

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

Majoring in philosophy is a time-honored way of gaining a liberal arts education, i.e., an education fitting for a person who would be free. Philosophy majors at Saint Joseph's University will have an opportunity to read some of the most profound and challenging works ever written. In the classroom they will partake in lively discussions of life-changing ideas. Majors will develop their capacity to think clearly and creatively, to argue logically and express their thoughts persuasively, to criticize rationally and converse openly, to uncover assumptions and recognize implications and to raise those important questions that are often overlooked.

As a deliberately pluralistic department possessing expertise across a broad range of philosophical traditions and methods, we are able to offer courses across all major historical periods (i.e., ancient, medieval, modern, contemporary) and areas of field specialization (e.g., epistemology, metaphysics, language, religion, ethics, and social and political philosophy). Majors are challenged to grapple with perennial philosophical problems (e.g., free will, skepticism, objectivity, the nature and existence of God) and are introduced to methods of inquiry that allow for the development and appropriation of philosophical modes of thinking, speaking, and writing. An active Undergraduate Philosophy Society provides a forum for gathering with other students also genuinely interested in philosophy, and provides an excellent opportunity for student-faculty dialogue outside the classroom.

Learning Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Students will understand arguments in philosophy

Outcome 1.1: Students will be able to assess and construct arguments in philosophy

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of logic

Outcome 2.1: Students will be able to assess arguments by applying basic logical concepts, such as validity, soundness, strength, and cogency

Goal 3: Students will be able to assess arguments by applying basic logical concepts, such as validity, soundness, strength, and cogency

Outcome 3.1: Students will be able to critically evaluate some of the main ideas, problems, theories, or schools of thought from the main periods of Western philosophy

Goal 4: Students will learn the skills required for engaging in philosophy as a specialized academic discipline

Outcome 4.1: Students will write an advanced research paper or project that (1) analyzes a particular philosophical problem, area, or text; and (2) generates a specialized discussion of that problem, area, or text

Requirements

The traditional undergraduate programs includes a minimum of 120 credits distributed across three components: A General Education component divided into Signature Courses, Variable Courses, and an Integrative Learning requirement; a Major and Divisional component; and Free Electives. In addition to course requirements as specified in each area, students must complete one certified course in each of the following overlay areas¹:

1. Diversity, Globalization or Non-western Area Studies,
2. Ethics Intensive
3. Writing Intensive, and
4. Diversity

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Overlay requirements are part of the 120 credit requirements

General Education Signature Courses

See this page about Signature courses (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#signature>).

Code	Title	Hours
PHL 154	Moral Foundations	3
THE 154	Catholic Theological Tradition	3
ENG 102	Texts & Contexts	3
HIS 154	Forging the Modern World	3
XXX NNN: Faith and Reason Course Area (see course list)		
XXX 150: First Year Seminar		

General Education Variable Courses

See this page about Variable courses (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#variable>). Six to Nine courses

Code	Title	Hours
ENG 101	Craft of Language	3
THE NNN: Religious Difference		
PHL NNN: Philosophical Anthropology (see list of courses)		
MAT NNN: Mathematics - Beauty		
Non-Native Language (0-2 courses)		
Natural Science (One four-credit lab course or two three-credit non-lab courses)		
Social/Behavioral Science		
Fine Arts/Literature		

General Education Overlays

See this page about Overlays (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#overlay>).

- Writing Intensive
- Ethics Intensive
- Diversity/Globalization/Non-Western

General Education Integrative Learning Component

See this page about Integrative Learning Component (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#integrative-learning>). Three courses:

Major Requirements

8 courses:

1. Logic or Symbolic Logic
2. History course: Ancient/Pre-Modern
3. History course: Modern/Contemporary
4. PHL elective course

5. PHL elective course
6. NON-GEP PHL elective
7. PHL 495 Senior Seminar or PHL 395 Junior Seminar
8. GEP Faith and Reason (if taken in Philosophy) or PHL elective Course

Philosophy majors have the option of pursuing one of five tracks (p. 2):

1. History of Philosophy;
2. Social-Political/Philosophy of Law;
3. Mind, Language, Science;
4. Philosophy of Religion; and .
5. Arts and Humanities

Free Electives

14-18 courses

Tracks

Philosophy majors have the option of pursuing one of five tracks. Major concentration requirements are the same for all five tracks, though the integrated learning requirements (ILC) will vary from track to track.

History of Philosophy Track

Code	Title	Hours
Select three of the following: 9		
HIS 315	The Glory that was Greece	
THE 333	Knowl & Love of God: Mid Ages	
HIS 317	The Rise of the West: 400-1000	
HIS 319	Reform/Rev in Europe 1500-1650	
Greek, Latin, German, French (1 or more in the SAME language)		

Social-Political/Philosophy of Law Track

Code	Title	Hours
Select three of the following: 9		
Any Economics course		
POL 111	Intro to American Politics	
POL 113	Intro to Comparative Politics	
POL 115	Intro to Global Politics	
POL 117	Intro to Political Thought	
POL 303	Political Ideology in America	
POL 305	Politics, Ideology, & Film	
POL 310	Constitutional Politics	
POL 311	Const Law: Rights & Civil Lib	
POL 312	Social Controv & Supreme Court	
POL 320	Injustice & the Law	
POL 323	Women and American Politics	
POL 324	Race & Ethnic Politics in U.S.	
POL 326	Protesting Inequality	
POL 328	U.S. Immigration	
POL 340	Political Geography	
POL 350	Haunted by the Past	
POL 352	Global Political Economy	
POL 367	Ethics in International Affairs	
POL 368	Sex & Power around the World	

POL 407	Capstone: Theories of Justice
SOC 101	Intro to Sociology
SOC 102	Social Problems
SOC 205	Ethnic & Minority Relations
SOC 208	Sociology of Gender
SOC 211	Classical Sociological Theory
SOC 219	Social Deviance
SOC 253	Race and Social Justice
SOC 260	Language and the Law
SOC 330	Urban Sociology
SOC 334	Miscarriages of Justice
SOC 345	Law and Social Policy
SOC 353	Restorative Justice
SOC 355	Race, Crime & CJ
SOC 356	Gender, Crime & CJ
SOC 360	Sociology of Law

Mind, Language, Science Track

Code	Title	Hours
Select three of the following: 9		
Any Mathematics course		
Any Natural Science course		
Any Computer Science course		
Any Linguistics course		
PSY 220	Sensation and Perception	
PSY 222	Neuropsychology	
PSY 221	Animal Learning and Memory	
PSY 224	Drugs, the Brain, & Behavior	
PSY 226	Psychology of Emotion	
PSY 225	Comparative Animal Behavior	
PSY 234	Psychology of the Self	
PSY 122	Psychological Disorders	

Arts and Humanities Track

Code	Title	Hours
Select three of the following: 9		
Honors Courses		
LTT 461	Franco-Afro-Caribbean Story	
THE 326	Letters of Paul	
THE 333	Knowl & Love of God: Mid Ages	
THE 370	Special Topics in Theology	
Art/Music/Film Courses		
MTF 151	Music Fundamentals	
MTF 157	Westrn Music Hist: MidAge-1750	
MTF 158	Western Music Hist: 1750-Pres	
MTF 251	Music Theory I	
MTF 258	Major Composers	
MTF 291	American Film	
MTF 292	European Cinemas	
MTF 293	Five Films	
MTF 294	Non-Western World Cinemas	
MTF 295	Major Figures in Film	

MTF 391 Film Theory & Criticism

Any ART Studio Course

Literature (English Department)

Any ENG course 301-331

Literature (Modern Languages)

CHN 310 Selections in Chinese Lit

Any course in FRE literature/film 410-462

Any course in GRM literature/film 305-406

JPN 310 Selections in Japanese Lit I

SPA 310 Intro to Latin American Lit

Any course in SPA literature/film 410-456

Philosophy of Religion Track

Code	Title	Hours
	One Theology/Religious Studies course beyond the GEP	3
	Select two of the following:	6
HIS 313	The Crusades	
HIS 316	The Grandeur that Was Rome	
HIS 317	The Rise of the West: 400-1000	
HIS 319	Reform/Rev in Europe 1500-1650	
HIS 346	Religion & Philosophy: Africa	
SOC 368	Cults as Social Movements	
	Latin or Greek (1 or more in the SAME language)	