

Department of Philosophy

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Philosophy examines the grounds of knowledge, the nature of reality, and the nature of value, justice, and morality. It asks fundamental questions about how we reason and how we ought to reason. Its subject matter encompasses all the other academic disciplines, indeed all areas of human experience, e.g., society, values, mind, language, art, and science.

The main value of philosophy lies in its contribution to a liberal education. As a central discipline of the humanities, philosophy encourages those who study it to gain insight into themselves and others, which proves helpful in setting high standards and working in productive collaboration with one's associates. In addition, philosophy is an excellent means of learning to reason and write clearly which are skills useful in every conceivable human enterprise. Some philosophy majors pursue careers in academia; others, however, make rewarding careers for themselves in business, government, journalism, law, and human services.

Courses

See Part 6 for courses in Philosophy (Phil).

Undergraduate Curricular Requirements

PHILOSOPHY (B.A. or B.S.)

Note: Students who intend to do graduate work are advised to take the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Required course work includes the university requirements (see regulation J-3), the general requirements for either the B.A. or B.S. degree, and:

Phil 103 Ethics (3 cr)
Phil 201 Critical Thinking or Phil 202 Intro to Symbolic Logic (3 cr)
Phil 240 Belief and Reality (3 cr)
Phil 320 History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 cr)
Phil 321 History of Modern Philosophy (3 cr)
Phil 490 Senior Seminar (3 cr)
Philosophy electives (upper-div; must include at least one course in non-Western thought)* (12 cr)
Related fields (humanities, social sc, and sc)* (20 cr)

* The electives in philosophy and related fields are to be selected with the approval of the chair of philosophy.

Academic Minor Requirements

BIOETHICS MINOR

Biol 115 Cells and the Evolution of Life (4 cr)
Biol 116 Organisms and Environments (4 cr)
Phil 103 Ethics (3 cr)
Phil 201 Critical Thinking (3 cr)
Phil 351 Philosophy of Science (3 cr)
Phil 361 Professional Ethics (3 cr)
Phil 417 Philosophy of Biology (3 cr)

PHILOSOPHY MINOR

Phil 103 Ethics or Phil 201 Critical Thinking or Phil 202 Intro to Symbolic Logic or Phil 240 Belief and Reality (3 cr)
Phil 320 History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 cr)
Phil 321 History of Modern Philosophy (3 cr)
Three upper-division philosophy courses (9 cr)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MINOR

See the Religious Studies section for details on this minor.

Undergraduate Academic Certificates Requirements

GLOBAL JUSTICE ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE

This academic certificate program is offered jointly with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Note: A grade of 'B' or higher is required in all coursework for this academic certificate.

Anth 203 Workshop or Soc 403 Workshop (1 cr)*
Phil 491 or Soc 491 Seminar in Professional Ethics and Diversity (3 cr)
Electives (11 cr):
 Anth 498 Internship (cr arr)*
 Phil 367 Global Justice (3 cr) (May be repeated for credit)
 Phil 499 Directed Study (cr arr)*
 Soc 367 Global Justice (3 cr) (May be repeated for credit)
 Soc 498 Internship (cr arr)*
 Soc 499 Directed Study (cr arr)*
Credits to total 15 for this Academic Certificate

*Approval of program coordinator required

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE

This academic certificate program is offered jointly with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Note: A grade of 'B' or higher is required in all coursework for this academic certificate.

Phil 361 Professional Ethics (3 cr)
Phil 491 or Soc 491 Seminar in Professional Ethics and Diversity (3 cr)
Electives (7 cr):
 AgEc 477 Law, Ethics, and the Environment (3 cr)
 Biol 553 Ethical Issues in Biological Research (1 cr)
 BLaw 265 Legal Environment of Business (3 cr)
 CSS 489 Personalities and Philosophies in Conservation (2 cr)
 CSS 493 International Land Preservation and Conservation Systems (3 cr)
 For 235 Society and Natural Resources (3 cr)
 For 484 Forest Policy and Administration (2 cr)
 Geog 420 Land, Resources, and Environment (3 cr)
 JAMM 341 Mass Media Ethics (3 cr)
 JAMM 403 Workshop (1-3 cr)*
 JAMM 490 Global Media (3 cr)
 Phil 382 Philosophy of Ecology (3 cr)
 Phil 450 Ethics in Science (3 cr)
 Phil 452 Environmental Philosophy (3 cr)
 Phil 457 Natural Resource Ethics (3 cr)
 Phil 470 Philosophy of Law (3 cr)
 Soc 403 Workshop (1-3 cr)*
 Soc 423 Social Class & Stratification (3 cr)
Credits to total 13 for this Academic Certificate

*Approval of program coordinator required

Graduate Degree Programs

Candidates must fulfill the requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and of the Department of Philosophy. See the College of Graduate Studies section of Part 4 for the general requirements applicable to each degree.

The M.A. program in Philosophy is a cooperative one, offered jointly by the University of Idaho and Washington State University, so that University of Idaho students may have the benefit of additional faculty and classes available at Washington State.

Master of Arts. All students earning the M.A. degree in Philosophy will be required to complete 30 credit hours, including twelve hours of core courses, twelve hours of elective courses, and six hours of Master's Thesis research. Up to six hours of coursework may be completed at the 400-level. Students may pursue a traditional Philosophy M.A. or choose one of two options for emphasis: Environmental Philosophy or Ethics.

Environmental Philosophy Option. For students choosing the Environmental Philosophy Option, administered by the Department of Philosophy at the University of Idaho: the thesis must be in Environmental Philosophy and at least 15 of the letter-graded credit hours must be in environmental courses, some of which may be offered through other departments. Relevant courses approved by the student's thesis advisor.

Ethics Option. For students choosing the Ethics Option, administered by the Department of Philosophy at Washington State University: the thesis must be in Ethics and at least 15 of the letter-graded credit hours must be in ethics or other normative theory courses approved by the student's thesis advisor.