



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN
PHILOSOPHY

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Department of Philosophy Website

Faculty Contacts

Aitken, Allison	717 Philosophy Hall allisonaitken@columbia.edu	Asian Philosophy (esp. Indian and Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy), Early Modern Philosophy (esp. Locke)
Albert, David	706 Philosophy Hall da5@columbia.edu	Philosophical Problems of Modern Physics, Philosophy of Space and Time, Philosophy of Science
Bilgrami, Akeel	709 Philosophy Hall ab41@columbia.edu	Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, Political Philosophy and Moral Philosophy, Moral Psychology
Carman, Taylor	326C Milbank Hall tcarman@barnard.edu	19 th - and 20 th -Century European Philosophy, Phenomenology, Existentialism, Hermeneutics
Clarke-Doane, Justin	712B Philosophy Hall jc4345@columbia.edu	Metaethics, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Logic & Mathematics, Foundations of Physics
Collins, Jessica	714 Philosophy Hall jessica.collins@columbia.edu	Formal Epistemology, Decision Theory
Fusco, Melissa	717 Philosophy Hall mf3095@columbia.edu	Philosophy of Language, Decision Theory
Gaifman, Haim	715 Philosophy Hall hg17@columbia.edu	Logic, Foundations of Probability, Rational Choice, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Language, Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein
Goehr, Lydia	710 Philosophy Hall lg131@columbia.edu	Philosophy of Music, Aesthetics, Critical Theory, Philosophy of History, 19 th - and 20 th -Century Philosophy
Honneth, Axel	704 Philosophy Hall ah2592@columbia.edu	Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics, Social Theory
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Mercer, Christia	707 Philosophy Hall cm50@columbia.edu	Early Modern Philosophy, History of Platonism, History of Gender, Late Medieval Meditative Traditions
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Morrison, John	326B Milbank Hall jmorriso@barnard.edu	Philosophy of Mind, Early Modern Philosophy (esp. Spinoza)
Peacocke, Christopher	704 Philosophy Hall cp2161@columbia.edu	Philosophy of Mind and Psychology, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Music
Rovane, Carol	711 Philosophy Hall cr260@columbia.edu	Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language and Mind, Ethics
Russell, Francey	326A Milbank Hall frussell@barnard.edu	Moral Psychology, Ethics, Kant, Freud, Aesthetics
Varzi, Achille	713 Philosophy Hall av72@columbia.edu	Logic, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language
Vogt, Katja	719 Philosophy Hall kv2101@columbia.edu	Ancient Philosophy, Metaethics, Normative Epistemology, Skepticism
Williamson, Timothy	721 Philosophy Hall tlw2151@columbia.edu	Decision Theory, Ethics, Epistemology

Philosophy Major

Requirements for Philosophy Majors:

All classes offered within the Philosophy Department may be taken to fulfill the requirements of the major. The Columbia and Barnard Philosophy Departments function together as a unit. All courses offered by the Columbia-Barnard joint philosophy curriculum count toward the major at Columbia, excluding those courses specifically designed for Barnard students (PHIL BC4050/51 Senior Seminar and BC4052 Senior Essay).

At least 30 points in philosophy, chosen from courses prefixed with UN, GU, or GR*, including:

- PHIL UN2101 History of Philosophy I or another course in ancient or medieval philosophy (e.g. UN3131 Aristotle, UN3121 Plato).*
- PHIL UN2201 History of Philosophy II or another course in the history of late medieval or early modern philosophy (e.g. PHIL UN3222 Descartes-Spinoza-Leibniz or PHIL UN3237 Late Medieval and Modern Philosophy).*
- PHIL UN3411 Symbolic Logic or, in exceptional cases, a more advanced course in logic.
- At least one course in metaphysics; epistemology; philosophy of language; philosophy of science; phenomenology and existentialism, or a related course.*
- At least one course in social and political philosophy; ethics/moral philosophy; aesthetics/philosophy of art; or a related course.*
- At least one major seminar (PHIL UN3912).

**All substituted or related courses must be selected in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)*

** Students may register for a GR-prefixed course only with instructor permission. Because these courses are capped, students should register early.*

PHIL UN3912 registration is taken in order of the following preference:

- Senior majors who have not taken a previous Majors Seminar
- Junior majors who have taken 5 or more philosophy courses and have NOT taken a Majors Seminar
- Senior majors who have taken a previous Majors Seminar
- Junior majors who have taken 5 or more philosophy courses
- Senior concentrators who have taken 5 or more philosophy courses

Students considering a major in philosophy should meet with the (DUS) early in their sophomore year. Once majoring in philosophy, students are advised to consult with the DUS each term before registering for classes to plan and update their individual programs of study.

Students planning to major in philosophy often begin with PHIL UN1010 Methods and Problems of Philosophical Thought, or with UN1001 Introduction to Philosophy or 2000-level courses. More advanced students should take 3000- and 4000-level courses. All majors must take at least one Majors Seminar (PHIL UN3912).

Courses offered by other departments do not count toward the major unless the course is cross-listed. In some cases, the DUS may grant an exception to this restriction. Please consult with the DUS ahead of time.

Transfer students and dual-degree students should consult with the DUS as to whether classes they have taken elsewhere can count toward the major. No more than 5 courses taken at another institution can count toward the major.

Notes:

- *PHIL UN1401 Introduction to Logic and Core Courses (Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization) do not count towards the undergraduate philosophy major.*
- *No more than one course at the 1000-level can be counted toward the major.*
- *With rare exceptions, students must take at least four courses in philosophy before enrolling in a 4000-level course.*
- *A maximum of two philosophy courses taken during the School of Professional Studies Summer Session can count towards the major.*
- *Courses in which a grade of D or below has been received do not count toward the major or minor.*
- *Except in unusual cases, no courses can be taken pass/fail to fulfill major requirements.*

Economics-Philosophy Major

Philosophy Requirements for Joint Economics-Philosophy Major:

- An Introductory course (most often PHIL UN1010 Methods and Problems of Philosophical Thought)
- PHIL UN3411 Symbolic Logic
- One 3000-level course in moral, political, or social philosophy (e.g., PHIL UN3701 Ethics)
- One 3000-level course in epistemology, the philosophy of science, or in the philosophy of one of the particular sciences (e.g., PHIL UN3551 Philosophy of Science, PHIL UN3960 Epistemology, etc.)
- PHIL GU4561 Probability and Decision Theory
- ECPH UN4950 Senior Seminar in Economics and Philosophy

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.

Minor in Philosophy

Requirements for Philosophy Minors:

Program of study: A minor in philosophy is an attractive option for many students. Philosophy has significant points of contact with other classes offered in the humanities, the social sciences, and in the natural sciences. Students considering becoming minors are strongly encouraged to meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) early in their sophomore year to discuss their program of study. All minors are advised to consult with the DUS each term before registering for courses.

Courses:

- At least 15 points in philosophy, chosen from courses prefixed with UN, GU, or GR. No specific courses are required for the minor.

Notes:

- PHIL UN3912 is open to junior and senior minors who have taken at least four courses in philosophy.
- Students may choose courses prefixed with GR only with the instructor's permission. Because these courses are capped, students should register early.
- Transfer students and dual-degree students should consult with the DUS as to whether classes they have taken elsewhere can count toward the minor. No more than 2 courses taken at another institution can count toward the minor.

Concentrators in Philosophy

**For students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-24 academic year.

Requirements for Philosophy Concentrators:

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

Note: Courses taken pass/fail only count towards the concentration in unusual circumstances.

Major in Cognitive Science

The Department of Philosophy participates in the Cognitive Science program with the Department of Economics, the Department of Psychology, the Department of Computer Science, and other affiliates at Columbia University and Barnard College. For more information on the Cognitive Science Major, please see the following page for more information:

<https://cogsci.barnard.edu/>

Senior Thesis & Honors

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 the 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 and will be notified of the 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.

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. 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 for 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 of at least 15 pages in length. A nominated student 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 faculty will then decide which students to recommend for departmental honors to the Columbia College and General Studies administrations.

Program Contacts

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