers from the fourth through the fourteenth centuries, including Augustine and Aquinas, emphasizing historical connections and the critical interpretation of texts.

[ES][IS] 336. **Ethics: Ancient and Medieval** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Ancient and medieval theories of morality. Connection between self-interest and morality, what morality is, and pleasure.

[ES][IS] 337. **Knowledge: Ancient and Medieval** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Ancient and medieval knowledge, focusing on perception, faith, and thought.

[ES][IS] 338. **Metaphysics: Ancient and Medieval** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Ancient and medieval metaphysical theories, focusing on persons, gods, and properties.

[ES] 340. **Contemporary Analytical Philosophy** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Development of 20th century philosophy in the English speaking world. Realism, skepticism, reference, and representation. Figures include Frege, Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Lewis, and Kyle. Developments in each of the major fields of philosophy, including ethics.

[ES][IS] 341. **Contemporary Continental Philosophy** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Recent developments in continental philosophy, in particular of different forms of social criticism which it has generated. Includes discussion of Marxists, Foucault and other philosophers influenced by Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, the existentialists, and Derrida. The language of social science; the controversy between problems of the issue the ethics of and the relation. -

[ES][IS] 342. **American Philosophy** (3 cr) Prereq: 3 hrs philosophy or permission.

Development of American Pragmatism from 1870's to the present. Essential writings of C. S. Peirce, William James, and John Dewey; other currents in American thought such as Critical Realism and Idealism; and contemporary philosophical views that continue the spirit of pragmatism.

398. **Special Topics in Philosophy** (1-24 cr) Prereq: Permission.

399. **Independent Study in Philosophy** (1-24 cr) Prereq: Permission.

399H. **Honors Course** (1-4 cr) Prereq: Open to candidates for degrees with distinction, with high distinction, and with highest distinction in the College of Arts and Sciences.

[IS] 400. **Undergraduate Seminar in Philosophy** (3 cr)

Prereq: Philosophy major and permission of philosophy undergraduate advisor. Central philosophical problems or the work of some significant philosopher. Reading of primary sources, the interpretation of philosophical texts, and the writing of research papers.

409/809. **Theory of Knowledge** (3 cr)

Intensive study of basic problems in the Theory of Knowledge: the nature of knowledge, the analysis of perception and memory; the justification of induction, the problem of how one knows other minds, and the analysis of a *prior* knowledge. Readings from recent work.

411/811. **Formal Logic** (3 cr) Prereq: PHIL 211 or equivalent or permission.

Modern logic, including truth function theory, first order quantification, identity, terms and the model theory of first order languages.

412/812. **Modal Logic** (3 cr) Prereq: 9 hrs philosophy including PHIL 211 or equivalent or permission.

Syntax and model theory of quantified modal logic with applications to e.g., deontic logic, epistemic logic, and the philosophy of logic.

414/814. **Philosophy of Mind** (3 cr)

Main problems in the philosophy of mind, including dualism and materialism, instrumentalism and eliminativism, wide and narrow content, qualia, and mental causation.

418/818. **Metaphysics** (3 cr)

Intensive study of main problems in metaphysics, especially universals and particulars, the relation of mind and matter, the categories of the real, criteria of identity, and existential propositions. Readings from recent philosophers.

423/823. **Advanced Ethics** (3 cr)

Critical study of leading theories in ethics, with close attention to major works, chiefly modern and contemporary. Includes naturalism, intuitionism, emotivism, utilitarianism, Neo-Kantian ethics, and various current positions.

425/825. **Political and Social Philosophy** (3 cr)

Critical study of main problems and leading theories in social and political philosophy. Origin and justification of political obligation, with emphasis on social contract theories; the nature and foundation of individual rights and the strength of these rights when they conflict with each other and with concern for the common good; the principles of social justice and the obligation to protect the welfare of others; and the concepts of personal autonomy, liberty, equality, and freedom. Readings from a combination of historical and recent work, and emphasis on relating the various issues to current problems in society.

450/850. **Ancient Philosophy** (3 cr)

Advanced survey of ancient philosophy from the pre-Socratics through Aristotle, concentrating on central epistemological and metaphysical issues.

460/860. **History of Modern Philosophy** (3 cr)

Advanced survey of early European philosophy from the late renaissance through the Enlightenment, concentrating on central epistemological and metaphysical issues.

471/871. **Kant** (3 cr)

Kant's philosophy and problems in the interpretation of his writings. Primary text is the *First Critique*.

489/889. **Philosophical Themes** (1-24 cr) Prereq: Open to graduate students and, with the consent of the instructor, to seniors and especially qualified juniors.

Library work and conferences.

## Seminars

The seminar unit is normally represented by 3 credit hours per semester. However, in exceptional cases a student may be given permission to register for more or less than 3 hours.

801. **Philosophical Analysis** (3 cr) Prereq: Permission from philosophy graduate advisor.

805. **Philosophy of Language** (3 cr)

817. **Philosophy of Science** (3 cr)

899. **Masters Thesis** (6-10 cr)

Refer to the Graduate Bulletin for 900-level courses.