

**A Guide to
Programs in Philosophy for
Undergraduates 2023-2024**



Department of Philosophy Website

Faculty Areas of Specialization

Aitken, Allison	Asian Philosophy (esp. Indian and Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy) Early Modern Philosophy (esp. Locke)
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	19th and 20th Century European Philosophy; Phenomenology; Existentialism; Hermeneutics
Clarke-Doane, Justin	Metaethics; Epistemology; Metaphysics; Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics; Foundations of Physics
Collins, Jessica	Metaphysics; Formal 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 19th and 20th Century Philosophy
Gooding-Williams, Robert	Social and Political Philosophy (esp. antiracist critical theory); History of African-American Political Thought; 19th 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
Jagannathan, Dhananjay	Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy; History of Ethics
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 Gender; Late Medieval Meditative Traditions
Moody-Adams, Michele	Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics; Social and Political Philosophy; 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; Philosophy of Music
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/CONCENTRATOR WORKSHEET

(continued)

PASS/FAIL: Courses taken pass/fail only count towards the major in unusual circumstances.

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

CLASSES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS: In some instances, courses in other departments can count for credit towards the major. For example, the Religion Department offers courses in philosophy of religion, and the Political Science Department 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 (first-year and senior seminars) do not count towards the Columbia major or concentration. But all other courses in the Columbia-Barnard joint curriculum do count for the major or concentration, regardless of whether the instructor is associated with Barnard or 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 (a written record of approval must be submitted to 708 Philosophy by the student or DUS). No more than 5 courses taken elsewhere may be applied to the major, and no more than 4 to the concentration.

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Professor David Albert

Office: 706 Philosophy Hall

Email: da5@columbia.edu

THE JOINT MAJOR: ECONOMICS-PHILOSOPHY

The Joint Major in Economics and Philosophy is an interdisciplinary one which, 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 well-being, freedom and collective choice, and the nature of empirical scientific theories.

There are two advisers for the Joint Major, one in the Department of Economics and one in the Department of Philosophy. Please note that the economics adviser can advise only the economics requirements and the philosophy adviser can advise only on the philosophy requirements.

Prospective majors are strongly advised to discuss the major early in their sophomore year. Each major is expected to meet with the departmental advisers in the middle of their junior year and at the beginning of their senior year.

PHILOSOPHY DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JOINT MAJOR:

- An Introductory course. Most often this will be PHIL UN1010 Methods and Problems of Philosophical Thought.
- PHIL UN3411 Symbolic Logic
- One 3000-level course in moral, political, or social philosophy. (PHIL UN3701 Ethics satisfies this requirement, as do various other courses offered by the Department from time to time. Consult with the Philosophy adviser if you are in any doubt here.)
- One 3000-level course in epistemology, the philosophy of science, or in the philosophy of one of the particular sciences. (PHIL UN3551 Philosophy of Science and PHIL UN3960 Epistemology both satisfy this requirement, as do various other courses offered by the Department from time to time. Consult with the Philosophy adviser if you are in any doubt here.)
- PHIL GU4561 Probability and Decision Theory.
- ECPH UN4950 Senior Seminar in Economics and Philosophy.

Economics/Philosophy Advisor:

Professor Jessica Collins

Office: 714 Philosophy Hall

Email: jessica.collins@columbia.edu

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.

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>