



# PHILOSOPHY

## B.A. IN PHILOSOPHY

Students pursuing a degree in philosophy will focus on the intellectual issues that a reflective person is likely to encounter in various contexts of civilized life. The Department of Philosophy emphasizes the relevance of philosophy to mathematics, computer science, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, arts and law.

In addition to offering a solid foundation for advanced study in philosophy and enriching the study in other disciplines, the academic program develops skills for analytical and critical thinking, effective communication and rational decision-making needed in a wide range of endeavors.

### DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The study of philosophy at Case is often interdisciplinary. In addition to its own major and minor programs, the department participates in the history and philosophy of science program, the women's studies program, and the evolutionary biology program. The department also contributes courses to the interdisciplinary minor in artificial intelligence.
- The department recently hosted a summer seminar on the subject of philosophic issues in mathematics, which was supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This event was one of only 12 such NEH-funded seminars nationwide each year.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

The major consists of 30 credit hours in philosophy, which include the following four courses:

- PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 201 Introduction to Logic
- PHIL 301 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 302 Modern Philosophy

The six other courses are determined in consultation with the department's undergraduate adviser.

Examples of courses offered by the department are:

- PHIL 205 Contemporary Moral Problems
- PHIL 271 Bioethics: Dilemmas in Research and Clinical Practice
- PHIL 304 Science and Engineering Ethics
- PHIL 325 Philosophy of Feminism
- PHIL 345 Epistemology and Metaphysics
- PHIL 365 Philosophy of Mind

Please see the General Bulletin ([www.case.edu/bulletin](http://www.case.edu/bulletin)) for a complete listing of courses offered by the department and detailed course descriptions.

### Individualized curriculum

To provide an individualized curriculum, a student may request that up to 6 credit hours of the required 18 hours of elective courses be taken in another field. Such a request must be supported by considerations showing how the substitution would strengthen the student's major in philosophy.

### Sequences

All sequences must include PHIL 101, PHIL 302, and two other Philosophy courses at the 200 or 300 level as approved by the undergraduate adviser (except PHIL 390 and 399). A typical sequence, for example, would consist of PHIL 101, 302 and two courses from one of the following groups:

#### Logic and Scientific Methodology

- PHIL 201 Introduction to Logic
- PHIL 203 Natural Philosophy I
- PHIL 204 Natural Philosophy II
- PHIL 303 Topics in Philosophy of Science

#### Logic, Formal Systems and Philosophy of Mathematics

- PHIL 201 Introduction to Logic
- PHIL 306 Math Logic and Model Theory
- PHIL 313 Philosophy of Mathematics

#### Value Theory

- PHIL 205 Contemporary Moral Problems
- PHIL 305 Ethics
- PHIL 334 Political and Social Philosophy
- PHIL 335 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 375 Aesthetics

#### Language, Mind and Cognition

- PHIL 201 Introduction to Logic
- PHIL 345 Epistemology and Metaphysics
- PHIL 365 Philosophy of Mind
- PHIL 385 Philosophy of Language

#### Philosophy and Culture

- PHIL 301 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL 345 Epistemology and Metaphysics
- PHIL 355 Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Philosophy
- PHIL 356 Comparative Philosophy

## MINOR

The department offers a range of possible minor programs, each of which must include PHIL 101 and four other courses in Philosophy at the 200- or 300-level (excluding PHIL 390, 398 and 399) chosen to meet the specific needs of students majoring in other fields. The undergraduate adviser will assist students in devising minor programs.

## DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

The department offers an honors program for students majoring in philosophy. It involves completing a substantial thesis, passing an oral examination on the thesis and maintaining a B average in philosophy courses. Interested students should apply during the first semester of the junior year. Eligibility requires a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and a grade of B or better in each philosophy course already taken. A student normally should have taken four to seven philosophy courses at the time of application for admission to the honors program. An honors student should register for PHIL 399 (Directed Study).

## TALKS AND SEMINARS

The department contributes to Case's rich educational environment by hosting a series of talks and seminars led by renowned scholars and authors. Recent programs include the Mental Lives of Marine Mammals: The Conscious Experience of Others and Ourselves; Grey Matters in Neuroethics; and Practical Concepts and Their Empirical Criteria: A Critical Reflection on the Foundation of Kantian Ethics.

## PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

The Philosophy Society is a student organization for majors, minors and others with an interest in philosophy. The group meets regularly throughout the year and holds additional events each semester. The group also maintains an e-mail list for discussions and networking.

## RECENT GRADUATES

A recent survey of post graduation plans among graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences found that 55 percent went on to graduate or professional school and the remainder pursued other plans. The B.A. in philosophy program provides majors with unusual flexibility in the choice of subsequent careers, including law, medicine and management while complementing the pursuit of career objectives with a greater perspective and a richer quality of intellectual life.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### General Bulletin

[www.case.edu/bulletin](http://www.case.edu/bulletin)

#### Office of Undergraduate Admission

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