



A GUIDE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY

2023-2024

**The Ohio State University
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Philosophy Courses

For more detailed information concerning these courses, please consult the Department's [current and upcoming courses](#).

1100*	Introduction to Philosophy	3750	Introduction to Theory of Knowledge
1100H*	Honors Introduction to Philosophy	3800	Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
1300*	Introduction to Ethics	3810	Philosophy of Action
1300H*	Honors Introduction to Ethics	3820	Philosophy of Perception
1332*	Engineering Ethics	3830	Consciousness
1337*	Introduction to Computing Ethics	3870	Jewish Mysticism
1338*	Computer Ethics & Effective Presentation	4900H	Junior-Senior Pro-seminar
1500*	Introduction to Logic	4998	Undergraduate Research in Philosophy
1501*	Intro to Logic and Legal Reasoning	4998H	Honors Undergraduate Research in philosophy
1520*	Probability, Data, and Decision Making	4999	Non-honors Thesis work
2120	Asian Philosophies	4999H	Honors Thesis work
2194	Group Studies	5010S	Teaching Philosophy
2340	The Future of Humanity	5193	Individual Studies
2342	Environmental Ethics	5194	Group Studies
2367*	Contemporary Social and Moral Problems in the U.S.	5210	Studies in Ancient Philosophy
2400	Political and Social Philosophy	5211	Plato
2450	Philosophical Problems in the Arts	5212	Aristotle
2450H	Honors Philosophical Problems in the Arts	5220	Studies in Medieval Philosophy
2455	Philosophy and Video Games	5230	Studies in 17 th Century Philosophy
2456	Philosophy of Sport	5240	Studies in 18 th Century Philosophy
2458	Animals and Philosophy	5241	Kant
2465	Death and the Meaning of Life	5250	Studies in 19 th Century Philosophy
2470H	Honors Philosophy in Film	5260	Studies in 20 th Century Philosophy
2500	Symbolic Logic	5261	Phenomenology and Existentialism
2540	Intro to Philosophy of Rational Choice	5263	American Philosophy
2650	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	5300	Advanced Moral Philosophy
2660	Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution	5310	Metaethics
2670	Science and Religion	5400	Advanced Political and Social Philosophy
2680	Scientific Controversies	5410	Advanced Philosophy of Law
2690	Genes and Society	5420	Philosophical Topics in Feminist Theory
2850	Introduction to Philosophy of Religion	5440	Philosophical Perspectives on Race and Citizenship
2900H	Freshman-Sophomore Proseminar	5450	Advanced Aesthetic Theory
3000	Gateway Seminar	5460	Philosophy in Literature
3001	Economy, Polity, and Community (PPE)	5500	Advanced Symbolic Logic
3002	Tradition, Progress, and Utopia (PPE)	5510	Non-classical Logic
3111	Introduction to Jewish Philosophy	5520	Inductive Logic and Probability
3120	Engaging Time: Philosophical and Rabbinic Dimensions of Temporality	5530	Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics
3210	History of Ancient Philosophy	5540	Theory of Rational Choice
3220	History of Medieval Philosophy	5550	Advanced Logical Theory
3230	History of 17 th Century Philosophy	5600	Advanced Philosophy of Language
3240	History of 18 th Century Philosophy	5610	Natural Language Metaphysics
3250	History of 19 th Century Philosophy	5650	Advanced Philosophy of Science
3260	Movements in 20 th Century Philosophy	5700	Advanced Metaphysics
3261	Fundamental Concepts of Existentialism	5750	Advanced Theory of Knowledge
3262	Contemporary Continental Thought	5797	Study at a Foreign Institution
3300	Moral Philosophy	5800	Advanced Philosophy of Mind
3310	Morality and the Mind	5830	Introduction to Cognitive Science
3341H	Ethical Conflicts in Health care Research, Policy, & Practice	5840	Advanced Philosophy of Cognitive Science
3351	Judaism and Ethics	5850	Philosophy of Religion
3410	Philosophical Problems in the Law	5870	Topics in Jewish Philosophy
3420	Philosophical Perspectives on Issues of Gender	5891	Proseminar in Cognitive Science
3430	Philosophy of Sex and Love		
3440	Theorizing Race		
3530	Philosophy of Logic		
3600	Introduction to Philosophy of Language		
3650	Philosophy of Science		
3680	Philosophy of Biology		
3700	Introduction to Metaphysics		

(*) Note: These courses do not count towards the major or minor programs.

Academic Advising for Philosophy

The Philosophy Department is a part of the College of the Arts and Sciences (ASC), which utilizes a dual advising structure. This means that you have at least two advisors at the University to help you with course selection and academic issues.

Currently, the Undergraduate Faculty Advisor for Philosophy, as well as the Undergraduate Honors Advisor for Philosophy, is [Lisa Shabel](mailto:shabel.1@osu.edu) <shabel.1@osu.edu>. Professor Shabel can help you plan your path to a major or minor, choose an honors track, and answer questions about upcoming classes. You can e-mail her to set up an appointment.

ASC also assigns you an academic counselor, [Keara Henry](mailto:henry.1237@osu.edu) <henry.1237@osu.edu>. She will help you declare your major, advise you on the General Education Curriculum, special academic and career opportunities, graduation requirements, and Arts and Sciences policies and procedures. She may also make referrals to other professionals on campus. Keara is located in Denney Hall and is available by appointment by calling 614-292-6961. Or, you can schedule at this link: <https://go.osu.edu/oncourse>

Honors Philosophy Majors should contact [Samantha Zimmerman](mailto:zimmerman.874@osu.edu) <zimmerman.874@osu.edu> at the [Arts and Sciences Honors Office](#) in 100 Denney Hall, 164 Annie and John Glenn Ave. She can be reached at 614-292-5104.

Majoring in Philosophy

The major program is planned by the student with the faculty advisor in the Philosophy Department, Professor Lisa Shabel, while the major is officially declared with the academic advisor, Keara Henry. All new majors should meet with both Professor Shabel and Ms. Henry, and majors should check in with both advisors at least once a year (see previous page for contact information). Satisfactory completion of all courses on the major program is a requirement for graduation.

The philosophy major at Ohio State consists of a prerequisite and 30 credit hours, distributed as shown in this chart:

Requirements* (6 hrs) TWO courses	History (6 hrs) TWO courses	Topics (6 hrs) TWO courses	Electives (15 hrs) FIVE courses
2500 (<i>prerequisite</i>) 3000	any TWO from: 3210 3240 3220 3250 3230 3261	any TWO from: 3300 3700 3530 3750 3600 3800 3650 3810	any ONE : 2000-level or higher any TWO : 3000-level or higher any TWO : 5000-level or higher

* These two requirements should be taken as early as possible in your major program

Notes:

- The Department requires that a minimum of 15 credit hours of the Major program be completed at Ohio State University.
- Major program courses may not be used for GE purposes, except in the case of the Global Studies requirements.
- Philosophy 2367 may not count towards your Major program, although it may be used for GE purposes. Philosophy 5010S may not count toward your 5000-level course requirement.
- Students choosing to double major should consult with Keara Henry to review ASC's requirements concerning overlap among major courses.
- Your individual path through the Major will depend on your own timeline and your other studies, and should be discussed with your Academic Advisor.

Courses listed in the above chart include:

PHIL 3210: History of Ancient Philosophy
 PHIL 3220: History of Medieval Philosophy
 PHIL 3230: History of 17th Century Philosophy
 PHIL 3240: History of 18th Century Philosophy
 PHIL 3250: History of 19th Century Philosophy
 PHIL 3261: Fundamental Concepts of
 Existentialism
 PHIL 3300: Moral Philosophy

PHIL 3530: Philosophy of Logic
 PHIL 3600: Introduction to Philosophy of
 Language
 PHIL 3650: Philosophy of Science
 PHIL 3700: Introduction to Metaphysics
 PHIL 3750: Introduction to Theory of
 Knowledge
 PHIL 3800: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
 PHIL 3810: Philosophy of Action

Minoring in Philosophy

A minor in philosophy comprises any four (or more) courses that satisfy the requirements shown in the chart below. Consultation concerning the minor should be sought at least one year prior to the student's projected date of graduation. Students seeking to plan a path to a minor should contact our Faculty Advisor, Professor Lisa Shabel. To officially declare a minor, students should contact the academic advisor for their major, or our academic advisor, Keara Henry.

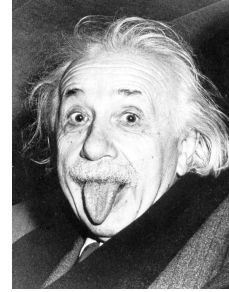
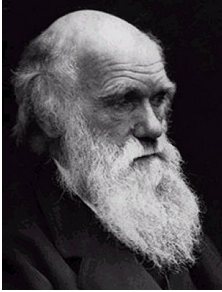
TWO courses (6 hrs)	ONE course (3 hrs)	ONE course (3 hrs)
2xxx or above	3xxx or above	33xx or above

Notes:

- Up to 6 Minor credit hours may count toward GE requirements.
- Philosophy 2367 may not count towards your Minor program, although it may be used for GEC purposes.

Minor Focuses:

- Philosophy Minors may distribute their four courses among any combination of philosophical topics. However, for those excited about a particular area of philosophy, we offer “minor focuses” to help you chart your course.
- **A minor focus is NOT required**, but might be a nice complement to related majors. Some optional minor foci are described below.



Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Philosophy of Science

Are you interested in science? Many foundational questions about how science works are addressed in philosophy. Such questions include: Do the entities posited by our best scientific theories really exist? Must they, in order for those theories to be good theories? What constitutes an explanation in science? How are the various sciences—say physics and chemistry or biology—related to each other? Are there genuine revolutions in science? What values do and should guide scientific inquiry? Where does physics end and metaphysics begin?

Many specific sciences also present particular conceptual issues that need to and can be addressed in courses on philosophy of biology, philosophy of cognitive science, and philosophy of physics.

Relevant courses include:

Philosophy 2650:	Introduction to Philosophy of Science
Philosophy 2660:	Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution
Philosophy 2670	Science and Religion
Philosophy 2680	Scientific Controversies
Philosophy 2690	Genes and Society
Philosophy 3310:	Morality and the Mind
Philosophy 3650:	Philosophy of Science
Philosophy 3680:	Philosophy of Biology
Philosophy 3830:	Consciousness
Philosophy 5830:	Philosophy of Cognitive Science
Philosophy 5650:	Advanced Philosophy of Science

There are many combinations of courses possible and a minor can be tailored to your specific interests.



Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Legal Studies



Philosophical studies provide an extraordinary preparation for law school.

- Did you know that, on average, OSU philosophy majors score significantly higher on the LSAT test than those pursuing other majors at OSU?
- Did you know that OSU philosophy majors are more successful in gaining admission to a top-20 law school than those pursuing other majors at OSU?

But you don't have to major in philosophy to benefit from philosophical studies on your way to law school. The skills of interpretation, critical analysis, argumentation, and criticism that are honed in philosophy courses are invaluable for those pursuing a law degree. Several philosophy courses develop an understanding of issues in legal scholarship and in political philosophy that afford students an advantage when they address these or related issues in their studies in law school. And students are extremely well advised to take Philosophy 2500 (Symbolic Logic) prior to taking the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT); the techniques of elementary symbolic logic are extraordinarily valuable on the analytical and logical reasoning portions of the LSAT.

Here are some examples of ways to put together a set of courses that will satisfy your interest in the law and related issues, help to prepare you for your studies in law school and satisfy the requirements for a minor in Philosophy.

EXAMPLE 1:

Philosophy 2400 (Political and Social Philosophy)
Philosophy 2500 (Symbolic Logic)
Philosophy 3410 (Philosophical Issues in Law)
Philosophy 3300 (Moral Philosophy)

EXAMPLE 2:

Philosophy 2500 (Symbolic Logic)
Philosophy 3410 (Philosophical Issues in Law)
Philosophy 3300 (Moral Philosophy)
Philosophy 5410 (Advanced Philosophy of Law)

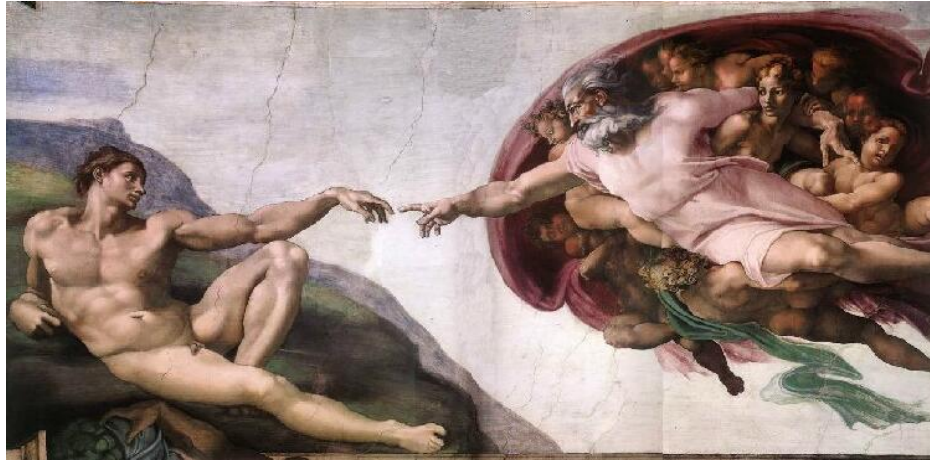
EXAMPLE 3:

Philosophy 2500 (Symbolic Logic)
Philosophy 3410 (Philosophical Issues in Law)
Philosophy 3810 (Philosophy of Action)
Philosophy 5410 (Advanced Philosophy of Law)

EXAMPLE 4:

Philosophy 2500 (Symbolic Logic)
Philosophy 3410 (Philosophical Issues in Law)
Philosophy 5300 (Advanced Moral Philosophy)
Philosophy 5410 (Advanced Philosophy of Law)

There are many other combinations of courses possible and a minor can be tailored to your specific interests.



Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Religion

Are you interested in religious studies? Philosophers have long pondered foundational questions concerning the nature of religion. Is it possible to *prove* that God exists, or that God does not exist? How can one believe God when so much evil exists in the world? Is religious faith compatible with reason? Is there tension between science and religion? Does morality require a religious foundation? Is there a natural explanation of the phenomenon of religion?

If these questions interest to you, you should consider a minor in philosophy with a focus on Religion.

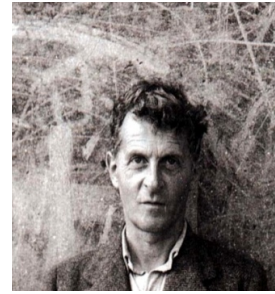
Relevant courses include:

Philosophy 2660:	Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution
Philosophy 2670:	Science and Religion
Philosophy 2850:	Introduction to Philosophy of Religion
Philosophy 3111:	Introduction to Jewish Philosophy
Philosophy 3220:	History of Medieval Philosophy
Philosophy 3230:	History of 17 th Century Philosophy
Philosophy 3240:	History of 18 th Century Philosophy
Philosophy 3351:	Judaism and Ethics
Philosophy 5850:	Philosophy of Religion

There are many other combinations of courses possible and a minor can be tailored to your specific interests.



Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Language



We take our capacity to use language to communicate true and false things about the world for granted. We also take for granted that what we say stands in various logical relationships to other things that we say—as well as to what other people say. Our ability to make sense of each other as rational creatures and to engage successfully in the kinds of complex cooperative projects that we, as human beings, engage in seems to presuppose this. But what makes this all possible? How must we understand the nature of language, meaning, logic, the world, and, indeed, ourselves as language users in order to make sense of this possibility?

If these sorts of questions interest you, consider a minor in philosophy with a focus on the philosophy of language and logic.

A sample program that would constitute a philosophy minor would consist of the following four courses:

Philosophy 2500:	Symbolic Logic
Philosophy 3530:	Philosophy of Logic
Philosophy 3600:	Introduction to Philosophy of Language
Philosophy 5600:	Advanced Philosophy of Language

There are many other combinations of courses possible and a minor can be tailored to your specific interests.

$$\int 3x^2 dx = x^3 + C \quad e^{i\theta} = \cos\theta + i\sin\theta \quad \exists x \forall y Rxy \rightarrow \forall x \exists y Rxy$$

Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Mathematics and Logic

Are you interested in mathematics? Do you like logic? Philosophers have pursued logic, and related it to the foundations of reasoning. Philosophers have also pondered questions concerning the foundations of mathematics and its logic. Do mathematical objects exist, in the same sense as physical objects? How is mathematics known? What makes it so certain? Why is mathematics necessary to understand just about any aspect of the world?

Consider a minor in philosophy with a focus on mathematics and logic.

A sample program that would constitute a philosophy minor would consist of four of the following six courses:

Philosophy 2500:	Symbolic Logic
Philosophy 3530:	Philosophical Logic
Philosophy 5500:	Advanced Symbolic Logic
Philosophy 5510:	Non-classical logic
Philosophy 5520	Probability and Inductive Logic
Philosophy 5530:	Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics
Philosophy 5550:	Advanced Logical Theory

There are many other combinations of courses possible and a minor can be tailored to your specific interests.



Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Mind, Brain, and Cognition

If you're a student in neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, or computer science, why not consider a minor in philosophy with a focus on mind, brain, and cognition?

The department of philosophy offers a range of courses that bring philosophy into contact with science in ways that contribute towards an understanding of the mind. Here are some of the relevant courses we offer:

PHIL 3310: Morality and the Mind
PHIL 3650: Philosophy of Science
PHIL 3680: Philosophy of Biology
PHIL 3800: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 3810: Philosophy of Action
PHIL 3820: Philosophy of Perception
PHIL 3830: Consciousness
PHIL 5840: Advanced Philosophy of Cognitive Science
PHIL 5800: Advanced Philosophy of Mind

There are many combinations of courses possible, including courses not on this list, and a minor can be tailored to your specific interests.



Minor in Philosophy *focusing on the history of western philosophical thought*

Many contemporary philosophical problems and debates originate in the questions asked by thinkers of another era who were engaged with the pressing moral, mathematical and scientific issues of their time. When you study the history of philosophy, you go to the source and commune with Plato, Aristotle, Ibn Sina, Descartes, Princess Elizabeth, Hume, du Châtelet, Kant, Sartre and many other figures from the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. As you study the history of philosophy, you will consider questions about the nature of reality, the power of scientific reasoning, the justification for our beliefs, the existence of God, and the human struggle to live a moral and meaningful life.

The requirements for a minor are simple: at least 12 credit hours (i.e., four courses) in philosophy courses numbered 2000 or above. At least 3 of those hours must be in philosophy courses numbered 3000 or above, and at least 3 of those hours must be in philosophy courses numbered 3300 or above. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your minor Program, although it may be used for GE purposes.

If you are particularly interested in the history of philosophy, you could choose some of your minor courses from these options:

2660	Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution	3250	History of 19th Century Philosophy
3210	History of Ancient Philosophy	3261	Fundamental Concepts of Existentialism
3220	History of Medieval Philosophy	5211	Plato
3230	History of 17th Century Philosophy	5212	Aristotle
3240	History of 18th Century Philosophy	5241	Kant



Minor in Philosophy
Focusing in Ethics and Moral Psychology

Questions about what goals are worth pursuing and what we owe to one another—that is, about ethics and morality—are among the central questions about how to live. In Philosophy, we explore different ways of answering these sorts of questions, while also asking about the psychological processes and mental states underlying moral thought and behavior. What is the nature of moral judgments? Are moral judgments subject to rational support and refutation? What accounts for moral disagreement—is it like disagreement over matters of science, or of religion? Or is it disagreement in attitude? What accounts for the moral intuitions that people share? Is this a product of enculturation? Or some sort of innate moral conscience that is part of human nature? Or is morality a matter of general learning, whereby people in different places discover the same moral truths?

The requirements for a minor are simple: at least 12 credit hours (i.e., four courses) in philosophy courses numbered 2000 or above. At least 3 of those hours must be in philosophy courses numbered 3000 or above, and at least 3 of those hours must be in philosophy courses numbered 3300 or above. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your minor Program, although it may be used for GE purposes.

If you are particularly interested in ethics and moral psychology, you could choose some of your minor courses from these options:

2342	Environmental Ethics
2458	Animals and Philosophy
3300	Moral Philosophy
3310	Morality and the Mind
3341H	Ethical Conflicts in Health Care Research, Policy, & Practice
3351	Judaism and Ethics
3810	Philosophy of Action
5300	Advanced Moral Philosophy
5310	Metaethics

Honors Degree in Philosophy

In order to graduate with “Honors in the Arts and Sciences”, a philosophy major must be a member of the Arts and Sciences Honors Program, which includes completing a contract that spells out in detail the special course of study the student proposes to undertake for her or his degree, including GE requirements, major requirements, minor requirements, if any, and electives. The student will work out the contract in collaboration with the Undergraduate Honors Advisor in the Department of Philosophy (Professor Lisa Shabel) and with her or his Honors Advisor in the Arts and Sciences Honors office (Samantha Zimmerman).

The Arts and Sciences Honors Program requires a minimum GPA of 3.4 and a major that is substantially more challenging than a regular major in Philosophy. This degree builds upon the requirements for a regular major in Philosophy, which includes a minimum of 30 hours in Philosophy above the 2000 level (not including Philosophy 2500), of which six hours must be at or above the 5000 level (see page 5, above). In order to build a sufficiently more challenging major, an Honors student will typically take 12 hours at or above the 5000 level rather than just 6. The program will be designed with permission of and in consultation with the Honors Advisor in the Department of Philosophy.

Note that students who graduate with Honors in the Arts and Sciences can also graduate with research distinction in Philosophy. Undergraduate research is a desirable option for members of the Honors Program.

Research Distinction in Philosophy

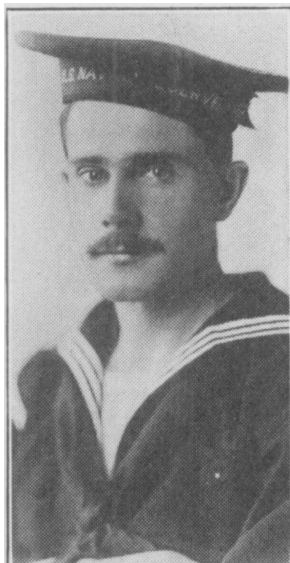
In order to graduate with Research Distinction, a philosophy major must achieve a minimum GPA of 3.0 (or 3.4 for students who are also members of the Arts and Sciences Honors Program, described above) and a minimum GPA in Philosophy of 3.5. Further, in order to graduate with Research Distinction, a philosophy major must undertake a research project in consultation with a faculty project director, to be selected in consultation with the student’s faculty advisor. Students should begin to explore this option and consult with the Faculty Honors Advisor and possible project directors no later than three semesters prior to the expected graduation date. The student will, in consultation with the faculty project director, write a senior thesis and defend it in a one-hour oral examination. In order to work on her or his thesis, the student will enroll in at least 6 but not more than 9 senior thesis (4999 (H)) hours during her or his last few semesters of study, for the purpose of writing the thesis and preparing for the final thesis examination. Of these hours, none can be counted toward the student’s total requirements of 30 hours at or above the 2000 level, and none can be counted toward the student’s total requirement of 6 hours at or above the 5000 level.

An examination draft of the student’s thesis is to be completed and submitted to the committee members for review two weeks prior to the scheduled date of defense. The deadline for completing the defense is set each year by the College of Arts and Sciences. (Honors students should visit [this page](#) for detailed information about defense dates and procedures for applying to

graduate with distinction; other students should visit [this page](#)). The examination draft, which is usually approximately 35-45 pages long, will be evaluated by a committee consisting of the student's director and two other committee members. The committee may require that the thesis be modified before a final draft is submitted. All committee members will participate in the student's one-hour oral examination, which will be devoted to a defense of the thesis. The student shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements for graduation with distinction in philosophy only if each of the three members of the examination committee finds both the senior thesis and the oral examination to be passing.

(Note that undergraduates can also undertake a research project in Philosophy by enrolling in 4998 or 4998H. These courses must be arranged with a faculty advisor and do not lead to graduation with research distinction in philosophy.)

The Bingham Award for Undergraduate Excellence

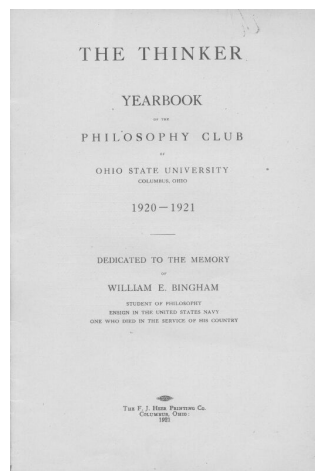


William E. Bingham was born in England in 1884.

He was compelled to terminate his formal education at the age of 14, and five years later he emigrated to Canada, where he assiduously prepared himself for enrollment in college. He studied philosophy at Ohio State University from 1914 to 1916 and upon graduation proceeded to Cornell University to pursue a graduate degree. However, in April 1917, with the threat of world war looming on the horizon, William Bingham enlisted in the United States Navy and a year later graduated from Annapolis as an ensign. In November of 1918 he married. Within a month after returning to duty he drowned when a boatload of sailors on patrol near Gibraltar capsized in heavy seas. His remains are located in the Arlington National Cemetery.

The post-war philosophy students here at Ohio State reacted to the untimely death of William Bingham first by producing a memorial

issue of their yearbook, *The Thinker*, and then by deciding to create a memorial award to commemorate his bravery and memory. By commissioned by a famous French medalist and years this was offered as the award. In 1936 medal available for the recipient, and during the War the dies were lost. In 1944 and again in unsuccessful efforts were made to replace the that during some of this time the department of the medal to the winners of the prize. In were frequently awarded as well, and in 1950 an offered for the purchase of books. In the 1960's, commissioned by the department, but it was not attractive as the original. Finally, in 1981, the secured one of the original medals and had a medal made. Current winners receive a copy of medal (shown below) and a cash prize.



1921 a medal was for a number of there was no Second World 1958, cast. It appears awarded a *picture* addition, books award of \$25 was a new medal was considered as Department new mold for this the original

Please visit the [department website](#) for more information concerning the contest including rules and submission deadlines.

