

Philosophy Major: Proposed Changes  
Submitted by Lisa Shabel, Director of Undergraduate Studies

The Philosophy Department at The Ohio State University submits a request to modify our current major requirements. We are not requesting any change to our minor. The title of the major remains “Philosophy”; the number of total credit hours remains the same; and the major description found on the University’s major information page [here](#) does not need amending.

**Proposed Changes.** We propose that our major requirements be changed to read as follows.

Students must take a prerequisite (3 credit hours) and 10 courses (30 credit hours) to complete the major:

1. Requirements (6 credit hours):  
Philosophy 2500, Symbolic Logic (prerequisite)  
Philosophy 3000, Gateway Seminar
2. Any 2 courses (6 credit hours) in History of Philosophy:  
3210 History of Ancient Philosophy  
3220 History of Medieval Philosophy  
3230 History of 17th Century Philosophy  
3240 History of 18th Century Philosophy  
3250 History of 19th Century Philosophy  
3261 Fundamental Concepts of Existentialism
3. Any 2 courses (6 credit hours) in Core Philosophical Topics:  
3300 Moral Philosophy  
3530 Philosophy of Logic  
3600 Introduction to Philosophy of Language  
3650 Philosophy of Science  
3700 Introduction to Metaphysics  
3750 Introduction to Theory of Knowledge  
3800 Introduction to Philosophy of Mind  
3810 Philosophy of Action
4. Any 5 electives (15 credit hours):  
1 course at or above the 2000 level  
2 courses at or above the 3000 level  
2 courses at or above the 5000 level

The changes that this proposal reflects are as follows:

- decrease from 3 to 2 courses in the History of Philosophy
- decrease from 3 to 2 courses in Core Philosophical Topics
- delete 2 courses from the list of Core Philosophical Topics:  
3680, Philosophy of Biology, and 3820, Philosophy of Perception
- 3300, Moral Philosophy, no longer required; add 3300 to the list of Core Philosophical Topics
- add 2 electives at or above the 3000 level

On pages 3-4 below, we provide the handouts that we currently use when advising majors (p.3) and an amended handout that we would use once the changes are approved (p.4). These documents display the current and proposed requirements in chart form. On the final page, we provide our list of courses (p.5.)

**Rationale and Justification.** We initiate this proposal in response to data we have gathered from a variety of sources, including research into our own enrollment trends, observations about our own recent curricular development, discussions among faculty about the success markers of our students, and feedback from current undergraduate majors and recent graduates. A self-study that is currently underway also provided impetus to convene our faculty's Undergraduate Committee to formulate this proposal, which is the result of several long meetings and much discussion. (The whole department voted in favor of this proposal at a Department meeting on November 7.)

Over the past several years we have developed and begun offering a variety of 2- and 3000 level courses of interest to a diverse student body (including Philosophical Perspectives on Gender, Consciousness, and Death and the Meaning of Life, among others). Under our current major requirements, a student can only count one elective as a major course. This leads to serious inflexibility: students are currently constrained to take courses that satisfy the history and core requirements to the exclusion of other interesting 3000 level courses that we offer. Moreover, we currently offer these 3000 level courses without being able to advise our own majors to take them. This limits our ability to attract and retain a diverse and satisfied group of majors. On the proposed plan, students have two fewer required courses but the same number of total credit hours required; this opens up room for each major to take two more electives at or above the 3000 level, which will broaden their program of study. These changes will not sacrifice depth, as each major will still be required to take at least two electives at the 5000 level. In these courses, students will revisit the most important historical and core topics in our discipline.

Because we propose to decrease the core topics courses from 3 to 2 (in parallel with the decrease in historical courses), we also propose to include Moral Philosophy among the core courses (rather than require it) and narrow the rest of the list slightly. This is because we want the list of courses from which a student must choose his or her 2 core topics courses to represent all but only those courses that represent the most fundamental part of our discipline.

**Timeline.** We would like to have these requirements in place by the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Since the proposed new requirements are more flexible than the current requirements, no "grandfathering" will be necessary. Students whose degree audit satisfies the current requirements will also satisfy the new requirements.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There is one possible exception to this, in the case that a student who began the major under the current requirements wishes to count 3680 or 3820 as one of his or her core requirements, courses that we propose to remove from the core topics list going forward. This is unlikely to happen, but can be easily handled case by case.

## Philosophy Major = prerequisite + 30 hours, distributed as follows:

Requirements* (6 hrs) <b>TWO</b> courses	History (9 hrs) <b>THREE</b> courses	Topics (9 hrs) <b>THREE</b> courses	Advanced Courses (6 hrs) <b>TWO</b> courses	Elective (3 hrs) <b>ONE</b> course
<b>2500 (prereq)</b> <b>3000</b>	any <b>THREE</b> from:  3210 3220 3230 3240 3250 3261	<b>Req: 3300</b> + any <b>TWO</b> from:  3530    3750 3600    3800 3650    3810 3680    3820 3700	any <b>TWO</b> from:  5xxx or above	2xxx or above

*\* These two requirements should be taken as early as possible in your major program*

NOTE: Major program courses may not be used for GE purposes, except in the case of the Global Studies requirement. Philosophy 2367 may not count towards your Major program, although it may be used for GE purposes. For more details, see our Guide to Undergraduate Studies.

## Philosophy Minor = 12 credit hours, distributed as follows:

<b>TWO</b> courses (6 hrs)	<b>ONE</b> course (3 hrs)	<b>ONE</b> course (3 hrs)
2xxx or above	3xxx or above	33xx or above

NOTE: Up to 6 Minor credit hours may count toward GE requirements. Philosophy 2367 may not count towards your Minor program, although it may be used for GEC purposes. For more details, see our Guide to Undergraduate Studies.

## Philosophy Major = prerequisite + 30 hours, distributed as follows:

Requirements* (6 hrs) <b>TWO</b> courses	History (6 hrs) <b>TWO</b> courses	Topics (6 hrs) <b>TWO</b> courses	Elective (15 hrs) <b>FIVE</b> courses
<b>2500 (prereq) 3000</b>	any <b>TWO</b> from:  3210      3240 3220      3250 3230      3261	any <b>TWO</b> from:  3300    3700 3530    3750 3600    3800 3650    3810	any <b>ONE</b> : 2000-level or higher  any <b>TWO</b> : 3000-level or higher  any <b>TWO</b> : 5000-level or higher

\* *These two requirements should be taken as early as possible in your major program*

NOTE: Major program courses may not be used for GE purposes, except in the case of the Global Studies requirement. Philosophy 2367 may not count towards your Major program, although it may be used for GE purposes. For more details, see our Guide to Undergraduate Studies.

## Philosophy Minor = 12 credit hours, distributed as follows:

<b>TWO</b> courses (6 hrs)	<b>ONE</b> course (3 hrs)	<b>ONE</b> course (3 hrs)
2000-level or higher	3000-level or higher	3300 or higher

NOTE: Up to 6 Minor credit hours may count toward GE requirements. Philosophy 2367 may not count towards your Minor program, although it may be used for GE purposes. For more details, see our Guide to Undergraduate Studies.

	<b>2000</b>	3820	Philosophy of Perception
2120	Asian Philosophies	3830	Consciousness
2194	Group Studies	3870	Jewish Mysticism
2342	Environmental Ethics	4999	Thesis Research
2367	Contemporary Social and Moral Problems - U.S.		<b>5000</b>
2400	Political and Social Philosophy	5193	Individual Studies
2450	Philosophical Problems in the Arts	5194	Group Studies
2465	Death and the Meaning of Life	5210	Ancient Philosophy – Studies in Ancient Philosophy
2470H	Honors Philosophy of Film	5211	Ancient Philosophy – Plato
2500	Symbolic Logic	5212	Ancient Philosophy – Aristotle
2650	Introduction to the Philosophy of Science	5220	Studies in Medieval Philosophy
2660	Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Sci Rev	5230	Studies in 17th Century Philosophy
2860	Science and Religion	5240	Studies in 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy: Selected Problems
2900H	Freshman-Sophomore Proseminar	5241	Studies in 18th-Century Philosophy – Kant
	<b>3000</b>	5250	Studies in 19th-Century Philosophy
3000	Gateway Seminar	5260	Studies in 20th Century Philosophy
3111	Introduction to Jewish Philosophy	5261	Phenomenology and Existentialism
3120	Engaging Time: Philosophical and Rabbinic Dimensions of Temporality	5263	American Philosophy
3210	History of Ancient Philosophy	5300	Advanced Moral Philosophy
3220	History of Medieval Philosophy	5310	Metaethics
3230	History of 17th Century Philosophy	5400	Advanced Political and Social Philosophy
3240	History of 18th Century Philosophy	5410	Advanced Philosophy of Law
3250	History of 19th Century Philosophy	5420	Philosophical Topics in Feminist Theory
3260	Movements in 20th Century Philosophy	5450	Advanced Esthetic Theory
3261	Fundamental Concepts of Existentialism	5460	Philosophy in Literature
3262	Contemporary Continental Thought	5500	Advanced Symbolic Logic
3300	Moral Philosophy	5510	Nonclassical Logic
3310	Morality and the Mind	5520	Inductive Logic and Probability
3341	Ethical Conflicts in Health Care Research, Policy, and Practice	5530	Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics
3341H	Ethical Conflicts in Health Care Research, Policy, and Practice	5540	Theory of Rational Choice
3351	Judaism and Ethics	5550	Advanced Logical Theory
3410	Philosophical Problems in the Law	5600	Advanced Philosophy of Language
3420	Philosophical Perspectives on Issues of Gender	5610	Natural Language Metaphysics
3430	Philosophy of Sex and Love	5650	Advanced Philosophy of Science
3440	Theorizing Race	5700	Advanced Metaphysics
3530	Philosophy of Logic	5750	Advanced Theory of Knowledge
3600	Introduction to Philosophy of Language	5797	Study at a Foreign Institution
3650	Sex and Death: Philosophy of Science	5800	Advanced Philosophy of Mind
3680	Philosophy of Biology	5830	Introduction to Cognitive Science
3700	Introduction Metaphysics	5840	Advanced Philosophy of Cognitive Science
3750	Introduction to Theory of Knowledge	5850	Philosophy of Religion
3800	Introduction to Philosophy of Mind	5870	Topics in Jewish Philosophy
3810	Philosophy of Action	5891	Proseminar in Cognitive Science