

PHILOSOPHY, BA

Philosophers inquire into the great questions that address the human condition and the basic orientations that shape our understanding of contemporary life. Our department is especially concerned to promote a genuine engagement with the most important issues that concern us today. From matters of law and politics to ethics and medicine, from justice and society to art and literature, we enable students to thoughtfully understand and critically assess the essential dimensions of these pressing issues. In the process, we help students to develop crucial cognitive skills in logical thinking, interpretive comprehension, critical evaluation, and argumentative writing. Moreover, the department offers a program of study that can be tailored to the student's specific interests. In fact, it expressly encourages the incorporation of relevant courses from other disciplines into the philosophy major. The program is open and flexible, especially for those interested in philosophy as a second major.

The Philosophy Department allows students to design their own major around a basic structure that consists of

1. a common core of six courses and
2. four elective course, two of which must be philosophy courses at the 300 level or higher.

The designed major must be developed with the guidance of a Philosophy faculty advisor and approved by the Chair.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Philosophy		30
PHIL-102	INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY	
PHIL-104	INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS ¹	
PHIL-111	INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING	
PHIL-210	METAPHYSICS	
PHIL-404	HIST.OF ANCIENT& MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY	
or PHIL-361	Evil and Modern Thought	
PHIL-498	SENIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR	
Select four PHIL electives from Tracks below		
General Education Requirements (https://catalog.sbu.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/)		37
Foreign Language ²		3
General Electives		50
Total Credits		120

¹ PHIL-104 and one additional Philosophy course are required General Education courses that will both count towards Philosophy Major requirements. AS a result, in order to meet the 120 credit hour degree requirements, Philosophy majors must take an additional six (6) credit hours of general electives.

² The foreign language must be at the level of 202 or higher. Students not prepared to begin at this level will need to take additional courses in language that will count toward their General Electives.

A senior thesis is also required. Seniors must register for three credits of 498 in the fall semester of senior year.

To help guide the student, the Philosophy faculty has developed four tracks that constitute preapproved topic areas for the major. A major in Philosophy may be earned by

1. completing the six required courses above, and
2. fulfilling the requirements for any one of the tracks below or selecting four courses in consultation with the Philosophy faculty advisor.

Track 1: Philosophy, Law and Politics

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-325	PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	3
PHIL-326	LEGAL REASONING	3
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL-327	LEGAL ETHICS	
PHIL-332	SOC. & ECON. JUSTICE	
Select one of the following:		3
POLS-306	COURTS IN AMER. POLITICS	
POLS-420	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I: POLITICAL STRUCTURE	
POLS-421	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW II: CIVIL RIGHTS	
PHIL-324	MOCK TRIAL	
Total Credits		12

Track 2: Philosophy and Social Justice

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-332	SOC. & ECON. JUSTICE	3
Curriculum under review, additional course should be selected with department chair		3
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL-341	ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	
POLS-240	CONTROVERSIES-PUBL POLICY	
POLS-315	ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS	
POLS-420	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I: POLITICAL STRUCTURE	
SOC-205	SOCIOLOGY OF INEQUALITY	
SOC-413	Minorities in the United States	
Total Credits		12

Track 3: Philosophy, Art & Literature

Code	Title	Credits
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL-320	EXISTENTIALISM	
Curriculum under review, additional course should be selected with department chair		3
Select one of the following:		3
ENG-390	INTRO TO CRITICISM & THEORY	
ARTH-322	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ART	
VA-341	MODERN ART & THEORY	
Select one of the following:		3
ARTH-101	SURVEY OF WESTERN ART I	
ARTH-102	SURVEY OF WESTERN ART II	
ENG-220	AMERICAN LITERATURE I	
ENG-221	AMERICAN LITERATURE II	
Total Credits		15

Track 4: Philosophy, Ethics and Medicine

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-335	PHIL. OF SCIENCE & MEDICINE	3
PHIL-338	HEALTH CARE ETHICS	3
Select two of the following:		6
PHIL-337	DEATH AND DYING	
PHIL-345	VALUES AT THE END OF LIFE	
PSYC-240	HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY	
SOC-408	HEALTH AND ILLNESS	
Total Credits		12

Changes in the sequence of the program listed above may be desirable. These must be made in consultation with the student's academic adviser.

Philosophy Pre-Law Program

The department offers a philosophy pre-law program for those students interested in philosophy or a general arts education and in pursuing a legal career. It is generally acknowledged that a concentration in philosophy and the other arts provides an appropriate basis for the study of law. Students in the pre-law program complete the requirements of the Philosophy, Law and Politics track. Additional courses are selected in consultation with the department's pre-law advisor (who has a law degree) that will assist the student in preparing for law school and beyond.

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Philosophy

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
PHIL-102	3	PHIL-104	3
PHIL-111	3	ENG-102	3
BONA-101	3	Foreign Language ¹	3
ENG-101	3	General Education Requirements	6
Foreign Language/General Elective	3		
15		15	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
General Elective	3	PHIL-210	3
General Education Requirements	12	General Electives	9
		General Education Requirements	4
15		16	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Select one of the following:	3	Philosophy Elective	3
PHIL-361		Philosophy Elective	3
PHIL-404		General Electives	9
Philosophy Elective	3		
General Electives	9		
15		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
PHIL-498	3	General Electives	6
Philosophy Elective	3	General Electives	8
General Electives	9		
15		14	

Total Credits 120

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