

**A Guide to
Programs in Philosophy
for Undergraduates
2020-2021**

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Faculty Contact Sheet

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
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| Bilgrami, Akeel | ab41@columbia.edu | 709 Philosophy | |
| Carman, Taylor | tcarman@barnard.edu | 326C Milbank | |
| Clarke-Doane, Justin | jc4345@columbia.edu | 712B Philosophy | |
| Collins, Jessica | jessica.collins@columbia.edu | 714 Philosophy | Advisor to the Econ-Phil major |
| Fusco, Melissa | mf3095@columbia.edu | 717 Philosophy | |
| Gaifman, Haim | hg17@columbia.edu | 715 Philosophy | |
| Goehr, Lydia | lg131@columbia.edu | 710 Philosophy | |
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| Ismael, Jenann | ji2266@columbia.edu | 706 Philosophy | |
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| Varzi, Achille | av72@columbia.edu | 713 Philosophy | |
| Vogt, Katja | kv2101@columbia.edu | 719 Philosophy | |

Faculty Areas of Specialization

| Name | Areas of Specialization |
|--------------------------|---|
| Albert, David | Philosophical Problems of Modern Physics; Philosophy of Space and Time; Philosophy of Science |
| Bilgrami, Akeel | Philosophy of Mind; Philosophy of Language; Political Philosophy and Moral Philosophy; Moral Psychology |
| Carman, Taylor | 19 th and 20 th Century European Philosophy |
| Clarke-Doane, Justin | Metaethics; Epistemology; Metaphysics; Philosophy of Mathematics |
| Collins, Jessica | Metaphysics; Epistemology; Decision Theory |
| Fusco, Melissa | Philosophy of Language; Decision Theory |
| Gaifman, Haim | Logic, Foundations of Probability; Rational Choice, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Language, Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein |
| Goehr, Lydia | Philosophy of Music; Aesthetics; Critical Theory; Philosophy of History; and 19 th and 20 th Century Philosophy |
| Gooding-Williams, Robert | Social and Political Philosophy (esp. antiracist critical theory); History of African-American Political Thought; 19 th Century European Philosophy (esp. Nietzsche); Existentialism; and Aesthetics |
| Honneth, Axel | Social and Political Philosophy; Ethics; Social Theory |
| Ismael, Jenann | Philosophy of Physics; Philosophy of Science; Philosophy of Mind; Epistemology; Metaphysics |

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|------------------------|---|
| Jagannathan, Dhananjay | Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy; History of Ethics |
| Kitcher, Patricia | Kant; Philosophy of Psychology; Freud |
| Lando, Tamar | Logic; Epistemology |
| Lewis, Karen | Philosophy of Language; Philosophical Linguistics |
| Mann, Wolfgang | Ancient Philosophy; German Idealism; Metaphysics |
| Mercer, Christia | Early Modern Philosophy; History of Platonism; History of Women in Philosophy |
| Moody-Adams, Michele | Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics; Social and Political Philosophy; The Philosophy of Social Science; The Empiricists |
| Morrison, John | Philosophy of Mind; Early Modern Philosophy (esp. Spinoza) |
| Neuhouser, Frederick | 19th-century German Philosophy; Social and Political Philosophy |
| Peacocke, Christopher | Philosophy of Mind and Psychology; Metaphysics; Epistemology |
| Rovane, Carol | Metaphysics; Philosophy of Language and Mind; Ethics |
| Russell, Francey | Moral psychology; ethics; Kant; Freud; aesthetics |
| Varzi, Achille | Logic; Metaphysics; Philosophy of Language |
| Vogt, Katja | Ancient Philosophy, Metaethics, Normative Epistemology, Skepticism |

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR WORKSHEET

This table is a quick-reference guide to the requirements for the major in philosophy. See below for additional notes related to the requirements and for details about the concentration in philosophy. *The major in Economics-Philosophy has a different worksheet entirely (see page 8).*

| | Philosophy Major - Distribution Areas | Points | Term |
|---|--|--------|------|
| | History Sequence | | |
| + | Ancient / medieval philosophy (typically PHIL UN2101, or DUS-approved substitution) | | |
| | | | |
| + | Late medieval / early modern (typically PHILUN2201, or DUS-approved substitution) | | |
| | | | |
| + | Symbolic Logic (PHIL UN3411, or, in exceptional cases, a more advanced logic course) | | |
| | | | |
| + | Theory of Knowledge (one course in metaphysics or epistemology, e.g. UN3601, UN3960, or a related course chosen in consultation with the DUS) | | |
| | | | |
| + | Value Theory (systematic ethics or social or political philosophy, e.g. UN2702, UN3701, UN3751 or a related course chosen in consultation with the DUS) | | |
| | | | |
| + | Seminar (PHIL UN3912 <i>only</i>) | | |
| | | | |
| | Electives (courses in addition to those listed above) | | |
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| | | | |
| | | | |
| | Point total (must be ≥ 30 points): | | |

NOTE: No more than one course at the 1000 level can count toward the major. PHILUN1001 does not count toward the major. CC & GS students wishing to take an introductory course should take the introductory course PHILUN1010 *Methods & Problems of Philosophy* if they wish to take an introductory course that will count toward the major.

NOTE: In order to enroll in one of the GU 4000-level courses, students must have taken at least four courses in Philosophy.

NOTE: Students may choose courses prefixed with GR only with the instructor's permission.

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

THE CONCENTRATION IN PHILOSOPHY

Concentrators must take at least 24 points in Philosophy from courses prefixed with UN or GU.

There are no specific courses required for the concentration.

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

PASS/FAIL Courses taken pass/fail normally do not count towards the major.

SUMMER COURSES Two courses taken in summer sessions can count towards the major.

SUBSTITUTIONS In some cases, it is possible to substitute courses for the specific courses required. Requests for substitution must be submitted to and receive approval from the DUS (Director of Undergraduate Studies) in order to count toward the major. Substitutions are made on a by-course basis; prior substitutions do not guarantee future substitutions.

CLASSES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS In some instances, courses in other departments can count for credit towards the major. For example, the Department of Religion offers courses in philosophy of religion, and the Department of Political Science offers courses in political philosophy. Questions about whether courses in other departments will count towards the major should be submitted to the DUS.

BARNARD COURSES The Columbia and Barnard Philosophy departments function together as a unit. The courses specifically designed for Barnard students (the first year introductory course, PHILUN1001, the senior seminar, PHILBC4050, and senior essay course, PHILBC4051) do **not** count towards the Columbia major or concentration for GS, CC, or SEAS students. But all other courses in the Columbia-Barnard joint curriculum **do** count for the major or the concentration, regardless of whether the instructor is associated with Barnard or with Columbia.

CORE CLASSES Core classes such as Contemporary Civilization may not count towards the major or concentration.

TRANSFER CREDIT / STUDY ABROAD Courses taken at other institutions may count only after review and approval by the DUS. No more than five courses taken elsewhere may be applied to the major, and no more than four to the concentration.

The Joint Major in Economics-Philosophy

Economics-Philosophy Adviser: Jessica Collins, jessica.collins@columbia.edu

Economics Advising: Contact econ-advising@columbia.edu

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, the logic of empirical theories and their testing. Many of the issues are dealt with historically.

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 requirement and the philosophy adviser can only advise about on the philosophy requirements.

The departmental advisers strongly encourage prospective majors to discuss the major early in their sophomore year. Each major is expected to talk to the departmental advisers in the middle of his or her junior year and at the beginning of his or her senior year.

Philosophy Requirements for the Joint Major

PHIL UN1010 Methods and Problems of Philosophical Thought

PHIL UN3411 Symbolic Logic

PHIL UN3701 Ethics (or another adviser-approved course in moral or political philosophy)

PHIL UN3551 Philosophy of Science or PHIL W3960 Epistemology (or another adviser-approved course on topics in either epistemology or philosophy of the sciences).

PHIL GU4561 Probability and Decision Theory

ECPH UN4950 Senior Seminar in Economics and Philosophy

Economics Requirements for the Joint Major

(NOTE: Please consult with the Economics Department on these Economics requirements.)

ECON UN1105 Principles of Economics

ECON UN3211 Intermediate Microeconomics

ECON UN3213 Intermediate Macroeconomics

ECON UN3412 Introduction to Econometrics

9 points of Economics Electives—see the ECPH checklist of approved electives, located at:

https://econ.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2017/10/ECPH_chklist.pdf

MATH UN1101 Calculus I or UN1102 Calculus II

MATH UN1201 Calculus III or UN1205 Multivariable Calculus

STAT UN1201 Introduction to Statistics (or a higher level statistics course)

Senior Theses

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>

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.