

PHILOSOPHY (MINOR)

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. Philosophy prepares students 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.

The minor in Philosophy provides students with a strong foundation of philosophical knowledge and trains students to engage with a wide array of philosophical problems. It is designed to be combined with a major in another discipline so as to enhance the investigation of the more philosophical aspects of that discipline, to help students develop the analytical, logical, and persuasive skills required by nearly all professional pursuits, and to enrich students' intellectual lives.

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Minor Requirements		
Complete 1 Introductory Elective		4

Complete 3 Philosophy Electives	12
Total Credits	16

Note: No more than two introductory electives can count toward the minor in Philosophy.

Introductory Electives

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 Electives

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

Practical Philosophy Electives

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
SOSC-UH 1311	Introduction to Political Theory	4

Theoretical Philosophy Electives

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

Advanced Philosophy 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

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/>).