

Philosophy (PHIL)

Clark (chair), Ahn, Clifton-Soderstrom

The North Park University philosophy department prepares students for lives of significance and service by leading students from an unaware ignorance to wonder and to a love of genuine wisdom. The philosophy major draws students along this path by immersing students in traditional and contemporary philosophical reflection, by providing instruction and practice in responsive, self-reflective, (self) critical, and creative writing, and by mutual testing of the life of faith and the philosophical life.

Major requirements for the B.A. degree in Philosophy

Required semester hours

36 sh

Required core courses

PHIL 2110, 2120, 2130, 2510, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3590 and one elective from 2310, 3100, 3515, 3520, 3531 or 3910

Notes and restrictions

The philosophy department shares with the other departments in the Faculty of Humanities a common spirit and orientation toward the true, the good, and the beautiful. As such philosophy majors are required to enhance their major learning experiences through electives, taking one course each in History, English, and Art.

Major requirements for the Interdisciplinary B.A. degree in Philosophy

Required semester hours

28 sh in Philosophy
16 sh of upper-division work in another discipline

Required core courses

PHIL 3590

Notes and restrictions

The philosophy department and the Humanities faculty must approve the courses that will count toward the major. The addition 16 sh may or may not be part of a double major. The philosophy department shares with the other departments in the Faculty of Humanities a common spirit and orientation toward the true, the good, and the beautiful. As such we require philosophy majors to enhance their major learning experiences with one course each in History, English, and Art. The philosophy department will consult with other departments as necessary. Students are encouraged to consult their advisor for suggestions about particular courses. Students with a double major or those obtaining a secondary teaching certificate are exempt from the Humanities co-requirements.

Minor requirements in Philosophy

Required semester hours

20 sh

Required core courses

Any PHIL courses to accumulate at least 20 semester hours.

2110 **Love and Wisdom: Ancient Philosophy (4 sh)**

A survey of the thinkers and movements in the history of philosophy from 600 B.C. through 300 A.D.

2120 **Faith and Reason: Medieval Thought (4 sh)**

A survey of thinkers and movements in the history of philosophy and theology from 300 through 1350 A.D.

2130 **Enlightenment and the Modern World (4 sh)**

A survey of the thinkers and movements in the history of philosophy and theology from 1350 through 1780 A.D.

2310 **East Asian Philosophies and Ethics (4 sh) GE**

The course introduces students, who have no previous background of East Asian studies, to the general philosophical, religious, and cultural ideas of East Asia: Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Through lectures as well as critical readings in the classical primary texts and contemporary interpretations, the course develops broader and comparative points of views and approaches to the common human problems that have evolved in the major cultures of East Asia (China, Korea, and Japan). The course can serve as a foundation for further study of East Asia including East Asian literature, aesthetics, religion, politics, economics, and history.

2510 **Logic (4 sh)**

An intermediate course in formal and informal logic.

2530 **Business and Professional Ethics (2 sh)**

An introduction to the important problems and topics in the area of business and professional ethics, e.g., job discrimination, corporate responsibility, environmental obligations, professional codes of ethics, power, and accountability.

3100 **Political Philosophy (4 sh)**

A seminar course on selected problems and topics in the area of social and political ethics, e.g., the nature of political associations, the variety of competing visions of the good and just society. Cross-listed with POGO 3100.

3110 **Freedom and Society: German Idealism (4 sh)**

A survey of the thinkers and movements in the history of German philosophy and theology from 1781 through 1831 A.D.

3120 **Pluralism, Knowledge and Ethics: English-Speaking Philosophy (4 sh)**

A survey of the thinkers and movements in the history of English-speaking philosophy and theology from 1780 through the present.

3130 **Existentialism and the Self: European Thought (4 sh)**

A survey of the thinkers and movements in the history of the Continental philosophy and theology from 1831 through the present.

3515 **Philosophy of Art (4 sh)**

A seminar course on selected problems and topics in the area of aesthetics, e.g., the nature and meaning of aesthetic value, the problem of aesthetic judgment.

3520 **Ethics (4 sh)**

A seminar course on selected problems and topics in the area of ethics, e.g., the meaning of moral goodness, the relationship between moral rules, consequences, and virtues, the nature of the good life.

3531 Philosophy of History (4 sh)

A seminar course on selected problems and topics in the area of philosophy of history, e.g., the nature of historical explanation and causality, problems of narrative and objectivity and the meaning and purpose of historical process.

3590 Hermeneutics (4 sh)

A seminar course on selected problems and topics in the area of hermeneutics, e.g., the nature of understanding, of language and meaning, and the role of context, tradition, and pre-judgment.

3910 Topics (4 sh)

A seminar course on selected topics and problems in philosophy.

4000 Departmental Honors in Philosophy (4 sh)

A seminar course for students who do honors work in philosophy.

4910 Independent Study in Philosophy (1-4 sh)

A course which allows students to work independently on a project of particular interest to them and which is not offered in the curriculum.

4970 Internship in Philosophy (4 sh)

A course which permits students to explore vocational options that pertain to philosophy. Please refer to the internship section of the catalog for requirements and guidelines.