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 (including 8 advanced courses) and a 3.5 grade point average in all philosophy courses. For further information, inquire in the department office.

Twelve hours minimum. Select from:

Option I: Intensive study in another discipline. Courses normally beyond the 100 level in one other discipline. Most approved minors satisfy this requirement. A second major may also be used to satisfy this requirement

Option II: A special program of study built around a unifying theme or topic. Course work outside philosophy in one or more other discipline(s), normally beyond the 100 level.

Total Hours 44

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.

Those considering graduate work in philosophy should take PHIL 202.

Minor in Philosophy

E-mail: phildept@illinois.edu

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

PHIL 100  Intro to Philosophy-ACP  credit: 3 Hours.
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.
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.
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.
 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
Quantitative Reasoning II

PHIL 104  Intro to Ethics-ACP  credit: 3 Hours.
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.
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.
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.
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.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

PHIL 109  Religion & Society in West II  credit: 3 Hours.
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.
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.
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.
Investigation of selected fundamental topics of philosophical inquiry. See
Schedule for current topics. Prerequisite: Freshman James Scholar.

PHIL 201  Philosophy in Literature  credit: 3 Hours.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Same as LING 307. See LING 307.

PHIL 316 Ethics and Engineering credit: 3 Hours.
Same as ECE 316. See ECE 316. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition Humanities - Hist Phil

PHIL 325 Recent European Philosophy credit: 3 Hours.
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.
Same as PSYC 351. See PSYC 351.

PHIL 356 Evolution of Mind credit: 3 Hours.
Same as PSYC 356. See PSYC 356.

PHIL 380 Current Controversies credit: 3 Hours.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Same as LING 407. See LING 407.

PHIL 410 Classical Ancient Philosophers credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
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.
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.
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, preferably PHIL 206.

PHIL 414 Major Recent Philosophers credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
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.
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.
Same as PHYS 420. See PHYS 420.

PHIL 421 Ethical Theories credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Same as NEUR 433 and PSYC 433. See PSYC 433.

PHIL 435 Social Philosophy credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Same as PSYC 458. See PSYC 458.

PHIL 471 Contemporary Phil of Science credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
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.
Same as CWL 472, REL 472, and SCAN 472. See SCAN 472.

PHIL 477 Philosophy of Psychology credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
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.
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.