Philosophy

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Philosophy asks fundamental questions about human identity, the nature of knowledge and reality, moral virtue and responsibility, the nature of community and political authority, aesthetic judgments and values, and other concepts central to the meaning and value of human existence. Through the study of primary texts and concrete issues, drawn from various historical periods and cultures, philosophy provides a means for reflection on actions, beliefs, and values while developing critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. Philosophy also strengthens the ability to reason, enlarges the imagination, and refines aesthetic sensitivity. A philosophical education thus offers excellent preparation for a broad range of careers that require critical intelligence and creative problem-solving as well as oral and written communication skills.

Faculty

Steven Brence, instructor (social and political philosophy, philosophy of film, ethics). BS, 1989, MA, 1993, PhD, 2001, Oregon. (2001)

Mark Johnson, Philip H. Knight Professor (philosophy of language, recent moral theory, cognitive science). BA, 1971, Kansas; MA, 1972, PhD, 1977, Chicago. (1994)

Colin Koopman, Robert F. and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professor in the Humanities; associate professor (political philosophy, pragmatism, genealogy). BA, 1997, Evergreen State College; MA, 1999, Leeds; PhD, 2006, McMaster. (2010)

Bonnie Mann, professor (feminist, Continental). BA, 1983, Portland State; PhD, 2002, State University of New York, Stony Brook. (2003)

Erin McKenna, professor (feminist theory, American pragmatism). BA, 1987, Claremont McKenna College; MA, 1990, PhD, 1992, Purdue. (2016)

Nicolae Morar, assistant professor (bioethics, philosophy of biology, ecology). BA, 2004, MA, 2005, Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3; PhD, 2011, Purdue. (2015)

Scott L. Pratt, Dean of the Graduate School and professor of philosophy (American philosophy, history of philosophy, education). BA, 1981, Beloit; PhD, 1995, Minnesota. (1995)

Camisha Russell, assistant professor (critical philosophy of race, bioethics, African American philosophy). BA, 2000, American; MA, 2008, Memphis; PhD, 2013, Penn State. (2017)

Beata Stawarska, professor (phenomenology, Continental, philosophical psychology). BA, 1992, MA, 1994, PhD, 2000, Louvain. (2003)

Alejandro Vallega, associate professor (Latin American philosophy, Continental philosophy, aesthetics). BA, 1993, Saint John's College; MA, 1996, Boston; PhD, 1999, Vienna. (2010)

Daniela Vallega-Neu, associate professor (19th- and 20th-century European philosophy, history of philosophy, phenomenology). BA, 1984, European School, Varese; MA, 1992, PhD, 1995, Universitat Freiburg. (2010)

Peter Warnek, associate professor (ancient philosophy, 19th- and 20th-century Continental philosophy, Kant). BA, 1986, Seattle; MA, 1990, Villanova; PhD, 1998, Vanderbilt. (1999)

Naomi Zack, professor (race, feminism, disaster). BA, 1966, New York University; PhD, 1970, Columbia. (2001)

Rocio Zambrana, associate professor (Continental, 19th-century philosophy, modern philosophy). BA, 2001, Puerto Rico; MA, 2004, PhD, 2010, New School for Social Research. (2010)

Emeriti

William E. Davie, associate professor emeritus. BA, 1964, Washington (Seattle); PhD, 1969, California, Irvine. (1968)

Don S. Levi, professor emeritus. BA, 1956, Wisconsin, Madison; MA, 1961, PhD, 1962, Harvard. (1964)

The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

Participating

Joyce Cheng, history of art and architecture

Michael Hames-García, ethnic studies

Jeffrey S. Librett, German and Scandinavian

Lisa Mazzei, education studies

Jerry L. Rosiek, education studies

Steven Shankman, English

Michael Stern, German and Scandinavian

Mark T. Unno, religious studies

Malcolm Wilson, classics

- **Bachelor of Arts**
- **Bachelor of Science**
- **Minor**

Undergraduate Studies

The department offers bachelor of arts (BA) and bachelor of science (BS) degree programs. University degree requirements are listed in the **Bachelor's Degree Requirements** section of this catalog and in the schedule of classes. Declaration of a major may be accomplished online by completing a form available on the department website.

Major Requirements

Course work for the major in philosophy must be passed with grades of C– or better or P (pass). No more than 8 credits may be taken pass/no pass.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 310–312	History of Philosophy	12

PHIL 325	Logic, Inquiry, and Argumentation	4
Select two of the following:		8
PHIL 421	Ancient Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 433	17th- and 18th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 453	19th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 463	20th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL 213	Asian Philosophy	
PHIL 216	Philosophy and Cultural Diversity	
PHIL 315	Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	
PHIL 342	Introduction to Latin American Philosophy	
PHIL 443	Feminist Philosophy: [Topic]	
PHIL 451	Native American Philosophy	
PHIL 452	Philosophy and Race	
Additional upper-division philosophy courses		24
Total Credits		**52**

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL 310–312	History of Philosophy	12
PHIL 325	Logic, Inquiry, and Argumentation	4
Select two of the following:		8
PHIL 421	Ancient Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 433	17th- and 18th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 453	19th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
PHIL 463	20th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL 213	Asian Philosophy	
PHIL 216	Philosophy and Cultural Diversity	
PHIL 315	Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	
PHIL 342	Introduction to Latin American Philosophy	
PHIL 443	Feminist Philosophy: [Topic]	
PHIL 451	Native American Philosophy	
PHIL 452	Philosophy and Race	
Additional upper-division philosophy courses		24
Total Credits		**52**

Honors in Philosophy

The philosophy honors program is designed to provide outstanding, highly motivated philosophy majors with the opportunity to develop their skills during the senior year through the independent exploration of a special topic of their own choosing under the guidance of a faculty mentor. To be eligible for admission to the honors program, students must have completed at least 24 credits in philosophy, at least 12 of which have been taken at the University of Oregon. The honors candidate's grade point average (GPA) in philosophy must be at least 3.50, maintained through graduation. To graduate with honors, the candidate must fulfill the following requirements:

Courses

Besides the courses required of majors, a candidate for departmental honors must take at least 16 of the 52 credits in philosophy at the 400 level.

Senior Thesis

The candidate must write an honors thesis under the guidance of a member of the philosophy faculty chosen as thesis advisor. The thesis must demonstrate the student's ability to formulate a significant research problem, research primary resources, interpret sources with imagination and technical skill, and present the finished work in a form meeting professional standards in philosophy. The thesis must be approved by a thesis committee consisting of two faculty members from the philosophy department. Approval of the thesis depends in part on a public defense attended by the committee.

Upon fulfilling these requirements, the candidate is approved to receive a bachelor's degree with honors in philosophy.

Minor Requirements

Minor in Philosophy

PHIL 310–312	History of Philosophy	12
Course on the work of a specific philosopher		4
Upper-division course		4
Additional philosophy course		4
Total Credits		**24**

Courses must be passed with grades of C– or better or P (pass). No more than 8 credits may be taken pass/no pass.

Minor in Ethics

PHIL 102	Ethics	4
or PHIL 323	Moral Theory	
Five ethics-related courses chosen from the following (or from additional rotating topics courses):		20
PHIL 102	Ethics	
PHIL 120	Ethics of Enterprise and Exchange	
PHIL 123	Internet, Society, and Philosophy	
PHIL 130	Philosophy and Popular Culture	
PHIL 170	Love and Sex	
PHIL 216	Philosophy and Cultural Diversity	
PHIL 220	Food Ethics	
PHIL 307	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 308	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 309	Global Justice	
PHIL 315	Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	
PHIL 323	Moral Theory	
PHIL 330	Philosophy and Disaster	
PHIL 335	Medical Ethics	
PHIL 340	Environmental Philosophy	
PHIL 342	Introduction to Latin American Philosophy	
PHIL 343	Critical Theory	
PHIL 344	Introduction to Philosophy of Law	
ENVS 345	Environmental Ethics	
PHIL 443	Feminist Philosophy: [Topic]	

PHIL 451	Native American Philosophy
PHIL 452	Philosophy and Race

Courses must be passed with grades of C– or better or P (pass). No more than 8 credits may be taken pass/no pass. Twelve credits must be taken at the upper-division level, 4 credits of which must be at the 400 level.

A minimum of 12 upper-division credits must be take in residence at the University of Oregon.

Students with a major in philosophy may not earn a minor in ethics (although minoring in both ethics and philosophy is permitted).

The minor will be awarded beginning fall 2015; students with course work earned prior to fall 2015 will be permitted to use that course work toward the requirements for the minor.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
PHIL 101	Philosophical Problems	4	
First term of first-year second-language sequence		4	
WR 121	College Composition I	4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 102	Ethics	4	
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		4	
WR 122	College Composition II	4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 103	Critical Reasoning	4	
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
PHIL 310	History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval	4	
First term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 311	History of Philosophy: Modern	4	
Second term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
100- or 200-level PHIL course		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 312	History of Philosophy: 19th Century	4	
PHIL 325	Logic, Inquiry, and Argumentation	4	
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
PHIL 453	19th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Multicultural course in international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 463	20th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
General-education social science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**44**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
Elective courses		8	
	Credits	**12**	
Winter			
Elective courses		16	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
Elective courses		8	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**40**	

Bachelor of Science in Philosophy

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
PHIL 101	Philosophical Problems	4	
Mathematics course		4	
WR 121	College Composition I	4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 102	Ethics	4	
Mathematics course		4	
WR 122	College Composition II	4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 103	Critical Reasoning	4	
Mathematics course		4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
PHIL 310	History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval	4	
Elective course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 311	History of Philosophy: Modern	4	
100- or 200-level PHIL course		4	
Elective course		4	
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
PHIL 312	History of Philosophy: 19th Century	4	
PHIL 325	Logic, Inquiry, and Argumentation	4	
Elective course		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
PHIL 453	19th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
General-education social science course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Multicultural course in international cultures		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
PHIL 463	20th-Century Philosophers: [Topic]	4	
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
General-education arts and letters course		4	
General-education social science course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
General-education science course		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**44**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
Elective courses		8	
	Credits	**12**	
Winter			
Elective courses		16	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
300- or 400-level PHIL course		4	
Elective courses		8	
	Credits	**12**	
	Total Credits	**40**	

- **Master of Arts: Distribution** (p. 5)
- **Master of Arts: Thesis** (p. 5)
- **Doctor of Philosophy**

Graduate Studies

The department offers a graduate program leading to the master of arts (MA) and the doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees. The program, which is pluralistic in orientation, requires students to develop a broad knowledge of the history of philosophy, major fields, and various approaches and methods. Students are urged to concentrate in a specific area at the advanced level. Specializations are supported in American philosophy, Continental philosophy, feminist philosophy, Latin American philosophy, philosophy of race, philosophical psychology, and environmental philosophy.

Each student designs a program in consultation with the graduate advisor. Two or more years are typically required for completing the MA degree, and five or more years are typically required for completing the PhD degree. A complete and detailed list of the university and department requirements for graduate degrees is available online through the department website.

Master of Arts Degree Requirements

The master's program is designed to prepare students for PhD research or other professional pursuits through providing a broad background in the history of philosophy and recent developments in the areas of philosophy that are strengths of the department.

There are two paths to earning a master's degree. The first requires completion of the second-language requirement and 48 credit hours of graduate course work including the distribution requirements (listed below). The second requires satisfaction of the second-language requirement, completing 45 credits of graduate course work—9 of which are taken in Thesis (PHIL 503)—and the writing of a master's thesis under the direction of a thesis advisor with a second faculty reader.

The distribution requirements may be satisfied by receiving a mid-B or better in

- two courses in each of three subdisciplinary fields: society and value; knowledge, rationality, and inquiry; and metaphysics
- one course from each of three out of the four historical periods: ancient and medieval, modern (16th–18th centuries), 19th century, and 20th and 21st centuries
- two courses from each of the four philosophical traditions—continental, analytic, American, and feminist—that ground the diverse philosophical perspectives of the department, one of which is a proseminar taken within the first two years of graduate study
- one course in one of four requirement areas: Asian philosophy, philosophy of race, Native American philosophy, and Latin American philosophy

A single course may count toward each of two categories, but no more than once in a single category. For example, a course may count in a subdisciplinary field such as metaphysics, and, at the same time, apply to the history requirement or the traditions requirement.

Master of Arts: Distribution

Subdisciplinary Requirements	
Two courses about society and value	8
Two courses about knowledge, rationality, and inquiry	8
Two courses about metaphysics	8
History Requirements	
Select three of the following:	12
Course from ancient and medieval period	
Course from modern (16th-18th centuries) period	
Course from 19th century	
Course from 20th and 21st centuries	
Traditions Requirements	
Two courses about continental philosophical traditions [1]	8
Two courses about analytic philosophic traditions [1]	8
Two courses about American philosophical traditions [1]	8
Two courses about feminist philosophical traditions [1]	8
Requirements Areas	
Select one of the following:	4
Course in Asian philosophy	
Course in philosophy of race	
Course in Native American philosophy	
Course in Latin American philosophy	
Total Credits	**72**

[1] One philosophical tradition course must be a proseminar taken within the first two years of graduate study.

For the thesis requirement, the student asks two faculty members to serve as his or her master's committee, with one agreeing to serve as chair. The student prepares a short (maximum five pages) description of the proposed thesis topic. Once both committee members have approved the thesis proposal, the student registers for as many as 9 credits of Thesis (PHIL 503) during the one or two terms over which the thesis is written. Typically, the committee chair meets periodically with the student to assess progress and to oversee the writing of the thesis. When both members of the thesis committee agree that the thesis is suitable for a final defense, the candidate schedules a one-hour oral examination, during which the committee members ask questions about the argument and make suggestions for further revision, if necessary. The thesis is completed when it is given final approval by both members of the committee and is accepted by the Graduate School as satisfying its requirements for thesis preparation.

Master of Arts: Thesis

PHIL 503	Thesis	9
Additional graduate-level philosophy courses		36
Total Credits		**45**

Additional Requirement

Students must complete the second-language requirement.

The student asks two faculty members to serve as his or her master's committee, with one agreeing to serve as chair. The student prepares a short (maximum five pages) description of the proposed thesis topic. Once both committee members have approved the thesis proposal, the student registers for Thesis (PHIL 503) during the one or two terms over which the thesis is written. Typically, the committee chair meets periodically with the student to assess progress and to oversee the writing of the thesis. When both members of the thesis committee agree that the thesis is suitable for a final defense, the candidate schedules a one-hour oral examination, during which the committee members ask questions about the argument and make suggestions for further revision, if necessary. The thesis is completed when it is given final approval by both members of the committee and is accepted by the Graduate School as satisfying its requirements for thesis preparation.

Doctor of Philosophy

The PhD degree requires a minimum of 81 credits of graduate-level course work, of which 18 must be in Dissertation (PHIL 603). Students must complete a logic requirement, demonstrate proficiency in a second language, complete the four course distribution requirements, and pass two comprehensive examinations—extensive research projects, one in history (a paper) and one in the student's area of specialization (a literature review). Most students finish their doctoral degrees within five to six years. The Graduate School imposes a limit of seven years for completion of the PhD degree.

The distribution requirements may be satisfied by receiving a mid-B or better in

- two courses in each of three subdisciplinary fields: society and value; knowledge, rationality, and inquiry; and metaphysics

- one course from each of the four historical periods: ancient and medieval, modern (16th–18th centuries), 19th century, and 20th and 21st centuries
- two courses from each of the four philosophical traditions—continental, analytic, American, and feminist—that ground the diverse philosophical perspectives of the department, one of which is a proseminar taken within the first two years of graduate study
- one course in one of four requirement areas: Asian philosophy, philosophy of race, Native American philosophy, and Latin American philosophy

A single course may count toward each of two categories, but no more than once in a single category.

Subdisciplinary Requirements		
Two courses about society and value		8
Two courses about knowledge, rationality, and inquiry		8
Two courses about metaphysics		8
History Requirements		
Select three of the following:		12
Course from ancient and medieval period		
Course from modern (16th-18th centuries) period		
Course from 19th century		
Course from 20th and 21st centuries		
Traditions Requirements		
Two courses about continental philosophical traditions [1]		8
Two courses about analytic philosophic traditions [1]		8
Two courses about American philosophical traditions [1]		8
Two courses about feminist philosophical traditions [1]		8
Requirements Areas		
Select one of the following:		4
Course in Asian philosophy		
Course in philosophy of race		
Course in Native American philosophy		
Course in Latin American philosophy		
Dissertation		
PHIL 603	Dissertation	18
Total Credits		**90**

[1] One philosophical tradition course must be a proseminar taken within the first two years of graduate study.

Additional Requirements

The comprehensive examinations are passed by completing two substantial research papers under the supervision of faculty members. Students are advanced to candidacy upon completion of the comprehensives. A dissertation prospectus must be accepted by the candidate's committee after a preliminary oral examination. The written dissertation must receive the approval of the dissertation committee after a final oral examination.

Admission

Applicants for admission to graduate studies are asked to write a brief letter explaining their philosophical background and their specific philosophical interests. This helps the department's admissions committee decide whether this is an appropriate philosophy department for the applicant's goals. They should also submit a writing sample, a college transcript, and a notification of their scores on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). International students must provide proof of competence in English. A score of at least 500 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE), 26 on the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or 7 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is required of international students unless their native language is English.

In addition to general university regulations governing graduate admission (see the **Graduate School** section of this catalog), the Department of Philosophy requires applicants to submit three confidential report forms completed by teachers (preferably philosophy teachers) familiar with the applicant's academic background.

The application process is exclusively online; a link to the application guidelines is posted on the department website. Applicants who are unable to make the application fee payment online with Visa, Discover, or MasterCard may now pay online with a check. This application and one complete set of transcripts, together with the $50 application fee, should be sent to the Office of Admissions, 1217 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1217. A second set of transcripts should be forwarded to the Department of Philosophy. Confidential report forms should be sent directly to the department by the faculty members recommending the applicant if they are unable to upload their letters of recommendation.

Graduate teaching fellowships are the only form of financial aid available in the philosophy department; the application deadline is January 15 for the following academic year. An application form is provided upon request.