Philosophy

The Philosophy concentration offers courses covering subjects from the philosophy of religion to the philosophies of science and literature. It also provides survey courses on various periods in the history of philosophy. Concentrators can expect to strengthen their knowledge of and skills in philosophy of religion to the philosophies of science and literature. It also provides survey courses on various periods in the history of philosophy. Students are asked to identify an area of specialization. There is also a related, but separate concentration in physics and philosophy.

Standard Concentration (for declarations made January 2013 to present)

10 courses total, of which no more than one may be below PHIL 0350, and at least three must be at or above PHIL 0990.

One course in Ancient Philosophy, e.g.
- PHIL 0350 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 1250 Aristotle
- PHIL 1260 Plato
- PHIL 1310 Myth and the Origins of Science

One course in Early Modern Philosophy, e.g.
- PHIL 0360 Early Modern Philosophy
- PHIL 1700 British Empiricists
- PHIL 1710 17th Century Continental Rationalism
- PHIL 1720 Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason

One course in Epistemology or Metaphysics, e.g.
- PHIL 1660 Metaphysics
- PHIL 1750 Epistemology
- PHIL 1760 Philosophy of Language
- PHIL 1770 Philosophy of Mind

One course in Ethics or Political Philosophy, e.g.
- PHIL 0500 Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 0560 Political Philosophy
- PHIL 1640 The Nature of Morality
- PHIL 1650 Moral Theories

One course in Logic, e.g.
- PHIL 0540 Logic
- PHIL 1630 Mathematical Logic
- PHIL 1880 Advanced Deductive Logic

One seminar
- A course from the PHIL 0990 series
- Or any seminar at the 2000-level, which may be counted for one of the other requirements

Specialization: Three related courses from one single area of philosophy: e.g., logic and language; philosophy of science; epistemology; philosophy of mind; moral philosophy; political philosophy; ancient philosophy, etc. See Notes below for further details.

Capstone
- Reading Course (PHIL 1990): a reading course for one semester involving one professor and one student, leading to the preparation of a substantial research paper on a particular topic. The Reading Course may accompany a 1000-level course being taken concurrently. In this case, the 1000-level course would provide a general overview of the topic and the reading course would consist of a deeper foray into the topic. A one-semester Reading Course may also be a first step towards writing an Honors Thesis.
- Senior Seminar (PHIL 0990): Seminars aimed primarily at advanced undergraduates, on varying topics each year, requiring the completion of a substantial research paper.

Graduate Seminar (PHIL 2000-level): seminars mainly aimed at graduate students, but also open to advanced undergraduates, requiring the completion of a substantial research paper.

Honors Thesis: a piece of work expected to be more substantial than the above-mentioned research papers, typically researched and written over the course of the entire senior year (possibly starting with a relevant Reading Course in the first semester) under the supervision of a thesis advisor (possibility, though not necessarily, the specialization advisor). For honors, see below.

Notes:
- No more than one course may fulfill both a general distribution requirement and a specialization requirement.
- No more than two courses from departments other than the philosophy department may be counted among the ten courses required for the concentration; no more than one of these two outside courses may count toward the three specialization requirements.
- The specialization and the courses that will fulfill it are traditionally declared at some point in the course of the Junior year. Those making a Concentration Declaration at an earlier time (e.g. at the end of their Sophomore year) may make a provisional choice of courses which can be revised at a later date with the approval of the department's DUS (Director of Undergraduate Studies).
- Concentrators who aim at a general acquaintance with the discipline of philosophy may forgo a specialization and devise an appropriately balanced program of courses beyond the requirements with the approval of the DUS.

Honors Requirements:
- Philosophy GPA must be greater than 3.5. (This refers to the GPA at the beginning of the senior year in all philosophy courses, and including at least six courses).
- Thesis (see Capstone Options)

Prior Concentration Requirements

For declarations made prior to January 2013, there was one standard concentration in Philosophy with two optional tracks

Standard Concentration (Prior to January 2013)

Eight courses in Philosophy, which may not include more than one course numbered below 0350. In addition, at least one of the courses must be an undergraduate or graduate seminar.

One course in Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 0350 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 1250 Aristotle
- PHIL 1260 Plato
- PHIL 1310 Myth and the Origins of Science

One course in Early Modern Philosophy
- PHIL 0360 Early Modern Philosophy
- PHIL 1700 British Empiricists
- PHIL 1710 17th Century Continental Rationalism
- PHIL 1720 Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason

One course in Logic
- PHIL 0540 Logic (or higher)
- PHIL 1630 Mathematical Logic
- PHIL 1880 Advanced Deductive Logic

One course in Ethics or Political Philosophy
- PHIL 0500 Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 0560 Political Philosophy
- PHIL 1640 The Nature of Morality
- PHIL 1650 Moral Theories

One course in Epistemology or Metaphysics
- PHIL 1660 Metaphysics
- PHIL 1750 Epistemology
- PHIL 1760 Philosophy of Language
- PHIL 1770 Philosophy of Mind

Capstone
- Reading Course (PHIL 1990): a reading course for one semester involving one professor and one student, leading to the preparation of a substantial research paper on a particular topic. The Reading Course may accompany a 1000-level course being taken concurrently. In this case, the 1000-level course would provide a general overview of the topic and the reading course would consist of a deeper foray into the topic. A one-semester Reading Course may also be a first step towards writing an Honors Thesis.

Senior Seminar (PHIL 0990): Seminars aimed primarily at advanced undergraduates, on varying topics each year, requiring the completion of a substantial research paper.

Graduate Seminar (PHIL 2000-level): seminars mainly aimed at graduate students, but also open to advanced undergraduates, requiring the completion of a substantial research paper.

Honors Thesis: a piece of work expected to be more substantial than the above-mentioned research papers, typically researched and written over the course of the entire senior year (possibly starting with a relevant Reading Course in the first semester) under the supervision of a thesis advisor (possibility, though not necessarily, the specialization advisor). For honors, see below.

Total Credits: 10
Optional tracks:

**Ethics and Political Philosophy**

Eight courses in philosophy, which may not include more than one course numbered below 0350.

**One course in Ancient Philosophy**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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**One course in Early Modern Philosophy**

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**Logic**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 0540</td>
<td>Logic (or higher)</td>
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Three courses in ethics or political philosophy at the level of 0400 or higher

Two additional philosophy courses

Total Credits 8

**Logic and Philosophy of Science**

Eight courses in philosophy, which may not include more than one course numbered below 0350. With the approval of the concentration advisor, two appropriate science or mathematics courses may be taken instead of philosophy courses.

**One course in Ancient Philosophy**

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**A course in Logic at the level of 1630 or higher**

**One course in Epistemology or Metaphysics**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Metaphysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 1750</td>
<td>Epistemology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 1770</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind</td>
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</table>

Three courses in philosophy of science at the level of 0650 or higher

One additional philosophy course

Total Credits 8

Cross-listed courses may be used to fulfill the requirements of any of the concentrations above only with the approval of the concentration advisor.

**Honors (Prior to January 2013)**

Seniors wishing to earn honors by presenting a senior honors thesis should consult their concentration advisor during their sixth semester concerning procedures and requirements. In addition to completing the usual non-honors requirements, a student must write a thesis judged to be of honors quality by two readers and have a strong record in philosophy department courses (of which at least five must be taken for a letter grade). Honors theses are usually written during a student's final semester at Brown.