

CONCENTRATION IN PHILOSOPHY

Students must earn a "C" or better in each course taken to fulfill a concentration requirement.

Advisory Board:

[Dr. Nicholas Baima](#)
[Dr. Ashley Kennedy](#)
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The essence of philosophy is formulating and asking questions. Philosophy teaches not what is true, but rather how to think in ways that are conducive to discovering truth. How you ask a question can determine the likelihood of success in finding an appropriate answer, and in taking philosophy, you learn methods for asking the kinds of questions that can lead to understanding and knowledge of the world. Philosophy is critical thinking. It requires deep consideration, reflection, and evaluation of ideas, principles, approaches, and even of the very tools and processes of understanding, reflection and evaluation themselves. When you engage in philosophy you build your mental muscles, improving your clarity of expression, honing your analytical skills, and gaining appropriate tools for logical and critical evaluation. Being skilled in philosophical thinking allows you to go beyond narrow views about nearly any issue and instead arrive at a more nuanced and in depth understanding. By studying philosophy, you become adept at understanding the support for and implications of a view, thus allowing you to formulate alternatives, evaluate competing claims, and develop beliefs that you can be confident are supported by good reasoning.

Philosophy is not for everyone. It is not for people who are content to rest with their assumptions about the world, or who are unprepared to delve into deep questions about the nature of everything. It is for those of us who want to understand; who want not just to live, but to live responsibly and to live well; who cannot imagine living their lives without pondering the deeper questions, seeking truth, and asking why.

There are three main areas of philosophy:

1. Metaphysics: examines the nature of reality, including the nature of the mind and body.

2. Epistemology: examines what knowledge is and sound reasoning methods.

3. Ethics: examines morality, political theories, and what it means to live well.

In addition, there are ancillary topics in philosophy.

4. History of Philosophy: examines philosophical developments and ideas related to a particular time. (e.g. ancient Greek philosophy)

5. Special Topics: examine the philosophical issues related to a narrow domain: (e.g. philosophy of medicine).

There are two tracks in philosophy. Students choosing a philosophy concentration will take 36 credit hours in philosophy, which includes 15 required credits, 15 elective credits, and a 6 credit thesis.

Students may also choose an interdisciplinary philosophy concentration, in which they take 15 credits in philosophy and 15 in other disciplines or interdisciplinary area such as physics, psychology, literature, fine art, women's studies, or political science and write a thesis combining philosophy and the selected area. Students selecting this track must consult with both their philosophy advisor and an advisor from the area selected.

Philosophy, quite generally, is critical thinking. It requires deep consideration, reflection and evaluation, be it of ideas, principles, approaches, or even of the very tools or processes of understanding, reflection and evaluation. The essence of philosophy is formulating and asking questions. How one asks a question can determine the likelihood of success in finding an appropriate answer. Philosophy teaches students not what is true, but rather how to think. It is exercising mental muscles; and engaging in philosophy means improving clarity of expression, honing analytical skills, and gaining appropriate tools for logical and critical evaluation. Being skilled in thinking about things philosophically makes one good at going beyond narrow views about nearly any issue. It makes one adept at drawing out the implications of an approach and thereby providing a sound basis for formulating alternatives and evaluating competing claims.

Philosophy is not for everyone. It is not for persons who are content to rest with unquestioned assumptions, or who are unprepared to delve into deeper questions. It is for those of us who want to understand; who want not just to live, but to live responsibly and to live a good life; who cannot imagine living their lives without pondering the deeper questions and without asking why.

Philosophy courses can generally be grouped into four areas, though several may fall into more than one area:

1. **History of philosophy**
2. **Logic**
3. **Theory of value:** ethics, both theoretical and applied, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of law
4. **Speculative philosophy:** theory of knowledge, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, phenomenology, philosophy of the natural and social sciences, philosophy of religion, environmental philosophy

There are two tracks in philosophy. Students choosing a philosophy concentration will take 30 credit hours in philosophy, which includes 15 required credits and 15 elective credits. Students may also choose an interdisciplinary philosophy concentration, in which they take 15 credits in philosophy and 15 in other disciplines or interdisciplinary area: e.g. physics, psychology, literature, fine art, women's studies, political science, and they will write a thesis combining philosophy and the selected area. Students selecting this track must consult with both their philosophy advisor and an advisor from the area selected.

Available Options:

Philosophy concentration; Interdisciplinary Concentration in Philosophy and another area of study; Minor Concentration in Philosophy.

Concentration in Philosophy

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Course Name	Credits
Either PHH 3100 Ancient Greek Philosophy or PHH 3150 Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy; and PHH 3400 Modern Philosophy I Ancient Greek Philosophy, Modern Philosophy I	6
PHI 2101 Introduction to Logic	3
PHI 3670 Honors Ethical theory	3
PHI 3300 Theory of Knowledge or PHI 3320 Philosophy of Mind or PHI 4400 Philosophy of Science Theory of Knowledge	3
15 credits of philosophy electives (see list below)	15
Honors Thesis (IDS 4970)	6
Total	36

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Interdisciplinary Concentration in Philosophy and Another Discipline

15 credits in Philosophy courses from the list below. At least 9 credits must be at the 3000 or 4000 level	15
15 credits in another discipline	15
Honors Thesis (IDS 4970)	6
Total	36

Course Name	Credits
Ancient Greek Philosophy, Modern Philosophy I	6
Introduction to Logic	3
Ethical theory	3
Theory of Knowledge	6
15 credits in another discipline	15
Honors Thesis (IDS 4970)	6

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Course Name

Credits

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Total

39

Required Courses

Course #	Course Name	-	Credits
PHH 3100	Honors Ancient Greek Philosophy	-	3
PHH 3400	Honors Modern Philosophy I	-	3
PHI 2101	Honors Introduction to Logic	-	3
PHI 3670	Honors Ethical Theory	-	3
PHI 3300	Honors Theory of Knowledge	-	3

Philosophy Electives Courses

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Course #	Course Name	Credits
PHH 3150	Honors Greek and Roman Philosophy	3
PHH 3930	Honors Special Topics in the History of Philosophy	3
PHI 1933	Honors Freshman Seminar in Philosophy	- 3
PHI 2010	Honors Introduction to Philosophy	3

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Course #	Course Name	Credits
PHI 2642	Honors Ethics of Social Diversity	3
PHI 2361	Honors Ways of Knowing	3
PHI 3653	Honors Ethics in Business, Government and Society	3
PHI 3692	Honors Artificial Intelligence Ethics	3
PHI 3882	Philosophy of Literature	- 3
PHP 3502	Honors Hegel's Political Philosophy	3
PHI 3633	Honors Biomedical Ethics	3
PHI 3456	Honors Philosophy of Medicine	3
PHI 3682	Honors Environmental Philosophy	3
PHI 3644	Honors Obligations (Ethics)	3
PHI 3704	Honors Philosophy of Religion	3
PHI 4906	Honors Directed Independent Study	1-4
PHI 4915	Honors Directed Independent Research in Philosophy	1-3
PHI 4930	Honors Special Topics in Philosophy	3
PHI 4959	Honors Study Abroad in Philosophy	3
PHP 3502	Honors Hegel's Political Philosophy	3
PHP 3522	Honors Seminar in Nietzsche	3
POT 3021	Honors History of Political Theory	3

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Senior Thesis: The thesis or project will integrate the student's studies and demonstrate her/his understanding of key areas of philosophical inquiry and its application in selected areas of study, as well as his/her readiness to pursue graduate study. The thesis will be written under the direction of a thesis advisor and committee and defended orally. Traditional textual formats as well as digital media may be employed.

Restrictions: Students are expected to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 in the concentration. Courses receiving a grade lower than C may not be included for credit in the concentration.