PHILOSOPHY MAJOR: POLITICAL AND LEGAL PHILOSOPHY OPTION (B.A.)

https://cola.unh.edu/philosophy/program/ba/philosophy-major-political-legal-philosophy-option

Description

The political and legal philosophy option in the philosophy major gives students interested in politics, law and justice the opportunity to focus their philosophy major courses around their interests in a systematic and rigorous way. Philosophy has long been a major for high-achieving students interested in law, and our graduates are admitted regularly to top law schools such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, University of Chicago, NYU and Duke, among others. We are also a home for UNH students interested and active in political philosophy. Our faculty members have considerable expertise in both political and legal philosophy, with some serving on UNH's pre-law advisory committee.

Requirements

Students must fulfill the requirements of the philosophy major plus the requirements of the option. Majors must take a minimum of ten (10) philosophy courses, for a total of 40 credits. A single course can satisfy multiple requirements for the major. The required minimum overall GPA in major coursework is 2.00 and the minimum grade for all courses counting toward the major is a "C-." Candidates for a degree must satisfy additional University requirements for graduation, such as:

1. University "Writing Intensive" Requirements,
2. Liberal Arts Foreign Language Requirement (B.A. candidates only),
3. minimum number of credits (128 credits for B.A. degree), and
4. University Discovery Requirements.

Consult with your adviser early and often to plan the optimal path for fulfilling major and University requirements.

Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 412</td>
<td>Beginning Logic</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 500</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td></td>
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<td>PHIL 530</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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<td>PHIL 570</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<td>PHIL 580</td>
<td>Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant</td>
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Select two (2) 700-level philosophy courses (excluding PHIL 795, PHIL 798, and PHIL 799) of the student's choice, at least one of these should be taken in the senior year.

Note that it is in the nature of 700-level seminars to presuppose by default that students have completed the main 400-level and 500-level core requirements (PHIL 412 Beginning Logic, PHIL 500 Workshop, PHIL 530 Ethics, PHIL 570 Ancient Philosophy, PHIL 580 Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant) and so free reference is made to materials, views, techniques, etc. covered in those lower-level core requirements.

Discovery Requirements

For students majoring in only philosophy: philosophy majors may "double count" any two courses toward the major and also to satisfy Discovery requirements. For example, a philosophy major can count (1) PHIL 412 Beginning Logic toward the major requirement as well as using this course to satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning Discovery Category and (2) they can also count PHIL 421 Philosophy and the Arts toward both the major and the Fine and Performing Arts Discovery Category. Because PHIL 412 Beginning Logic and PHIL 570 Ancient Philosophy are required for the major and also satisfy Quantitative Reasoning and Humanities Categories, respectively, all majors could simply count these two courses toward their Discovery requirements. In various circumstances—for instance if a student already satisfied those Discovery requirements before becoming a philosophy major—one might prefer to count other philosophy courses toward different Discovery Categories, and they are free to do so.

For students double majoring with philosophy: The Department sets no limits on how many courses students may "double count" toward both the philosophy major and Discovery categories if philosophy is your second major. A double major with philosophy as the second major could in principle count any of the following courses toward the major while satisfying five Discovery Categories:
1. **Quantitative Reasoning (QR)** Discovery Category could be satisfied by PHIL 412 Beginning Logic.

2. **Fine and Performing Arts (FPA)** Discovery Category could be satisfied by PHIL 421 Philosophy and the Arts.


4. **World Cultures (WC)** Discovery Category could be satisfied by PHIL 440C Honors/The Copernican Lens: Finding a Place for Humanity or PHIL 520 Introduction to Eastern Philosophy.


### Student Learning Outcomes

UNH philosophy majors acquire the ability to think systematically and imaginatively about fundamental and enduring issues such as morality, justice, happiness, beauty, gender, race, nature, artificial intelligence, space, time, and the meaning of life and death. Our internationally-renowned professors emphasize discussion, debate and writing in our courses. Wrestling with the “big questions” from diverse and global perspectives prepares students exceptionally well for a variety of fulfilling careers. Cultivating a lively and nurturing community personally invested in the success of our high achieving students, we take pride in watching our graduates excel in top law and graduate schools, innovative social justice programs, and various positions from Wall Street to Silicon Valley.

More concretely, we monitor the following learning objectives.

- Students understand major philosophers and philosophical ideas accurately.
- Students apply their understanding of ideas in novel contexts.
- Students write effectively.
- Students speak effectively.
- Students argue with depth, precision, balance, and insight.
- Students understand the formal structure of arguments and understand rules of inference.
- Students read analytically, critically, and empathetically.
- Students critically assess their own preconceptions, commitments and ideas.

The main way we oversee student progress is through close mentorship, early on in our 2nd year orientation designed for new majors (PHIL 500 Workshop), and culminating in their presentation of research in two required 700-level seminars. We also strongly encourage participation in the annual Philosophy Department Undergraduate Research Conference.