PHILOSOPHY

Departmental Office: 708 Philosophy; 212-854-3196
www.philosophy.columbia.edu (http://philosophy.columbia.edu/)

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Christia Mercer, 707 Philosophy;
212-854-4884; cm50@columbia.edu (da5@columbia.edu)

Economics-Philosophy Adviser: Philip Kitcher, 717 Philosophy;
212-854-4884; psk16@columbia.edu

Students interested in philosophy may pursue a major either in
philosophy or in economics-philosophy. Because philosophy treats issues
fundamental to both the sciences and the humanities, students are also
welcome to combine their philosophy major with work in other fields.
Before declaring a major in philosophy or economics-philosophy, and
before deciding to combine philosophy with another discipline, students
should meet with the director of undergraduate studies to formulate the
program best for them.

Philosophy majors are given a foundation in logic and philosophical
methodology, and are asked to confront fundamental questions in the
main areas of philosophy: epistemology and metaphysics, ethics and
political philosophy, philosophy of mind and language, and history of
philosophy. The department requires that all majors take at least one
seminar (PHIL UN3912), designed to allow students to focus on particular
philosophical issues or texts in greater depth. Outstanding seniors may
also pursue their own philosophical project in a senior thesis.

Over and above the courses required of all majors, there is room for
considerable flexibility. Through an appropriate choice of electives
from among the department's offerings (and from related courses in
other departments), there are special opportunities for focusing more
intensively on one or two subfields of philosophy, e.g., logic and the
philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of science, ethics and political
philosophy, or the history of philosophy. Students should consult with the
director of undergraduate studies on how best to pursue such programs.

Study Abroad: Reid Hall, Paris

For information on the Columbia in Paris Program at Reid Hall, including
summer courses, consult the Columbia University in Paris Bulletin
(available in 606 Kent and online at the Office of Global Programs
(http://ogp.columbia.edu/) website), call 212-854-2559, or send an
e-mail to reidhall@columbia.edu. For information on applicability of
Reid Hall courses to the major or concentration, consult the director of
undergraduate studies.

Grading

Courses in which a grade of D has been received do not count toward the
major or concentration requirements.

Senior Thesis

Undergraduates majoring in Philosophy or Economics-Philosophy
may propose to write a senior thesis. Students who wish to write a
thesis should approach a faculty member at the end of their junior
or beginning of their senior year, and begin working on the proposal
early in the fall semester of their senior year. Proposals are due in
early December, and will be reviewed by a committee which will include
the Director of Undergraduate Studies; students will be notified of the
committee's decision within two weeks. Students whose proposals are
approved should register for their faculty advisor's section of Supervised
Independent Research for the spring term of the senior year. Theses are
due in early April.

Students who have a grade point average of 3.6 or above in the major and
who complete a thesis will be placed into consideration for departmental
honors, though any senior may complete a thesis regardless of their
grade point average (upon approval of the proposal).

See the full policy and procedure concerning senior theses on the
departmental webpage:

http://philosophy.columbia.edu/content/senior-thesis-philosophy (http://
philosophy.columbia.edu/content/senior-thesis-philosophy/)

Departmental Honors

Departmental honors are highly competitive. Normally no more than
10% of the majors graduating in the department each year will receive
departmental honors.

In order to qualify for departmental honors in philosophy, a student must
have a grade point average of at least 3.6 in the major.

For students with a GPA of 3.6 or above, there are two possible routes to
consideration:

1. A student may complete a senior thesis; those students who
   complete senior theses will automatically be considered for honors
   without having to be nominated.

2. A student may be nominated by a faculty member early in the spring
   semester of the senior year; nominated students will be invited to
   submit a writing sample at least 15 pages in length. A nominated
   student who is also writing a thesis may submit their thesis as the
   writing sample, or may choose to submit a different work.

Both the senior theses and writing samples are due in early April. The
departmental honors committee will then review the submitted material
and the academic records of the writers, and will report to the full faculty.

The full faculty will then decide which students to recommend for
departmental honors to the Columbia College and General Studies
administrations.

Professors

David Albert
Akeel Bilgrami
Taylor Carman (Barnard)
Haim Gaifman
Lydia Goehr
Robert Gooding-Williams
Axel Honneth
Jenann Ismael
Patricia Kitcher
Philip Kitcher
Wolfgang Mann
Christia Mercer
Michele Moody-Adams
John Morrison (Barnard)
Fred Neuhouser (Barnard)
Christopher Peacocke
Carol Rovane
Achille Varzi
Katja Vogt
**Associate Professors**
Jessica Collins

**Assistant Professors**
Justin Clarke-Doane
Melissa Fusco
Dhananjay Jagannathan
Tamar Lando
Karen Lewis (Barnard)
Francey Russell (Barnard)

**Affiliated Faculty**
Souleymane Bachir Diagne (French and Romance Philology)
Jon Elster (Political Science)
Kent Greenawalt (University Professor)
Wayne Proudfoot (Religion)
Joseph Raz (Law School)
Gayatri Spivak (University Professor)

**Major in Philosophy**
Students considering a major in philosophy are strongly encouraged to meet with the director of undergraduate studies early in their sophomore year. All majors must consult with the director of undergraduate studies each term before registering for classes in order to plan and update their individual programs of study.

Students planning to major in philosophy are advised to begin with PHIL UN1010 Methods and Problems of Philosophical Thought. Beginning students are especially encouraged to take 2000-level courses, both in the history of philosophy and in systematic philosophy. These courses are typically less specialized and less narrowly focused than higher-numbered ones. More advanced students are encouraged to take 3000-level courses. The department requires that all majors take at least one seminar, PHIL UN3912.

No more than one course at the 1000-level can be counted toward the major. In order to enroll in one of the 4000-level courses, students must have taken at least four courses in Philosophy.

The major requires a minimum of 30 points in philosophy chosen from courses prefixed with UN or GU:

PHIL UN2101 The History of Philosophy I: Presocratics to Augustine
PHIL UN2201 History of Philosophy II: Aquinas to Kant
PHIL UN3411 Symbolic Logic
At least one course in either metaphysics or epistemology e.g., PHIL W3960, or a related course to be chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

Select at least one course in either ethics or social and political philosophy from the following:

PHIL UN2702 Contemporary Moral Problems
PHIL UN3701 Ethics
PHIL UN3751 Political Philosophy
A related course to be chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

PHIL UN3912 Seminar

**Concentration in Philosophy**
Philosophy, as an academic discipline, has significant points of contact with a wide range of other subjects—in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. A concentration in philosophy thus can be an attractive option for many students. Those considering becoming concentrators are strongly encouraged to meet with the director of undergraduate studies early in their sophomore year, in order to discuss their specific interests and to plan their programs of study. All concentrators should consult with the director of undergraduate studies each term before registering for courses.

The concentration requires a minimum of 24 points in philosophy, chosen from courses prefixed with UN or GU. There are no specific courses required for the concentration.

Students may choose courses prefixed with GR only with the instructor’s permission.

PHIL UN3912 is open to junior and senior concentrators who have taken at least four courses in philosophy.

**Major in Economics-Philosophy**
Economics-Philosophy is an interdisciplinary major that, while introducing students to the basic methodologies of economics and philosophy, stresses areas of particular concern to both. These include subjects such as rationality and decision making, justice and efficiency, freedom and collective choice, and the logic of empirical theories and their testing. Many of the issues are dealt with historically, and classic texts of Plato, Kant, Mill, Marx, and Smith are reviewed.

Two advisers are assigned for the interdepartmental major, one in the Department of Economics and one in the Department of Philosophy. Please note that the Economics adviser can only advise on the Economics requirements and the Philosophy adviser can only advise on the Philosophy requirements.

The Economics-Philosophy major requires a total minimum of 54 points: 25 points in Economics, 16 points in Philosophy, 6 points in Mathematics, 3 points in Statistics, and 4 points in the interdisciplinary seminar as follows:

**Economics Core Courses**
ECON UN1105 Principles of Economics
ECON UN3211 Intermediate Microeconomics
ECON UN3213 Intermediate Macroeconomics
ECON UN3412 Introduction To Econometrics

**Mathematics Sequence**
Select a mathematics sequence

**Statistics**
Select a statistics course

**Economics Electives**
Three electives are required; refer to the Economics section of this bulletin.

**Philosophy Courses**
PHIL UN1010 Methods and Problems of Philosophical Thought
PHIL UN3411 Symbolic Logic
PHIL UN2110 Philosophy and Feminism. 3 points.
Is there an essential difference between women and men? How do questions about race conflict or overlap with those about gender? Is there a "normal" way of being "queer"? Introduction to philosophy and feminism through a critical discussion of these and other questions using historical and contemporary texts, art, and public lectures. Focus includes essentialism, difference, identity, knowledge, objectivity, and queerness.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN2110

Course Number  
PHIL 2110  
Section/Call Number  
001/45516  
Times/Location  
T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm  
833 Seeley W. Mudd Building  
Instructor  
Christia Mercer  
Points  
3  
Enrollment  
96/120

PHIL UN2685 Introduction to Philosophy of Language. 3 points.
This course gives students an introduction to various topics in the Philosophy of Language.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN2685

Course Number  
PHIL 2685  
Section/Call Number  
001/09024  
Times/Location  
T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm  
323 Milbank Hall  
Instructor  
Karen Lewis  
Points  
3  
Enrollment  
15/60

PHIL UN3252 Philosophy of Language and Mind. 3 points.
This course will provide an introduction to meaning, reference, understanding, and content in language, thought, and perception. A central concern will be the question of the relation of meaning to truth-conditions, and what is involved in language and thought successfully latchng on to reality. If you have not already taken an elementary course in first order logic, you will need to catch up in that area to understand some crucial parts of the course. All the same, the primary concerns of the course will be philosophical, rather than technical.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3252

Course Number  
PHIL 3252  
Section/Call Number  
001/45495  
Times/Location  
T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm  
516 Hamilton Hall  
Instructor  
Christopher Peacocke  
Points  
3  
Enrollment  
16/40

PHIL UN3353 European Social Philosophy. 3 points.
Prerequisites: one philosophy course.
A survey of European social philosophy from the 18th to the 20th century, with special attention to theories of capitalism and the normative concepts (freedom, alienation, human flourishing) that inform them. Also: the relationship between civil society and the state.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3353

Course Number  
PHIL 3353  
Section/Call Number  
001/45517  
Times/Location  
T Th 8:40am - 9:55am  
467 Ext Schmerhorn Hall  
Instructor  
Axel Honneth  
Points  
3  
Enrollment  
31/40
PHIL UN3411 Symbolic Logic. 4 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement, Recitation Section Required
Corequisites: PHIL V3413 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
Advanced introduction to classical sentential and predicate logic. No previous acquaintance with logic is required; nonetheless a willingness to master technicalities and to work at a certain level of abstraction is desirable. This course has unrestricted enrollment.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3411
Course Number       Section/Call Number       Times/Location       Instructor       Points       Enrollment
PHIL 3411 001/45464       M W 10:10am - 11:25am       Tamar Lando       4       59/86
PHIL 3411 002/45513       T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm       Haim Gaifman       4       14/45

PHIL UN3601 Metaphysics. 4 points.
Discussion Section Required
Corequisites: PHIL V3611 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
Systematic treatment of some major topics in metaphysics (e.g. modality, causation, identity through time, particulars and universals). Readings from contemporary authors.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3601
Course Number       Section/Call Number       Times/Location       Instructor       Points       Enrollment
PHIL 3601 001/45400       M W 6:10am - 7:25pm       Justin Clarke-Doane       4       20/86

PHIL UN3701 Ethics. 4 points.
Prerequisites: one course in philosophy.
Corequisites: PHIL V3711 Required Discussion Section (0 points).
This course is mainly an introduction to three influential approaches to normative ethics: utilitarianism, deontological views, and virtue ethics. We also consider the ethics of care, and selected topics in meta-ethics.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3701
Course Number       Section/Call Number       Times/Location       Instructor       Points       Enrollment
PHIL 3701 001/45366       M W 8:40am - 9:55am       Carol Rovane       4       29/80

PHIL UN3756 Critical Philosophy of Race: What is Race?. 3 points.
This course is a philosophical examination of the meaning and significance of the concept of race. The course will chiefly aim to answer: What do we mean by the term "race"? And why is it often tied to the existence of racism? From where does the concept come? And what role did "race" play in the philosophical thought and the culture of Western modernity? Among the questions that can be asked are, How do concepts of race contribute to the formation and justification of various economic, political, and social institutions and practices, such as slavery, colonialism, and segregation? However, we will also inquire at the end of the course whether "race" is always a destructive concept, or whether it can be re-defined as part of a liberation project centered on racial identity: the appreciation and celebration of racial difference and solidarity.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3756
Course Number       Section/Call Number       Times/Location       Instructor       Points       Enrollment
PHIL 3756 001/17317       M W 1:10pm - 2:25pm       Aminah Hasan       3       7/25

PHIL UN3912 Seminar. 3 points.
Required of senior majors, but also open to junior majors, and junior and senior concentrators who have taken at least four philosophy courses. This exploration will typically involve writing a substantial research paper. Capped at 20 students with preference to philosophy majors.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3912
Course Number       Section/Call Number       Times/Location       Instructor       Points       Enrollment
PHIL 3912 004/11569       W 12:10pm - 2:00pm       Aminah Hasan       3       6/20
PHIL 3912 005/00017       Th 12:10pm - 2:00pm       Taylor Carman       3       20/20
PHIL 3912 014/20065       W 10:10am - 12:00pm       Akeel Bilgrami       3       0/20

Spring 2020: PHIL UN3912
Course Number       Section/Call Number       Times/Location       Instructor       Points       Enrollment
PHIL 3912 004/11569       W 12:10pm - 2:00pm       Aminah Hasan       3       6/20
PHIL 3912 014/20065       W 10:10am - 12:00pm       Akeel Bilgrami       3       0/20
PHIL UN3996 Supervised Senior Research. 3 points.
Supervised research under the direction of individual members of the department.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3996  

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PHIL UN3997 Supervised Senior Research. 3 points.
Supervised research under the direction of individual members of the department.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3997  

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PHIL GU4089 Aristotle. 3 points.
Not offered during 2019-20 academic year.

Prerequisites: undergraduate students must obtain the instructor’s permission.

The course offers a high-level survey of central themes in Aristotle’s ethics: happiness, motivation, agency, excellence, deliberation, pleasure, responses to relativism, and the nature of ethics.

Fall 2019: PHIL GU4089  

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PHIL GU4424 Modal Logic. 3 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

Fall 2019: PHIL GU4424  

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PHIL GU4451 History of Philosophy: From De Morgan to Frege. 3 points.
Not offered during 2019-20 academic year.

Prerequisites: one term of Symbolic Logic.

The roots of logic may be traced to Aristotle, who systematized and codified the subject in a way that was not significantly surpassed for over two millennia. As we know it today, however, logic stems largely from certain advancements that took place in the mid-nineteenth century, when the subject developed into a rigorous discipline whose exemplar was the exact method of proof used in mathematics. The aim of this course is to provide a critical reconstruction of such advancements along with an assessment of their philosophical significance.

Fall 2019: PHIL GU4451  

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PHIL GU4471 Philosophy of Mathematics. 3 points.
Not offered during 2019-20 academic year.

Prerequisites: mathematical background, or familiarity with formal reasoning. The instructor’s permission in borderline cases is required.


Fall 2019: PHIL GU4471  

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PHIL GU4561 Probability and Decision Theory. 3 points.
Examines interpretations and applications of the calculus of probability including applications as a measure of degree of belief, degree of confirmation, relative frequency, a theoretical property of systems, and other notions of objective probability or chance. Attention to epistemological questions such as Hume’s problem of induction, Goodman’s problem of projectibility, and the paradox of confirmation.

PHIL UN2301 History of Philosophy III: Kant to Nietzsche. 4 points.
Prerequisites: None. Exposition and analysis of major texts and figures in European philosophy since Kant. Authors include Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. Required discussion section (PHIL UN2311). Attendance in the first week of classes is mandatory.

PHIL UN3576 Physics and Philosophy. 3 points.
Philosophical problems at the foundations of quantum theory, especially those having to do with the uncertainty of relations and nature of quantum mechanical indeterminacy. Exploration of a variety of interpretation and hidden variable theory.

PHIL UN3654 Philosophy of Psychology. 3 points.
Considers psychology from the perspective of philosophy of science and the plausibility of various philosophical positions in light of the best current theories of psychology. Examines the assumptions and explanatory strategies of past and present “schools of psychology” and the implications of recent work in psychology for such perennial philosophical problems as moral responsibility and personal identity.
PHIL UN3751 Political Philosophy. 3 points.
Six major concepts of political philosophy including authority, rights, equality, justice, liberty and democracy are examined in three different ways. First the conceptual issues are analyzed through contemporary essays on these topics by authors like Peters, Hart, Williams, Berlin, Rawls and Schumpeter. Second the classical sources on these topics are discussed through readings from Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Marx, Plato, Mill and Rousseau. Third some attention is paid to relevant contexts of application of these concepts in political society, including such political movements as anarchism, international human rights, conservative, liberal, and Marxist economic policies as well as competing models of democracy.

Spring 2020: PHIL UN3751

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<th>Instructor</th>
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| PHIL 3751     | 001/11567           | M W 8:40am - 9:55am Room TBA | Axel Honneth 3 39/86

PHIL UN3800 Philosophy, Justice, and Social Activism. 4 points.
This course will do three things: (1) critically examine the works of philosophers who have argued for justice reform and social change, (2) set this philosophical work next to writings by prominent activists, especially those interested in criminal justice reform, and (3) work with students to do semester-long activist work. Local activists will visit class and discuss their work.

Students must petition to take the course. The petition must include a 2-3 sentence statement about the student's training in or commitment to activist work.

Spring 2020: PHIL UN3800

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</table>
| PHIL 3800     | 001/11568           | M 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA | Christia Mercer 4 4/18

PHIL UN3912 Seminar. 3 points.
Required of senior majors, but also open to junior majors, and junior and senior concentrators who have taken at least four philosophy courses. This exploration will typically involve writing a substantial research paper. Capped at 20 students with preference to philosophy majors.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3912

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Points</th>
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| PHIL 3912     | 003/45519           | W 10:10am - 12:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall | Jenann Ismael 3 18/20
| PHIL 3912     | 014/45515           | T 2:10pm - 4:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall | Michele 3 17/20
| PHIL 3912     | 019/45514           | M 6:10pm - 8:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall | Lydia Goehr 3 16/20

Spring 2020: PHIL UN3912

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| PHIL 3912     | 004/11569           | W 12:10pm - 2:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall | Aminah Hasan 3 6/20
| PHIL 3912     | 005/00017           | Th 12:10pm - 2:00pm Room TBA | Taylor Carman 3 20/20
| PHIL 3912     | 014/20065           | W 10:10am - 12:00pm 716 Philosophy Hall | Akeel Bilgrami 3 6/20

PHIL UN3997 Supervised Senior Research. 3 points.
Supervised research under the direction of individual members of the department.

Fall 2019: PHIL UN3997

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<th>Course Number</th>
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PHIL UN3998 Supervised Individual Research. 3 points.

Spring 2020: PHIL UN3998

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Spring 2020: PHIL UN3998

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PHIL GU4675 The Direction of Time. 3 points.
A survey of the various attempts to reconcile the macroscopic
directionality of time with the time-reversibility of the fundamental laws
of physics. The second law of thermodynamics and the concept of
entropy, statistical mechanics, cosmological problems, the problems of
memory, the possibility of multiple time direction.

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<td>David Albert</td>
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PHIL GU4810 Lattices and Boolean Algebras. 3 points.
Prerequisites: PHIL UN3411 or 4801
This course is designed as an introduction to lattices and Boolean
algebras. In the first part of the course, we study partial orders and view
lattices both as partial orders and as algebraic structures. We study
some basic constructions involving sublattices, products of lattices, and
homomorphic images of lattices. In the second part of the course, we
study Boolean algebras, with an aim to proving several representation
theorems: first, a representation theorem for finite Boolean algebras, and
toward the end of the course, the famous Stone Representation Theorem.
We end the course with a look at the connection between classical
mereology (or the theory of parthood) and complete Boolean algebras.

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<td>Tamar Lando</td>
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PHIL GU4900 Topics in Early Modern Philosophy. 3 points.
Open to undergraduates with previous work in the history of philosophy
and to graduate students. Focuses either on an important topic in the
history of early modern philosophy (e.g., skepticism, causation, mind,
body) or on the philosophy of a major figure in the period (e.g., Descartes,
Leibniz, Spinoza, Gassendi, Conway).

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ECPH GU4950 Economics and Philosophy Seminar. 4 points.
Open only to economics-philosophy majors who are in their senior year.

Prerequisites: ECON W3211, ECON W3213, ECON W3412. Students will be
contacted by the Economics department for pre-enrollment.
Explores topics in the philosophy of economics such as welfare, social
choice, and the history of political economy. Sometimes the emphasis is
primarily historical and sometimes on analysis of contemporary economic
concepts and theories.

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<td>Jessica Collins</td>
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