Philosophy

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http://www.philosophy.illinois.edu/

Philosophy is the oldest, broadest, and most fundamental form of inquiry. Some philosophical questions have to do with the understanding of ourselves and whatever else there may be. Others focus upon the nature of different forms of knowledge and experience, and upon ethical issues and problems of value. The study of philosophy is one of the most important elements in a good liberal education. It also improves one's ability to think clearly, and to construct, analyze, and criticize arguments of any kind. The major and minor are sponsored by the Department of Philosophy.

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major in Philosophy

E-mail: phildept@illinois.edu

Minimum required major and supporting course work normally equates to 44 hours including at least 32 hours of Philosophy courses

General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education (https://courses.illinois.edu) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction: Eligibility for distinction may be pursued by either:

1. the thesis option, which requires at least 35 hours of philosophy courses (including 5 courses at the 300- or 400-level), a grade point average of 3.5 in all philosophy courses, and writing a thesis; or

2. the course work option, which requires 38 hours of philosophy courses (including 8 advanced courses) and a 3.5 grade point average in all philosophy courses. For further information, inquire in the department office.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 203</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 206</td>
<td>Early Modern Philosophy</td>
<td>4</td>
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Four other Philosophy courses, including at least 6 hours at the 300- or 400-level

Total Hours 44

1 If possible, students should take these courses prior to the senior year. Substitutions may be made only with the approval of the chair of the department.

2 Those considering graduate work in philosophy should take PHIL 202.

Minor in Philosophy

E-mail: phildept@illinois.edu

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Four other Philosophy courses, including at least 6 hours at the 300- or 400-level

Total Hours 20

PHIL Class Schedule (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/PHIL)
Courses

PHIL 100 Intro to Philosophy-ACP  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/100)
Consideration of some main problems of philosophy concerning, for example, knowledge, God, mind and body, and human freedom. Course is identical to PHIL 101 except for the additional writing component. Credit is not given for both PHIL 100 and PHIL 101. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/101)
Consideration of some main problems of philosophy concerning, for example, knowledge, God, mind and body, and human freedom. Credit is not given for both PHIL 101 and PHIL 100. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 102 Logic and Reasoning credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/102)
Practical study of logical reasoning; techniques for analyzing and criticizing arguments, with emphasis on assessing the logical coherence of what we read and write. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 103 Logic and Reasoning QR II credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/103)
Introductory logic course that concentrates on investigating how the formal mathematical structure of statements, as well as the structure of the relationships among such statements, reveals the logical force of arguments that we use everyday. PHIL 102 takes a less formal, less mathematical approach to the same material. Credit is not given for both PHIL 103 and PHIL 102. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 104 Intro to Ethics-ACP credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/104)
Some basic questions of ethics, discussed in the light of influential ethical theories and with reference to specific moral problems, such as: What makes an action morally right? Are moral standards absolute or relative? What is the relation between personal morality and social morality, and between social morality and law? Course is identical to PHIL 105 except for the additional writing component. Credit is not given for both PHIL 104 and either PHIL 105 or PHIL 106. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 105 Introduction to Ethics credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/105)
Some basic questions of ethics, discussed in the light of influential ethical theories and with reference to specific moral problems, such as: what makes an action morally right? are moral standards absolute or relative? what is the relation between personal morality and social morality, and between social morality and law? Credit is not given for both PHIL 105 and either PHIL 104 or PHIL 106. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 106 Ethics and Social Policy credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/106)
Examination of the moral aspects of social problems, and a survey of ethical principles formulated to validate social policy. Credit is not given for both PHIL 106 and either PHIL 104 or PHIL 105. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

PHIL 107 Intro to Political Philosophy credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/107)
Introduction to core ideas in political and legal philosophy, for example, rights, equality, political obligations, legitimacy of states, nationalism, and oppression. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

PHIL 108 Religion & Society in West I credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/108)
Same as ANTH 108, JS 108, REL 108, and SOC 108. See REL 108. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

PHIL 109 Religion & Society in West II credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/109)
Same as ANTH 109, REL 109, and SOC 109. See REL 109. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

PHIL 110 World Religions credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/110)
Same as REL 110. See REL 110. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West

PHIL 191 Freshman Honors Tutorial credit: 1 to 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/191)
Study of selected topics on an individually arranged basis. Open only to honors majors or to Cohn Scholars and Associates. May be repeated one time. Prerequisite: Consent of departmental honors advisor.

PHIL 198 Freshman Seminar credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/198)
Investigation of selected fundamental topics of philosophical inquiry. See Schedule for current topics. Prerequisite: Freshman James Scholar.

PHIL 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar credit: 1 to 5 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/199)
Approved for letter and S/U grading. May be repeated.

PHIL 201 Philosophy in Literature credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/201)
Consideration of the philosophical themes implicit in a variety of important literary works, both classical and modern; may include such authors as Sophocles, Shakespeare, Goethe, Dostoevsky, and Sartre. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 202 Symbolic Logic credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/202)
Introduction to the techniques of formal logic, dealing primarily with truth-functional logic and quantification theory. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Quantitative Reasoning I
PHIL 203  Ancient Philosophy  credit: 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/203)
Introduction to ancient philosophy, concentrating on Plato and Aristotle, dealing with such topics as metaphysics, ethics, and the theory of knowledge. Same as CLCV 203.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 206  Early Modern Philosophy  credit: 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/206)
The history of philosophy from Descartes to Kant, concentrating on such topics as metaphysics, ethics, and the theory of knowledge.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 210  Ethics  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/210)
Problems in ethical theory, the nature of right and wrong, justice, conscience, moral feelings, etc.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 214  Biomedical Ethics  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/214)
Philosophical study of selected moral and social problems concerning medicine and biology, such as euthanasia, abortion, allocation of scarce medical resources, health care and rights, and genetic engineering.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 220  Special Topics  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/220)
A consideration of readings on selected philosophical topics. May be repeated in the same semester to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours and in separate semesters if topics vary. See Class Schedule for current topics.

PHIL 230  Philosophy of Religion Intro  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/230)
Introduction to philosophical analysis of religious thought and experience. Same as REL 230.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 231  Religion and Philosophy  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/231)
Same as REL 231. See REL 231.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 250  Conceptions of Human Nature  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/250)
Comparative examination of important historical and contemporary conceptions of human nature.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 270  Philosophy of Science  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/270)
Investigation of the nature of scientific knowledge by examining archetypal examples from physical science (e.g., Ptolemaic and Copernican astronomy); nature of scientific truth, validation of theories, nature of scientific theories, evolution of theories, experimental procedure, role of presuppositions, scientific revolutions, etc.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 307  Elmnts Semantics & Pragmatics  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/307)
Same as LING 307. See LING 307.

PHIL 316  Ethics and Engineering  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/316)
Same as ECE 316. See ECE 316.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Advanced Composition

PHIL 325  Recent European Philosophy  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/325)
Introduction to the major recent philosophical movements in Europe, such as phenomenology, existentialism, philosophical anthropology, and neo-Marxism.

PHIL 351  Thinking and Reasoning  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/351)
Same as PSYC 351. See PSYC 351.

PHIL 356  Evolution of Mind  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/356)
Same as PSYC 356. See PSYC 356.

PHIL 380  Current Controversies  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/380)
Philosophical examination of positions taken on some issue of current concern, for example, human sexuality, death and dying, feminism, race, intelligence, war, sociobiology, and environmental ethics. See Class Schedule for current topics. May be repeated with approval.

PHIL 390  Individual Study  credit: 2 to 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/390)
Readings in selected philosophical topics. Course may be taken by honors students in partial fulfillment of department honors requirements. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours in separate terms. Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors with a grade-point average of 3.0 only by prior arrangement with a member of the faculty and with consent of the department director of undergraduate studies or the chair.

PHIL 398  Advanced Undergraduate Seminar  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/398)
Seminar on selected philosophical topics; intended primarily for advanced undergraduate philosophy majors. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite: A grade-point average of 3.0 and consent of instructor.

PHIL 404  Medieval Philosophy  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/404)
History of philosophy from St. Augustine to William of Ockham. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: PHIL 101 or PHIL 203.

PHIL 407  Logic and Linguistic Analysis  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/407)
Same as LING 407. See LING 407.

PHIL 410  Classical Ancient Philosophers  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/410)
Intensive study of one ancient philosopher or the intensive study of a major philosophical problem through the consideration of a number of ancient philosophers; chief emphasis on Plato and/or Aristotle. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. May be repeated with approval, if topics vary. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy, preferably PHIL 203.
PHIL 411 Nineteenth Century Philosophy credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/411)
Examination of the thought of such major figures as Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 412 Classical Modern Philosophers credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/412)
Intensive study of one classical modern philosopher or the intensive study of major philosophical problem through the consideration of a number of classical modern philosophers, e.g., Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, Kant, and Hegel. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. May be repeated with approval, if topics vary. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 414 Major Recent Philosophers credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/414)
Intensive study of one or two important philosophers of the present century, e.g., Wittgenstein, Dewey, Heidegger, or Quine. Topics vary; see Class Schedule. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. May be repeated with approval, if topics vary. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 419 Space, Time, and Matter-ACP credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/419)
Same as PHYS 419. See PHYS 419. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition

PHIL 420 Space, Time, and Matter credit: 2 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/420)
Same as PHYS 420. See PHYS 420.

PHIL 421 Ethical Theories credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/421)
Systematic study of selected classics in moral philosophy by such philosophers as Aristotle, Hume, Mill, Kant, and Nietzsche. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 422 Recent Developments in Ethics credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/422)
Intensive treatment of issues in contemporary ethical theory. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. May be repeated one time with approval. Prerequisite: One course in ethics.

PHIL 424 Philosophy of Religion credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/424)
Considers central issues in the philosophy of religion, e.g., the justification of religious belief, the nature of God, religious experience, etc. Same as REL 424. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 425 Philosophy of Mind credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/425)
Philosophical problems arising in connection with mental phenomena; the relation of mind and body; free will and determinism; our knowledge of other minds; and the self and personal identity. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 426 Metaphysics credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/426)
Investigation of various metaphysical issues concerning, for example, existence, particulars and universals, causation, laws of nature, time, personal identity, material objects, and modality. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 429 Value Theory credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/429)
Study of the nature and status of values, and of variable topics in value theory, e.g., different types of values, and problems of truth, justifiability, objectivity and relativism with respect to them. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. May be repeated as topics vary to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours, or 8 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

PHIL 430 Theory of Knowledge credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/430)
Investigation of issues concerning, for example, the nature and possibility of knowledge; its forms and limits; its relation to belief, truth, and justification; and the nature of truth. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 433 Evolutionary Neuroscience credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/433)
Same as NEUR 433 and PSYC 433. See PSYC 433.

PHIL 435 Social Philosophy credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/435)
Selected topics from the nature of social organization, nature and convention, utility, justice, equality, liberty, rights, and duties. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 436 Phil of Law and of the State credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/436)
Examination of issues in the philosophy of law, such as the nature of law, law and morality, justice, liberty and authority, punishment, and legal responsibility. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 438 Philosophy of Language credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/438)
Historical or comparative study of the philosophy of language. Same as LING 438. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 439 Philosophy of Mathematics credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/439)
Introduction to some of the main philosophical problems and contemporary viewpoints concerning mathematical concepts, mathematical methods, and the nature of mathematical truth. Same as MATH 439. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 441 Existential Philosophy credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/441)
Study of a selection of the major writings of the more important existential philosophers, e.g., Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, and de Beauvoir. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 443 Phenomenology credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/443)
Study of the development of phenomenology from Husserl to the present. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.
PHIL 444  Topics in Recent European Phil  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/444)
Examines the continental treatments of selected issues, such as interpersonal relationships, human nature, perception or interpretation; see Class Schedule for current topics. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. May be repeated in separate terms as topics vary to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 453  Formal Logic and Philosophy  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/453)
Techniques and results of symbolic logic, with special attention to topics of philosophical importance. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: PHIL 202 or consent of instructor.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Quantitative Reasoning II

PHIL 454  Advanced Symbolic Logic  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/454)
Completeness, compactness, and Lowenheim-Skolem theorems for first-order logic; incompleteness and undecidability of formal systems; and additional material on proof theory, model theory, or axiomatic set theory as time permits. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: PHIL 202 or consent of instructor.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Quantitative Reasoning II

PHIL 458  Introduction to Cognitive Science  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/458)
Same as PSYC 458. See PSYC 458.

PHIL 471  Contemporary Phil of Science  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/471)
Examines important developments and controversies in recent philosophy of science. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.

PHIL 472  Kierkegaard and the Self  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/472)
Same as CWL 472, REL 472, and SCAN 472. See SCAN 472.

PHIL 477  Philosophy of Psychology  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/477)
Psychology, broadly construed, is a cluster of disciplines devoted to the study of mind and behavior, including cognitive and developmental psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence. Investigates the relationships that these disciplines bear to one another and of their overall potential to resolve age-old philosophical questions about the mind. Same as PSYC 477. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Two courses in philosophy or two courses in psychology or consent of instructor.

PHIL 492  Thesis  credit: 2 to 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/492)
Special training in philosophical investigation. Course may be taken by students pursuing graduation with distinction in partial fulfillment of those requirements. 2 to 4 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 undergraduate hours. Prerequisite: Open to seniors with a grade-point average of 3.5 in all philosophy courses only by prior arrangement with a member of the faculty and with consent of the department director of undergraduate studies or the chair.

PHIL 499  Capstone Seminar  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/PHIL/499)
Capstone course required for all philosophy majors. Students will explore in depth a specific topic either in the history of philosophy or in contemporary practical or theoretical philosophy and will write a substantial original essay appropriate for a senior thesis. Topics will differ by section and semester. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: PHIL 202, PHIL 203, PHIL 206. For Philosophy Majors with Senior Standing Only.