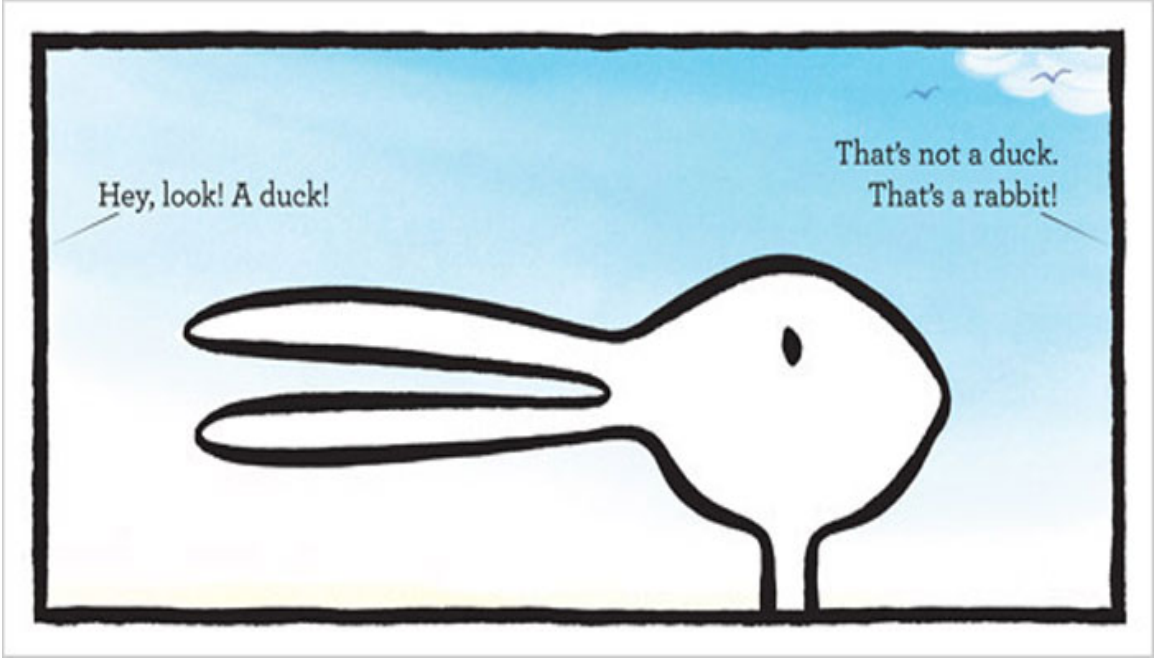


# THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT MAJOR BOOKLET



*Revised 3/23/2020*

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**THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT MAJOR**

**AND**

**APPROVED COURSE LIST**

**2009-2020**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT MAJOR BOOKLET

<b>What is Philosophy?</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>The Sub-fields of Philosophy</b>	<b>11 - 12</b>
<b>Special Fields of Philosophy</b>	<b>12 - 14</b>
<b>General Uses of Philosophy</b>	<b>14 - 15</b>
<b>The Uses of Philosophy in Educational Pursuits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>The Uses of Philosophy in Non-Academic Careers</b>	<b>15 - 16</b>
<b>The Double Major</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>The Philosophy Major at Rutgers</b>	<b>16 - 17</b>
<b>The Philosophy Minor</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Minor in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics (PPE)</b>	<b>17 - 18</b>
<b>Departmental Honors</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Senior Honors Thesis &amp; Independent Study</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Prizes for Majors</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Study Abroad</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>RU Undergraduate Philosophy Club</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Phi Sigma Tau, International Philosophy Honors Society</b>	<b>20 - 21</b>
<b>Philosophy Undergraduate Journal</b>	<b>21 - 22</b>
<b>Preparing for Careers</b>	<b>22 - 24</b>
<b>Conferences and Events</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Preparing for Graduate School</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Philosophy Major Requirements &amp; Approved Course List</b>	<b>26 - 27</b>

## **WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?** **THE FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY<sup>1</sup>**

Philosophy is quite unlike any other field. It is unique both in its methods and in the nature and breadth of its subject matter. Philosophy pursues questions in every dimension of human life, and its techniques apply to problems in any field of study or endeavor. No brief definition expresses the richness and variety of philosophy. It may be described in many ways. It is a reasoned pursuit of fundamental truths, a quest for understanding, and a study of principles of conduct. It seeks to establish standards of evidence, to provide rational methods of resolving conflicts, and to create techniques for evaluating ideas and arguments. Philosophy develops the capacity to see the world from the perspective of other individuals and other cultures; it enhances one's ability to perceive the relationships among the various fields of study; and it deepens one's sense of the meaning and varieties of human experience.

This short description of philosophy could be greatly extended, but let us instead illustrate some of the points. As the systematic study of ideas and issues, philosophy may examine concepts and views drawn from science, art, religion, politics, popular culture, or any other realm. Philosophical appraisal of ideas and issues takes many forms, but philosophical studies often focus on the meaning of an idea and on its basis, coherence, and relations to other ideas. Consider, for instance, democracy. What is it? What justifies it as a system of government? Can a democracy allow the people to vote away their own rights? And how is it related to political liberty? Consider human knowledge. What is its nature and extent? Must we always have evidence in order to know? What can we know about the thoughts and feelings of others, or about the future? What kind of knowledge, if any, is fundamental? Similar kinds of questions arise concerning art, morality, religion, science and each of the major areas of human activity. Philosophy explores all of them. It views them both microscopically and from the wide perspective of the larger concerns of human existence.

### **THE SUBFIELDS OF PHILOSOPHY**

The broadest of sub-fields of philosophy are most commonly taken are as follows: logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and the history of philosophy. Here is a brief sketch of each.

**Logic** is concerned with providing sound methods of distinguishing good from bad reasoning. It helps us to assess how well our premises support our conclusions, to see what we are committed to accepting when we take a view, and to avoid adopting beliefs for which we lack adequate reasons. Logic also helps us to find arguments where we might otherwise simply see a set of loosely related statements, to discover assumptions we did not know we were making, and to formulate the minimum claims we must establish if we are to prove (or inductively support) our point.

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<sup>1</sup> Sections of the above information on the Field of Philosophy were from a statement prepared for the American Philosophical Association by Professor Robert Audi of the University of Nebraska.

**Ethics** takes up the meanings of our moral concepts—such as right action, obligation, and justice—and formulates principles to guide moral decisions, whether in private or public life. What are our moral obligations to others? How can moral agreements be rationally settled? What rights must a just society accord its citizens? What constitutes a valid excuse for wrongdoing?

**Metaphysics** seeks basic criteria for determining what sorts of things are real. Are there mental, physical, and abstract things (such as numbers), for instance, or are there just the physical and the spiritual, or merely matter and energy? Are persons highly complex physical systems, or do they have properties not reducible to anything physical?

**Epistemology** concerns the nature and scope of knowledge. What does it mean to know (the truth), and what is the nature of truth? What sorts of things can be known, and can we be justified in our beliefs about what goes beyond the evidence of our senses, such as the inner lives of others or events of the distant past? Is there knowledge beyond the reach of science? What are the limits of self-knowledge?

**The History of Philosophy** studies both major philosophers and entire periods in the development of philosophy, such as the Ancient, Medieval, Modern, Nineteenth, Twentieth, and Twenty-First century periods. It seeks to understand great figures, their influence on others, and their importance for contemporary issues. The history of philosophy in a single nation is often separately studied, as in the case of American Philosophy. So are major movements within a nation, such as British Empiricism or German idealism, as well as international movements with a substantial history, such as existentialism and phenomenology. The history of philosophy not only provides insight into the other sub-fields of philosophy; it also reveals many of the foundations of Eastern and Western Civilization.

### **SPECIAL FIELDS OF PHILOSOPHY**

Many branches of philosophy have grown from the traditional core areas. What follows is a sketch of some of the major ones.

**Philosophy of Mind:** This sub-field has emerged from metaphysical concerns with the mind and mental phenomena. The philosophy of mind addresses not only the possible relations of the mental to the physical (for instance, to brain processes), but the many concepts having an essential mental element: belief, desire, emotion, feeling, sensation, passion, will, personality, and others. A number of major questions in the philosophy of mind cluster in the area of action theory: What differentiates actions, such as raising an arm, from mere body movements, such as the rising of an arm? Must mental elements, for example intentions and beliefs, enter into adequate explanations of our actions, or can actions be explained by appeal to ordinary physical events? And what is required for our actions to be free?

**Philosophy of Religion:** Another tradition concern of metaphysics is to understand the concept of God, including special attributes such as being all knowing,

being all-powerful, and being wholly good. Both metaphysics and epistemology have sought to assess the various grounds people have offered to justify believing in God. The philosophy of religion treats these topics and many related subjects, such as the relation between faith and reason, the nature of religious language, the relation of religion and morality, and the question of how a God is wholly good could allow the existence of evil.

**Philosophy of Science:** This is probably the largest sub-field generated by epistemology. Philosophy of science is usually divided into philosophy of the natural sciences and the philosophy of social sciences. It has recently been divided further, into philosophy of physics, biology, psychology, economics, and other sciences. Philosophy of science clarifies both the quest for scientific knowledge and the results yielded by that quest. It does this by exploring the logic of scientific evidence; the nature of scientific laws, explanations, and theories; and the possible connections among the various branches of science. How, for instance, is psychology related to brain biology, and biology to chemistry? And how are the social sciences related to the natural sciences?

**Political Philosophy:** Concerns the justification, and limits, of governmental control of individuals; the meaning of equality before the law; the basis of economic freedom; and many other problems concerning government. It also examines nature and possible arguments for various competing forms of political organizations, such as laissez-faire capitalism, welfare democracy (capitalistic and socialistic), anarchism, communism, and fascism.

**Social Philosophy:** This is usually taught in combination with political philosophy (which it overlaps), treats moral problems with large-scale social dimensions. Among these treatment of minorities, the justice of taxation, and the appropriate limits, if any, on free expression in the arts.

**The Philosophy of Law:** Explores topics such as what law is, what kinds of laws there are, how law is or should be related to morality, and what sorts of principles should govern punishment and criminal justice in general.

**Medical Ethics:** Addresses many problems arising in medical practice and medical science. Among these are standards applying to physician-patient relationships are: moral questions raised by special procedures, such as abortion and ceasing of life-support for terminal patients; and ethical standards for medical research, for instance genetic engineering and experimentation using human subjects.

**Business Ethics:** Addresses such questions as how moral obligations may conflict with the profit motive and how these conflicts may be resolved. Other topics often pursued are the nature and scope of the social responsibilities of corporations, their rights in a free society, and their relations to other institutions.

**Philosophy of Art (Aesthetics):** This is one of the oldest sub-fields. It concerns the nature of art, including the performing arts and painting, sculpture, and literature. Major questions in aesthetics include how artistic creations are to be interpreted and

evaluated, and how the arts are related to one another, to natural beauty, and to morality, religion, science, and other important elements of human life.

**Philosophy of Language:** This field has close ties to both epistemology and metaphysics. It treats a broad spectrum of questions about language: the nature of meaning, the relations between words and things, the various theories of language learning, and the distinction between literal and figurative uses of language. Since language is crucial in nearly all-human activity, the philosophy of language can enhance our understanding both of other academic fields and of much of what we ordinarily do.

**Other sub-fields of philosophy:** There are many other sub-fields of philosophy, and it is in the nature of philosophy as critical inquiry to develop new sub-fields when new directions in the quest for knowledge, or in any other area of human activity, raise new intellectual problems. Among the sub-fields not yet mentioned, but often taught at least as part of other courses, are Inductive Logic, Philosophy of Logic, Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Medicine, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Feminism, Philosophy of Linguistics, Philosophy of Criticism, Philosophy of Culture and Philosophy of Film.

### **GENERAL USES OF PHILOSOPHY**

Much of what is learned in philosophy can be applied in virtually any endeavor. This is because philosophy touches on so many subjects and, especially, because of its methods is usable in any field.

**General Problem Solving:** The study of philosophy enhances, in a way no other activities does, one's problem-solving capacities. It helps one to analyze concepts, definitions, arguments, and problems. It contributes to one's capacity to organize ideas and issues, to deal with questions of value, and to extract what is essential from masses of information. It helps one both to distinguish fine differences between views and to discover common ground between opposing positions. And it helps one to synthesize a variety of views of perspectives into a unified whole.

**Communication Skills:** Philosophy also contributes uniquely to the development of expressive and communicative powers. It provides some of the basic tools of self-expression, for instance, skills in presenting ideas through well-constructed, systematic arguments that other fields either do not use, or use less extensively. It helps one to express what is distinctive of one's view; enhances one's ability to explain difficult material; and helps one to eliminate ambiguities and vagueness from one's writing and speech.

**Persuasive Powers:** Philosophy provides training in the construction of clear formulations, good arguments, and apt examples. It thereby helps one develop the ability to be convincing. One learns to build and defend one's own views, to appreciate competing positions, and to indicate forcefully why one considers one's own view preferable to alternatives. These capacities can be developed not only through reading

and writing philosophy, but also through the philosophical dialogue, in and outside the classroom, that is so much a part of a thorough going philosophical education.

**Writing Skills:** Writing is taught intensively in many philosophy courses, and many regularly assigned philosophical texts are unexcelled as literary essays. Philosophy teaches interpretive writing through its examination of challenging texts, comparative writing through emphasis on fairness to alternative positions, argumentative writing through developing students' ability to establish their own views, and descriptive writing through detailed portrayal of concrete examples: the anchors to which generalizations must be tied. Structure and techniques, then, are emphasized in philosophical writing. Originality is also encouraged, and students are generally urged to use their imagination and develop their own ideas.

### **THE USES OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATIONAL PURSUITS**

The general uses of philosophy just described are obviously great academic value. It should also be clear that the study of philosophy has intrinsic rewards as an unlimited quest for understanding of important, challenging problems. But philosophy has further uses in deepening an education, both in college and in many activities, professional and personal that follows graduation.

### **THE USES OF PHILOSOPHY IN NON-ACADEMIC CAREERS**

One of the questions frequently asked by students (and parents) about majoring in philosophy is: "What can the major do with it?" meaning, for what kind of job does a B.A. in philosophy especially prepare one? Is any employer likely to seek a college graduate because he or she has majored in philosophy?

To put the question this way is to be somewhat unfair to philosophy, as well as to most liberal arts fields. Undergraduate training in philosophy is not primarily training for a job. But this is not the same as saying that a college graduate in philosophy cannot pursue worthwhile and exciting careers. A philosophy major has the best of both worlds: a foundational and rich education as well as a chance to enter a variety of interesting careers.

Moreover, it should be stressed immediately that non-academic value of a field of study must not be viewed mainly in terms of a field of study must not be viewed mainly in terms of its contribution to obtaining one's first job after graduation. Students are understandably preoccupied with getting their first job, but even from a narrow vocational point of view it would be short sighted to concentrate on that at the expense of developing potential for success and advancement once hired. What gets graduates initially hired may not yield promotions or carry them beyond their first position, particularly given how fast the needs of many employers alter with changes in social and economic patterns. It is therefore crucial to see beyond what a job description specifically calls for. Philosophy need not be mentioned among a job's requirements in order for the benefits derivable from philosophical study to be appreciated by the employer, and those benefits need not even be explicitly appreciated in order to be effective in helping one advance.

Furthermore, one can say that training in philosophy can give the graduate a certain edge. As recent studies show, employers want, and reward, many of the capacities, which the study of philosophy develops: for instance, the ability to solve problems, to communicate, to organize ideas and issues, to assess pros and cons, and to boil down complex data. These capacities represent transferable skills. They are transferable not only from philosophy to non-philosophical areas, but from one non-philosophical field to another. For that reason, people trained in philosophy are not only prepared to do many kinds of tasks, they can also cope with change, or even move into new careers, more readily than many others.

In emphasizing the long-range benefits of training in philosophy, whether through a major or through only a sample of courses in the field, there are at least two further points to note. The first concerns the value of philosophy for vocational training. The second applies to the whole of life.

First, philosophy can yield immediate benefits for students planning postgraduate work. As law, medical, business, and other professional school faculty and admissions personnel have often said, philosophy is excellent preparation for the training and later careers of the professionals in question. In preparing to enter such fields such as computer science, management, or public administration, which, like medicine, have special requirements for post-graduate study, a student may of course major (or minor) both in philosophy and some other field.

The second point here is that the long-range value of philosophical study goes far beyond its contribution to one's livelihood. Philosophy broadens the range of things one can understand and enjoy. It can give one self-knowledge, foresight, and a sense of direction in life. It can provide, to one's reading and conversation, special pleasures of insight. It can also lead to self-discovery, expansion of consciousness, and self-renewal. Through all of this, and through its contribution to one's expressive powers, it nurtures individuality and self-esteem. Its value for one's private life can be incalculable; its benefits in one's public life as a citizen can be immeasurable.

### **THE DOUBLE MAJOR**

Philosophy majors are allowed to pursue two disciplines simultaneously at the University. The Double Major offers the student the advantages of fuller training in two fields of study. All major requirements must be met and completed successfully upon graduation from the University. In order to keep credits straight, students should obtain a list for each major and record all the courses that have been taken. This method will make it easier for the student to make sure that all requirements have been met prior to graduation.

### **THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR AT RUTGERS**

Philosophy seeks answers to such fundamental questions as: What is ultimately real? What is nature and extent of our knowledge? What is the source and nature of our moral obligations? What form of government is the best? What makes one argument better than another? Is beauty only in the eye of the beholder?



Many different answers will be investigated with the aim of assisting students (1) to develop an appreciation of the various approaches and (2) to formulate their own answers in a way that can be defended in the arena of reasoned controversy.

Philosophy draws on material from all areas of human endeavor – science, the arts, religion, and politics. Many of our students are double majors because they find that the study of philosophy and the study of particular discipline (say psychology and biology) are mutually enhancing.

The Undergraduate Advisors welcome your questions about which courses to take, progress through the major, the honors program, and obtaining transfer credit towards the major or minor.

### **THE MAJOR**

Students must pass a minimum of 11 classroom courses of 3 or more credits each in philosophy to earn the major. No more than five of these courses may be at the 100 or 200 level, and no more than three courses from outside of the department can be transferred towards the major. Not more than one D grade can be applied towards the major.

There is a wide variety of choice both within those six core area courses and among the five additional electives. Students are able to explore in depth the issues that are most interesting to them.

For example, a student majoring in psychology and philosophy can choose to take one or more of the ten courses we offer in the philosophy of psychology, the philosophical aspects of cognitive science or theory of knowledge. A pre-law student can choose to take one or more of the nine courses in political philosophy and philosophy of law. A student majoring in the arts could choose from among the seven courses that explore issues in aesthetics. A student majoring in mathematics could choose to take one or more of the four courses in logic.

Finally, a student could choose to explore the history of philosophy by selecting courses from among the many courses in the history of philosophy offered by the department.

### **THE MINOR**

Students must pass a minimum of six philosophy classroom courses of 3 or more credits each to earn a minor. At least three of the courses must be at the 300 or 400 level. No more than two courses from outside of the Rutgers New Brunswick Philosophy Department can be transferred towards the minor. No more than one D grade can be applied toward the minor.

### **MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS (PPE)**

The minor in PPE is designed to expose students to the theoretical and practical problems of organizing and running human society. It combines elements of philosophy, political science, and economics into a coherent framework in which to address questions and the nature of citizenship, and the role that individuals can and must play in making critical

decisions facing society. The minor requires students to take three courses (9 credits) in from offerings selected from each of these three fields of study; for more information, please visit <http://philosophy.rutgers.edu/minor-in-philosophy-politis-and-economics> or contact one of the contacts for the minor in PPE: Alec Walen (Philosophy, [awalen@rutgers.edu](mailto:awalen@rutgers.edu)), Barry Sopher (Economics, [sopher@rutgers.edu](mailto:sopher@rutgers.edu)) and Dennis Bathory (Political Science, [bathory@rutgers.edu](mailto:bathory@rutgers.edu))

YOU CAN DECLARE A MAJOR OR MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY BY VISITING:

<https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/major/major-declaration>

### **DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

The department offers students the opportunity to graduate in philosophy with departmental honors. The requirements to achieve this distinction are that, at graduation, a student have an overall grade point average of at least 3.0; a grade point average within philosophy of at least 3.5; and that the student have grades of B+ or higher in four 400-level courses. The student must hand in a thesis paper of 25-45 pages in order to be considered for honors. The student must also enroll in two semester-long courses, Senior Honors Thesis Fall, and Senior Honors Thesis Spring during which they work with their thesis advisor in writing a thesis (see below).

### **SENIOR HONORS THESIS**

Students who are highly motivated in philosophy are encouraged to obtain approval of a paper as an honors thesis by the undergraduate advisor or undergraduate director of the department. They should select an advisor from among the tenured faculty in the department. At the time of registration, the student must meet the criteria for departmental honors and must complete both semesters for credit. See the department website for more information about honors and to download the proposal form.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

The Independent Study consists of individual work in some philosophical topic under the direction of a member of the department. You must complete a form describing the title of your work, what you will be examining, and who your advisor is on the project. Your faculty advisor as well as the undergraduate director must sign the form. The form is available on our website: <https://philosophy.rutgers.edu/independent-study>

## **PRIZES FOR MAJORS**

### **W.J. Norton Alumnae Award**

The W. J. Norton Alumnae Award in Philosophy is for Female Philosophy Majors. The sum ranges from \$150.00-\$300.00. It is given to that a female senior majoring in Philosophy who, in the judgment of the Department, has demonstrated superior achievement in her subject. In some years, the award may be given to more than one qualified student, and in other years to none.

### **T. Stanford Doolittle Award**

The sum of \$150.00-\$300.00 is awarded to the senior who writes the best essay in Philosophy on a subject approved by the Undergraduate Director of the Department, who will name a competent committee of judges. The prize will be awarded annually. Frequently this prize is awarded to the best overall senior major. In some years, it has been awarded to the top two senior majors in philosophy.

### **Jacob Cooper Prize**

Given in memory of Professor Jacob Cooper, LL. D., a former professor of logic and mental philosophy at Rutgers. To win the prize, a Rutgers College senior must stand highest in a competitive examination in logical skill and insight. Frequently this prize is awarded to the senior who receives the highest grade in 730:201, 730:315, 730:407 or 730:408.

### **Emily T. Mitchell Prize**

Given in the memory of former student Emily T. Mitchell, it is awarded to an outstanding major who exemplifies a genuine love of learning and enthusiasm for thinking philosophically about the world around them.

## **STUDY ABROAD**

There are a great variety of programs available to students on studying abroad. Most credits taken in foreign study are transferable; some may even be eligible to count towards the Philosophy major or minor. Rutgers itself sponsors an extensive variety of programs.

Information on Study Abroad opportunities are found at the Center for Global Education located at 102 College Avenue in New Brunswick. Complete files are maintained in the office of Study Abroad, Rutgers University. More information can be found here: <https://global.rutgers.edu/study-abroad>.

## **RUTGERS UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CLUB**

The RU Philosophy Club is comprised of a group of active undergraduates with a keen interest in all things philosophical. The main purpose of the club is:

- (1) To educate undergraduates at Rutgers about some aspects of and issues in philosophy
- (2) To familiarize the wider New Brunswick community with philosophical problems by means of lectures, presentations, and social activities.
- (3) To provide a forum for those Rutgers undergraduates with philosophical interests to exchange ideas and to further explore their interests beyond the classroom.

Past events organized by the club include lectures by professors and graduate students as well as activities off campus, including visits to New York art museums to facilitate discussions in aesthetics, attendance at local philosophy conferences, trips to see philosophical plays, and meals in Chinatown. Sponsored lectures have run the gamut of topics from the ethics of driving SUVs to the problem of consciousness. For more information, please come to a Philosophy Club meeting or email the Philosophy Club Advisor, Mercedes Diaz at: [diaz@philosophy.rutgers.edu](mailto:diaz@philosophy.rutgers.edu). To be added to the club listserv, send an email to: [philos\\_ruphilclub@lists.sas.rutgers.edu](mailto:philos_ruphilclub@lists.sas.rutgers.edu). You may also visit the Club's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2200358170/>

## **PHI SIGMA TAU - INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN PHILOSOPHY**

The purpose of Phi Sigma Tau is “to serve as a means of awarding distinction to students having high scholarship and personal interest in philosophy, promote student interest in research and advanced study, to provide opportunities for the publication of student research papers of merit, and to encourage professional spirit” (Article II).

**General Information:** Founded at Muhlenberg College in 1930, and subsequently incorporated as a nonprofit corporation of Washington, DC, Phi Sigma Tau is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. The Society's central purpose is to promote ties among philosophy departments in accredited institutions and students interested in philosophy. Both at the national and local levels, the organization of the Society is instrumental--a means for developing and honoring academic excellence and philosophical interest, and for popularizing philosophy among the general collegiate public.

*DIALOGUE*, the Journal of Phi Sigma Tau, is published twice annually (in October and April). Wholly devoted to the publication of articles by graduate and undergraduate students, it has a circulation of more than two thousand. The PHI SIGMA TAU NEWSLETTER appears at least three times annually and provides an informal means for chapter communication and information exchange.

Local chapters are located in private and public institutions throughout the United States and Canada. These chapters, numbering 148 in 2000, constitute the focal point of Phi Sigma Tau activities. Their officers are students at the host institutions, with faculty

advisors serving as institutional and department liaisons; and each chapter enjoys a high degree of autonomy in its activities and by-laws. Rutgers University Philosophy Department has its own chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, NJ Theta (3108).

**Membership.** Junior and senior philosophy majors, who have completed at least four philosophy courses, and have an overall 3.0 GPA and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in philosophy are eligible for membership. Please contact the advisor, Mercedes Diaz at [diaz@philosophy.rutgers.edu](mailto:diaz@philosophy.rutgers.edu) for more details. The Facebook page for Phi Sigma Tau is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204211007/members/>

Prospective members pay a one-time initiation fee (currently \$25) to the National Office. Following initiation, the new member receives a membership certificate and package containing a membership card and information on registering as a member of the NATIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTER (NAC) following graduation. Membership for the first year in the NAC is without cost, and a modest fee (currently \$5) is required for subsequent years of membership. A student initiated into PST remains a member throughout her/his career as a student, and receives copies of both DIALOGUE and the PST NEWSLETTER as these are published (they are distributed locally by the chapter's faculty advisor). NAC members also receive personal subscriptions to these two publications.

In 2018, Phi Sigma Tau (NJ-Theta chapter) will hold a joint conference with Columbia; the first annual Columbia-Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference will take place on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Columbia University, New York City, NY. The conference aims to feature the best undergraduate scholarship in all areas of philosophy. Undergraduate students from all American colleges and universities are welcome to submit papers for consideration. All papers submitted should be between 3,000 and 5,000 words. Submissions should include both the paper and an abstract of 100-200 words. The best papers will feature significant original scholarship, rather than literature review or exegesis of another author's argument. Please submit papers by February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. We will aim to send decisions to students by March 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you wish to submit a paper for the conference, please email: [theundergraduateconference@gmail.com](mailto:theundergraduateconference@gmail.com)

Phi Sigma Tau keys and graduation stoles are also available for purchase (currently \$13.60 per key and \$21.50 per stole, plus shipping and handling). Contact the chapter officers for more details.

Our Facebook page can be found at:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204211007/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204211007/?ref=br_rs)

### **ARETE: THE RUTGERS UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY JOURNAL**

*Faculty Advisor: Trip McCrossin*

*Arête: The Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of Rutgers University* was founded to recognize original philosophical thought at the undergraduate level. Submissions are accepted from around the world and carefully reviewed by the dedicated staff of

undergraduate editors. If you would like to become an editor, a one-credit pass/fail course during each of Fall and Spring terms is offered to outstanding students with a keen interest in philosophy and editorial skills. Registration for the Arête class is by permission of the instructor only. For more information, contact the current editor-in-chief found at the department webpage at <http://www.philosophy.rutgers.edu/undergraduate-program/arete-philosophy-journal>. The journal also has a group page on facebook.com. To check out their page, go to <http://rutgers.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6334874557>.

### **PREPARING FOR CAREERS**

Students with interest in particular career trajectories are advised to take philosophy classes most suited to those interests. Students majoring in the social sciences, for example, would be advised to select courses in the philosophy of social science; for a major in psychology, courses in the philosophy of mind and of psychology; for an English major, courses in the history of philosophy, philosophy of the arts, literature and film; and so on.

The following is a listing of courses suitable for various careers:

#### **LAW:**

- 201 Intro to Logic
- 220 Intro to Theory of Knowledge
- 251 Ethics & Business
- 255 Intro to Social & Political Philosophy
- 330 The Ethics of War & Conflict
- 340 History of Ethics
- 341 Ethics Through History
- 345 Philosophy and the Law
- 358 Philosophy of Law
- 380 Ethics & Practical Reasoning

#### **MEDICINE & OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS:**

- 225 Intro to Philosophy of Science
- 249 Bioethics
- 328 Philosophy of Psychology
- 341 Ethics through History
- 360 Philosophical Aspects of Cognitive Science
- 371 Philosophies of Death & Dying
- 428 Topics in Philosophy of Psychology
- 429 Philosophy of Biology

**BUSINESS:**

- 250 Environmental Ethics
- 251 Ethics & Business
- 255 Intro to Social & Political Philosophy
- 345 Philosophy & the Law
- 358 Philosophy of Law
- 427 Philosophy of Social Sciences

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:**

- 201 Intro to Logic
- 225 Intro to Philosophy of Science
- 315 Applied Symbolic Logic
- 329 Minds, Machines & Persons
- 360 Philosophical Aspects of Cognitive Science
- 407 Intermediate Logic I
- 408 Intermediate Logic II
- 418 Philosophy of Mind
- 419 Philosophy of Perception
- 420 Philosophy of Language
- 421 Semantics of Language
- 422 Philosophy of Logic
- 425 Philosophy of Science

**COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM:**

- 220 Theory of Knowledge
- 225 Intro to Philosophy of Science
- 249 Bioethics
- 250 Environmental Ethics
- 251 Ethics & Business
- 255 Intro to Social & Political Philosophy
- 263 Philosophy & the Arts
- 264 Philosophical Ideas in Film
- 265 Philosophical Ideas in Literature
- 330 Ethics of War & Conflict
- 345 Philosophy & the Law
- 358 Philosophy of Law
- 364 Aesthetics of Film
- 442 Moral Responsibility
- 445 Topics in Social & Political Philosophy
- 450 Topics in Moral Philosophy
- 380 Ethics & Practical Reasoning

**ENGINEERING:**

- 201 Intro to Logic
- 220 Intro to Theory of Knowledge
- 225 Intro to Philosophy of Science
- 249 Bioethics
- 250 Environmental Ethics
- 251 Ethics & Business
- 255 Intro to Social & Political Philosophy
- 425 Philosophy of Science

**GOVERNMENT SERVICE:**

- 250 Environmental Ethics
- 251 Ethics & Business
- 255 Intro to Social & Political Philosophy
- 260 Philosophical Ideas in Literature
- 263 Philosophy & the Arts
- 264 Philosophical Ideas in Film
- 265 Intro to the Philosophy of Religion
- 330 The Ethics of War & Conflict
- 347 Philosophical Issues in Feminism
- 371 Philosophies of Death & Dying
- 470 Ethics & Practical Reasoning

**SOCIAL WORK:**

- 249 Bioethics
- 250 Environmental Ethics
- 251 Ethics & Business
- 255 Intro to Social & Political Philosophy
- 347 Philosophical Issues in Feminism
- 371 Philosophies of Death & Dying

**THE ARTS:**

- 260 Philosophical Ideas in Literature
- 261 Philosophical Ideas in Science Fiction
- 263 Philosophy & the Arts
- 264 Philosophical Ideas in Film
- 363 Philosophy of Criticism: Art & Literature
- 364 Aesthetics of Film
- 365 Philosophy of Music
- 461 Special Topics in Aesthetics



## **DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUMS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS:**

The department has many colloquiums during the year. They are free to the entire Rutgers Community. These colloquiums consist of lectures given by guest speakers. They usually start at 4:30pm on a Thursday in the Philosophy Department.

Throughout the year, our department has various conferences such as the Epistemology Conference, the Ethics Workshop, Metaphysics Workshop, & Rutgers-Princeton Graduate Conference. Check our website at <http://philosophy.rutgers.edu> for more information or call the department at 848-932-9861.

In the summer, the department sponsors the Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy. To apply to the Institute, go to the Philosophy Webpage at <http://www.philosophy.rutgers.edu/events-335/summer-institute>. For more information, call the department at: (848) 932-9862.

The undergraduate program sponsors a special distinguished Class of 1970 Lecture every spring. Past speakers have included Daniel Dennett, Douglas Hofstadter, David Chalmers, Ted Sider, David Wiggins, Louise Antony, Harry Frankfurt, Shelly Kagan, Kit Fine, T.M. Scanlon, and Sharon Street. For more information, contact Professor Elizabeth Camp: [emc233@philosophy.rutgers.edu](mailto:emc233@philosophy.rutgers.edu)

## **PREPARING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL**

It is never too early to contemplate preparing for graduate or professional schools. Do not wait until your senior year. The top graduate programs in philosophy are very competitive; only students who can demonstrate a coherent and rigorous course of study at the undergraduate level have a chance of getting in. If you plan to apply to graduate school, you should make sure that your program includes courses from the core areas of philosophy (metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, history of philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science). You should take courses that require extensive writing, to enable you to prepare the writing sample that will form an essential part of your application.

You will need three letters of recommendation. It is important to get letters from professors with established reputations in their fields, so be sure to take as many courses as possible from tenured faculty. Make sure you participate in their classes. Consult with them for advice about research and writing.

Be sure to solicit your letters of recommendation in a timely fashion. Do not wait until two weeks before the application deadline when your professors are busy with grading and the end-of-semester crush. Have your letters filed with the Office of Career Services. Your professors may take jobs elsewhere, retire, or die. It is important that you obtain recommendations when their memories of you and your abilities are fresh in their minds.

Contact the Undergraduate Advisors if you have any questions about graduate school.

## UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY AT RUTGERS

**The Philosophy Major Requirements:** Students must take a minimum of eleven 3-credit classroom courses in philosophy, not more than five of which may be at the 100 to 200 levels. Not more than three courses can be transferred towards the major and not more than one 'D' grade can be applied toward the major.

### **Approved Course Listing:**

1. One Term of logic from among the following:

- 01:730:201 Introduction to Logic
- 01:730:315 Applied Symbolic Logic
- 01:730:407 Intermediate Logic I
- 01:730:408 Intermediate Logic II

2. One term of ancient or medieval philosophy from among the following:

- 01:730:301 Socrates & Plato
- 01:730:302 Plato & Aristotle
- 01:730:304 Origins of Medieval Philosophy
- 01:730:305 Philosophy in the High Middle Ages
- 01:730:306 Between Medieval & Modern Philosophy
- 01:730:401 Plato
- 01:730:402 Aristotle

### **Some courses from Classics Department can count**

\*Courses from the Classics Department that can be used for the ancient or medieval philosophy requirement are as follows:

- 01:730:352 Plato (01:190:352)
- 01:190:322 Greek Political Philosophy
- 01:190:353 Aristotle

3. One term of modern philosophy from among the following:

- 01:730:307 Descartes, Locke & the 17<sup>th</sup> Century
- 01:730:308 Hume, Kant & the 18<sup>th</sup> Century
- 01:730:404 Spinoza
- 01:730:405 Kant
- 01:730:406 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy
- 01:730:416 Leibniz

4. One term of advanced ethics or political philosophy from among the following:

- 01:730:330 Ethics of War & Conflict
- 01:730:341 Ethics through History
- 01:730:342 Social & Political Philosophy Through History
- 01:730:358 Philosophy of Law
- 01:730:441 Ethical Theory
- 01:730:442 Moral Responsibility
- 01:730:445 Topics in Social & Political Philosophy

- 01:730:450 Topics in Moral Philosophy
- 01:730:459 Advanced Seminar in Ethics\*(by special permission only)
- 01:730:470 Ethics & Practical Reasoning

5. Two courses from among the following, at least one of which must be at the 400 level:

- 01:730:210 Philosophy of Language
- 01:730:215 Introduction to Metaphysics
- 01:730:218 Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
- 01:730:220 Theory of Knowledge
- 01:730:225 Introduction to Philosophy of Science
- 01:730:319 Philosophy of Mathematics
- 01:730:320 Knowledge & Assertion
- 01:730:328 Philosophy of Psychology
- 01:730:360 Philosophical Aspects of Cognitive Science
- 01:730:410 History of Analytical Philosophy
- 01:730:412 Epistemology
- 01:730:413 Social Epistemology
- 01:730:415 Metaphysics
- 01:730:418 Philosophy of Mind
- 01:730:419 Philosophy of Perception
- 01:730:420 Philosophy of Language
- 01:730:421 Semantics of Natural Languages
- 01:730:425 Philosophy of Science
- 01:730:426 Philosophy of Physics
- 01:730:427 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
- 01:730:428 Topics in Philosophy of Psychology
- 01:730:429 Philosophy of Biology

\*For an up-to-date list of qualifying courses, see the Major Worksheet located on the department website @ <https://philosophy.rutgers.edu/major>