School of Arts and Humanities

Philosophy (BA)

Philosophy is one of the most broad-based, rigorous, interdisciplinary, and socially engaged of the liberal arts. Philosophy poses deep, important, and persistent questions concerning the nature of the good life, why we believe and how we know, the nature of the self and its connection with the world and with society, and the foundations of justice. Philosophy takes up such questions through critical analysis of textual evidence, clear and rigorous argumentation, and questioning of unexamined personal and cultural assumptions. The study of the history of philosophy from all cultures proves central to this process.

Far from being an abstruse, removed, and self-contained pursuit, Philosophy at UT Dallas engages in an interdisciplinary Arts & Humanities program, drawing on and contributing to the study of history, literature, and the arts. Our program is also particularly suited to the STEM excellence of UT Dallas, with a practical and theoretical emphasis on the philosophy of science, technology, and medicine. Finally, the UT Dallas Philosophy BA program strives to be highly pluralistic and intellectually diverse, with emphases in continental, analytic, feminist, American, and non-Western philosophical traditions.

Since the following catalog course descriptions offer very general descriptions, students are urged to consult the detailed course descriptions available on the web site for the School of Arts and Humanities. At least one-half of the semester credit hours for a major must be taken at UT Dallas.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

**Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)**

*View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester*

Faculty

**Professor:** Charles R. Bambach  
**Associate Professor:** Matthew Brown  
**Assistant Professor:** Katherine Davies  
**Associate Professor of Instruction:** Lawrence Amato

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

**Communication: 6 semester credit hours**

**RHET 1302** Rhetoric

**Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours**

**PHIL 2303** Introduction to Logic

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from [Mathematics Core](#) courses

**Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours**

Select any 6 semester credit hours from [Life and Physical Sciences Core](#) courses

**Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours**

Select one of the following:

- **PHIL 1301** Introduction to Philosophy
- **PHIL 1305** Introduction to Philosophy of Religion
- **PHIL 1306** Introduction to Ethics

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from [Language, Philosophy and Culture Core](#) courses

**Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours**

Select any 3 semester credit hours from [Creative Arts Core](#) courses

**American History: 6 semester credit hours**

Select any 6 semester credit hours from [American History Core](#) courses

**Government/Political Science: 6 semester credit hours**

- **GOVT 2305** American National Government
- **GOVT 2306** State and Local Government

**Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours**

Select any 3 semester credit hours from [Social and Behavioral Sciences Core](#) courses

**Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours**

Select any 6 semester credit hours from [Component Area Option Core](#) courses

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**II. Major Requirements: 42 semester credit hours**

**Major Preparatory Courses: 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum**

**PHIL 2303** Introduction to Logic
Select one of the following:

- **PHIL 1301** Introduction to Philosophy
- **PHIL 1305** Introduction to Philosophy of Religion
- **PHIL 1306** Introduction to Ethics

**Major Core Courses: 6 semester credit hours**

- **PHIL 3321** Philosophical Traditions I
- **PHIL 4328** Philosophy Capstone Project

**Major Distribution Courses: 12 semester credit hours**

6 semester credit hours of lower- or upper-division courses in *History of Philosophy* from two different periods

- **PHIL 2316** History of Philosophy I
- **PHIL 2317** History of Philosophy II
- **PHIL 3322** Ancient Philosophy
- **PHIL 3323** Early Modern Philosophy
- **PHIL 3324** 19th and 20th Century Philosophy

Courses with other numbers may be considered for this distribution requirement on a case-by-case basis, when their syllabus indicates that they have primarily history of philosophy content.

3 semester credit hours of upper-division courses in *Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Science*

- **PHIL 3373** Philosophy of Mind
- **PHIL 4308** Theories of Knowledge
- **PHIL 3328** History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine
- **PHIL 4321** Philosophy of Medicine

Courses with other numbers may be considered for this distribution requirement on a case-by-case basis, when their syllabus indicates that they have primarily theoretical philosophy content.

3 semester credit hours of upper-division courses in *Ethics, Values, and Society*

- **PHIL 3375** Contemporary Ethical Issues
- **PHIL 3320** Medical Ethics
- **PHIL 3338** Literary Theory and Aesthetic Philosophy
- **PHIL 4323** Ethical Theories
- **PHIL 4324** Social and Political Philosophy
- **PHIL 4325** Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics
Courses with other numbers may be considered for this distribution requirement on a case-by-case basis, when their syllabus indicates that they have primarily practical philosophy content.

**Major Elective Courses: 18 semester credit hours**

18 semester credit hours of upper-division Philosophy electives, including Major Figures, Great Texts, Traditions, and Topics courses.

**Major-Related Courses: 6 semester credit hours**

Students must select 6 semester credit hours of upper-division courses from the following list of courses with significant philosophical content:

- **ARHM 3342** Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities
- **ATCM 3300** Code Plus Culture
- **ATCM 4384** Ethics in New Media, Technology, and Communication
- **COMM 3351** History and Theory of Communication
- **COMM 3352** Media and Culture
- **COMM 4360** Communication Ethics
- **ECON 4301** Game Theory
- **ECON 4381** History of Economic Ideas
- **HIST 3302** Gender in Western Thought
- **HIST 3376** American Intellectual History, Colonial to the Civil War
- **HIST 3377** American Intellectual History, Civil War to the Present
- **HIST 4380** Topics in Intellectual History
- **LIT 3316** The Literature of Science Fiction
- **LIT 3317** The Literature of Fantasy
- **LIT 3330** Linguistics
- **OBHR 4310** Business Ethics
- **PSCI 3301** Political Theory
- **PSCI 3306** Political Economy
- **PSY 3360** Historical Perspectives on Psychology: Mind and Machines since 1600
- **SOC 3303** Classical Social Theory

Other courses from prefixes besides PHIL may be considered for this requirement on a case-by-case basis, when their syllabus indicates that they have significant philosophical content.

**III. Elective Requirements: 36 semester credit hours**

Free Electives: 36 semester credit hours

Both upper- and lower-division courses may be used as electives, but students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

Philosophy majors interested in graduate study should strongly consider using some of their free electives for foreign language study in a language that would support an area of their philosophical interest. Similarly, students with a primary interest in areas of philosophy that depend on outside domains of knowledge (such as philosophy of science or philosophy of mind) should consider using some of their free electives for advanced study or a minor in the relevant field.

Students may want to consider using some free elective credit to complete one of the approved minors offered by UT-Dallas, and should consult their academic advisor for more information about their choices.

Incoming freshmen must enroll in and complete requirements of ARHM 1100.\(^1\)

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1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours may be counted in Core Curriculum.

4. 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum, if the student has not previously completed other courses to satisfy these core curriculum requirements.

5. These courses may have prerequisites not listed in the degree plan, and may add to the student's time to degree.