

Philosophy

The Washington University Philosophy Department houses two PhD programs: a program in **Philosophy** — with strengths in philosophy of mind, epistemology, political philosophy, philosophy of science, metaphysics, and the history of philosophy — and a special interdisciplinary program in **Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology (PNP)** that maintains a core faculty in philosophy and draws on Washington University's exceptional psychology and neuroscience programs.

The department accepts about 10% of the applicants to these PhD programs and maintains about 25 students in both programs. We are especially open to interdisciplinary work, and we are committed to providing methodologically and substantively broad training. We welcome applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, and the most successful applicants have evidence of philosophical talent and promise.

Phone: 314-935-6670
 Email: philosophy@wustl.edu
 Website: <http://philosophy.wustl.edu/graduate-programs>

Faculty

Chair, Director of Philosophy

Lori Watson

Professor
 PhD, University of Illinois-Chicago

Director of Graduate Studies

Matt McGrath

Professor
 PhD, Brown University

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Anne Margaret Baxley

Associate Professor
 PhD, University of California, San Diego

Director of Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology

Casey O'Callaghan

Professor
 PhD, Princeton University

Department Faculty

Anne Baril

Lecturer
 PhD, University of Arizona

Eric Brown

Associate Professor
 PhD, University of Chicago

Rebecca "Becko" Copenhaver

Professor
 PhD, Cornell University

Carl Craver

Professor
 PhD, University of Pittsburgh

Marina DiMarco

Assistant Professor
 PhD, University of Pittsburgh

Jason Gardner

Lecturer
 PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

Allan Hazlett

Professor
 PhD, Brown University

John Heil

Professor
 PhD, Vanderbilt University

Brett Hyde

Associate Professor
 PhD, Rutgers University

David Kinney

Assistant Professor
 PhD, London School of Economics

Nicholas Koziolk

Senior Lecturer
 PhD, University of Chicago

Jonathan Kvanvig

Professor
 PhD, University of Notre Dame

Ron Mallon

Professor
 PhD, Rutgers University

Any Plutynski

Professor
 PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Kit Wellman

Professor
 PhD, University of Arizona

Emeritus Faculty

Stanley Paulson

Professor Emeritus
 PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jerome P. Schiller

Professor Emeritus
PhD, Harvard University

Degree Requirements

- Philosophy, PhD

Courses

PHIL 5000 Independent Work

Prerequisites: junior standing and permission of the department.
Credit 6 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5001 Proseminar in Philosophy

The chief aim of the seminar is to improve students' philosophical skills, especially their philosophy writing skills. This seminar is limited to first year Philosophy and PNP graduate students.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall

PHIL 5002 Survey Seminar

This is an advanced survey of one of several basic areas of philosophy, covering a different topic each semester. Prerequisite: enrollment in Philosophy or PNP PhD program or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5003 Research Seminar

Students in this course have intensive focus on a specific philosophical topic, question, or figure, with an emphasis on philosophical research methods and writing. Prerequisite: enrollment in Philosophy or PNP PhD program or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5010 Topics in Philosophy of Language

This course allows students to explore topics in philosophy of language.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5011 Topics in Analytic Philosophy

This course allows students to explore topics in analytic philosophy.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5012 Topics in Philosophy of Mind

This course allows students to explore topics in the philosophy of mind.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall

PHIL 5013 Topics in Philosophy of Psychology

This course allows students to explore multiple topics in the philosophy of psychology.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5014 Topics in Philosophy of Science

This course allows students to explore topics in the philosophy of science.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5015 Topics in Ethical Theory

This course allows students to explore topics in ethical theory.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5016 Topics in Social and Political Philosophy

This course allows students to explore topics in social and political philosophy.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5017 Topics in Philosophy of Law

This course allows students to explore topics in the philosophy of law.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5018 Seminar: Metaphysics

This course is a seminar in metaphysics.
Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5019 Seminar

Credit 3 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall

PHIL 5040 Tutorial in Philosophy

Mandatory attendance required for graduate students in Philosophy and PNP. Weekly presentations by faculty members with a discussion in the latter half of meeting. Undergraduates majoring in Philosophy or PNP are encouraged to attend.
Credit 0 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5090 Formal Methods for Philosophy

This course is an advanced course exploring formal methods in both logic and confirmation theory. It begins with an introduction to metatheory, which is explored in more depth in the 403-404 sequence on Mathematical Logic, addressing the basic metatheory for logic in addition to alternatives to standard first-order logic. The second part of the course focuses on modal and other intensional logics. The final part of the course focuses on non-monotonic logics, focusing especially on Bayesian confirmation theory and decision theory. Prerequisite: 6 units of philosophy or permission of the instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: NSM, AN Art: NSM
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5130 Advanced Metaphysics

Through readings from both classical and contemporary sources, a single traditional metaphysical concern will be made the subject of careful and detailed analytic attention. Possible topics include such concepts as substance, category, cause, identity, reality, and possibility, and such positions as metaphysical realism, idealism, materialism, relativism, and irrealism. Prerequisites: one course in Philosophy at the 300-level, graduate standing, or permission of the instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

Typical periods offered: Fall

PHIL 5151 Advanced Epistemology

Competing theories of knowledge and belief justification will be considered. Careful attention will be given to selected problems such as skepticism, certainty, foundations, coherence, perception, induction. Credit 0 units.

Typical periods offered: Fall

PHIL 5210 Seminar: Scientific Explanation

This course will be a deep dive on recent work on mechanistic theories of scientific explanation in the context of the wider effort to build a theory of scientific explanation. Students are encouraged to approach the subject matter of this course with some particular, actual scientific explanation in mind. We will use the philosophical material as a critical lens on student-specific research topics. Students are expected to be self-driven and active participants in their own learning, and they should be willing to explore independent avenues of research as we read together. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

Credit 3 units.

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5240 Metaethics

Ethics asks questions about right and wrong, good and bad, virtue and vice. Metaethics asks questions about ethics, including questions about whether we have any reason to do the right thing or to be virtuous, questions about whether it is possible to know the answer to ethical questions, and questions about what we mean by such ethical terms as right and wrong or good and bad. Influential metaethical views include relativism (on which ethical judgments are only true or false relative to an individual or culture) and moral skepticism (on which ethical knowledge is impossible). This course will introduce metaethics through an examination of selected texts and questions. Prerequisites: One previous course in philosophy at the 300 level, graduate standing, or permission of instructor.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5315 Normative Ethical Theory

An exploration of the three major normative ethical theories debated by philosophers in the last hundred years: Kantian ethics, utilitarianism, and virtue theory. Authors covered in the course may include: Henry Sidgwick, R. M. Hare, R. B. Brandt, John Rawls, Bernard Williams, Philippa Foot, Thomas Nagel, Christine Korsgaard, Michael Slote, and Barbara Herman. Prerequisites: one course in Philosophy at the 300-level, graduate standing, or permission of the instructor.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

Typical periods offered: Spring

PHIL 5400 Advanced Political and Social Philosophy

A selective investigation of one or two advanced topics in the philosophical understanding of society, government, and culture. Readings may include both historical and contemporary materials. Possible topics include: liberalism, socialism, communitarianism, citizenship, nationalism, cosmopolitanism, social contract theory, anarchism, and the rights of cultural minorities. Prerequisites: one course in Philosophy at the 300-level, graduate standing, or permission of the instructor.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

Typical periods offered: Fall

PHIL 5490 History of Analytic Philosophy

This course will begin with the reaction of G.E. Moore to the dominant idealism of the 19th century, together with the advances in formal approaches launched by Gottlob Frege and Bertrand Russell. It will engage in the rise of ordinary language philosophy through the later work of Ludwig Wittgenstein, as well as the important influence of the Vienna Circle and the rise and fall of Logical Positivism/Empiricism, culminating in the resurgence of metaphysics with the work of Saul Kripke. The course will close with a look at philosophy that is still in the analytic tradition after analytic philosophy itself had been abandoned. Prerequisites: One previous course in philosophy at the 300 level, graduate standing, or permission of instructor.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5530 Hellenistic Philosophy

This course explores Hellenistic philosophy.

Credit 0 units.

Typical periods offered: Spring

PHIL 5570 Kant's Critique of Pure Reason

An in-depth investigation of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, one of the most important books in the history of Western philosophy. Some supplementary readings from other philosophers will be used to situate Kant's work in a systematic and historical context, to present some 'Kantian' positions in current philosophy, and to bring in some important contrasting views and criticisms. Prerequisites: one course in Philosophy at the 300-level, graduate standing, or permission of the instructor.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5651 Topics in the History of Philosophy:

Study of individual philosophers or themes from the ancient, medieval, and/or modern periods. Examples: Spinoza, St. Thomas Aquinas, neo-Platonism, universals in ancient and medieval thought, ancient and modern theories of space and time. Prerequisite: 6 units in philosophy, or permission of instructor.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5700 Seminar in Ethics

seminar in ethics

Credit 3 units.

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5740 Seminar in Metaphysics

Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

Credit 3 units.

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 5901 Res Master Level

Credit 12 units.

PHIL 5910 Res Doctoral Level

Dissertation/Research

Credit 12 units.

Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 7883 Master's Continuing Student Status

This course is for master's-level continuing student status.

Credit 0 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 7885 Masters Nonresident

This course is for master's students not in residence.
Credit 0 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 8000 Dissertation Seminar

Advanced research training and professional development for students in the 4th, 5th, and 6th years of the Philosophy and PNP PhD programs.
Credit 0 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 8884 Doctoral Continuing Student Status

This course is to indicate doctoral continuing student status.
Credit 0 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring

PHIL 8886 Doctoral Nonresident

This course is for doctoral students who are not in residence at the time.
Credit 0 units.
Typical periods offered: Fall, Spring
