Philosophy

The School of History and Philosophy offers a wide range of advanced courses in the major areas within the field leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy degrees. Students are offered a curriculum that is not dominated by one school of thought or method. The range of specializations represented by the faculty exposes students to a variety of aspects of philosophy and, at the same time, permits them to concentrate on their own particular area of interest. Graduate-level courses in such allied fields as the natural and social sciences, the arts, linguistics, and law offer supplements to the philosophy curriculum. Graduate courses in philosophy may be used as a minor in programs leading to the Master of Arts or Master of Science in Education degrees. Students who do not plan to continue work in philosophy beyond the master's degree level are encouraged to elect a graduate minor or to combine philosophy with another subject in a 40-credit hour double major.

All graduate students in philosophy are expected to have some supervised experience in teaching, either through regular teaching assistantships or through special assignments.

Admission

Admission to the philosophy graduate program requires the following:

1. An online application form needs to be completed.
2. Official transcripts of each school attended to be sent to the School of History and Philosophy.
3. A sample of written work, e.g., a term paper written for an undergraduate or graduate class.
4. Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the student's work should be requested by the applicant to be sent to the program's director of graduate studies.
5. Graduate Record Examination verbal and quantitative scores are not required to be submitted to the program. TOEFL scores of at least 550 (paper score) or 220 (computer score) are required for all foreign students. These scores should be sent directly to the School of History and Philosophy. Scores for the Test of Spoken English are strongly recommended for foreign students applying for teaching assistantships.

Applicants for Graduate School and Morris Fellowships should send these applications to the School of History and Philosophy by February 1 of the academic year preceding that for which application is made. While there is no guarantee that admission to the M.A. or the Ph.D. program will come with a program graduate assistantship, graduate assistantships are offered to as many M.A. and Ph.D. students as are available.

Entry into the Ph.D. in Philosophy Program

There are multiple pathways by which a student may enter the Philosophy Ph.D. program. A common one is by completion of a M.A. degree in Philosophy at an accredited institution, but a M.A. in Philosophy is not required for entry into the Ph.D. program. It is possible to be admitted into the Philosophy Ph.D. program with a B.A. in Philosophy or with a B.A. or B.S. in another field. Regardless of pathway, each applicant’s materials are carefully and holistically reviewed by the Graduate Committee.

Accelerated Entry

A student enrolled in the M.A. in Philosophy program may, after one semester in residence, petition the program’s faculty for accelerated entry into the Ph.D. in Philosophy program. Petitions are reviewed by the Graduate Committee.
Master of Arts (M.A.) in Philosophy

The M.A. in Philosophy is for students who wish to pursue advanced study in Philosophy, but who are not yet prepared to pursue the Ph.D. Valuable for its own sake, the M.A. is also good preparation for students who wish to continue on to a Ph.D. in Philosophy. In order to earn the M.A. in Philosophy, the student must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Complete 30 credit hours of course work in philosophy or allied fields, six of which may be credited toward preparation of a thesis. Fifty percent of the course work must be at the 500 level or above. An overall grade point average of 3.0 or above is required for the M.A. degree.

2. Fulfillment of a research writing requirement:
   a. Presentation of an acceptable thesis, 40-60 pages in length (approximately), to be written under the direction of a faculty member of the program, in addition to consultation with the thesis committee during the writing process. Six thesis credit hours is the maximum number of hours that can count for credit for the Master’s in Philosophy degree. A preliminary draft stating the thesis title, describing the problem to be investigated, the method to be used, the outline of the study, and a preliminary bibliography must be prepared in advance for the thesis advisor. Instructions that specify the proper form for these documents are to be obtained from the SIU Graduate School.
   b. With a minimum of three members of the graduate faculty, a student will sit for an oral defense and oral comprehensive examination covering the thesis and the student’s graduate course work. Before the oral defense and examination can be scheduled, it is required that all members of the thesis committee agree that the student’s thesis is formally adequate: proper formatting, polished writing, and complete citations. Only members of the thesis committee may vote and make recommendations concerning acceptance of the thesis and examination. A student will be recommended for the degree only if the members of the committee, with at most one exception not to include the committee chair, judge both the thesis and the performance at the oral examination to be satisfactory. In cases where a committee of more than three has been approved, the requirement of not more than one negative vote will still apply.
   c. In general, this requirement should be met no later than the end of one’s second year of residence.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Philosophy

The Ph.D. degree in Philosophy is designed to prepare students for college teaching and for research in their area of specialization. In order to earn the Ph.D. in Philosophy degree the student must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Completion of 30 credit hours of course work, not including course work for a M.A. in Philosophy and not including the minimum 24 credit hours for the dissertation.

2. Each doctoral candidate must take a preliminary examination after they have accumulated between 24 to 30 credit hours and before they begin work on the dissertation. Note that students who have current incompletes may not take this examination; students are expected to make up incomplete grades within one month of completion of the course in which the incomplete was assigned. In addition, students who have less than a 3.5 grade point average are not permitted to take this examination. A requirement of the Philosophy program’s standard for satisfactory progress in the Ph.D. program is a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

The preliminary examination consists of the submission of two highly polished papers. These are near publishable quality article-length papers (approximately 6,000-12,000 words in length including references), and should be prepared accordingly (i.e., formatting, grammar, footnotes, etc.). It is advisable to work with a member of the Philosophy Faculty in preparing a paper, especially if it is based on a paper written for the faculty member’s course. Students are also encouraged to take the Research Seminar to assist in the preparation of their papers. The preliminary examination papers will be read by the entire voting membership of the Philosophy Faculty. The readers will meet as a committee and make a determination of pass or fail for each student’s pair of submitted
papers. In the case of a failing grade, the student will not be permitted to advance to candidacy for the Doctorate of Philosophy in Philosophy.

Students are encouraged to consider their likely field of research for their dissertation as well as desired fields of teaching specialization when choosing topics for their preliminary examination papers.

3. Fulfillment of a research tool requirement, such as, for example:
   a. By demonstrating reading competence in one language other than English, such as, for example, by having a B.A. in Spanish.
   b. By completing graduate-level courses in a research-related area, such as Psychology, Statistics, History, Africana Studies, Sociology, Political Science, etc.
   c. By doing archival work in Special Collections under the supervision of a faculty member.
   d. Note that these are provided as examples, and are not intended as an exhaustive list. There are other acceptable ways of fulfilling the research tool requirement. Students should consult their advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies about the course work that they plan to take for their research tool. Approval from the Director of Graduate Studies is required.

Note that there should be alignment between one’s research tool and one’s dissertation project; one’s research tool should support and help facilitate one’s research. Fulfillment of these requirements does not necessarily count toward the completion of the required 30 credit hours of Ph.D. course work.

4. Admission to Candidacy – After 30 credit hours of Ph.D. course work have been completed, the research tool obtained, and the preliminary examination passed, the Director of Graduate Studies must file an Admit to Candidacy form with the Graduate School. This form is to be filed at least six months before the expected date of graduation. The student is responsible for seeing whether this form has, in fact, been filed. The student must have obtained the agreement of a faculty member to serve as dissertation director.

5. Dissertation
   a. The dissertation director is responsible for selecting a dissertation committee in consultation with the student. The committee shall consist of five graduate faculty members, at least one of whom shall be from a graduate program outside the student’s academic unit. The program allows for the possibility of faculty from other institutions to serve on the student’s committee. Once the dissertation director has been chosen and the committee formed, any subsequent changes to the dissertation directorship position must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. The appropriate change form must be sent to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval.
   b. In preparation for the writing of the dissertation, the candidate must have a prospectus review. The Director of the dissertation is responsible, in consultation with the candidate, for determining what appropriate background reading is necessary for beginning the dissertation and for the initial formulation of the project. The candidate will proceed to generate a prospectus explaining their project and defending its contemporary significance in their field of research. A prospectus should be approximately 10-20 pages in length; it should also include a proposed outline for the dissertation and a working bibliography. The Director of the dissertation will appoint a committee (four professors from the program and one professor from outside the program) that will convene for the review of the prospectus. The review will help the candidate in the final formulation of the project before proceeding with the writing of the dissertation. The committee members will fill out a comment sheet for the candidate.
   c. While working on the dissertation, the student must register for the course numbered PHIL 600. The student is to devote at least one academic year of full-time work to complete the dissertation and will register for 24 credit hours of dissertation credit (students may sign up for from 1 to 16 hours of PHIL 600 per semester). For example, the student wishing to complete the dissertation in one year may register for 12 credit hours of dissertation credit for each of two terms. Students who have registered for 24 credit hours of dissertation credit and have not completed the doctoral dissertation are subject to the continuing enrollment requirement course number PHIL 601. Students are required to complete 24 credit hours of PHIL 600. The student may take only six of these 600-level credit hours prior to formal admission to candidacy, and only six of these credit hours will count towards the residency requirement.
   d. Students who have completed all but the dissertation requirements, but who have previously enrolled for the minimum number of research, thesis, or dissertation credit hours required of the degree, must enroll every semester for at least one credit hour until all degree requirements have been completed (Summer sessions exempt). Whether in residence or not, students are required to enroll in Continuing Enrollment (PHIL 601 - 1 credit hour
per semester) if not otherwise enrolled. Concurrent registration in any other course is not acceptable. See the Graduate Catalog for more specific details, under the heading GENERAL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

e. The candidate will do the required research and write the dissertation. There is no set length for a dissertation, but 150 to 250 pages is the average length of a philosophy dissertation.

f. The candidate and the dissertation director should work together until the document is ready to receive critical input from the committee. When the dissertation director indicates that the dissertation is ready for defense, it shall be required of the dissertation director to submit to each committee member a copy of the dissertation for the members’ examination. This must be delivered at least two months in advance of the anticipated and tentative date of the defense. The committee must then decide whether the dissertation is acceptable for defense.

g. The candidate shall conduct an oral defense of the dissertation and related topics in the field before the dissertation committee. The oral defense is open to the public. Only the committee members vote or make recommendations concerning the acceptance of the dissertation and final examination. At the discretion of the dissertation director, guests may be permitted to ask questions of the candidate after the committee members have conducted the examination. A student will be recommended for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy only if the members of the committee judge both the dissertation and the performance at the final oral examination to be satisfactory. One dissenting vote is permitted.

Philosophy Courses

PHIL405 - Democratic Theory (Same as POLS 405) An examination of various aspects of democratic thought, including the liberal tradition and its impact upon the United States. Fulfills the CoLA Writing-Across-the-Curriculum (WAC) requirement. Prerequisite: POLS 114 or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL410 - Philosophy of Language (Same as LING 410) A survey and introduction to theories on the nature of “truth” and “meaning” and their relationship to natural language. Potential topics include: reference, definite descriptions, externalism, modality and possible worlds. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL415 - Logic of Social Sciences (Same as SOC 415) An examination of the theoretical structure and nature of the social sciences and their epistemological foundations. The relationship of social theory to social criticism; theory and praxis. Historical experience and social objectivity. Social theory as practical knowledge. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL417 - History and Philosophy of Science An exploration of historical and philosophical perspectives on the theories, methods, practices, and institutions of the sciences, including the natural and social sciences, mathematics, medicine, and engineering. Topics may include the nature of the scientific process and scientific method, the origins and historical development of the sciences, theory change, experiments, models, objectivity, scientific realism, and the role of values in science. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL433 - Post-Colonialism Philosophy This course focuses on African, Caribbean, and Latin American philosophers who have and continue to contribute to the development of post-colonial philosophy. In this class we will examine how post-colonial thinkers challenge and rework some of the main areas of philosophy, such as epistemology, political philosophy, ethics, philosophy of language, etc., by decentering the colonial assumptions that underpin these areas and their development. This class explores what this decentering means, not only for postcolonial theory, but also for how we think of race, class, gender and other forms of oppression and liberation, globally. Restricted to junior standing. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL434 - Media Ethics (Same as JRNL 434) Explores the moral environment of the mass media and the ethical problems that confront media practitioners. Models of ethical decision-making and moral philosophy are introduced to encourage students to think critically about the mass media and their roles in modern society. Credit Hours: 3
PHIL435 - Environmental Philosophy  This class explores the relationship between human beings, globalization, and the natural world. It will use both classical and contemporary literature on nature and address such topics as climate change, deep ecology, colonialism, third world ecofeminism, indigenous environmentalism, environmental racism, and eco-genocide. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL441 - Philosophy of Politics (Same as POLS 403) The theory of political and social foundations; the theory of the state, justice, and revolution. Classical and contemporary readings such as: Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Dewey, Adorno and others. Prerequisite: PHIL 340 or PHIL 102 or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL445 - Philosophy of Law  Study of contemporary philosophical essays on topics at the intersection of law and philosophy, such as abortion on demand, capital punishment, plea bargaining, campus speech codes, legalization of addictive drugs, and animal rights, and what systematic philosophers, such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, and H.L.A. Hart, have written about the nature of a legal system and the appropriate realm of legal regulation. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL446A - Feminist Philosophy  (Same as WGSS 456A) A general survey of feminist theory and philosophical perspectives. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL446B - Topics in Feminist Philosophy  (Same as WGSS 456B) A special area in feminist philosophy explored in depth, such as Feminist Ethics, French Feminism, Feminist Philosophy of Science, etc. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL446C - Women Philosophers  (Same as WGSS 456C) Explores the work of one or more specific women philosophers, for example Hannah Arendt, Simone DeBeauvoir, etc. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL450 - American Transcendentalism This course will study the rise of Transcendentalism as a philosophical movement in early Nineteenth Century New England. Focus will be on Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau with possible attention to Margaret Fuller and other figures like Hedge, Parker and Browson. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL451 - History of African American Philosophy   (Same as AFR 499A) A survey of major thinkers and themes in the history of African American Philosophy from colonial times to the 20th century. Prerequisite: at least one previous course in either Philosophy or Africana Studies with a grade of C or better. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL455 - Philosophy of Race   (Same as AFR 499B) A survey and critical examination of a range of theories on the nature and meaning of "race," the intersection of race with class and gender, and the promotion of racial progress. Such theories include racial realism and idealism, racial biologism, cultural race theory, social constructivist theory, integrationism, separatism, racial eliminativism, cosmopolitanism, and especially critical race theory. Prerequisite: at least one previous course in Philosophy or Africana Studies with a minimum grade of C. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL459 - Topics in Africana Philosophy   (Same as AFR 499C) A seminar on varying topics, themes, and figures in African, African American, and/or Caribbean Philosophy, e.g., "W.E.B. Du Bois and His Contemporaries," "Pan-Africanism," "Philosophies of Liberation," "Black Feminism," "Contemporary African Philosophy," "Philosophies of the Caribbean." Prerequisite: At least one previous course in Philosophy or Africana Studies with a minimum grade of C. Credit Hours: 1-6

PHIL460 - Philosophy of Art  We will examine several important theories that define art by focusing in on only one aspect, for example, imitation, expression, form, institutional setting, or even indefinability. What role does imagination play in each of these accounts, and does this tell us something important about how people experience their world? Credit Hours: 3

PHIL468A - Kant-Theoretical Philosophy  Credit Hours: 3

PHIL468B - Kant-Practical Philosophy  Credit Hours: 3

PHIL468C - Kant-Aesthetics, Teleology and Religion  Credit Hours: 3

PHIL470A - Greek Philosophy-Plato  (Same as CLAS 470A) Survey of Plato's dialogues mostly selected from those of the middle period (Meno, Phaedo, Symposium, Republic, Phaedrus), perhaps along with
PHIL470B - Greek Philosophy-Aristotle (Same as CLAS 470B) A general survey of the Aristotelian philosophy including the theory of nature, metaphysics, ethics, and political philosophy. Readings will consist of selections from the corpus. Prerequisites: PHIL 304A or CLAS 304A, and PHIL 304B or CLAS 304B with minimum grades of C, or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL471A - History of Medieval Philosophy An examination of some of the most important figures and themes in medieval philosophical thought. Medieval debates in the area of metaphysics, natural philosophy, epistemology, ethics and politics will be explored in reading the works of such figures as Augustine, Boethius, Abelard Avicenna, Averroes, Maimonides, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, Ockham and Nicholas of Cusa. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL471B - The Medieval Thinker An examination of the thought of one of the central and most influential figures of the medieval world. Possible subjects of the course are Augustine of Hippo, Al-Ghazali, Moses Maimonides, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, Dante Alighieri or William Ockham. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL472 - The Rationalists Study of the philosophy of one or more of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Malebranche, Wolff. Prerequisite: PHIL 305A or B or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL473A - The Empiricists-Locke Study of the principles of British empiricism as represented by Locke. May also include study of Berkeley. Prerequisite: PHIL 305 or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL473B - The Empiricists-Hume Study of the principles of British empiricism as represented by Hume. May also include study of Berkeley. Prerequisite: PHIL 305 or consent of instructor. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL474 - Aristotle's Ethics This course will focus on reading Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics. Topics will include: the idea of a well-lived life (happiness), the relation of reason and desire, character formation, deliberative and moral reasoning, the types of human excellence, friendship and the role of philosophy in a well-lived life. Readings may include: Greek drama (e.g., Antigone, Medea), Aristotle's Politics, and contemporary writers in "virtue ethics." Credit Hours: 3

PHIL478 - Buddhist Philosophy An examination of several major philosophical traditions or figures in Buddhism, such as Madhyamika, Yogacara, Zen, Mind-Only, and the Kyoto School, emphasis on their social and historical contexts. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL482 - Recent European Philosophy Philosophical trends in Europe from the end of the 19th Century to the present. Phenomenology, existentialism, the new Marxism, structuralism, and other developments. Language, history, culture and politics. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL485 - The Presocratics The course will survey the Presocratic movement from the Milesians, Heraclitus and the Pythagoreans to the Eleatics, Empedocles, Anaxagoras and Democritus. Topics will include: the idea of nature, origin/source/principle (arche), the mathematical and nature, Being, pluralism and monism, the atomic theory. Some attention may be paid to the Sophists and the Epicureans. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL486 - Early American Philosophy From the Colonial Era to the Eve of World War I. This course will trace the transplantation of European philosophy to the New World and watch its unique process of development. Movements such as Puritanism, the theory of the American Revolution, the philosophical basis of the Constitution, transcendentalism, idealism, Darwinism and pragmatism and such figures as: Jonathan Edwards, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Josiah Royce, Charles Sanders Peirce, and William James. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL487 - Recent American Philosophy From World War I to the Present. The major American philosophers of the 20th Century, covering such issues as naturalism, emergentism, process philosophy,
and neopragmatism. Figures include: John Dewey, George Herbert Mead, George Santayana, Alfred N. Whitehead, C. I. Lewis, W. V. Quine, and Richard Rorty. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL500 - Metaphysics** Seminar focusing on readings taken from major classical to contemporary writings in the subject of metaphysics (e.g., Aristotle's Metaphysics, Descartes' Principles, Whitehead's Process and Reality, etc.) or on special movements or on problems in the subject (e.g., substance, causation, reductionism, etc.). Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL501 - Philosophy of Religion** Analysis of a problem in philosophical theology or the phenomenology of religion or of the work of a particular thinker. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL502 - Formal Semantics** (Same as LING 500) Discussion of the formal mechanisms used to encode meaning in natural language. Potential topics include: predication, definiteness, quantification, and semantic modeling. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL530 - Theory of Knowledge** Seminar focusing on readings taken from major classical to contemporary writings in the subject of metaphysics (e.g., Plato, Theaetetus; Aristotle, De Anima; Locke, Essay Concerning Human Understanding; Quine, Ontological Relativity; Rorty, The Mirror of Nature, etc.) or on special movements or on problems in the subject (e.g., substance, causation, reductionism, etc.). Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL535 - Philosophy of Science** Seminar focused on one or more advanced topics in the Philosophy of Science, such as the role of values in science, public trust in science, scientific realism, philosophy of quantum physics, philosophy of biology. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL542 - Political and Legal Philosophy** Relations of law, morality, and politics, and consideration of problems and issues in philosophy of law. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL545 - Ethics** An examination of the fundamental assumptions underlying twentieth century British and American moral theory. Special attention is given to recent attempts to develop a psychologically realistic moral philosophy that avoids both moral absolutism and extreme forms of relativism. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL551 - Introduction to Teaching and the Profession** Introduction to the methodology and ethics of teaching philosophy; supervision of teaching assistants. Restricted to philosophy graduate students on assistantship contract. Credit Hours: 1

**PHIL552 - Teaching Practicum** Ongoing supervision of teaching assistants and discussion of pedagogical, ethical and professional issues. Prerequisite: PHIL 551. Credit Hours: 1

**PHIL553 - Supervision of Teaching for Graduate Assistants** Instruction in the methods of teaching philosophy and direct supervision of course teaching. Prerequisite: PHIL 551. Credit Hours: 1


**PHIL560 - Aesthetics** Selected topics or writings. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL562 - Philosophy of Human Communication** (See CMST 562) Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL563 - Philosophy of Nietzsche** A reading of Nietzsche's works and critical discussion of his major themes in light of their historical and contemporary reception. Credit Hours: 3

**PHIL564 - Frankfurt School Critical Theory** An examination of the conceptual foundations and historico-philosophical theories of the Institute for Social Research School, known as critical theory, covering one or more of the major first- and second-generation thinkers: Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas. Credit Hours: 3
PHIL565 - Continental Feminist Philosophy (Same as WGSS 565) An examination of major figures and problems in continental feminism, focusing on metaphysical, ethical, political, and aesthetic theories in the works of Beauvoir, Kristeva, Irigaray, Butler, and Kofman. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL566 - Psychoanalysis An examination of psychoanalytic theory in the context of continental philosophy, studying the foundation of psychoanalysis and major developments since Freud, including French psychoanalytic theory, the British School, and developments in American psychoanalysis. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL570 - American Idealism One or more American idealists. Recent seminars have been devoted to the thought of Brand Blanshard and Peter A. Bertocci. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL577A - Classical American Philosophy-Peirce A focused study of various aspects of Peirce's philosophy such as his pragmatism and semiotics. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL577B - Classical American Philosophy-James A critical examination of James' pragmatism, radical empiricism and pluralism. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL577C - Classical American Philosophy-Dewey An examination of such themes in Dewey's philosophy as the influence of Darwin, nature and experience, aesthetics, technology and democracy. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL577D - Classical American Philosophy-Mead A critical examination of Mead's theories regarding the social self and social life. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL578 - Husserl A careful and systematic reading of Husserl's major works or treatment of important themes throughout his writings, such as, the problem of evidence, perception and rationality, time-consciousness, phenomenology of association, or the lifeworld. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL579 - Heidegger This course features a close reading of Heidegger's masterwork, BEING AND TIME, supplemented by selected later essay and secondary literature as suggested by the instructor. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL580 - The Pre-Socratics The emergence of Greek philosophy in the sixth century B.C., the Milesians, Heraclitus and the Pythagoreans; the Eleatic movement and Parmenides, and the critical systems of Empedocles, Anaxagoras, and atomism; concluding with a discussion of the Sophistic movement and Socrates. Epic, lyric and dramatic literature of the period may be examined as well as philosophical writings. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL581 - Plato Intensive reading of selected texts focusing on some aspect of Plato's thought or on Platonism as a movement. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL582 - Aristotle Intensive reading on several texts, analyzing selected portions of Aristotle's thought. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL583 - Merleau-Ponty This course will focus on a major work by Merleau-Ponty (such as the Phenomenology of Perception), or will develop a major theme (perception, aesthetics, politics) in his thought by consulting several of his works. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL584 - Levinas This course will be devoted to a detailed and systematic study of one of Levinas's major works, such as Totality and Infinity or Otherwise than Being, or to a survey of key elements of his thought contained in his many important essays. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL587 - Kant Credit Hours: 3

PHIL588 - Hegel Credit Hours: 3

PHIL589 - Scheler This course is devoted to a systematic reading of Scheler's works that concern any one of the many dimensions of his thought, for example, the nature of "person", ethics and value theory, the philosophy of religion, the sociology of knowledge, or politics. Credit Hours: 3
PHIL590 - General Graduate Seminar Selected topics or problems in philosophy. Repeatable for 12 hours per term, 30 hours toward degree. Credit Hours: 1-12

PHIL591 - Readings in Philosophy Supervised readings for qualified students. Prerequisite: Students must have written permission from the Graduate Director to register for more than six hours at each level. Credit Hours: 1-16

PHIL595 - Research Methods in Philosophy This seminar provides a focus on philosophical research methods and philosophical writing. This course is particularly appropriate for students working to prepare their preliminary examination papers, to polish a paper for publication as a journal article, or otherwise working to enhance their research and writing skills. Credit Hours: 3

PHIL599 - Thesis Minimum of four hours to be counted towards a Master's degree. Credit Hours: 2-6

PHIL600 - Dissertation Repeatable for 16 hours per term, 30 hours toward degree. Credit Hours: 1-16

PHIL601 - Continuing Enrollment For those graduate students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertation, thesis, or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded S/U or DEF only. Credit Hours: 1

PHIL699 - Postdoctoral Research Must be a Postdoctoral Fellow. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Credit Hours: 1

Philosophy Faculty

Brown, Matthew J., Professor, Boydston Chair of American Philosophy, Ph.D., University of California San Diego, 2009; 2022. Pragmatism, American philosophy, John Dewey, history and philosophy of science, political philosophy, philosophy of mind/cognitive science, comics studies.

Frankowski, Alfred, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Oregon, 2012.

Hahn, Robert, Professor, Ph.D., Yale University, 1976; 1982. Greek philosophy, philosophy and history of science, Kant.


Youpa, Andrew, Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, 2002; 2003. History of modern philosophy, contemporary moral philosophy, and ancient philosophy.

Emeriti Faculty

Alexander, Thomas, Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Emory University, 1984; 1985.

Beardsworth, Sara, Associate Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., University of Warwick, 1994; 2004.

Clarke, David S., Jr., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Emory University, 1964; 1966.


Gillan, Garth J., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Duquesne University, 1966; 1969.

Hickman, Larry A., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1971; 1993.

Kelly, Matthew J., Associate Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 1963; 1966.

Manfredi, Pat A., Associate Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 1983; 1994.


Steinbock, Anthony J., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., State University of New York, Stony Brook, 1993; 1995.

Tyman, Stephen, Associate Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Toronto, 1980; 1980.