

Department of Philosophy

College of Arts and Sciences

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Chair and Associate Professor: Tony Roark. Associate Professor: Cortens.
Assistant Professor: Crowley, Kierland. Special Lecturer: Pearson, Stockton.

Degree Offered

- B.A. and Minor in Philosophy

Department Statement

Philosophy involves a reasoned attempt to answer questions that arise from reflection on basic concepts and assumptions about the world and our experience of it. Some of these questions are of obvious practical importance; for example, “How should moral decisions be made?” Others are more abstract; for example, “What is the nature of knowledge (or reality, or goodness)?” Serious philosophical inquiry into such questions is typically grounded in careful study of the efforts of earlier thinkers; thus, an important aspect of the major is the study of the history of philosophy.

The undergraduate major in philosophy does not in itself prepare the student for a specific vocation. For students who aspire to academic careers in philosophy, the major provides the basis for graduate work in the field. For other students, it develops intellectual skills useful in life and in other fields of advanced study, such as law, religion, and public affairs.

The program requirements for a major in philosophy, in addition to the necessary requirements to obtain a bachelor of arts degree from Boise State University, consist of 31 hours of philosophy credit, 25 of which are specifically required courses and 6 of which are electives from other courses in philosophy. Philosophy majors should bear in mind that the university requires the completion of a total of 40 hours of upper-division credit by all graduating seniors.

Degree Requirements

Philosophy Bachelor of Arts	
Course Number and Title	Credits
ENGL 101-102 Introduction to College Writing and Research	6
Area I— see page 44 for list of approved courses	
PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 201 Introduction to Logic	3
Area I core course in literature	3
Area I core course in a third field	3
Area II— see page 44 for list of approved courses	
Area II core course in history	3
Area II core course in a second field	3
Area II core course in a third field	3
Area II core course in any field	3
Area III — see page 45 for list of approved courses	
Area III core course in mathematics	3-5
Area III core course in a second field	4
Area III core course in any field	4
PHIL 211 Ethics	3
PHIL 305 Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
PHIL 309 Modern Philosophy	3
PHIL 413 Analytic Philosophy	3
PHIL 433 Metaphysics	3
PHIL 435 Epistemology OR PHIL 406 Philosophy of Science	3
PHIL 495 Senior Comprehensive Examination	1

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Philosophy (continued)	
Upper-division Philosophy electives	6
Upper-division electives to total 40 credits	18
Electives to total 128 credits	42-44
Total	128

Philosophy Minor	
Course Number and Title	Credits
PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHIL 201 Introduction to Logic	3
PHIL 211 Ethics	3
Philosophy courses other than PHIL 489	9
Total	18

Course Offerings

See page 63 for a definition of the course-numbering system.

PHIL—Philosophy

Lower Division

PHIL 101 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (3-0-3)(F,S)(Area I). A general introduction to some basic philosophical problems and concepts, with attention to selected major philosophers and with an emphasis on philosophical method.

PHIL 201 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC (3-0-3)(F,S)(Area I). A study of the concepts and methods used in the analysis and evaluation of arguments with emphasis on the structure of arguments.

PHIL 211 ETHICS (3-0-3)(F/S). An investigation of the validity of moral claims, the use of moral language, and the evaluation of classical efforts, for example, utilitarianism, to provide a test of moral rightness.

Upper Division

PHIL 304 SYMBOLIC LOGIC (3-0-3)(S). A study of techniques of validation in propositional and predicate logic, with emphasis on the construction of formal proofs. Some attention will be given to metalogical notions such as consistency and completeness. PREREQ: PHIL 201 or MATH 187.

PHIL 305 ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY (3-0-3)(F). An introduction to the origins of Western philosophy in the ancient world, with emphasis on Plato and Aristotle. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 307 MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). A survey of major developments in Western philosophy from St. Augustine through William of Ockham, with emphasis on selected figures. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 309 MODERN PHILOSOPHY (3-0-3)(F). A survey of developments in Western philosophy from Descartes through Kant, with emphasis on selected figures. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 315 PHENOMENOLOGY AND EXISTENTIALISM (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). An exploration of the nature of conscious experience and the place of dread and choice in human existence, with emphasis on selected figures in the tradition of European philosophy established by Kierkegaard and Husserl. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 321 EASTERN PHILOSOPHY (3-0-3)(Offered as justified)(Diversity). Philosophical teachings of great Eastern thinkers through a study of classical texts selected from traditions of Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 327 ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). Examination of environmental problems from an ethical point of view. Topics include population control, pollution, animal liberation, the moral and legal rights of nature, and social ecology. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 331 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). Basic philosophical issues connected with religious belief such as the nature

and existence of God, the problem of evil, miracles, and the significance of religious experience. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 337 AESTHETICS (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). The philosophy of the fine arts covering such topics as the existence and nature of works of art, aesthetic experience, artistic creativity, the species of aesthetic value, and the nature of beauty.

PHIL 406 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). A study of philosophical issues raised by reflection on the nature of science and the results of scientific inquiry. PREREQ: PHIL 101 and either PHIL 201 or MATH 187.

PHIL 410 PHILOSOPHY OF MIND (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). An examination of various solutions to the mind/body problem, the problem of other minds, as well as related mental concepts. Problems of action theory may be explored. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 413 ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY (3-0-3)(S). A critical examination of the development of the analytic method in Anglo-American philosophy with attention to such selected figures as Frege, Russell, Moore, Wittgenstein, and Austin. PREREQ: PHIL 101 and either PHIL 201 or MATH 187.

PHIL 433 METAPHYSICS (3-0-3)(F). An investigation of basic problems about the nature of reality. Possible topics include personal identity, the nature of mind, freedom and determinism, and the problems of universals. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 435 EPISTEMOLOGY (3-0-3)(Offered as justified). An investigation of basic problems concerning knowledge and the justification of belief. Possible topics include attempts to define knowledge and related concepts, the problem of skepticism, and the problem of other minds. PREREQ: PHIL 101.

PHIL 441 (POL 441) CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT (3-0-3)(F)(Odd years). Development of political philosophy from Socrates to Machiavelli. May be taken for either POLS or PHIL credit, but not both. PREREQ: POLS 101, 141 or PHIL 101.

PHIL 442 (POL 442) MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (3-0-3)(S)(Even years). Development of political thought since Machiavelli. May be taken for either POLS or PHIL credit, but not both. PREREQ: POLS 101, 141 or PHIL 101.

PHIL 443 (POL 443) CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT (3-0-3)(F)(Even years). Major trends in political thought from the post-French Revolutionary era, which may include German idealism, historicism, existentialism, nihilism, and Marxism. May be taken for either POLS or PHIL credit, but not both. PREREQ: POLS 101, 141 or PHIL 101.

PHIL 489 SENIOR TUTORIAL (3-0-3)(F). Directed research culminating in the writing of a senior essay to be approved by the members of the philosophy faculty. PREREQ: Senior standing in philosophy major and approval by the department chair of a Tutorial Project Proposal by April 1 of the semester preceding the semester when the Tutorial is taken.

PHIL 495 SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (1-0-1)(F/S). Capstone experience culminating in a four-part examination over the fundamental areas developed within the major: history of philosophy; metaphysics and epistemology/philosophy of science; moral philosophy; logic. Exam questions are drawn from a pool of candidate questions made available to the examinee beforehand. PREREQ: Senior standing in philosophy major and PERM/INST.

Physical Education—see Department of Kinesiology

Physical Therapy, Pre-Professional Program—see Department of Community and Environmental Health

Physician Assistant, Pre-Professional Program—see Department of Community and Environmental Health

Department of Physics

College of Arts and Sciences

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Chair and Professor: C. D. Hanna. *Professor:* Dykstra. *Associate Professors:* Km, Maccomb. *Assistant Professors:* Tenne, Zhang.

Degrees Offered

- B.S. and Minor in Physics
- B.S. in Physics, Secondary Education

Department Statement

The scope of the program is applied physics. However, flexibility is maintained in order to direct students toward their desired objectives. If the student is interested in going on into graduate physics, more math would be recommended. Depending on the particular field of interest in physics, the student could select electives in biology, chemistry, engineering, math, or geophysics.

Degree Requirements

Physics Bachelor of Science	
Course Number and Title	Credits
ENGL 101-102 Introduction to College Writing and Research	6
Area I—see page 44 for list of approved courses	
Area I core course in one field	3
Area I core course in a second field	3
Area I core course in a third field	3
Area I core course in any field	3
Area II—see page 44 for list of approved courses	
Area II core course in one field	3
Area II core course in a second field	3
Area II core course in a third field	3
Area II core course in any field	3
Area III	
Area III requirements are automatically met by specific courses included in the major requirements below.	
CHEM 111, 111L-112, 112L General Chemistry I & II with Labs	8
MATH 170 Calculus I	4
MATH 175 Calculus II	4
MATH 275 Multivariable and Vector Calculus	4
MATH 333 Differential Equations with Matrix Theory	4
One or more of the following: MATH 301 Introduction to Linear Algebra MATH 360 Engineering Statistics MATH 361 Probability and Statistics I MATH 436 Partial Differential Equations MATH 462 Probability and Statistics II MATH 465 Numerical Analysis I	3-4

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