Philosophy

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Email: philosophy@wustl.edu
Website: http://philosophy.artsci.wustl.edu

Majors

The Major in Philosophy

Total units required: 27; at least 6 units must be at the 400 level, and an additional 15 units must be at the 300 level or above.

Majors are encouraged to take more than this minimum number of courses, especially if they are considering graduate work in philosophy. Majors and minors are encouraged to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement by taking Phil 390 Philosophical Writing. All majors are required to complete a capstone experience in philosophy: either an honors thesis (Phil 499) or the philosophy capstone course (Phil 399). Majors who are planning to do graduate work in philosophy should attain at least reading proficiency in German, Greek, Latin or French.

Required courses:

Majors must complete at least one core course in each of the three areas below. Students who do not take Phil 390 will be required to take one additional core course. The core courses, by area, are as follows:

Contemporary/Analytic Philosophy:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phil 301G</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 306G</td>
<td>Philosophy of Language</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 3113</td>
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<td>Phil 3481</td>
<td>Introduction to Metaphysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 361</td>
<td>Philosophy of Emotions</td>
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History of Philosophy:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phil 347C</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 349C</td>
<td>Descartes to Hume</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 357C</td>
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Value Theory:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phil 331F</td>
<td>Classical Ethical Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 339F</td>
<td>Philosophy of the Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 340F</td>
<td>Social and Political Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 345F</td>
<td>Issues in Applied Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 346</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
<td>3</td>
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On occasion, it may be appropriate to substitute a 400-level course in one of these areas for a 300-level core course; individual petitions for substitutions will be considered by the director of undergraduate studies. Generally, for a course to count either as "core" or as partly satisfying the requirement for 6 units at the 400 level, it must be home-based in Philosophy. At most, 3 units of credit in Phil 499 or Phil 500 can be counted toward the required 6 units of 400-level course work.

Optional tracks: The department offers the following three special tracks through the major: the philosophy research track, the law and policy track, and the philosophy of science track. For more information about these tracks, please visit the Department of Philosophy website (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/major-and-minor-requirements/).

Philosophy Research Track

The philosophy research track is especially recommended for students who plan to pursue graduate studies and an advanced degree in philosophy, which is a must for anyone interested in a career as a university or college philosophy teacher. It will give the student a broad background in philosophy, which is a competitive advantage when applying to graduate programs in the field.

Requirements:

- At least 36 units total
- Phil 100G Logic and Critical Analysis
- One 100-level class in addition to Phil 100G Logic and Critical Analysis, preferably Phil 120F Problems in Philosophy or Phil 125C Great Philosophers
- In Contemporary/Analytic:

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Total Units 9

- In History: Any two core courses (a 400-level History course may be substituted for a second 300-level course):
Law and Policy Track

This track is especially recommended for students who intend to pursue a career in law or public policy. The track involves taking certain specific courses for the major (and possibly a few extra courses) that will provide the student with additional preparation and a competitive edge when applying to law school, postgraduate programs in public policy, and related jobs.

Requirements:

- At least 27 units total
- Phil 100G Logic and Critical Analysis or Phil 301G Symbolic Logic
- Strongly recommended: a 100-level class in addition to Phil 100G Logic and Critical Analysis
- One core course in Contemporary/Analytic and one core course in History

Contemporary/Analytic Courses:

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- Phil 340F Social and Political Philosophy and Phil 346 Philosophy of Law
- Strongly recommended: at least one other Value Theory course:

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- Strongly recommended: at least one 200-level course
- Phil 390 Philosophical Writing or another core course
- At least 30 units at the 300 level or above (including core courses)*
- At least 6 of those 30 units at the 400 level**
- Courses taken pass/fail cannot count toward the major.

Philosophy of Science Track

The philosophy of science track is available only as a second major in combination with work in one or more of the sciences. It is intended for those students with a scientific background who have an interest in pursuing philosophical issues relating to the natural and physical sciences.

Requirements:

- At least 27 units total
- In Contemporary/Analytic:

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<td>Phil 321G</td>
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Total Units: 6

- In History: Any one of the core courses listed below:

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- In Advanced Philosophy of Science:
**Philosophy (08/16/22)**

**Code** | **Title** | **Units**
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Phil 4210 | Topics in Advanced Philosophy of Science | 3

- Any three of the supplementary courses listed below, which must include Phil 390 Philosophical Writing if the writing-intensive requirement is to be fulfilled in Philosophy
- Phil 3991 Philosophy Capstone Course or Phil 499 Study for Honors
- At least 27 units at the 300 level or above (including core courses)*
- At least 6 of those 27 units at the 400 level**
- Courses taken pass/fail cannot count toward the major.

**Supplementary Courses:**

**General Philosophy Courses:**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phil 390</td>
<td>Philosophical Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Phil 426</td>
<td>Theories of Concepts</td>
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**Logic and Method Courses:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phil 403</td>
<td>Mathematical Logic I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 404</td>
<td>Mathematical Logic II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 405</td>
<td>Philosophical Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 4051</td>
<td>Philosophy of Logic</td>
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**Epistemology and Metaphysics Courses:**

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<td>Phil 3481</td>
<td>Introduction to Metaphysics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 4141</td>
<td>Advanced Epistemology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 4142</td>
<td>Advanced Metaphysics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 4332</td>
<td>Cognition and Computation</td>
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**Life and Science Courses:**

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<tr>
<td>Phil 3001</td>
<td>Philosophy of Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 4212</td>
<td>Philosophy of Neuroscience</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 423</td>
<td>Philosophy of Biological Science</td>
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**Mind and Science Courses:**

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<tr>
<td>Phil 315</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil 418</td>
<td>Current Controversies in Cognitive Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 419</td>
<td>Philosophy of Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 4212</td>
<td>Philosophy of Neuroscience</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNP 495</td>
<td>PNP Seminar (with approval of topic)</td>
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* At least 27 units of the required upper-level courses must be completed with a minimum of a C-.
** Three of these credits (one course) must not be from Honors Thesis or Independent Study.

**Additional Information**

**Senior Honors:** Eligible majors are encouraged to work toward Senior Honors. To qualify, students must have the agreement of a faculty member to serve as thesis advisor. In addition, at the end of their junior year, they must have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.65. For important additional information regarding Senior Honors, consult our Undergraduate Honors webpage (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/undergraduate-honors/).

**The Writing-Intensive Seminar:** Majors are encouraged to fulfill their writing-intensive requirement by taking Phil 390, which is specially designated as writing intensive. It is typically taken during the junior year, and it is limited to 15 students. Significant attention is devoted to conceiving, researching, writing, revising, critiquing and presenting philosophical essays. A philosophy major who does not take a philosophy writing-intensive seminar must take a fourth core course from any of the three core areas. Priority is given to philosophy majors and minors who have not yet completed their writing-intensive requirement.

**Capstone Experience:** All philosophy majors are required to complete a capstone experience either by writing an honors thesis or by taking Phil 3991 Philosophy Capstone Course. Please be aware that the capstone course is offered only in the spring semester, so students will need to plan their class schedules accordingly if they decide not to write an honors thesis. To qualify to write an honors thesis, at the end of their junior year, students must have a GPA of at least 3.5 in the major, a GPA of at least 3.5 in advanced philosophy courses, and an overall GPA of at least 3.65. Alternatively, majors should sign up for Phil 3991 (a 3-credit course), which will draw together a variety of different philosophical areas. Only philosophy majors of senior standing may take this course; preference is given to students not pursuing honors.

**Study Abroad:** Students can pursue the philosophy major while studying abroad. The department has special study abroad arrangements with University College, London; King's College, London; Trinity College, Dublin (Ireland); Sussex University (U.K.); Utrecht University (the Netherlands); and the University of Auckland (New Zealand). Information about study abroad and about specific overseas programs is available from the departmental website (https://philosophy.wustl.edu/study-abroad/) and the study abroad advisor.