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 ancient philosophy, early modern philosophy, logic, epistemology and metaphysics. Students are asked to identify an area of specialization. There is also a related, but separate concentration in physics and philosophy.

Standard Concentration

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.

A. Five Area Requirements:

One course in Ancient Philosophy, e.g. 1
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. 1
PHIL 0360 Early Modern Philosophy
PHIL 1700 Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Others
PHIL 1710 17th Century Continental Rationalism
PHIL 1720 Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason

One course in Epistemology or Metaphysics, e.g. 1
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. 1
PHIL 0500 Moral Philosophy
PHIL 0560 Political Philosophy
PHIL 0880 Ethical Themes in the Contemporary American Short Story
PHIL 1400 Ethics in the Novel
PHIL 1640 The Nature of Morality
PHIL 1650 Moral Theories

One course in Logic, e.g. 1
PHIL 0540 Logic
PHIL 1630 Mathematical Logic
PHIL 1880 Advanced Deductive Logic

B. Five further courses, chosen to include an item under each of the following three headings: 5

1) One seminar: a course from the PHIL 0990 series or a seminar at the 2000-level

2) Either a 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.

Or: a broader selection of courses chosen with the approval of the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)

3) Capstone: One of the following four options

a. 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.

b. Senior Seminar (PHIL 0990 or 0991): Seminars aimed primarily at advanced undergraduates, on varying topics each year, requiring the completion of substantial research and writing.

c. Graduate Seminar (PHIL 2000-level): seminars mainly aimed at graduate students, but also open to advanced undergraduates, requiring the completion of substantial research and writing. (A 0990- or 2000-level seminar taken as a Capstone also fulfills requirement (B, 1) for a seminar).

d. 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 (with enrollment in PHIL 1995 Senior Thesis for two semesters) under the supervision of a thesis advisor (possibly, though not necessarily, the specialization advisor). See also Honors Requirements below.

Total Credits 10

Notes:

- Up to two courses from departments other than the Philosophy department may be included among the ten courses required for the Concentration; no more than one of these two outside courses may count toward the three specialization requirements.

- One course, but not more, may fulfill both an Area Requirement and a Specialization requirement.

- The specialization and the courses that will fulfill it are standardly 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).

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, five of which were taken for a letter grade).

- Thesis: for further details, see “Senior Year Options” and “Thesis” on the Departmental website.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:
Helvetica was used instead of Arial.
The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.