



A GUIDE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY

2012-2013

**The Ohio State University
Department of Philosophy
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Department of Philosophy

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Dear Philosophy Student,

In *The Devil's Dictionary*, the great American cynic Ambrose Bierce defines 'philosophy' as "a route of many roads leading from nowhere to nothing." A bleak description, to be sure! And yet, many feel drawn to this route. Since philosophy is often said to "begin in wonder," it's worth wondering why this is so.

Many of philosophy's staunchest defenders will concede to Bierce that the pursuit of philosophy does not lead where some think. Socrates understood philosophy as the *pursuit* of wisdom and criticized the Sophists, who claimed to have attained it. He held that if he was wiser than other people, it was only because he understood how little he knew about the world. For millennia, then, people have observed that the value of philosophy lies not in "reaching a destination, but in the journey." And, as hackneyed as this observation has become, it is worth making. After all, a journey from nowhere to nothing can be a valuable journey, nonetheless.

But, I think, Bierce's criticism overstates the problems of philosophy and the defenders of philosophy have been too modest in their defense. There is much that we learn in the study of philosophy. While almost all philosophers would concede ignorance about the nature of consciousness and its place in the world, this is not because they know *less* about it than others. It is, rather, because they better understand what is yet to be learned. But philosophical analysis has given us a much clearer picture of what the mind is and how it can fit in nature. It is true that the knowledge we acquire will be tentative and revisable. Such knowledge will not satisfy those who demand certainty and finality.

Philosophy stimulates human reason and imagination to ponder our place both within our fundamental cultural institutions and within the cosmos. It helps develop sensitivity to the assumptions underlying our factual and our evaluative judgments. Because it promotes a capacity for analytical thinking, students who major in philosophy prosper in any profession in which clarity of thought counts heavily.

The curriculum of the Philosophy Department at The Ohio State University covers all the important areas of philosophy: epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, logic, ethics, history of philosophy and the philosophy of art. The department has close connections with other Ohio State departments, including Linguistics, Mathematics, Classics, Political Science, and Comparative Studies, as well as other University units like the Center for Cognitive Studies and the Humanities Center. It co-sponsors events with other units both within the College and outside it, such as the Wexner Center and the College of the Arts.

Faculty members of the department have won recognition for their excellence both as teachers and as scholars. Contact between students and faculty within the department is congenial. (Many students remain in contact with their advisors and instructors in later years). If they wish, undergraduate students can be involved in the activities of the Philosophy Club. The Bingham Award (\$500.00 plus an engraved medal) is granted each year to honor undergraduate excellence in Philosophy.

This handbook is designed to provide information to students interested in studying philosophy. If you would like to learn more about the Department, want to complete a major or minor program form, or interested in pursuing an honors degree, please contact Professor [Tamar Rudavsky](#) or call 614-292-7914.

Best Wishes,

Tamar Rudavsky
Director of Undergraduate Studies



What is Philosophy?

The word ‘philosophy’ comes from Greek words meaning “love of wisdom.” The ancient Greek philosophers distinguished themselves from the sophists, who claimed to *have* wisdom, by insisting that philosophy is the *pursuit* of wisdom, a pursuit that may never fully attain its goal. This pursuit begins with questioning—questioning one’s own beliefs as well as the beliefs of others. It involves challenging the most basic shared beliefs of one’s society.

Not surprisingly, this activity has not always made philosophers popular. One of the first philosophers, Socrates, was sentenced to death by the Athenian court for his challenges to accepted doctrines. The 17th Century philosopher Spinoza was excommunicated from the Jewish community and branded a heretic for his views. Today, reasonable people have come to value the practice of questioning the authority of even our deeply held beliefs. As the 20th Century philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote, “Philosophy is to be studied, not for the sake of any definite answers to its questions ... but rather for the sake of these questions themselves; because these questions enlarge our conception of what is possible, enrich our intellectual imagination and diminish the dogmatic assurance which closes the mind against speculation.”

Philosophers ask the “big questions” in life—questions like, “Is there a meaning to life?”, “Are there objective moral standards?”, “Do we have free-will?”, “How can we be justified in our beliefs about the world?”, and “Is there a God?” These are questions that almost everyone ponders at some time or

other. Philosophers, though, set about to examine these questions rigorously and provide reasoned defenses of their answers. Toward that goal, philosophers are trained to read carefully, think clearly, and write cogently. As a result, those who major in philosophy are well prepared for graduate work in law, the sciences, or the humanities, and they are relatively immune to many of the rhetorical tricks and fallacious arguments of everyday life.

Pursuing Philosophy at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant’s high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in philosophy within the College of Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor for Department of Philosophy and an Undergraduate Student Academic Services (USAS) counselor.

The major program in philosophy is planned by the student in consultation with a faculty advisor from the Department of Philosophy. This is usually done in the student’s sophomore or junior year. The major program, after approval by the student’s faculty advisor, is filed in the college office.

Philosophy Requirements

The philosophy major consists of a prerequisite requirement (Philosophy 2500 Symbolic Logic) and major program requirements. Student

should try to satisfy the prerequisite soon after declaring a major in philosophy. The major program must include at least 30 credit hours in courses numbered 2000 and above, not including Philosophy 2500. The major program must include:

- Gateway Seminar (3000)
- Moral Philosophy (3300)

History of Philosophy (9 credit hours):

- History of Ancient Philosophy (3210)
- History of Medieval Philosophy (3220)
- History of 17th-Century Philosophy (3230)
- History of 18th-Century Philosophy (3240)
- History of 19th-Century Philosophy (3250)
- Fundamental Concepts of Existentialism (3261)

Philosophical Topics (6 credit hours) Two courses selected from:

- Philosophy of Logic (3530)
- Introduction to Philosophy of Language (3600)
- Philosophy of Science (3650)
- Sex and Death: Introduction to the Philosophy of Biology (3680)
- Introduction to Metaphysics (3700)
- Introduction to Theory of Knowledge (3750)
- Introduction to Philosophy of Mind (3800)
- Philosophy of Action (3810)
- Philosophy of Perception (3820)

Two philosophy 5xxx courses

One further philosophy course at 2xxx, 3xxx, 4xxx or, 5xxx level

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population. Philosophy majors will be particularly interested in the very active Undergraduate Philosophy Club.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors & Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors & Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs are invited to apply upon admission to the university. For more information about these opportunities, refer to the Honors & Scholars web site at <http://honors.osu.edu>.

Career Prospects in Philosophy

Some philosophy majors plan to go on to graduate studies with the goal of teaching philosophy at the college level. For these students a major in philosophy is the best undergraduate preparation. Most philosophy majors, though, do not pursue

graduate studies in philosophy. Philosophy majors can find careers in a number of professions. Business and government employers are often pleased to hire philosophy majors because of their ability to read carefully, write clearly, and to see to the heart of a complex problem. The rigorous training philosophy majors receive in analysis and argumentation results in their performing particularly well on admissions tests for law school, business school and graduate programs in the academic disciplines.

Some non-academic jobs that Ohio State graduates with philosophy majors have chosen include: research administrator for the National Youth Employment Coalition, stockbroker with Dean Witter, systems engineer with IBM, assistant district attorney in San Francisco, screenwriter film and TV, and a teacher with Teach for America.

Philosophy graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their humanities education. Undergraduate majors who go on to graduate school in philosophy are often awarded fellowships or become teaching assistants. A teaching assistant can expect to receive for nine months of part-time service approximately \$18,000 annually plus benefits, tuition, and fees. Fellowships allow full-time study and offer similar benefits. A philosophy major who goes on to earn a PhD and takes up an academic career can expect a starting salary of between \$50,000 and \$65,000.

More About Philosophy

The philosophy major is flexible and can be tailored to the individual student's specific interests and plans. A student planning to attend law school may want to select the courses in The Philosophy and Law and Political and Social Philosophy. A

student who wants to pursue an advanced degree in philosophy is well-advised to develop a very strong background by taking more than the required 30 credit hours, and by concentrating on the 5000-level courses in Philosophical Topics. Courses in all the major areas of philosophy are offered, as well as courses in The Philosophy of Religion, Asian Philosophy, Jewish Ethics and Jewish Mysticism, The Philosophy of Art, Medical Ethics, and Environmental Ethics. With careful planning, any of these courses be included in a major program.

Contact Information:

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Philosophy Courses

For more detailed information concerning these courses, please consult the [Course Offerings Bulletin](#) or stop by the Department for a copy of [semester course offerings](#).

| | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|--|
| 1100* | Introduction to Philosophy | 3820 | Philosophy of Perception |
| 1100H* | Honors Introduction to Philosophy | 3810 | Philosophy of Action |
| 1101H* | Mind and Its Place in Nature: Western Conceptions of the Self from Antiquity to the Present: Part I | 3870 | Jewish Mysticism |
| 1102H* | Mind and Its Place in Nature: Western Conceptions of the Self from Antiquity to the Present: Part II | 4900H | Junior-Senior Pro-seminar |
| 1300* | Introduction to Ethics | 4998 | Undergraduate Research in Philosophy |
| 1332* | Engineering Ethics | 4998H | Honors Undergraduate Research in philosophy |
| 1500* | Introduction to Logic | 4999 | Non-honors Thesis work |
| 1501* | Intro to Logic and Legal Reasoning | 4999H | Honors Thesis work |
| 1520* | Probability, Data, and Decision Making | 5193 | Individual Studies |
| 1850* | Introduction to Philosophy of Religion | 5194 | Group Studies |
| 2120 | Asian Philosophies | 5210 | Studies in Ancient Philosophy |
| 2194 | Group Studies | 5211 | Plato |
| 2342 | Environmental Ethics | 5212 | Aristotle |
| 2367* | Contemporary Social and Moral Problems in the U.S. | 5220 | Studies in Medieval Philosophy |
| 2400 | Political and Social Philosophy | 5230 | Studies in 17 th Century Philosophy |
| 2450 | Philosophical Problems in the Arts | 5241 | Kant |
| 2470H | Honors Philosophy of Film | 5240 | Studies in 18 th Century Philosophy |
| 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 |
| 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 17th Century Philosophy | 5450 | Advanced aesthetic Theory |
| 3240 | History of 18th Century Philosophy | 5460 | Philosophy in Literature |
| 3250 | History of 19th Century Philosophy | 5500 | Advanced Symbolic Logic |
| 3260 | Movements in 20th 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 |
| 3341 | Ethical Conflicts in Health care Research, Policy, & Practice | 5600 | Advanced Philosophy of Language |
| 3351 | Judaism and Ethics | 5650 | Advanced Philosophy of Science |
| 3410 | Philosophical Problems in the Law | 5700 | Advanced Metaphysics |
| 3420 | Philosophical Perspectives on Issues of Gender | 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 |
| 3680 | Sex and Death: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Biology | 5850 | Philosophy of Religion |
| 3700 | Introduction to Metaphysics | 5870 | Topics in Jewish Philosophy |
| 3750 | Introduction to Theory of Knowledge | | |
| 3800 | Introduction to Philosophy of Mind | | |

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

The Dual Advising System

Students in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences (ASC) have the advantage of 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.

The first advisor, your academic counselor, is associated with the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Advising in Denney Hall. You are not assigned to a specific ASC counselor. You may request a certain counselor, or see any of the counselors from your division (*e.g.*, Arts & Humanities). These full-time professionals are, in a sense, "generalists." They advise you on the General Education Curriculum, special academic and career opportunities, graduation requirements, and Arts and Sciences policies and procedures, and they make referrals to other professionals on campus. They are located in Denney Hall and are available by appointment only. There are no walk-in appointments; however, counselors are usually available for quick questions by telephone at 614-292-6961. Honors Philosophy Majors should contact [Aurelia Kubayanda](#) at the Arts and Sciences Honors Office in Enarson Hall at 292-5104.

The second advisor, who is assigned to you and is listed on your schedule and other important documents, is the departmental (major) advisor. This advisor, who works for the department that offers your major, can be considered a specialist. This advisor is either a full-time professional advisor or a faculty member in the department who does advising in addition to teaching and research. You should consult this person on issues related specifically to your major.

Currently, the undergraduate advisor in Philosophy and the undergraduate Honors advisor is [Professor Tamar Rudavsky](#).

B.A. in Philosophy Advising Sheet

The major program is planned by the student with a faculty advisor in the Philosophy Department. This is usually done in the student's sophomore or junior year. The major program must be approved by the student's faculty advisor. Satisfactory completion of all courses on the major program is a requirement for graduation. Changes in the major program require the approval of the faculty advisor.

The philosophy major at Ohio State consists of a prerequisite requirement, which the student should try to satisfy in the first two or three semesters after declaring a major in philosophy, and major program requirements.

Prerequisite:

PHIL 2500: Symbolic Logic (3 credits)

Major Requirements: 30 Hours

Each Major must include:

1. PHIL 3000: Gateway Seminar (3 credits)
2. History of Philosophy: Any Three of the following (9 credits)

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

3. Philosophical Topics (9 credits)

Required of all majors: PHIL 3300: Moral Philosophy (3 credits)

And two of the following (6 credits)

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

4. Upper Level Coursework: Any Two PHIL 5xxx courses (6 credits)
5. Elective: Any one further Philosophy course at the 2xxx, 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx level (3 credits)

NOTE: The Department requires for the B.A. in Philosophy that a minimum of 12 credit hours of the courses counting toward satisfying these requirements be completed at Ohio State University. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your major program, although it may be used for GEC purposes. Major program courses cannot be used for GEC purposes.

Double Majors General College Requirements

- The two majors must be in different subject matters.
- You must meet the requirements for each major as set by the unit(s) offering the majors.
- Each major must contain at least 18 hours not contained in the other.
- Overlap with the GE is permitted where appropriate (overlap with the GE is not permitted with a single major, unless specifically allowed by a particular GE category).
- If one or more majors are in the humanities or the social sciences, more than one course from the area of the major may, if appropriate, count toward the GE requirement in the humanities or social sciences.
- See an Arts and Sciences counselor for more information as to how to complete a double major.
- See the appropriate major advisors for detailed information on the majors. A listing of departmental major advisors is available at the Arts and Sciences website <artsandsciences.osu.edu>, under “Resources for Students.”
- A double major is not the same as two degrees. See “[Dual Degree and Second Degree Programs](#).” Please consult with our Arts and Sciences advisor if you are interested in pursuing two baccalaureate degrees.

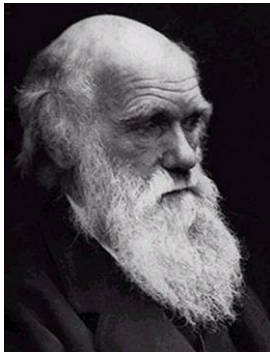
Minor in Philosophy

All minor programs must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Consultation concerning the minor should be sought at least one year prior to the student's projected date of graduation. The minimal requirements for a minor in Philosophy are:

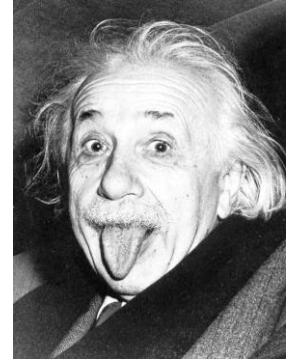
1. At least 12 credit hours in Philosophy courses numbered 2000 or above.
2. At least 6 of those credit hours must be in Philosophy courses numbered 3000 or above.
3. At least 3 of those credit hours must be in Philosophy courses numbered 5000 or above.
4. No more than 3 credit hours of PHIL 5193 coursework may be applied to the minor.
5. The Department requires that a minimum of 6 credit hours of a student's minor program be completed at Ohio State University.
6. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your minor program, although it may be used for GE purposes.

General College Rules Pertaining to all Minors (Consult a departmental representative for specifics)

- Minors are not required for graduation.
- You may have more than one minor, but each minor must contain a minimum of 12 unique hours and at least six hours of course work completed at Ohio State.
- You may not earn a minor in the same subject as your major.
- Courses in the minor may not be used on your major.
- Where appropriate, overlap between the GE and a minor is permissible, unless specifically disallowed for an individual minor.
- No grade below a C- may be applied to the minor.
- You must have a minimum 2.00 CPHR in the minor courses.
- You may not take minor courses pass/non-pass.
- Information sheets on minors are available in the West lobby of Denney Hall in the main ASC office.
- Some minors need faculty approval from the minor department; the information sheets will indicate this if it is required.
- Once a minor is on file in ASC, the faculty advisor and/or an ASC counselor must approve any changes.
- To get specific curricular information about a particular minor, see the advisor in that department.
- See an Arts and Sciences academic counselor in Denney Hall for more information on minors.



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.

A philosophy minor can broaden and deepen your own scientific study. The requirements are simple: at least 12 credit hours (i.e., three courses) in philosophy courses numbered 2000 or above. At least 6 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 5000 or above. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your minor Program, although it may be used for GE purposes.

Relevant courses include:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Philosophy 2500: | Symbolic Logic |
| Philosophy 2660: | Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution |
| Philosophy 3650: | Philosophy of Science |
| Philosophy 3680: | Sex and Death: Introduction to the Philosophy of Biology |
| Philosophy 5830: | Philosophy of Cognitive Science |
| Philosophy 5650: | Advanced Philosophy of Science |

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 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. ***There are many other combinations of courses possible and a minor can be tailored to your specific interests.*** For more information, contact the Department (292-7914 or philosophy@osu.edu) or visit our web page on minors (<http://philosophy.osu.edu/philosophy-minor>).

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)



Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Religion

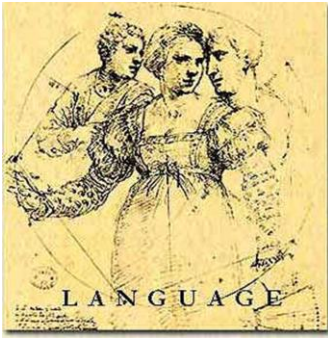
Are you interested in religious studies? Philosophers have long pondered foundational questions concerning the nature of religion. Is it possible to *prove* that God exists, or that God does not exist? How can one believe God when so much evil exists in the world? Is religious faith compatible with reason? 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. The requirements are simple: at least 12 credit hours (i.e., three courses) in philosophy courses numbered 2000 or above. At least 6 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 5000 or above. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your minor Program, although it may be used for GE purposes.

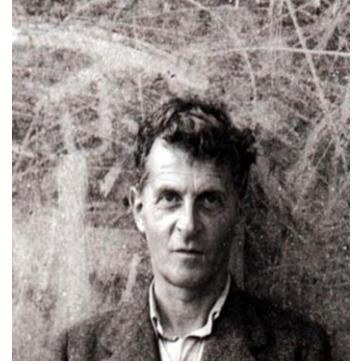
Relevant courses include:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 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. The requirements are simple: at least 12 credit hours (i.e., three courses) in philosophy courses numbered 2000 or above. At least 6 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 5000 or above. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your minor Program, although it may be used for GE purposes.

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.

$$\exists x \forall y Rxy \rightarrow \forall x \exists y Rxy$$

$$\int 3x^2 dx = 6x$$

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos\theta + i\sin\theta$$

Minor in Philosophy Focusing on Mathematics & 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. The requirements are simple: at least 12 credit hours (i.e., three courses) in philosophy courses numbered 2000 or above. At least 6 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 5000 or above. Philosophy 2367 does not count towards your minor Program, although it may be used for GE purposes.

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

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

Philosophy 2500: Symbolic Logic

Philosophy 3530: Philosophical Logic

Philosophy 5500: Advanced Symbolic Logic

Philosophy 5510: Non-classical logic

Philosophy 5530: Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics

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 three 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 paper can be based on papers written for courses taken by the student, but they must represent extensive expansion and revision of the original work. The file of papers will be created according to the following schedule:

- The first paper will be submitted by the end of the third week of Spring Semester of the student's junior year.
- The second paper will be submitted by the end of the third week of Fall Semester in the student's senior year.
- The third paper will be submitted by the end of the third 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.

What Can You Do With A Philosophy Major?

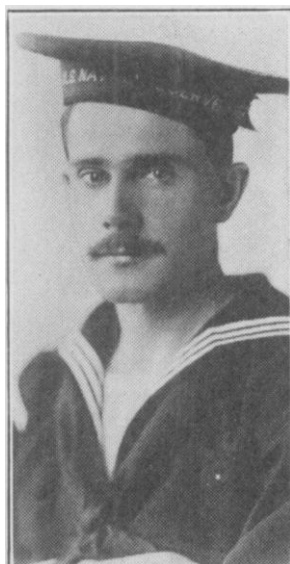
(Some careers OSU Philosophy majors have chosen)

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sr. Systems Analyst | – | Nationwide Life Ins. Co. |
| *Pastor | – | Central United Methodist Church |
| President | – | Kenmore Florist & Gifts |
| Systems Engineer | – | I.B.M. Corporation |
| *Psychiatrist | – | University of Louisville |
| Corrections Officer | – | Ohio Reformatory for Women |
| Systems Analyst | – | The Ohio State University |
| *Assistant Public Defender | – | Oklahoma County |
| Engineering Manager | – | Glencorp, Inc. |
| *Attorney | – | Hermann Cahn & Schneider |
| Purchasing Agent | – | F. A. Kohler Company |
| Computer Programmer | – | Software Systems |
| Disc Jockey | – | WLYC-WILQ Radio |
| English Instructor | – | Amity Foundation |
| Manager | – | Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. |
| Library Assistant | – | Getty Conservation Institute |
| Research Administrator | – | National Youth Employment Coalition |
| *Professor | – | University of Hartford |
| Case Management Specialist | – | Franklin County Board of MR/DD |
| *Optician | – | Harris Opticians |
| *Fighter Pilot | – | U. S. Air Force |
| Insurance Agent | – | Nationwide |
| Computer Programmer | – | Ford Motor Company |
| *Asst. District Attorney | – | City of San Francisco |
| Stockbroker | – | Dean Witter |
| *Head Librarian | – | Stanford University |
| *Physician | – | Mercy Hospital |
| Sociologist | – | U. S. Department of Commerce |
| Corrections Officer | – | State of Ohio |
| Screenwriter | – | Film and TV |
| Caseworker | – | Ohio Welfare Department |
| President | – | World Cruising Yachts |

*Requires Additional Education

[Arts & Sciences Career Services](#)
48 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43210

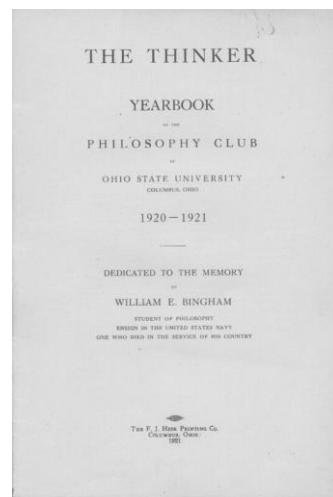
THE BINGHAM AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE



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 and 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.



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

