Department of Philosophy

Department Website: http://philosophy.uchicago.edu

Chair

- Interim TBA

Professors

- Matthew Boyle
- Daniel Brudney
- James Conant
- Michael Kremer
- Gabriel Richardson Lear, Social Thought
- Jonathan Lear, Social Thought
- Martha C. Nussbaum, Law
- Robert Pippin, Social Thought
- Robert J. Richards, History
- Candace A. Vogler

Associate Professors

- Jason Bridges
- Agnes Callard
- Kevin Davey
- David Finkelstein
- Anton Ford
- Anubav Vasudevan
- Malte Willer

Assistant Professors

- Matthias Haase
- Daniel Moerner
- Thomas Pashby
- Ginger Schultheis

Lecturers

- Benjamin Callard
- Bart Schultz
- Lisa Van Alstyne
- Tyler Zimmer

Emeritus Faculty

- Arnold Ira Davidson
- Howard Stein
- Josef J. Stern
- William W. Tait
- William C. Wimsatt

The programs in philosophy are designed to develop skill in philosophical analysis, to enable the student to think clearly, systematically, and independently on philosophical issues, and to achieve a thorough acquaintance with major classics and contemporary works in philosophy. Philosophy classes are conducted so that students may develop philosophical skills by class discussions and by the writing of carefully directed papers.

The following is an outline of the main features of the graduate program. For full details, please write the Department of Philosophy directly.

GRADUATE DEGREES

The graduate program in philosophy is primarily a doctoral program. Admission as a graduate student normally implies that, in the opinion of the department, the student is a promising candidate for the Ph.D.
degree. The Master of Arts degree, however, may be awarded to students in the program who meet the requirements specified below.

The application process for admission and financial aid for all graduate programs in the Division of the Humanities is administered through the Divisional Office of the Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines and department specific information is available online at: http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions.

Questions about admissions and aid should be directed to humanitiesadmissions@uchicago.edu or (773) 702-1552.

International students must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Current minimum scores, etc., are provided with the application. For more information, please see the Office of International Affairs website at https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu, or call them at (773) 702-7752.

Students admitted to doctoral study are typically awarded a five-year fellowship package that includes full tuition, academic year stipends, summer stipends, and medical insurance. Teaching training is a vital part of the educational experience at the University, so all fellowships include a required teaching component.

**The Degree of Master of Arts**

The objective of the program is the Ph.D. degree. Students seeking a master’s degree should apply to the Master of Arts Program in the Humanities (MAPH), a three-quarter program of interdisciplinary study in a number of areas of interest to students. Further details about the MAPH program are available at http://maph.uchicago.edu/

Doctoral students who are enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago may receive an M.A. in Philosophy. These can be either:

- Doctoral students in another discipline who seek a “secondary” M.A. in Philosophy, in conjunction with their doctoral studies in that other discipline; or
- Doctoral students in Philosophy who want to receive the M.A.

The requirements for the degree are the same in either case. The requirements can be satisfied entirely by course-work; no thesis is required. They are specified in five clauses:

- **Quality:** No course for which the student received a grade lower than a B+ will satisfy any requirement for the M.A.
- **Level:** Only courses taken at the graduate level (that is, with a course-number of 30000 or higher) can satisfy any requirement for the M.A.
- **Quantity:** The student must complete at least eight courses in Philosophy at the University of Chicago. (Reading and research courses do not count toward satisfying this requirement, nor do courses taken pass/fail—except the first-year seminar, which counts as one course if passed.)
- **Distribution:** The student must have taken at least one designated course in each of the Philosophy Department’s five “areas” — namely:
  - **Area I:** Value theory
  - **Area II:** Philosophy of science, philosophy of language, and logic
  - **Area III:** Epistemology and metaphysics
  - **Area IV:** Ancient or Medieval philosophy
  - **Area V:** Modern philosophy (17th-19th centuries)
- **Elementary Logic:** The student must demonstrate competence in elementary logic. This can be achieved by an interview in which the candidate satisfies one of the Department’s logicians that he or she has the required competence, or by taking the Elementary Logic course (PHIL 30000 Elementary Logic), or any more advanced logic course offered by the Department. Philosophy 30000 can count as one of the minimum eight courses, but it does not satisfy the Area II requirement. A more advanced logic class does both.

**Application Procedure**

Doctoral Students in the Department of Philosophy may apply for the M.A. at any time after they have completed the requirements. 1. Contact the Department Coordinator so that the proper paperwork is submitted verifying your courses (above) and 2. contact the office of the Humanities Dean of Students in order to gain access to the degree application in http://my.uchicago.edu. Keep your expected graduation date set to the date you anticipate receiving the Ph.D.

Students in a Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago in a department other than Philosophy who wish to receive a “secondary” M.A. in Philosophy must first apply for admission to the M.A. program in the Department of Philosophy. No student can apply unless she has taken at least three Philosophy courses, and it is expected that the student will apply soon after completing that number of courses. To initiate the application
process, the student should set up an appointment with the Assistant Dean of Students for Admissions in the
Division of Humanities who will direct the student through the required paperwork and obtain:

- The applicant’s transcript of courses taken for the B.A.
- His/Her GRE scores
- A transcript of the applicant’s courses at the University of Chicago taken up to the time of the
application.
- A sample of her best philosophical writing. This may but need not be a paper written for one of the
applicant's already completed Philosophy courses at the University.
- A brief letter from the chair or director of graduate studies of the applicant's home department
supporting the application. The letter should explain why the student is seeking an M.A. in philosophy to
complement her doctoral studies.
- Names of two faculty in the Dept. of Philosophy who can comment on work done by the applicant and
on her philosophical potential.
- A statement by the applicant that explains why she is seeking an M.A. in Philosophy.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The divisional and University requirements for the Ph.D. degree must be fulfilled. Departmental
requirements are as follows:

**Course Requirements**

The Course Requirement has seven parts concerning:

- The number of required courses
- The distribution of required courses
- The logic requirement
- Required progress
- Policies concerning incompletes
- Grades
- Transfer credits

**Number of Required Courses**

Students must complete at least twelve courses in their first two years of study: the first year seminar and
eleven graduate courses.

First-year students must enroll in the first-year seminar. The exact organization and scheduling varies from
year to year according to the instructor’s discretion. It is graded on a pass-fail basis.

In addition, eleven graduate courses must be completed with a grade of B or better:

- At least ten of these courses must be in the Philosophy Department listings;
- Reading and research courses do not count among these eleven classes
- At least one must be a graduate seminar in Philosophy

**DISTRIBUTION OF REQUIRED COURSES**

Students are required to take one course in each of the following three areas of contemporary philosophy:

- Value theory (listed in the course descriptions as I)
- Philosophy of science, philosophy of language, and logic (listed in the course descriptions as II)
- Epistemology and metaphysics (listed in the course descriptions as III)

and three courses on the history of philosophy as follows:

- A figure or movement in either Ancient or Medieval Philosophy (listed in the course descriptions as IV)
- A figure or movement in Modern Philosophy from the 17th through 19th centuries (listed in the course
descriptions as V)
- One additional course on a figure or movement in either IV or V.

It should be noted that not all graduate courses satisfy a field distribution requirement; those not classified
in the published course descriptions as belonging to I-V cannot be used to satisfy the distribution requirement.
Nor can Philosophy 30000 (Elementary Logic) be used to satisfy a field distribution requirement.

**Logic Requirement**

There is a requirement in logic that can be satisfied in several ways.
By passing PHIL 3000 Elementary Logic with a grade of B or higher. Philosophy 3000 is offered every Autumn quarter. It counts toward the twelve course requirement but does not satisfy the field II distribution requirement.

By passing a course equivalent to or better than Philosophy 3000 (Elementary Logic), at another institution or in another department at Chicago, with a grade of B+ or higher. The equivalence of the course in question to Philosophy 3000 will be determined by the instructor in Philosophy 3000 in the year in question, on the basis of an interview with the student, and such evidence as the syllabus for the course, the textbook for the course, and any other course materials which the student can provide. Note that satisfying the logic requirement in this way will count neither towards one of the twelve required courses nor towards satisfying the field II distribution requirement.

By passing an advanced graduate course in logic with a grade of B or higher. Passing an advanced graduate course in logic would both satisfy the logic requirement and count towards the field II distribution requirement.

REQUIRED PROGRESS
Courses must be completed, with a grade of B or better, according to the following timetable.

Two courses should be completed by the beginning of the Winter quarter of the first year
Four courses (at least three in the Philosophy Department) should be completed by the beginning of the third quarter
Six courses should be completed by 30 September of the second year
Ten courses should be completed by the end of the fifth quarter
All twelve courses (eleven plus the first year seminar) must be completed by 30 September following the sixth quarter.

In addition to this timetable, students should keep in mind that because they are expected to be working on their Revision Workshop during Spring Quarter of their second year in the PhD program, they would be ill-advised not to have completed all but one their course requirements by that quarter.

INCOMPLETES
At the discretion of the instructor, coursework not completed on time may be regarded as an “incomplete.” This means that the instructor will permit a student to complete the work for a course after the normal deadline.

The instructor sets the time period for completion of the incomplete, subject to the following limitation: all coursework must be submitted by September 30th following the quarter in which the course was taken in order to count toward fulfillment of the requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. This date is an absolute deadline and is not subject to further extensions by individual faculty members.

Note: Students in their first year in the program are not permitted to take any incompletes in their first quarter.

GRADES
Satisfactory grades for work toward the Ph.D. in Philosophy are A, A-, B+, and B.

For Philosophy faculty, those grades mean the following. A: pass with distinction; A-: high pass; B+: pass; B: low pass.

TRANSFER CREDITS
The following policy applies to the Philosophy Ph.D. program. Special requirements of joint programs take precedence over this policy.

1. Of the required 11 graduate courses, no more than 1 can be taken at the University, but outside the Philosophy Department.
2. Of the required 11 graduate courses, no more than 2 can be transferred from other institutions.
3. Of the required 11 graduate courses, at least 9 must be taken within the Philosophy Department’s course offerings.
4. Only courses taken while enrolled in a doctoral program in Philosophy can be counted towards the required 11 graduate courses.

For example, a student might transfer 2 course from another institution and take one course from another department within the University, with the remaining 9 courses taken within the Philosophy Department. Or a student might transfer 2 courses from another institution, with the remaining 9 courses taken within the Philosophy Department.

Students wishing to obtain credit for graduate courses taken from the listings of other departments within the University toward the required 11 courses do not need to petition the department, within the two-course limit specified above.
Students wishing to obtain transfer credit for courses taken at other institutions must petition the Graduate Program Committee. Students should be prepared to provide evidence in support of their transfer application at the request of the Committee. Such evidence may include course descriptions, syllabi, assignments, written work completed for the course, and so on. Students who are transferring from other graduate programs must make such a request upon their entry into the Philosophy Department. Students who take a course at another institution while enrolled in the PhD program should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies beforehand, but must still petition the Graduate Program Committee to have the course accepted for transfer credit upon completion of the course.

Note that elementary logic courses taken outside the department may fulfill the elementary logic requirement but may not be used to meet the 11 course requirement. See “Logic Requirement” above for further details.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAM**

All students must pass an examination in French, German, Latin, or Greek by the end of Spring quarter of the fourth year or before the topical examination, whichever comes first. (There is a special rule for students who wish to write theses on ancient Greek or Roman philosophy; this is detailed below).

There are two kinds of language examinations: those administered by the Department and those administered by the University. Departmental language exams will be given twice a year and may not be taken more than twice.

Students who take the University language examination must receive a “High Pass.” These are offered every quarter and there is a fee for taking them.

There is a special requirement for those working in ancient philosophy or German philosophy, since work in these fields depends heavily on one’s ability to use the relevant languages.

Any student intending to write a thesis on ancient philosophy must pass the Departmental or University exam in Greek (the latter with a “High Pass”). Any student intending to write a thesis on Hellenistic or Roman philosophy must also pass the Departmental or University exam in Latin (the latter with a “High Pass”). Any student intending to write a thesis on German philosophy must pass the Departmental or University exam in German with a “High Pass”.

Such students may take the Departmental exam in Greek or Latin or German a maximum of three times (as opposed to two times, which is the rule for other languages).

**REVISION WORKSHOP**

In the spring of their second year, all PhD students register for the Revision Workshop, taught by the current Director of Graduate Studies. In this course, students will present, discuss, and revise one of the papers they have written in their first two years in the graduate program. This paper will then be submitted to the department late in the spring as a sample of their best work. The final essay should be no longer than 8,000 words. The department will then review the paper as part of its evaluation whether the student has sufficient promise to proceed from coursework to the next stage of the program.

**TOPICAL WORKSHOP**

In their third year, students will take a Topical Workshop, which meets intermittently in both Autumn and Winter Quarters. In this workshop, students present and discuss materials they will use in their Topical Examination, such as dissertation proposals and chapter drafts. The purpose of this workshop is to help students pass their subsequent Topical Examination and advance quickly to PhD candidacy.

**TOPICAL EXAMINATION**

Following the Revision Workshop, students begin work toward their dissertations. During the Winter and Spring quarters of their third year, they should be meeting with various faculty members to discuss and refine possible dissertation topics, and possible dissertation committees.

By the end of their third year, and at the latest at the beginning of their fourth year, students will establish, with their prospective dissertation committee, concrete plans for the Topical Examination. Those plans will include: (1) a determination of the dissertation committee, (2) the expected character of the materials to be submitted by the student on which the Topical Examination will be based, and (3) the expected date of the Topical Examination. Though the details will vary (depending on the subject matter, the state of the research, etc.), the materials must include a substantial new piece (around 25 double-spaced pages) of written work by the student. This could be a draft of a chapter, an exposition of a central argument, a detailed abstract (or outline) of the whole dissertation, or whatever the committee as a whole agrees upon.

The Topical Examination is an oral examination administered by the members of a student's dissertation committee with the aim of evaluating the viability of the proposed dissertation project and the student's ability to complete it within a reasonable amount of time. Students will be admitted to PhD candidacy only after they have officially passed their Topical Examination. The Department's normal expectation is that students will have advanced to candidacy (including passing their Topical Examination and their language examination(s)) by the
end of third week of their 11th quarter (normally the Winter quarter of their fourth year). Note: students must have scheduled their Topical Examination by the end of their fifteenth quarter (normally the end of the fifth year) to remain in the Program.

Students cannot take their Topical until they have met all other program requirements including passing their foreign language exam or exams. Students must finish their language exams by the end of their fourth year in the program (independently of their status with regard to any other requirements).

The Department requires that each student submit a written progress report on his or her progress by the end of the winter quarter of each year, beginning with his or her fourth year in the program. The report should be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies and (after the Topical) to the student’s dissertation committee. In addition to this report, students who have advanced to candidacy must submit a substantial piece of new writing (25-30 pages in length) to the chair of their dissertation committee. The student will be notified whether or not he or she is making good progress following the annual review meetings in Spring.

It is very much in each student’s own interest to be well along with his or her dissertation early in the fifth year, for several related reasons. First, of course, all students are obligated to teach a stand-alone course that year as part of their GAI teaching requirements. This is inevitably time and energy consuming. Second, GAI funding runs out at the end of that year; and some students will not get any more support from the University. And, finally, such sixth-year support as there is from the University is systematically directed to those applicants whose work is not only of the best quality, but also the furthest along (as documented not only by faculty testimonials but also by submitted chapters). Keep in mind also that so-called “dissertation-year fellowships” are awarded competitively on a Division-wide basis, and there are not enough to go around. Though Philosophy students have often done well in this competition, there is no guarantee for the future; and, in any case, not all applications will be successful.

To be sure, supporting oneself without aid, while finishing up a dissertation, is a time-honored academic tradition. But, for most students, the available opportunities are far from deluxe (either inside or outside the University), and it is clearly wise to minimize one’s dependence on them, if possible.

NOTE: The Department Coordinator must be informed of the date and time of your Topical Exam, and documentation of the Topical. This is so that department and university can record the exam and admit the student to candidacy. Students need to email the Department Coordinator the names of the members of the committee, the sample chapter on which the Topical examination is based, and the working title of the dissertation.

TEACHING REQUIREMENTS

The Philosophy Department views the development of teaching competence as an integral part of its overall Ph.D. program and takes various steps to train its doctoral students to become excellent teachers of philosophy. It offers different types of teaching opportunities, which gradually prepare its students to teach their own classes. These opportunities are enhanced by the department’s pedagogical support through individual faculty mentorship and year round discipline-specific pedagogical events offered through its pedagogy program (http://philosophy.uchicago.edu/graduate/pedagogy.html). The first teaching opportunities come in the form of course assistantships. The professor responsible for the course in which a doctoral student serves as an assistant is also responsible for monitoring the doctoral student’s teaching progress in that course and preparing a written report of her teaching performance therein. Once a doctoral student has proven herself as a teaching assistant, she is permitted to do stand-alone teaching. In these cases, too, however, the design of the syllabus of the course is developed in consultation with a member of the faculty. Here, too, that faculty member is responsible for further monitoring the doctoral student’s teaching progress over the duration of the stand-alone course and preparing a written report of her teaching performance as a solo instructor.

The initial guaranteed funding for five years awarded to students admitted to the program includes a teaching obligation. That obligation standardly takes the form of the student serving four times as an instructor -- usually three times as a course assistant and once as an instructor of a stand-alone course. Normally, students complete one teaching assistantship in their third year, after completion of the Preliminary Essay, and two in their fourth year. Normally, students give their stand-alone course in the fifth year. These first four teaching stints are not further compensated: they are a component of the five-year fellowship package. This four-time teaching obligation is a requirement of the Department of Philosophy’s Ph.D. program.

These first four teaching opportunities are built into the basic requirements of the Ph.D. program in order to ensure that students in the program acquire a certain minimum degree of teaching competence. However, the Department views the teaching obligation as a bare minimum with regard to teaching preparation. Doctoral students in the program are encouraged to do more teaching in the later years.

The Department’s primary responsibility with respect to doctoral students is to support their work toward the doctoral degree. Teaching preparation is a crucial aspect of that responsibility and any additional teaching must be consistent with timely progress toward the doctoral degree. Accordingly, the policy on teaching beyond the departmental teaching obligation is as follows:

1. In Years 1 & 2, when doctoral students are expected to satisfy their course and logic requirements as well as to formulate topics, find readers, and begin research toward their Preliminary Essays, doctoral
students are not given departmental teaching and will not be permitted to accept extra-departmental
teaching. The students may, however, complete the Training Course for Writing Interns and Lectors offered
by the University of Chicago Writing Program before Autumn of Year 3.

2. In Years 3-5, students may petition the DGS for permission to apply for extra teaching. If, and only if,
the following conditions are met, the Department (normally through the DGS) may petition the Dean of
Students in the Humanities and the Master of the Humanities Collegiate Division to allow the student to
apply for extra-departmental teaching:
   a. The student is making exemplary progress toward the degree in Philosophy (that is, the student
      has met every deadline set in the time to degree expectations and the students' work toward the degree
      is strong).
   b. There is a sound pedagogic reason to allow the student to seek extra teaching.
   c. In Year 6, students will be expected to teach as CAs in two departmental classes.

3. Students must make their petitions to the DGS by the second week of the term prior to the term in
which they hope for extra-GAI teaching—students must make their petitions by the second week of Spring
quarter for extra teaching in Autumn, by the second week of Autumn quarter for extra teaching in Winter,
and by the second week in Winter quarter for extra teaching in Spring. The Department must make its
petition to the DOS and Master of the HCD by the end of the third week of the term prior to the term in
which students seek extra-GAI teaching.

4. If the DOS and the HCD approve the Department’s petition, and if the students are offered extra
   teaching appointments, funding for these positions cannot be drawn from the students’ fellowship teaching
   obligation monies.

5. Extra teaching permissions may be withdrawn if students cease to make exemplary progress toward
   their degrees.

   Petitions to the DOS and Master of the HCD will attest to the students’ progress and provide the rationale
for allowing these students to seek teaching beyond the departmental teaching obligation.

   Students do not need departmental permission to seek extra teaching assignments after their fifth year of
residence.

   Over the course of a doctoral student’s career, that student together with the Department builds a teaching
dossier, containing the syllabuses of the courses that she has taught, written reports by faculty teaching mentors
on those courses, and last but not least, undergraduate evaluations of those courses. When doctoral students
prepare to go on the job market, the Department sees to it that one member of the faculty undertakes the
responsibility of writing a teaching letter for the student that documents and surveys the highlights of her
teaching career at the University of Chicago.

   The Department of Philosophy offers a non-credit and not required Pedagogy Program for PhD students.
For more information, click here (http://philosophy.uchicago.edu/graduate/pedagogy.html).

Dissertation and Final Oral Exam

   Students must inform their committee members of their intention to schedule a defense during the term
PRIOR to the term in which they plan to defend. Committee members will consult concerning whether the
dissertation is in sufficiently final form to warrant the fixing of a date for the oral examination. Committee
members will normally have seen the bulk of the work of the dissertation before making this judgment. Students
should consult with their Dissertation Director and other Committee members about the amount of material
they will need to see, the state of completion needed, and the time required for this judgment to be made. When
the Dissertation Committee judges that the student is ready to defend, the student must coordinate with the
Dissertation Committee and the Department Co-ordinator to settle the date and time for the dissertation.

   Students should consult with their Committee concerning a precise deadline for submission of the final draft
of the dissertation for the defense. This is normally several weeks to a month before the defense date. Students
should be aware that, in practice, in order to graduate in a given quarter, the final draft of the dissertation
must be submitted to the Dissertation Committee in the first week or two of that quarter, so that the defense
can take place prior to the Library’s deadline for submitting the final form of the dissertation, leaving time for
any necessary revisions noted during the defense. For information regarding the precise deadline by which
your approved dissertation must be submitted in a given quarter for the degree to be granted in that same
quarter, please click here (http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/phd/deadlines.html). Note also that an exam cannot be
scheduled for at least two weeks after the formal request has been submitted.

   The defense must take place at the University of Chicago, preferably in the Autumn, Winter, or Spring
quarters. Summer defenses are scheduled at the discretion of the student’s Dissertation Committee.

   The student and at least one member of the Dissertation Committee must be physically present at the
defense.

   The student should submit, within the timeline notes, to the Department Coordinator:
• the scheduled date, time, and the members of the committee, and any special room requirements, at least 3 weeks prior, or as soon as the date and time are settled
• an electronic copy (.doc or .docx) of a 1-2 paragraph abstract, at least 3 weeks prior
• an electronic copy of a 10-page abstract of the dissertation, at least 2 weeks prior

The final oral exam is a public event. The examining committee consists of the members of the dissertation committee, along with an appointed member of the Humanities Division faculty who serves as a representative of the Dean’s Office. Other faculty and graduate students from the Philosophy Department may and generally do attend. Family members of the doctoral candidate and other members of the general public are also welcome.

If a student passes, then it is customary in the final phase of the exam for the members of the student’s dissertation committee to request a final round of revisions to the dissertation. The final granting of the degree is conditional upon the completion of these final revisions. These are to be made promptly after the exam and prior to the formal submission of the PhD document. After the dissertation is submitted, the student is required to provide each member of the dissertation committee with an electronic version of the document in its final form.

Director of Graduate Studies
• Kevin Davey

Director of Undergraduate Studies
• Anton Ford

PHILOSOPHY COURSES

PHIL 30000. Elementary Logic. 100 Units.
An introduction to the concepts and principles of symbolic logic. We learn the syntax and semantics of truth-functional and first-order quantificational logic, and apply the resultant conceptual framework to the analysis of valid and invalid arguments, the structure of formal languages, and logical relations among sentences of ordinary discourse. Occasionally we will venture into topics in philosophy of language and philosophical logic, but our primary focus is on acquiring a facility with symbolic logic as such.
Instructor(s): G. Schultheis
Terms Offered: Autumn Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIPS 20700, CHSS 33500, LING 20102, PHIL 20100

PHIL 30506. Philosophy of History: Narrative & Explanation. 100 Units.
This lecture-discussion course will focus on the nature of historical explanation and the role of narrative in providing an understanding of historical events. Among the figures considered are Gibbon, Kant, Humboldt, Ranke, Collingwood, Acton, Furet, Danto. (B) (III)
Instructor(s): R. Richards
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 35110, PHIL 20506, KNOW 31401, HIST 25110, CHSS 35110, HIPS 25110

PHIL 31002. Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations. 100 Units.
In this class we explore the philosophical foundations of human rights, investigating theories of how our shared humanity in the context of an interdependent world gives rise to obligations of justice. We begin by asking what rights are, how they are distinguished from other part of morality, and what role they play in our social and political life. But rights come in many varieties, and we are interested in human rights in particular. In later weeks, we will ask what makes something a human right, and how are human rights different from other kinds of rights. We will consider a number of contemporary philosophers (and one historian) who attempt to answer this question, including James Griffin, Joseph Raz, John Rawls, Samuel Moyn, Jiewuh Song, and Martha Nussbaum. Throughout we will be asking questions such as, “What makes something a human right?” “What role does human dignity play in grounding our human rights?” “Are human rights historical?” “What role does the nation and the individual play in our account of human rights?” “When can one nation legitimately intervene in the affairs of another nation?” “How can we respect the demands of justice while also respecting cultural difference?” “How do human rights relate to global inequality and markets?” (A) (I)
Instructor(s): B. Laurence
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 21002, INRE 31602, PHIL 21002, HMRT 31002, HIST 29319, MAPH 42002, HMRT 21002, HIST 39319

PHIL 31414. MAPH Core Course: Contemporary Analytic Philosophy. 100 Units.
This course is designed to provide MAPH students - especially those interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Philosophy - with an introduction to some recent debates between philosophers working in the analytic tradition. The course is, however, neither a history of analytic philosophy nor an overview of the discipline as it currently stands. The point of the course is primarily to introduce the distinctive style and method - or styles and methods - of philosophizing in the analytic tradition, through brief explorations of some currently hotly debated topics in the field.
Instructor(s): M. Willer
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): This course is open only to MAPH students. MAPH students who wish to apply to Ph.D. programs in Philosophy are strongly urged to take this course.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 31414
PHIL 31491. Anscombe's Intention. 100 Units.
G. E. M. Anscombe's 1957 monograph, Intention, inaugurated the discipline known as the philosophy of action. We will study that work with occasional reference to the secondary literature. (A)
Instructor(s): A. Ford Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 21491

PHIL 35707. The Different Senses of Being. 100 Units.
Aristotle states that "being is said in many ways," we shall seek to understand this statement and to study the history of its interpretations. Among the modern authors we shall discuss are Franz Brennanto, Martin Heidegger, Ernst Tugendhat, Charles Kahn, Aryeh Kosman, G.E.L. Owen, Stephen Menn, David Charles.
Instructor(s): Irai Kimhi Terms Offered: Autumn. Course scheduled for Autumn 2021
Prerequisite(s): Open to undergrads with instructor consent.
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 35706

PHIL 38115. Contemplative Cinema and Poetic Thinking. 100 Units.
A close study of four films by Robert Bresson, two by Yasujiro Ozu, and two by Terence Malick. The main question to be investigated: how might cinematic tone, pacing, editing, and framing suggest philosophical issues that cannot be effectively raised and discussed in the normal discursive forms of philosophy.
Instructor(s): R. Pippin Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to graduates and undergraduates.
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 38115, PHIL 28115

PHIL 39425. Logic for Philosophy. 100 Units.
Key contemporary debates in the philosophical literature often rely on formal tools and techniques that go beyond the material taught in an introductory logic class. A robust understanding of these debates—and, accordingly, the ability to meaningfully engage with a good deal of contemporary philosophy—requires a basic grasp of extensions of standard logic such as modal logic, multi-valued logic, and supervaluations, as well as an appreciation of the key philosophical virtues and vices of these extensions. The goal of this course is to provide students with the required logic literacy. While some basic metalogical results will come into view as the quarter proceeds, the course will primarily focus on the scope (and, perhaps, the limits) of logic as an important tool for philosophical theorizing. (B)
Instructor(s): M. Willer Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Elementary Logic or equivalent.
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 29425

PHIL 49701. Topical Workshop. 100 Units.
This is a workshop for 3rd year philosophy graduate students, in which students prepare and workshop materials for their Topical Exam.
Instructor(s): A. Vasudevan Terms Offered: Autumn Winter
Prerequisite(s): A two-quarter (Autumn, Winter) workshop for all and only philosophy graduate students in the relevant years.

PHIL 49702. Revision Workshop. 100 Units.
This is a workshop for 2nd year philosophy graduate students, in which students revise a piece of work to satisfy the PhD program requirements.
Instructor(s): A. Vasudevan Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): All and only philosophy graduate students in the relevant years.

PHIL 49900. Reading & Research. 100 Units.
Reading and Research.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of Instructor.

PHIL 53025. Philosophy of Animal Rights. 100 Units.
A close study of some recent philosophical classics about animal ethics and animal rights, including Christine Korsgaard’s Fellow Creatures, Sue Donaldson and Will Kymlicka’s Zoopolis, and a manuscript of my own, Justice for Animals, that is due at the end of 2021. We will also read some of the recent work by scientists such as Frans De Waal, Mark Bekoff, and Victoria Braithwaite on animal cognition.
Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): An undergraduate major in philosophy or some equivalent solid philosophy preparation. Ph.D. students in Philosophy and Political Theory may enroll without permission.
Note(s): This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students. Admission by permission of the instructor. Permission must be sought in writing at least ten days before the beginning of Law School classes, Monday, September 20. The class will be offered on the Law School calendar.
Equivalent Course(s): RETH 53025, PLSC 53025

PHIL 59950. Workshop: Job Placement. 000 Units.
Course begins in late Spring quarter and continues in the Autumn quarter.
Instructor(s): M. Willer Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Prerequisite(s): This workshop is open only to PhD Philosophy graduate students planning to go on the job market in the Autumn of 2021/2022. Approval of dissertation committee is required.

PHIL 70000. Advanced Study: Philosophy. 300.00 Units.
Advanced Study: Philosophy