

PHILOSOPHY (BA)

CIP: 38.0101

Program Description

Philosophy - perhaps the oldest academic discipline - explores enduring fundamental questions about the world and our place in it: What is the ultimate nature of reality? What really exists, and what is mere appearance? What, if anything, can we genuinely know? How are our conscious minds related to our physical bodies? What is value, and which values should we adopt? What makes for a good or valuable life? Are we ever responsible for the actions we perform, or are we merely victims of our environment and our genetic inheritance? How should societies be organized? How should we understand the relationship between science and religion, or between reason and faith?

Such questions are not the inventions of philosophers, of course. Many of us ponder them as children. Yet later we come to ignore them - or simply accept answers to them unreflectively. Philosophers, though, strive to keep pondering, and to address these questions as thoroughly as possible through reasoned discussion and argument.

By engaging in this process, philosophers illuminate aspects of the world that people routinely take for granted: phenomena such as perception, causation, consciousness, meaning, and obligation structure our lives and our practices in ways we rarely notice or pause to consider. We are everywhere guided by unexamined assumptions about truth, knowledge, reality, goodness, beauty, freedom, and justice. Philosophy lays bare these assumptions and then analyzes and questions them. And so those who aspire to live reflective lives cannot help but be gripped by philosophical inquiry. For them, philosophy is essential.

The aim of the Philosophy Program at NYU Abu Dhabi is to introduce students to a broad range of philosophical problems, to acquaint students with influential philosophical responses to these problems, and above all to train students to grapple with these problems themselves in a way that meets the highest intellectual standards.

Many philosophical problems have been studied, in many different places, for thousands of years; others have arisen only with more recent developments in science or culture. Today philosophy has become a fully global discipline. The Philosophy Program at NYU Abu Dhabi strives to integrate the study of contemporary international philosophy with an understanding of philosophy's rich multicultural history. The Philosophy major prepares students for advanced study in philosophy or related fields, as well as for any profession that requires rigorous and cogent thinking, reasoned argumentation, and clear and persuasive writing. Most importantly, the study of philosophy prepares students for a more reflective and examined life - one of deepened awareness and understanding.

Study Away

The study away pathway can be found on the NYUAD Student Portal at Study Abroad Pathways (<http://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways/>). Students with questions should contact the Office of Global Education.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application

requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Physical Education (2 courses)		
Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)		
Experimental Inquiry (1 course)		
Islamic Studies (1 course)		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
Colloquia		4
Field Colloquia (2 J-Term courses)		6
<i>Core Competencies</i>		
Arts, Design, and Technology		4
Cultural Exploration Analysis		4
Data and Discovery		4
Structures of Thought and Society		4
Major Required Course		
PHIL-UH 1810	Introduction to Logic	4
or PHIL-UH 2810	Advanced Logic	
Major Electives*		
Complete 1	Introductory elective (see list below)	4
Complete 1	History of Philosophy elective (see list below)	4
Complete 1	Theoretical Philosophy elective (see list below)	4
Complete 1	Practical Philosophy elective (see list below)	4
Complete 1	Advanced Seminar elective (see list below)	4
Complete 2	additional Philosophy courses (from the elective categories above)	8
Capstone		
PHIL-UH 4000	Capstone Project First Semester	4
PHIL-UH 4001	Capstone Project Second Semester	4
Other Electives		
Complete enough courses to reach the minimum overall required	128 credits	58
Total Credits		128

Major Elective Note: No more than two introductory electives can count toward the major in Philosophy.

Introductory Philosophy

Code	Title	Credits
CSTS-UH 1060	Beyond Belief	4
CSTS-UH 1061	Global Ethics	4
PHIL-UH 1101	Central Problems in Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 1110	The Meaning of Life	4
PHIL-UH 1115	Fear of Knowledge	4
PHIL-UH 1118	Bioethics	4

History of Philosophy

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-UH 2210	Ancient Mediterranean Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 2211X	Classical Arabic Philosophy	4

PHIL-UH 2212	Classical Indian Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 2222	Early Modern European Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 2223	Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century European Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 2224	Classical Chinese Philosophy	4

Theoretical Philosophy

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-UH 2410	Epistemology	4
PHIL-UH 2411	Metaphysics	4
PHIL-UH 2412	Philosophy of Language	4
PHIL-UH 2414	What’s So Special About Science? Problems and Puzzles	4
PHIL-UH 2415	Philosophy of Mathematics	4
PHIL-UH 2416	Images	4
PHIL-UH 2417	Philosophical Foundations of Space, Time and Motion	4

Practical Philosophy

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-UH 2610	Ethics	4
PHIL-UH 2611	Applied Ethics	4
PHIL-UH 2614	Political Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 2615	Philosophy of Action	4
PHIL-UH 2616	Environmental Ethics	4
SOCSC-UH 1311	Introduction to Political Theory	4

Advanced Seminars

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-UH 3210	Topics in the History of Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 3410	Topics in Theoretical Philosophy	4
PHIL-UH 3610	Topics in Practical Philosophy	4

Other Philosophy Electives

Code	Title	Credits
PHIL-UH 2810	Advanced Logic	4
PHIL-UH 2910	Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics	4
PHIL-UH 3000	Capstone Proposal	1

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
Core Competency		4
Core Competency		4
General Elective		4
Physical Education		
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
Credits		3
3rd Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
Colloquia		4
Core Competency		4

General Elective		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
PHIL-UH 1810	Introduction to Logic	4
Major Elective		4
Core Competency		4
General Elective		4
Physical Education		
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
Credits		3
6th Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
9th Semester/Term		
PHIL-UH 4000	Capstone Project First Semester	4
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		2
Credits		14
10th Semester/Term		
PHIL-UH 4001	Capstone Project Second Semester	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		12
Total Credits		128

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the NYU Abu Dhabi Philosophy degree, all graduates are expected to have developed:

1. The ability to examine and analyze central questions in the range of philosophical areas, including practical philosophy, focusing on fundamental issues in ethics and politics; theoretical philosophy, focusing on fundamental questions in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science; and the global history of philosophy from ancient to modern times;
2. An understanding of the most important arguments and theories that have been offered in response to central philosophical problems, taken both from the history of philosophy and from “cutting edge” work by contemporary philosophers, as well as some familiarity with the virtues and problems associated with those respective arguments and theories;

3. The ability recognize and articulate a philosophical puzzle or question that can be explicated, explored, and at least tentatively answered in an essay or paper;
4. Analytic and reasoning skills, including the ability to formulate problems clearly, to arrive at philosophical positions through an informed and self-reliant process of reasoning, and to argue for these positions in an informed and self-reliant way;
5. Proficiency with propositional and first-order symbolic logic and the corresponding ability to apply the tools of symbolic logic to appropriate philosophical questions and arguments; and
6. The ability to present philosophical arguments in rhetorically efficient forms—both written and oral—manifesting cogent reasoning, clarity of expression, and organizational skill;

In addition, students who choose Philosophy as their primary major are expected to have developed:

7. A specialization in one particular field of philosophical inquiry resulting in the production of a senior Capstone project; and
8. Sufficient expertise to compete effectively for places at elite doctoral programs in Philosophy in the U.S. and around the world.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).