

PHILOSOPHY

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Professors:

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Assistant Professors:

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Advisers:

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HEGIS Code: 1509

Majors Offered	Number Credits	Recommended Required GER	Prereq	Recommended Minor
BA in Philosophy	30	<p>Stage 2, Group B: ANTHC 101 HIST 121, 122 HIST 201 PSYCH 100</p> <p>Stage 2, Group D: ARTH 111 MUSHL 101</p> <p>Stage 2, Group E: BIOL 100,102 PHYS 101 PHYS 110 PHYS 111 SCI 101,102</p>	1 course in philosophy. The courses listed below serve as an appropriate first course in philosophy and serve as a prerequisite for 200-level courses required for philosophy major: PHILO 101, 103, 104,106, 203, 204	See adviser

Philosophy studies the most fundamental questions that human beings ask — about individual and social action, the possibility and limits of knowledge, the truth and justification of beliefs, human nature and freedom, the existence of God and the operations of nature. Philosophy approaches these questions in a systematic way and philosophers have worked out more or less comprehensive theories to answer them (or show why they cannot be answered). The courses offered by the Philosophy Department are designed to introduce students to the main problems that philosophers study and to the main ideas of such profound and influential thinkers as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume and Kant.

Philosophy is one of the most important subjects a student can study because it develops the ability to reason clearly and critically, to write thoughtfully, to use intelligence and logic to deal with problems all too often ruled by emotion and prejudice. Philosophy also helps one develop intellectual flexibility and learn to appreciate ideas and beliefs other than those of one's own time, place, class or group. Since it develops these intellectual abilities and habits, the study of philosophy, either in individual courses or as a major or minor, is excellent preparation for any profession or occupation.

Students of philosophy pursue careers in law, business, medicine, government and the arts. Some go on to study philosophy at the graduate level with the aim either of teaching philosophy or of obtaining an advanced degree to further their career objectives.

Recommended GER

Courses for Philosophy Majors In general, students should follow their interests in selecting courses to satisfy the GER. However, some courses are recommended for philosophy majors satisfying the requirement.

In satisfying Stage 2, Group B (social science), courses in history are particularly appropriate — for instance, HIST 201 for those interested in ancient philosophy, or HIST 121 or 122 for those interested in modern philosophy. In addition, since research in psychology and anthropology is frequently relevant to issues in contemporary philosophy, courses such as PSYCH 100 or ANTHC 101 are recommended.

Prospective majors should note that all of the courses that are prerequisites for the major (PHILO 101, 103, 104, 106, 203, 204) also satisfy the Stage 2, Group C (humanities) requirement. In satisfying Stage 2, Group D (visual and performing arts), courses related to debates in aesthetics, such as ART H 111 or MUSHL 101, are especially recommended. In satisfying Stage 2, Group E (natural science), courses in physics or biological sciences are particularly appropriate—especially PHYS 101 or, for those students with the relevant prerequisites, PHYS 110 and 111 or BIOL 100 and 102. In addition, SCI 101 and 102

may also be a good way to fulfill this requirement, particularly for those who are intending to become teachers.

While a number of courses in philosophy may be used to satisfy the Stage 3, Groups A or B requirements, these may not count toward the philosophy major and so must be taken in addition to courses that satisfy major requirements. Philosophy majors should note that a large number of courses offered by the department are W courses and can therefore be counted toward that requirement. While any foreign language offered at Hunter College can be used to fulfill the requirement, languages particularly appropriate for philosophy majors are German, Greek, French, Latin and, to a lesser extent, Chinese.

In fulfilling the pluralism and diversity requirement, philosophy majors should note the following courses in the department that meet this requirement: PHILO 219 for Group A, PHILO 226 for Group B, PHILO 216 and 230 for Group C and PHILO 106, 201, 203, 204, 212, 214, 215, 218, 220, 225 and 228 for Group D.

Program Prerequisites

One of the following courses constitutes an appropriate first course in philosophy, as well as serving as a prerequisite for 200-level (or higher where

specified courses) that are required for the philosophy major: PHILO 101, 103, 104, 106, 203, 204.

Note: none of these courses count toward the major requirements, though any one is a prerequisite for declaring a major.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

30 cr. distributed as follows:

- 3 cr. in logic: PHILO 171
- 9 cr. in history of philosophy: PHILO 212, 215 and 218
- 3 cr. in ethics, politics and aesthetics: any course from PHILO 244, 246, or 258
- 3 cr. in metaphysics and epistemology: any course from PHILO 360, 362, 364, 366, or 379
- 3 cr. in the intensive study of a major philosopher: any course from PHILO 380, 381, 383, 384, 386, 387, 388, or 389
- 9 additional cr. chosen in consultation with the adviser. Students are required to select at least one course (3 cr.) at the 300-level. Also they are encouraged to select courses that acquaint them with philosophic traditions other than the dominant Western ones.

Minor

A philosophy major is permitted to minor in all programs leading to the BA degree that the college offers. The minor may include only 3 credits at the 100 level and must include at least 3 credits at the 300 level. Exceptions may be made with the permission of a Philosophy department adviser. Double majors are also permitted. Students fulfilling the requirements of both the philosophy major and another separate major are released from the requirement of completing a minor by the Philosophy Department.

Recommended Minors for Philosophy Majors

While any minor offered at Hunter College is acceptable for philosophy majors, certain minors may be more appropriate for students with particular philosophical interests, especially those considering graduate study in philosophy.

For students with historical interests, a minor in a language in which there is a substantial philosophical literature is appropriate. In particular, Greek or German, Latin, French, or Chinese may also be appropriate minors in cases of students with special interests.

For students with interests in politics, ethics, or aesthetics, minors in fields that devote considerable attention to the study of values (such as History, Africana & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies, English, Women's Studies, Art, Latin American & Caribbean Studies or Music) are appropriate.

For students with interests in ontology, epistemology, or logic, a minor in one of the sciences is appropriate. In particular, Psychology, Physics, or Mathematics. Anthropology or Biological Sciences may also be appropriate minors in cases of students with special interests.

Recommended Philosophy Minor Courses for Other Majors

Students should consult with their major department adviser in the selection of a minor. Students majoring in foreign languages and cultures who minor in philosophy should take courses on philosophers writing in the language of the major—for example, for Greek majors, PHILO 212, 380, 381; for German majors, PHILO 218, 384, 386, 387, 389; etc. Students majoring in English or fine arts fields should take historical courses that include the substantial study of values, such as PHILO 212 and/or 218, as well as courses dealing directly with problems of ethics or aesthetics, such as PHILO 244, 256 and 258. (In

addition, English majors should consider taking courses that include substantial study of English or American philosophers, such as PHILO 215, 225 and/or 383.) Students majoring in history or social studies fields should take historical courses related to their area of interest (for example, PHILO 212 for ancient history or PHILO 218 for late modern European history), as well as courses dealing directly with problems of politics and society, such as PHILO 246, 248 and 250. Students majoring in the sciences should take courses in logic (PHILO 171, 275, 279, 375), as well as courses directly related to their major field—for example, PHILO 268 and 366 for Psychology, PHILO 270 and 379 for Physics, or PHILO 376 for Mathematics.

Major Adviser

Philosophy majors must consult with one of several department advisers to review their course of study and progress toward the degree each semester. A semester by semester consultation with a department adviser makes it easier for philosophy majors to complete as coherently as possible all college and major requirements in a timely fashion.

Mentoring

Philosophy majors are encouraged to establish a relationship with a faculty mentor of their choice. This relationship can be distinct from the departmental advising relationship.

Honors

To be eligible for graduation with departmental honors in philosophy, a major must have at least a 3.50 GPA in philosophy, at least a 3.0 overall GPA. The student must register for the 3- or 6-credit PHILO 494, which is taken in addition to and is not part of the 30 credits for the major. The student must write a substantial paper under the direction of a full-time faculty member. Both the faculty member under whose direction the student is working and the departmental Honors Committee will judge this honors essay.

Independent Study

Students may engage in independent study under the supervision of a member of the Philosophy Department by receiving permission to take PHILO 492.

COURSE LISTINGS

Course prerequisites ENGL 120 and one previous course in philosophy are prerequisite to all 200-level courses, except where otherwise noted. Two courses in philosophy, at least one of which is at the 200 level, are prerequisite to all 300-level courses. The department especially encourages students majoring in or interested in philosophy, both with less than 6 credits toward the major in philosophy, to consult with a departmental adviser about courses and their prerequisites at this stage of their academic stay at Hunter.

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Note: PHILO 101, 103 and 104 offered each semester

PHILO 101 Introduction to Philosophy GER 2/C

Examination of basic philosophical questions through study of selected philosophical classics.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 103 Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking GER 2/C

Recognizing arguments; traditional logic including concepts, propositions, categorical, hypothetical and disjunctive syllogisms; argument structure, natural language argumentation, fallacies.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 104 Introduction to Ethics GER 2/C

Examination of standards of right conduct and the good life through study of selected philosophical classics.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 106 Philosophy, Politics and Society GER 2/C PD/D

Introduction to social and political philosophy.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

HUM 110(W) Map of Knowledge GER 2/C

Introduction to range of knowledge available in the curriculum. Discusses subject matter and methodology of various disciplines as well as their relations within and across the curriculum to aid students in making intelligent choices in their course of study.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 203 Great Philosophers: Ancient and Medieval GER 2/C PD/D

A comprehensive study of major philosophical thinkers, ideas and movements from the dawn of philosophy in ancient Greece to the time of the Renaissance.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 204 Great Philosophers: Modern and Contemporary GER 2/C PD/D

A comprehensive study of major philosophical thinkers, ideas and movements from the rise of modern philosophy in the 17th century to the present.
3 hrs, 3 cr.



I. LOGIC**PHILO 171 Introduction to Symbolic Logic**
GER 3/B

Sentential logic, including the truth-functional connectives, truth tables, symbolizations, consistency trees. Predicate logic, including quantificational symbolizations and consistency trees for quantifiers.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 275 Intermediate Symbolic Logic
GER 3/B

Sentential derivations, interpretations, symbolizations involving operator symbols, identity, definite descriptions, predicate derivations through logic of identity and definite descriptions. Cross-listed with MATH 275.

prereq: PHILO 171
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 279 Inductive Logic
GER 3/B

Deductive vs. inductive logic, basic forms of inductive inference, Mill's methods and controlled experiments, the probability calculus, interpretations of probability, the problem of induction, confirmation and disconfirmation of hypotheses.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 375 Advanced Symbolic Logic
GER 3/B

A survey of the central results and techniques of meta-logic, principally mathematical induction, the soundness and completeness of theorems for first-order logic, the Skolem theorem and Church's theorem on undecidability.

prereq: PHILO 275 or equiv.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

II. HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY**PHILO 212(W) Classical Greek Philosophy:
Plato and Aristotle**
GER 3/A PD/D

Study of major works of Plato and Aristotle in the context of the philosophical thought of the ancient world.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 214(W) Medieval Philosophy
GER 3/A PD/D

Study of major writings by medieval Arabic, Christian and Jewish philosophers such as Averroes, Aquinas and Maimonides.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 215(W) Foundations of Modern
Philosophy**
GER 3/A PD/D

Study of major philosophers of the 17th and early 18th centuries such as Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley and Hume.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 216 Women Philosophers of the Past
GER 3/A PD/C

Study of the writings and ideas of selected women philosophers who lived before the contemporary feminist movement.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 218(W) Revolutions in Modern
Philosophy**
GER 3/A PD/D

Study of major philosophers of the late 18th and 19th centuries such as Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Marx and Nietzsche.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 219 Asian Philosophies**
PD/A

Readings from classics of Indian, Chinese and Japanese philosophy drawn from traditions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Confucianism.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 220(W) Marxism
GER 3/A PD/D

Study of writings of Marx and Engels and of their followers and critics.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 225(W) American Philosophy
GER 3/A PD/D

Historical survey of major American philosophers such as Edwards, Emerson, Thoreau, Peirce, James, Royce, Santayana and Dewey.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 226(W) African-American
Philosophy**
GER 3/A PD/B

Development of the African-American intellectual tradition. Study of the work of such figures as Equiano, Douglass, Cooper, Blyden, Du Bois and Hurston.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 228(W) Existentialism
GER 3/A PD/D

Philosophical writings of major existentialists. Topics include nature of subjectivity, moral value, freedom, authenticity.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 230(W) Feminism: Philosophical
Theory and Practice**
GER 3/A PD/C

Analyses of feminist theories and their practical implications.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 320(W) Twentieth-Century
Philosophy**
GER 3/A

Survey of such movements as pragmatism, process philosophy, analytic philosophy, existentialism, phenomenology, feminism and postmodernism through consideration of such representative figures as Dewey, Moore, Whitehead, Russell, Husserl, Heidegger, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Sartre, De Beauvoir, Quine, Rorty and Rawls.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 322 Modern Philosophical Idealism
GER 3/A

Study of major works of Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, Bradley, Royce and their critics.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**III. ETHICS, POLITICS AND
AESTHETICS****PHILO 244(W) Moral Philosophy**
GER 3/A

Study of selected problems in philosophical ethics and moral psychology.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 246(W) Political Philosophy
GER 3/B

Study of selected philosophical problems in politics, law, economics and society.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 248(W) International Ethics
GER 3/B

Study of the ethical dimensions of problems in contemporary international relations, such as war and peace, imperialism, national identity and development.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 250(W) Problems of Ethics and
Society**
GER 3/B

Study of the ethical dimensions of contemporary social problems, such as poverty, consumption, sexual deviance, racism and environmental destruction.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 252 Problems of Law and Morality
GER 3/B

Philosophy of law and the relation of legal to ethical issues.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**PHILO 254(W) Ethical Issues in Biology and
Medical Care**
GER 3/B

Treats issues such as abortion, euthanasia, "extraordinary means," confidentiality, human experimentation, genetic control and allocation of limited life-saving therapy.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 256(W) Philosophical Ideas in Literature

GER 3/A

Analysis of major philosophical themes in some classics of world literature.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 258(W) Aesthetics

GER 3/A

Study of philosophical issues that arise in our understanding and criticism of the arts. Topics include nature of expression, purpose and standards of criticism and aesthetic value.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

IV. METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY**PHILO 201(W) Knowledge and Reality**

GER 3/A PD/D

Study of main problems of theory of knowledge and metaphysics such as personal identity, grounds of justified belief, existence of God, nature of free will and causality.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 262(W) Philosophy of Religion

GER 3/A

Philosophical examination of some religious questions and beliefs.

prereq: one course in philosophy or religion (see statement under 'Program Prerequisites' above)
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 268(W) Philosophical Psychology

GER 3/B

Views of human nature underlying some major contemporary schools of psychology, such as Freudian psychoanalysis, behaviorism, existential psychoanalysis, Piaget's developmental psychology.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 270(W) Philosophy, Science and Culture

GER 3/B

Issues relating to the impact of modern science on philosophy, religion and culture.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 360(W) Metaphysics

GER 3/A

Study of major metaphysical views, such as materialism, idealism, nominalism and realism. The major question is: What is reality and how may it be known?

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 362(W) Theory of Knowledge

GER 3/A

Study of origin, structure, methods and foundations of human knowledge.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 364(W) Philosophy of Language

GER 3/A

Inquiry into the philosophical significance of language, its structure, meaning, reference and use.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 366(W) Philosophy of Mind

GER 3/A

Examination of the concept of mind and the person. Topics include thinking, intention, consciousness, supervenience, emotion, self-knowledge.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 376(W) Philosophy of Mathematics

GER 3/B

Study of such issues as the nature of demonstration or proof and the nature of mathematical knowledge and mathematical objects such as numbers and sets. Cross-listed with MATH 376.

prereqs: ENGL 120; one PHILO course and one PHILO or MATH course (precalculus or beyond)
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 379(W) Philosophy of Science

GER 3/B

Study of foundations of knowledge in natural and social sciences.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

V. MAJOR PHILOSOPHERS**PHILO 380(W) Plato**

GER 3/A

Close study of major Platonic dialogues.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 381(W) Aristotle

GER 3/A

Close study of Aristotle's major writings.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 382(W) Major Figure in Medieval Philosophy

GER 3/A

A study of the works and legacy of one of the major philosophers of the Middle Ages such as Augustine, Averroes, Maimonides, or Aquinas. The course may be repeated as different figures are offered.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 383(W) Major Figure in Early Modern Philosophy

GER 3/A

A study of the works and legacy of one of the major philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries such as Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Rousseau. The course may be repeated as different figures are offered.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 384(W) Kant

GER 3/A

A study of some of Kant's major writings.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 385(W) Plotinus

GER 3/A

A study of the background, writings and legacy of Plotinus.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 386(W) Hegel

GER 3/A

Study of some of Hegel's major writings.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 387(W) Nietzsche

GER 3/A

Study of Nietzsche's major writings.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 388(W) Wittgenstein

GER 3/A

Development of Wittgenstein's thought through intensive study of his major works.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 389(W) Heidegger

GER 3/A

Detailed study of the central themes in Being and Time and their development in his later essays.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

SPECIAL COURSES**PHILO 200 Topics in Philosophy**

GER 3/A

Topics discussed vary from semester to semester.

prereqs: variable (see 'Program Prerequisites' above)

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 393 Philosophical Systems

GER 3/A

Study of writings of one or two major philosophers.

prereqs: variable (see 'Program Prerequisites' above)

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 394 Philosophical Problems

GER 3/A

Study of one or more major philosophical problems.

prereqs: variable (see 'Program Prerequisites' above)

3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 492 Independent Study in Philosophy

Independent study of philosophical works under faculty supervision.

prereqs: one PHILO course at 300-level, perm instr. (see 'Program Prerequisites' above)

1-6 cr.

PHILO 494 Honors Tutorial in Philosophy

Open to Jr/Sr only. Students must present a proposal for an individual project to be completed under faculty supervision. Successful completion is one requirement for departmental honors at graduation.

prereqs: 3.0 cum GPA and 3.50 major GPA; philosophy majors only, minor with perm instr; two 300-level PHILO course, one of which may be taken concurrently; perm dept.

3 or 6 cr.

PHILO 498 Internship

Open to Jr/Sr only. Philosophically relevant internship.

prereq: philosophy major, minor with perm dept adviser; 2.5 cum GPA and 3.0 major GPA (see 'Program Prerequisites' above)

1-6 cr.

Courses Not Offered During 2004-2007:**PHILO 222 J. S. Mill and Utilitarianism****PHILO 326 Pragmatism****PHILO 330 Contemporary Phenomenology****PHILO 332 Contemporary Analytic Philosophy**