

PHILOSOPHY Major Requirements

Students who major in philosophy are expected to complete eleven courses in the field. As many as eight of the eleven courses must meet the distribution requirements indicated below. The remaining courses are electives selected at the student's discretion. Students are urged to take the courses listed in Logic and 'Philosophical Movements, Approaches, and Traditions' as soon as possible after they decide to major. The philosophy faculty has structured these requirements to allow students the flexibility to plan their own programs within the constraints of a broad philosophical education. Students arrange their programs in consultation with their departmental advisor. First-year seminars and Short Term courses taught by philosophy faculty count toward the eleven required courses. In addition, students may, with departmental approval, fulfill one of the eleven courses with a course from another related field. Study-abroad courses and transfer courses, as well as less frequently offered courses not listed here may satisfy major distribution requirements with the approval of the department. Those considering graduate or professional school are encouraged to consult with their advisor in order to design an appropriate course of study. Courses can be double-counted where applicable (that is, counted in more than one category).

1) Logic. PHIL 195. Introduction to Logic.

2) Philosophical Movements, Approaches, and Traditions (MAT). Two of the following:

PHIL 262. Feminist Philosophy.

PHIL 271. Ancient Philosophy.

PHIL 272. Philosophy in the Modern Era (1600-1800).

PHIL 273. Philosophy in The Ninetieth Century: Power, Persons, and Freedom.

PHIL 274. 20th C European Philosophy: Consciousness and Reality

PHIL 310. Buddhist Philosophy.

3) Ethics and Political Philosophy (the good, the right, and community). One of the following:

PHIL 213. Biomedical Ethics.

PHIL 214. Environmental Ethics.

PHIL 233. Making Moral Minds: Nature, Nurture, and the Sources of Morality.

PHIL 255. Human Nature, Politics, and Morals.

PHIL 256. Moral Philosophy.

PHIL 257. Moral Luck and Social Identity.

PHIL 258. Philosophy of Law.

PHIL 268. Capitalism and Its Critics.

4) Metaphysics and Epistemology (being, meaning, knowledge). One of the following:

PHIL 210. Philosophy of Cognitive Science.

PHIL 211. Philosophy of Science.

PHIL 235. Philosophy of Mind.

PHIL 236. Theory of Knowledge.

PHIL 245. Metaphysics.

PHIL 260. Philosophy of Religion.

5) Seminars. Two courses at the 300 level.

6) Senior Thesis.

PHIL 457 or PHIL 458. Double majors may elect to complete only one thesis/capstone in their other major, provided it satisfies the Bates W3 requirement. Eleven philosophy courses are still required, so students who elect not to write thesis must take one more philosophy elective (replacing 457/458).

PHILOSOPHY Minor

The minor in philosophy consists of six courses. A coherent program for each student's minor is designed in accordance with program guidelines and in consultation with a member of the philosophy faculty who is chosen or appointed as the student's departmental advisor for the minor. The minor may include one first-year seminar and up to two Short Term courses in philosophy. Study-abroad courses and transfer courses can be counted with the approval of the department chair.

General Education Concentrations (GECs)

Philosophy (C042)

Any Four philosophy courses. This concentration introduces students to the reflective enterprise that is philosophy. There is a sense in which philosophy is the original interdisciplinary subject. In the words of the twentieth-century American philosopher Wilfrid Sellars: "The aim of philosophy, abstractly formulated, is to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term." As such, philosophy attempts to understand how all of the many descriptions and explanations of things that are given by the other disciplines are related to one another.

Philosophy and Psychology (C031)

Two Philosophy Courses and Two Psychology Courses. This concentration is intended to acquaint students with scholarly work on questions of interest to both philosophers and psychologists, and to facilitate students' own clear thinking on such issues. Given the breadth of the disciplines of philosophy and psychology, a wide variety of issues is addressed in these courses. Topics include moral judgment, moral responsibility, sensation and perception, the self, theory of mind, and the relationship between mind and brain. Students consider such issues from both disciplinary perspectives. Four credits from a selected list of courses, two of which must be from philosophy and two of which must be from psychology or neuroscience.

Philosophy courses contribute to many other GECs