



A GUIDE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY

2016-2017

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Philosophy Courses

For more detailed information concerning these courses, please consult the [Course Offerings Bulletin](#) or the Department's current [semester course offerings](#).

1100*	Introduction to Philosophy	3680	Sex and Death: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Biology
1100H*	Honors Introduction to Philosophy	3700	Introduction to Metaphysics
1101H*	Mind and Its Place in Nature: Western Conceptions of the Self from Antiquity to the Present: Part I	3750	Introduction to Philosophy of Knowledge
1102H*	Mind and Its Place in Nature: Western Conceptions of the Self from Antiquity to the Present: Part II	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
1850*	Introduction to Philosophy of Religion	4999H	Honors Thesis work
2120	Asian Philosophies	5193	Individual Studies
2194	Group Studies	5194	Group Studies
2342	Environmental Ethics	5210	Studies in Ancient Philosophy
2367*	Contemporary Social and Moral Problems in the U.S.	5211	Plato
2400	Political and Social Philosophy	5212	Aristotle
2450	Philosophical Problems in the Arts	5220	Studies in Medieval Philosophy
2450H	Honors Philos Problems in the Arts	5230	Studies in 17 th Century Philosophy
2465	Death and the Meaning of Life	5240	Studies in 18 th Century Philosophy
2470H	Honors Philosophy of Film	5241	Kant
2500	Symbolic Logic	5250	Studies in 19 th Century Philosophy
2650	Introduction to the Philosophy of Science	5260	Studies in 20 th Century Philosophy
2660	Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution	5261	Phenomenology and Existentialism
2860	Science and Religion	5263	American Philosophy
2900H	Freshman-Sophomore Pro-seminar	5300	Advanced Moral Philosophy
3000	Gateway Seminar	5310	Metaethics
3111	Introduction to Jewish Philosophy	5400	Advanced Political and Social Philosophy
3210	History of Ancient Philosophy	5410	Advanced Philosophy of Law
3220	History of Medieval Philosophy	5420	Philosophical Topics in Feminist Theory
3230	History of 17 th Century Philosophy	5450	Advanced aesthetic Theory
3240	History of 18 th Century Philosophy	5460	Philosophy in Literature
3250	History of 19 th Century Philosophy	5500	Advanced Symbolic Logic
3260	Movements in 20 th Century Philosophy	5510	Non-classical Logic
3261	Fundamental Concepts of Existentialism	5520	Inductive Logic and Probability
3262	Contemporary Continental Thought	5530	Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics
3300	Moral Philosophy	5540	Theory of Rational Choice
3310	Moral Psychology	5550	Advanced Logical Theory
3341H	Ethical Conflicts in Health care Research, Policy, & Practice	5600	Advanced Philosophy of Language
3351	Judaism and Ethics	5610	Natural Language Metaphysics
3410	Philosophical Problems in the Law	5650	Advanced Philosophy of Science
3420	Philosophical Perspectives on Issues of Gender	5700	Advanced Metaphysics
3430	Philosophy of Sex and Love	5750	Advanced Theory of Knowledge
3440	Theorizing Race	5797	Study at a Foreign Institution
3530	Philosophy of Logic	5800	Advanced Philosophy of Mind
3600	Introduction to Philosophy of Language	5830	Introduction to Cognitive Science
3650	Philosophy of Science	5840	Advanced Philosophy of Cognitive Science
		5850	Philosophy of Religion
		5870	Topics in Jewish Philosophy
		5891	Proseminar in Cognitive Science

(*) 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 in 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, or call 614-292-7914 to ask about her current drop-in hours.

ASC also assigns you an academic counselor, [MaryKatherine Ramsey](mailto:ramsey.240@osu.edu) <ramsey.240@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. MaryKatherine is located in 337A University Hall and is available by appointment by calling 614-292-6961.

In addition to working with Ms. Ramsey, Honors Philosophy Majors should also contact [Rachel Steele](mailto:steele.682@osu.edu) <steele.682@osu.edu> at the [Arts and Sciences Honors Office](#) in 3180 Smith Lab, 174 West 18th 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, MaryKatherine Ramsey. All new majors should meet with both Professor Shabel and Ms. Ramsey, 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 33 credit hours, distributed as shown in this chart:

Requirements* (6 hrs) TWO courses	History (9 hrs) THREE courses	Topics (9 hrs) THREE courses	Advanced Courses (6 hrs) TWO courses	Elective (3 hrs) ONE course
2500 3000	any THREE from: 3210 3220 3230 3240 3250 3261	Req: 3300 + any TWO from: 3530 3750 3600 3800 3650 3810 3680 3820 3700	any TWO from: 5xxx or above	2xxx or above

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

Notes:

- The Department requires that a minimum of 12 credit hours of the Major program be completed at Ohio State University.
- Major program courses may not be used for GE purposes.
- Philosophy 2367 may not count towards your Major program, although it may be used for GE purposes.
- Students choosing to double major should consult with MaryKatherine Ramsey to review ASC's requirements concerning overlap among major courses.

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 3530: Philosophy of Logic
 PHIL 3600: Introduction to Philosophy of
 Language

PHIL 3650: Philosophy of Science
 PHIL 3680: Sex and Death: Introduction to the
 Philosophy of Biology
 PHIL 3700: Introduction to Metaphysics
 PHIL 3750: Introduction to Theory of
 Knowledge
 PHIL 3800: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
 PHIL 3810: Philosophy of Action
 PHIL 3820: Philosophy of Perception

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 our academic advisor, MaryKatherine Ramsey.

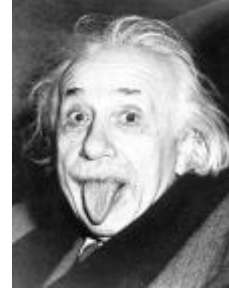
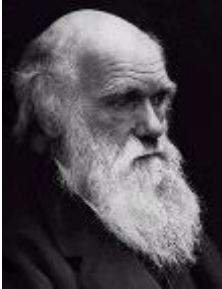
TWO courses (6 hrs)	ONE course (3 hrs)	ONE course (3 hrs)
2xxx or above	3xxx or above	33xx or above

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 2500: Symbolic Logic
- Philosophy 2660: Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution
- Philosophy 3310: Moral Psychology
- Philosophy 3650: Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy 3680: Sex and Death: Introduction to the 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 2860:	Science and 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.

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

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

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: Moral Psychology
- PHIL 3650: Philosophy of Science
- PHIL 3680: Sex and Death: Introduction to the 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.

Honors Degrees in Philosophy

There are two main tracks toward graduation with honors in Philosophy, beyond the standard major program: *Graduation with Honors in the Liberal Arts* and *Graduation with Distinction in Philosophy*. And, there are two plans to Graduation with Distinction in Philosophy: a thesis plan and an examination plan. A student may plan his or her course of study to lead to both Graduation with Honors in the Liberal Arts and Graduation with Distinction in Philosophy.

The guidelines for the foregoing tracks are as follows:

I. Graduation with Honors in Arts and Sciences

On the GHLA track, the student 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 GEC 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 and with her or his Honors Advisor in the Arts and Sciences Honors office.

The GHLA degree requires a minimum GPA of 3.3 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—namely, a minimum of 30 hours in Philosophy above the 2000 level (not including the prerequisite course, Philosophy 2500), of which six hours must be at or above the 5000 level. For example in order to build a sufficiently more challenging major, a student following the GHLA track 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.

II. Graduation with research Distinction in Philosophy

The GDP degree requires a minimum GPA of 3.3; a minimum GPA in Philosophy of 3.5; 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—namely, a minimum of 30 hours in philosophy above the 2000 level (not including the prerequisite course, Philosophy 2500), of which six hours must be at or above the 5000 level. The difference is that the GDP degree requires a minimum of 36 hours in philosophy above the 2000 level (not including the prerequisite course); and, further, that, of these hours, 18 be at or above the 5000 level. The program will be designed with permission of and in consultation with the student's advisor (either the Honors Advisor or the Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of Philosophy, depending upon the student's status).

Graduation with research Distinction in Philosophy also requires the student to undertake a project in consultation with a faculty project director, to be selected in consultation with the student's advisor. The project will be undertaken according to one of the following two plans.

Plan 1

On this plan, the student will, in consultation with a faculty project director, write a senior thesis and defend it in a one-hour oral examination. In order to work on his or her thesis, the student will enroll in at least 6 but not more than 9 senior thesis (4999H) hours during his or her last few semesters of study, for the purpose of writing the thesis and preparing for the final thesis examination. Of these hours, 9 can be counted toward the student's total requirements of 36 hours at or above the 2000 level, and 9 can be counted toward the student's total requirement of 18 hours at or above the 5000 level.

An examination draft of the student's thesis is to be completed by the sixth week of the student's final semester. This 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 deposited with the College of Arts and Sciences Honors office. All three 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.

Plan 2:

On this plan, the student will, in consultation with a faculty project director, create a file of two papers to be collectively evaluated by a committee consisting of the student's director and two other committee members and to be defended in a final oral examination. Normally, these papers will be from fifteen to twenty pages in length. The papers can be based on papers written for courses taken by the student, but they must represent extensive expansion and revision of the original work. Students will typically commence work on these papers during the spring semester of the student's junior year. The file of papers will be created according to the following schedule: The first paper will be submitted by the end of the tenth week of Fall Semester in the student's senior year. The second paper will be submitted by the end of the sixth week of Spring Semester of the student's senior year.

In order to revise the student's file of papers and to prepare for the final examination during the last few quarters of his or her undergraduate career, the student will enroll in at least 3 but not more than 9 senior thesis (4999H) hours. Of these hours, 9 can be counted toward the student's total requirement of 36 hours at or above the 2000 level and 6 can be counted toward the student's total requirement of 18 hours at or above the 5000 level.

The file of papers will be evaluated by a committee consisting of the student's director and two other committee members. The committee may require that the papers be modified before a final file is deposited with the College of Arts and Sciences Honors office. All three committee members will participate in the examination of the candidate, which will be devoted to questions about the material in the student's file of papers.

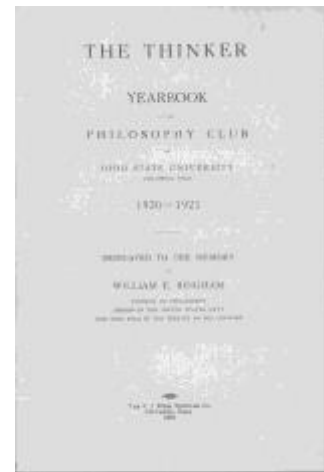
The student shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements for graduation with distinction in philosophy only if each of the three members of the examination committee finds both the file of papers and the oral examination to be acceptable.

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 1921 a medal was commissioned by a famous French medalist and for a number of years this was offered as the award. In 1936 there was no medal available for the recipient, and during the Second World War the dies were lost. In 1944 an again in 1958, unsuccessful efforts were made to replace the cast. It appears that during some of this time the department awarded a *picture* of the medal to the winners of the prize. In addition, books were frequently awarded as well, and in 1950 an award of \$25 was offered for the purchase of books. In the 1960's, a new medal was commissioned by the department, but it was not considered as attractive as the original. Finally, in 1981, the Department secured one of the original medals and had a new mold for this medal made. Current winners receive a copy of the original medal (shown below) and a cash prize of \$500.00. The undergraduate scholar is then invited to present the winning paper to the faculty and fellow students at an award ceremony.



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

