

# Philosophy

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The Philosophy major prepares students to reflect critically and creatively on questions concerning the nature of things, the scope and limits of human understanding, and the principles of value and right action. The major aims to address these questions wherever they arise, whether in the philosophical tradition, in other disciplines and practices, or in everyday life. Our courses are designed to encourage depth in thinking, rigor in argument, clarity in writing and speaking, and the widest possible view of whatever subject matter we take up.

## COURSE NUMBERING

Courses numbered with the initial digit 0 are first-year seminars and have no prerequisites. Courses with the initial digit 2 are intermediate-level courses. Some have prerequisites; others do not and may be taken as a student's first course in philosophy, though such a student should consult the instructor first. In general, it is a good idea to take a broadly based course in any area of philosophy before taking a specialized course. Courses numbered with initial digits 3 and 4 are advanced and are taught as limited enrollment seminars. These courses are intended primarily for juniors and seniors, though other students may be admitted with the instructor's permission. Undergraduates should be sure they have enough background to take such a course, including previous work in the same area of philosophy.

## PREREQUISITES

Prerequisite to the standard major are two introductory or intermediate philosophy courses. Prerequisite to the concentration in psychology are two introductory or intermediate courses in philosophy or psychology.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

See Links to the attributes indicating courses approved for the Philosophy major requirements.

The Philosophy curriculum is divided into three broad groups: history of philosophy; metaphysics and epistemology; and ethics and value theory (See Course Attributes). The group to which a course belongs is indicated in Yale Course Search (YCS). This information is found in the "course information" section of each course listing. Students can search for courses satisfying a given group requirement in YCS by clicking the drop-down menu titled, "Any Course Information Attribute."

The standard major requires twelve term courses (including the prerequisites and the senior requirement) that collectively expose students to a wide range of philosophy and philosophers. In the history of philosophy group, majors are required to take (1) PHIL 1125 and PHIL 1126 (DRST 0003 and DRST 0004 can substitute for PHIL 1125 and 1126), and (2) an additional, third course in history of philosophy. Majors are encouraged to take PHIL 1125 and PHIL 1126 as early as possible; these courses may be taken in either order. Majors must also complete two courses in metaphysics and epistemology, two courses in ethics and value theory, and a course in logic (such as PHIL 1115), the last preferably by the fall of their junior year. Majors

must also take two advanced seminars at the 3000+ level (either or both of which can be counted toward one of the group requirements) and satisfy the senior requirement as described below.

All courses in Philosophy count toward the twelve-course requirement. With approval from the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), courses offered by other departments may be counted toward the major requirements, though no more than two such courses will normally be allowed.

Specific regulations for the group requirements are as follows:

1. Some introductory courses do not count toward any group requirement.
2. Courses automatically count toward the group under which they are listed in Yale Course Search (YCS). In rare cases, a course will be designated as counting toward a second group, although no one course can be counted toward two group requirements. Students may petition to have a course count toward a group other than the one under which it is listed, though the presumption will be against such petitions.
3. Courses taken in other departments and applied to the major will not normally count toward a group requirement. Students may petition for credit toward a group requirement, though the presumption will be against such petitions.

**The psychology concentration** The psychology concentration is designed for students interested in both philosophy and psychology. Majors in the concentration must take seven courses in philosophy and five in psychology, for a total of twelve, including the prerequisites and senior requirement. The seven philosophy courses must include (1) two courses in the history of philosophy, usually PHIL 1125 and PHIL 1126 or DRST 0003 and DRST 0004, (2) a course in logic, such as PHIL 1115, preferably by the fall of the junior year, (3) two seminars, one of which may be in the Psychology department, with the approval of the DUS, and (4) at least two courses at the intermediate or advanced level that bear on the intersection of philosophy and psychology, at least one of which must be a philosophy seminar. Courses satisfying (4) must be approved by the DUS. The five psychology courses must include PSYC 1100 or its equivalent. Each major must also satisfy the senior requirement as described below.

**Credit/D/Fail** At most one class taken Credit/D/Fail can count toward the requirements of the major. Courses taken Credit/D/Fail cannot fulfill any specific distribution requirements within the major – they cannot fulfill the group requirements, the seminar requirement, the senior requirement, or (on the psychology track) the intersection requirement. But if all those requirements are fulfilled with classes taken for a letter grade, then one of the remaining 12 total credits may be fulfilled with a class taken Credit/D/Fail, however, that course will count as a non-A grade when calculating for distinction in the major.

**Outside credit** Courses taken at another institution or during an approved summer or term-time study abroad program may count toward the major requirements with DUS approval.

#### SENIOR REQUIREMENT

The senior requirement is normally satisfied by completing a third philosophy seminar. Students taking a seminar to satisfy the senior requirement are expected to produce

work superior in argument and articulation to that of a standard seminar paper. To this end, students taking a seminar for the senior requirement must satisfy additional requirements, which may include (1) additional readings, (2) submission of a complete draft of the final paper by the eighth week of the term that will then be significantly revised, and (3) one-on-one or small-group meetings with the instructor to discuss class material, the additional readings, and drafts in preparation. The specific nature of these additional requirements will vary from seminar to seminar. Students planning to satisfy the requirement with a third seminar should express that intention to the instructor at the beginning of the term, so the instructor can explain the work that will be required.

In special cases, students may meet the senior requirement through either a one-term or a two-term independent project supervised by an instructor (PHIL 4490, PHIL 4491). Students must petition to fulfill the senior requirement through an independent project, and approval is not guaranteed. Applicants must submit a proposal to the DUS, in consultation with an appropriate supervisor, by the end of the term prior to beginning the independent study.

#### ADVISING

By default, advising in the philosophy department is done by the DUS. Juniors have the option of selecting an alternative adviser—which should be done by the first of October in the junior year—but all seniors are advised by the DUS. The adviser aids students in choosing courses.

**Other majors involving philosophy** Majors in Mathematics and Philosophy and in Physics and Philosophy are also available. Students interested in philosophy and psychology should also consider the major in Cognitive Science.

### SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

**Prerequisites** *Standard major*—2 intro or intermediate phil courses; *Psychology concentration*—any 2 courses in phil or psych

**Number of courses** 12 term courses, incl prereqs and senior req

**Specific courses required** *Standard major*—PHIL 1125 and PHIL 1126, or DRST 0003 and DRST 0004; *Psychology concentration*—PSYC 1100 or equivalent

**Distribution of courses** *Standard major*—3 courses in hist of phil (incl PHIL 1125 and PHIL 1126, or DRST 0003 and DRST 0004), 2 in metaphysics and epistemology, 2 in ethics and value theory, and 1 in logic; 2 phil sems at 3000+ level; *Psychology concentration*—7 courses in phil, as specified; 5 courses in psych (incl PSYC 1100)

**Substitution permitted** 2 related courses in other depts, with DUS permission

**Senior requirement** a third sem in phil, or a one- or two-term independent project (PHIL 4490, PHIL 4491)

### FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**Professors** Stephen Darwall, Michael Della Rocca, Keith DeRose, Paul Franks, Tamar Gendler, Robert Gooding-Williams, Daniel Greco, Verity Harte, Brad Inwood, Shelly Kagan, Joshua Knobe, LA Paul, Thomas Pogge, Scott Shapiro, Sun-Joo Shin, Steven Smith, Jason Stanley, Zoltán Szabó, Gideon Yaffe

**Associate Professors** Tim Clarke, Robin Dembroff, John Pittard

**Assistant Professors** Tyler Brooke-Williams, Claudia Dumitru, Lily Hu, Jacob McNulty