

## Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2023

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Philosophy  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Philosophy - D0575  
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences  
Level/Career Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 2540  
Course Title Introduction to the Philosophy of Rational Choice  
Transcript Abbreviation Intro Rat Choice  
Course Description An introduction to various ways of conceiving of rationality and its subsequent role in individual and collective decision-making, with an emphasis on rationality in ethics and how rationality might inform the evaluation of social norms and social conventions.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week, 6 Week, 4 Week  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Lecture  
Grade Roster Component Lecture  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, Wooster

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites  
Exclusions  
Electronically Enforced No

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 38.0101  
Subsidy Level General Studies Course  
Intended Rank Freshman, Sophomore

## Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Explain a variety of ways of making sense of rationality and related concepts like agency, autonomy, social norms, efficiency, coordination problems, and utility;
- Evaluate the value of different conceptions of rationality for both individual and collective decision-making;
- Apply conceptions of rationality in various ethical contexts, including just and unjust social conventions.

### Content Topic List

- rationality
- rational choice

### Sought Concurrence

Yes

## Attachments

- PHILOS 2540 Rational Choice syllabus.docx: Syllabus  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Shuster, Amy Lynne)*
- Economics Concurrence 2.14.2022.pdf: Economics Dept concurrence  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Shuster, Amy Lynne)*
- PHILOS 2540 Political Science concurrence 2.8.2022.pdf: Political Science Dept concurrence  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Shuster, Amy Lynne)*
- Philosophy Undergraduate Curriculum Map as of 2.24.2022.pdf: Philosophy UG Curriculum Map  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Shuster, Amy Lynne)*

## Comments

- Amy, please update the curriculum map in the ways suggested by Lisa Shabel. *(by Lin, Eden on 02/24/2022 11:27 AM)*
- If this course will count in your major (even as an elective), please provide updated curriculum map for your major *(by Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal on 02/17/2022 12:09 PM)*

## Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Shuster, Amy Lynne	02/14/2022 02:38 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Lin, Eden	02/14/2022 08:11 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	02/17/2022 12:09 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Shuster, Amy Lynne	02/17/2022 02:47 PM	Submitted for Approval
Revision Requested	Lin, Eden	02/24/2022 11:27 AM	Unit Approval
Submitted	Shuster, Amy Lynne	02/24/2022 11:57 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Downing, Lisa J	02/24/2022 10:22 PM	Unit Approval
Pending Approval	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	02/24/2022 10:22 PM	College Approval



# SYLLABUS

# PHILOS 2540

Introduction to the Philosophy of Rational Choice

Spring 2023 (full term) ~ MWF 10:20-11:15am

3 credit hours

In Person ~ classroom noted here

## COURSE OVERVIEW

### Instructor

Instructor: TBA

Email address: (preferred contact method)

Phone number:

Office hours:

### Prerequisites

None.

### Course description

An introduction to various ways of conceiving of rationality and its subsequent role in individual and collective decision-making, with an emphasis on rationality in ethics and how rationality might inform the evaluation of social norms and social conventions.

### Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Explain a variety of ways of making sense of rationality and related concepts like agency, autonomy, social norms, efficiency, coordination problems, and utility;
- Evaluate the value of different conceptions of rationality for both individual and collective decision-making; and

- Apply conceptions of rationality in various ethical contexts, including just and unjust social conventions.

## COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

### Textbooks

#### Required

- Gerald Gaus and John Thrasher, *Philosophy, Politics and Economics: An Introduction* (Princeton University Press, 2021)
- Alfred Mele and Piers Rawling, editors, *Oxford Handbook of Rationality* (2004) – available for free through [OSU Library](#)
- Additional materials linked from course website on Carmen ([go.osu.edu/canvasstudent](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent))

#### Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass ([buckeyepass.osu.edu](https://buckeyepass.osu.edu)) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions ([go.osu.edu/add-device](https://go.osu.edu/add-device)).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application ([go.osu.edu/install-duo](https://go.osu.edu/install-duo)) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

#### Technology support

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at [ocio.osu.edu/help/hours](https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours), and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [ocio.osu.edu/help](https://ocio.osu.edu/help)

- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

## ASSESSMENT

### How your grade is calculated

ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY	POINTS
<b>Class Participation</b>	20
<b>Discussion Board</b>	20
<b>Unit 1 Exam</b>	20
<b>Unit 2 Exam</b>	20
<b>Final Exam</b>	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

*See course schedule below for due dates.*

### Descriptions of major course assignments

#### Class Participation

**Description:** Your regular attendance and participation during class is part of your learning process, therefore, this portion of your grade reflects my observations of how you contribute to the overall learning environment of our class meetings. We will construct a common set of norms for class participation early in the semester.

#### Discussion Board

**Description:** You will engage with the readings and each other through a Carmen discussion Board. I will post a small range questions about the assigned readings for that week on Mondays, your initial reply is due before class on Wednesday, a response to a classmate is due after class on Friday. You can skip one week of posting without impact on your grade.

**Academic integrity and collaboration:** Your initial reply due on Wednesday should be your own work and reflect your best understanding of the assigned readings without direct instructional support.

You should not consult additional materials in forming your interpretation of the assigned readings or in using the assigned readings to respond to the posted question. Your response to a classmate's post due on Fridays should reflect what you learned from class that week; you may discuss a draft of your post with a member of our class and you should acknowledge all help received in your post.

## Unit 1 Exam

**Description:** A series of multiple-choice and short answer questions about course material assigned in Unit 1. A study guide of possible questions will be distributed, we will review this study guide during class, and a subset of these questions will comprise the Unit 1 exam. This exam will be conducted during a regular class meeting time. If you require extra time for your exam, please be in touch with me well in advance so that we can make alternative arrangements.

**Academic integrity and collaboration:** You may not refer to course notes or other sources during this exam.

## Unit 2 Exam

**Description:** A series of multiple-choice and short answer questions about course material assigned in Unit 2. A study guide of possible questions will be distributed, we will review this study guide during class, and a subset of these questions will comprise the Unit 2 exam. This exam will be conducted during a regular class meeting time. If you require extra time for your exam, please be in touch with me well in advance so that we can make alternative arrangements.

**Academic integrity and collaboration:** You may not refer to course notes or other sources during this exam.

## Final Exam

**Description:** A series of multiple-choice and short answer questions about course material assigned in Unit 3. A study guide of possible questions will be distributed, we will review this study guide during class, and a subset of these questions will comprise the final exam. This exam will be conducted during the Registrar scheduled final exam time. If you require extra time for your exam, please be in touch with me well in advance so that we can make alternative arrangements.

**Academic integrity and collaboration:** You may not refer to course notes or other sources during this exam.

## Late assignments

Late submissions will not be accepted. Please refer to Carmen for due dates.

## Grading scale

93% – 100% A

90% – 92.9% A-

87% – 89.9% B+

83% – 86.9%	B
80% – 82.9%	B-
77%– 79.9%	C+
73% – 76.9%	C
70% – 72.9%	C-
67% – 69.9%	D+
60% – 66.9%	D
Below 60%	E

## COURSE POLICIES

**Credit hours and work expectations:** This is a **3-credit-hour course**. According to Ohio State policy ([go.osu.edu/credithours](http://go.osu.edu/credithours)), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

**Attendance and participation requirements:** Because this is an online course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of students' expected participation:

### Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

### Academic integrity policy

See **Descriptions of major course assignments**, above, for my specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

**If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.** If COAM determines that you have violated the university’s *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- Committee on Academic Misconduct web page ([go.osu.edu/coam](http://go.osu.edu/coam))
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity ([go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions](http://go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions))

## Student Services and Advising

University Student Services can be accessed through BuckeyeLink. More information is available here: <https://contactbuckeyelink.osu.edu/>

Advising resources for students are available here: <http://advising.osu.edu>

## Copyright for instructional materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

## Statement on Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)



## Commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and Cherokee peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greenville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. I/We want to honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.

More information on OSU's land acknowledgement can be found here:

<https://mcc.osu.edu/about-us/land-acknowledgement>

## Your mental health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learn, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, on-demand resources are available at [go.osu.edu/ccsondemand](https://go.osu.edu/ccsondemand). You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614- 292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). The Ohio State Wellness app is also a great resource available at [go.osu.edu/wellnessapp](https://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp).

## ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

### Requesting accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions, please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

- Canvas accessibility ([go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility))

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Refer to the Carmen course for up-to-date assignment due dates.

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 9, 11, 13	Introductions, Normative <i>versus</i> Descriptive Theories and Models
		<b>Unit 1: What is rationality? What is the role of rationality in ethics?</b>
2	Jan 16, 18, 20	<p><b>Choice, Actions, and Goals</b></p> <p>Monday class canceled for MLK Day</p> <p>Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i>, pages 6-35</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday</p> <p>Reply post due after class on Friday</p>
3	Jan 23, 25, 27	<p><b><i>Homo Economicus</i> and Its Discontents</b></p> <p>Read: Becker, "The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior" (1993) and David Gauthier, "Compliance: Maximization Constrained" from <i>Morals by Agreement</i> (1986)</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday</p> <p>Reply post due after class on Friday</p>

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4	Jan 30, Feb 1, 3	<p><b>Idealization and Autonomy</b></p> <p>Read: Karen Jones, "Gender and Rationality" from <i>OHR</i> (2004) and Onora O'Neill, "Kant: Rationality as Practical Reason" from <i>OHR</i> (2004)</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday</p>
5	Feb 6, 8, 10	Wrap Up, Review, and Unit 1 Exam
		<b>Unit 2: Individual Choice</b>
6	Feb 13, 15, 17	<p><b>Utility</b></p> <p>Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i>, pages 36-51</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday</p>
7	Feb 20, 22, 24	<p><b>Efficiency and Contract</b></p> <p>Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i>, pages 82-111</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday</p>
8	Feb 27, Mar 1, 3	<p><b>Emotions and the Law</b></p> <p>Read: Patricia Greenspan, "Practical Reasoning and Emotion" from <i>OHR</i> (2004) and Claire Finkelstein, "Legal Theory and the Rational Actor" from <i>OHR</i> (2004)</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday</p>
9	Mar 2, 8, 10	Wrap Up, Review, and Unit 2 Exam
	Mar 13-17	Spring Break ~ No Classes
		<b>Unit 3: Social Choice</b>
10	Mar 20, 22, 24	<p><b>Foundations of Game Theory</b></p> <p>Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i>, pages 112-140</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday</p>
11	Mar 27, 29, 31	<p><b>Mixed Strategies</b></p> <p>Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i>, pages 140-158</p> <p>Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday</p>

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	Apr 3, 5, 7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Norms</b></p> Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i> , pages 192-218 Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday
13	Apr 10, 12, 14	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collective Action</b></p> Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i> , pages 220-265 Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday
14	Apr 17, 19, 21	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Choice, Democracy and Justice</b></p> Read: Gaus and Thrasher <i>PPE</i> , pages 266-299 Elster, "The market and the forum" Original post due before class on Wednesday Reply post due after class on Friday
15	Apr 22	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Review and Conclusions</b></p>
	Apr 24-30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final Exam</b> during Registrar scheduled time</p>

**Re: request for concurrence on new course in rational choice**

Peck, Jim &lt;peck.33@osu.edu&gt;

Mon 2/14/2022 2:12 PM

To: Shuster, Amy &lt;shuster.67@osu.edu&gt;

Hi Amy,

We have no concerns about this.

Best wishes,  
JimJames Peck  
Professor and Chair, Department of Economics  
The Ohio State University

---

**From:** Shuster, Amy <shuster.67@osu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:55 AM  
**To:** Peck, Jim <peck.33@osu.edu>  
**Subject:** request for concurrence on new course in rational choice

Dear Jim (if I may),

The Philosophy Department would like to propose a new course that eventually will contribute to the PPE program, and I write to obtain your concurrence.

PPE has a methods requirement and students are experiencing some difficulty in promptly completing this requirement due to a lack of seats in available courses. We have a 5000-level course that satisfies this requirement (PHILOS 5540: Theory of Rational Choice), but that course is not ideal for this purpose as it is more advanced than PPE students need at that moment in their undergrad career. Therefore, we created the attached course. If this new course gets approved, then we will rename PHILOS 5540 "Advanced Philosophy of Rational Choice".

We are also seeking a concurrence from Political Science.

Given that we would like to offer this in Spring 2023, we hope to hear back from you soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheers,  
Amy



**Amy L. Shuster, PhD**

Academic Program Specialist

Associated Faculty Member

**Department of Philosophy**

230 N. Oval Mall

314F University Hall

Columbus, OH 43210

1-614-688-0715 Office

[shuster.67@osu.edu](mailto:shuster.67@osu.edu) / [philosophy.osu.edu](http://philosophy.osu.edu)

Pronouns: they/them/theirs or she/her/hers

*Buckeyes consider the environment before printing.*

**RE: request for concurrence on new course: intro to philosophy of rational choice**

Caldeira, Gregory &lt;caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu&gt;

Tue 2/8/2022 12:51 PM

To: Kogan, Vladimir &lt;kogan.18@osu.edu&gt;; Acs, Alex &lt;acs.1@osu.edu&gt;; Shuster, Amy &lt;shuster.67@osu.edu&gt;

Cc: Smith, Charles William &lt;smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu&gt;

Dear Amy,

You have our concurrence in your course on the philosophy of rational choice.

Greg

---

**From:** Kogan, Vladimir <kogan.18@osu.edu>**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 9:35 PM**To:** Caldeira, Gregory <caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu>; Acs, Alex <acs.1@osu.edu>**Cc:** Smith, Charles William <smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu>**Subject:** RE: request for concurrence on new course: intro to philosophy of rational choice

Definitely!

---

**From:** Caldeira, Gregory <[caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu)>**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 9:35 PM**To:** Acs, Alex <[acs.1@osu.edu](mailto:acs.1@osu.edu)>; Kogan, Vladimir <[kogan.18@osu.edu](mailto:kogan.18@osu.edu)>**Cc:** Smith, Charles William <[smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu)>**Subject:** RE: request for concurrence on new course: intro to philosophy of rational choice

Dear Alex

Thanks.

Charles, Vlad: concur with course?

Greg

Greg

---

**From:** Acs, Alex <[acs.1@osu.edu](mailto:acs.1@osu.edu)>**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 4:27 PM**To:** Caldeira, Gregory <[caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu)>; Kogan, Vladimir <[kogan.18@osu.edu](mailto:kogan.18@osu.edu)>**Cc:** Smith, Charles William <[smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu)>**Subject:** Re: request for concurrence on new course: intro to philosophy of rational choice

Hi Greg,

Sounds like she is referring to my course, though I can't make heads or tails of what she means by "the Political Science course assumes one theory of rationality." Anyhow, I'm fine with whatever Philosophy has in mind. The course looks interesting, and the use of Gerald Gaus's new book throughout the proposed syllabus seems like a great way to go.

Best,  
Alex

**From:** Caldeira, Gregory <[caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu)>  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:03 PM  
**To:** Kogan, Vladimir <[kogan.18@osu.edu](mailto:kogan.18@osu.edu)>, Acs, Alex <[acs.1@osu.edu](mailto:acs.1@osu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Smith, Charles William <[smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** FW: request for concurrence on new course: intro to philosophy of rational choice

Dear Alex, Vlad, and Charles:

See the attached email and syllabus. Alex: I gather that she is talking about your course. Greg

---

**From:** Shuster, Amy <[shuster.67@osu.edu](mailto:shuster.67@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:01 PM  
**To:** Caldeira, Gregory <[caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:caldeira.1@polisci.osu.edu)>; Kogan, Vladimir <[kogan.18@osu.edu](mailto:kogan.18@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** request for concurrence on new course: intro to philosophy of rational choice

Dear Greg and Vlad (if I may),

Philosophy would like to propose a new course that eventually will contribute to the PPE program, and I write to obtain your concurrence.

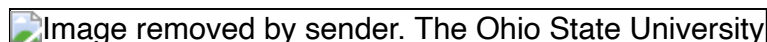
PPE has a methods requirement and students are experiencing some difficulty in promptly completing this requirement due to a lack of seats in available courses. We have a 5000-level course that satisfies this requirement (PHILOS 5540: Theory of Rational Choice), but that course is not ideal for this purpose as it is more advanced than PPE students need at that moment in their undergrad career. Therefore, we created the attached course. We are aware that Political Science already offers a similar course at this level, but we hope you will see that we aim to emphasize the philosophical (rather than institutional) questions that lie behind many of the same topics. For instance, the Political Science course assumes one theory of rationality (e.g. that individuals are welfare maximizers), whereas this new course will offer a range of ways of making sense of rationality. If this new course gets approved, then we will rename PHILOS 5540 "Advanced Philosophy of Rational Choice".

We are also seeking a concurrence from Economics.

Given that we would like to offer this in Spring 2023, we hope to hear back from you soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheers,  
Amy



**Amy L. Shuster, PhD**

Academic Program Specialist

Associated Faculty Member

Department of Philosophy

230 N. Oval Mall

314F University Hall

Columbus, OH 43210

1-614-688-0715 Office

[shuster.67@osu.edu](mailto:shuster.67@osu.edu) / [philosophy.osu.edu](http://philosophy.osu.edu)

Pronouns: they/them/theirs or she/her/hers



*Buckeyes consider the environment before printing.*

# **Philosophy Undergraduate Major Curriculum Map and List of Semester Courses for Major**

Total Required Hours: 30

Phil 2500; gateway seminar; two 3xxx history courses; two 3xxx systematic courses; two 5xxx courses, one additional course at or above the 2xxx level; and two additional courses at or above the 3xxx level.

B = Beginner Level

I = Intermediate Level

A = Advanced Level

Note that, when a course is permitted to have a range of contents (at the discretion of the instructor), the course has been marked as apt to satisfy the full permitted range of undergraduate educational goals.

Required Courses	Course Number	Course Title	Students Develop Critical Thinking about Philosophy	Students Read, Think about, and Write about the History of Philosophy	Students Read, Think, and Write about Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	Students Learn Formal Methods in Logic
(prerequisite)	2500	Symbolic Logic	B			B
	3000	Gateway Seminar	B			
(two of these required)	3210	History of Ancient Philosophy		I		
	3220	History of Medieval Philosophy		I		
	3230	History of 17 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy		I		
	3240	History of 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy		I		
	3250	History of 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy		I		
	3261	Fundamental Concepts of Existentialism		I		
(two of these required)	3300	Moral Philosophy	I	I	I	
	3530	Philosophy of Logic	I		I	I
	3600	Introduction to Philosophy of Language	I		I	
	3650	Philosophy of Science	I		I	
	3700	Introduction to Metaphysics	I		I	
	3750	Introduction to Theory of Knowledge	I		I	
	3800	Introduction to Philosophy of Mind	I		I	
	3810	Philosophy of Action	I		I	
(two of these required)	5193	Individual Studies	A	A	A	A
	5194	Group Studies	A	A	A	A
	5210	Studies in Ancient Philosophy	A	A		
	5211	Plato	A	A		
	5212	Aristotle	A	A		
	5220	Studies in Medieval Philosophy	A	A		
	5230	Studies in 17 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy	A	A		
	5240	Studies in 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy	A	A		
	5241	Kant	A	A		
	5250	Studies in 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy	A	A		
	5260	Studies in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy	A	A		
	5261	Existentialism and Phenomenology	A	A		
	5263	American Philosophy	A	A		
	5300	Advanced Moral Philosophy	A		A	
	5310	Metaethics	A		A	
	5400	Advanced Political and Social Philosophy	A		A	

	5410	Advanced Philosophy of Law	A		A	
	5420	Philosophical Topics in Feminist Theory	A		A	
	5440	Philosophical Perspectives on Race, Education, and Citizenship	A		A	
	5450	Advanced Aesthetic Theory	A		A	
	5460	Philosophy in Literature	A	A	A	
	5500	Advanced Symbolic Logic	A			A
	5510	Nonclassical Logic	A			A
	5520	Inductive Logic and Probability Theory	A			A
	5530	Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics	A		A	
	5540	Advanced Philosophy of Rational Choice	A		A	A
	5550	Advanced Logical Theory	A			A
	5600	Advanced Philosophy of Language	A		A	A
	5610	Natural Language Metaphysics	A		A	B
	5650	Advanced Philosophy of Science	A		A	
	5700	Advanced Metaphysics	A		A	
	5750	Advanced Theory of Knowledge	A		A	
	5797	Study at a Foreign Institution	A	A	A	A
	5800	Advanced Philosophy of Mind	A		A	
	5830	Introduction to Cognitive Science	A		A	
	5840	Advanced Philosophy of Cognitive Science	A		A	
	5850	Philosophy of Religion	A		A	
	5870	Topics in Jewish Philosophy	A	A	A	
	5891	Proseminar in Cognitive Science	A		A	
Elective Courses: Honors Program	Course Number	Course Title	Students Develop Critical Thinking about Philosophy	Students Read, Think, and Write about the History of Philosophy	Students Read, Think, and Write about Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	Students Learn Formal Methods in Logic
	2450H	Honors Philosophical Problems in the Arts	B		B	
	2470H	Honors Philosophy of Film	B		B	
	2900H	Freshman-Sophomore Proseminar	B	B	B	
	3341H	Ethical Conflicts in Health Care Research, Policy, and Practice	I	I	I	
	4900H	Junior-Senior Proseminar	A	A	A	

Elective Courses: General	Course Number	Course Title	Students Develop Critical Thinking about Philosophy	Students Read, Think, and Write about the History of Philosophy	Students Read, Think, and Write about Topics in Contemporary Philosophy	Students Learn Formal Methods in Logic
	2120	Asian Philosophies	B	B		
	2194	Group Studies	B	B	B	B
	2340	The Future of Humanity	B		B	
	2342	Environmental Ethics	B		B	
	2400	Political and Social Philosophy	B		B	
	2450	Philosophical Problems in the Arts	B		B	
	2455	Philosophy and Video Games	B		B	
	2456	Philosophy of Sport	B		B	
	2458	Animals and Philosophy	B		B	
	2465	Death and the Meaning of Life	B	B		
	2500	Symbolic Logic	B			B
	2540	Intro to Philosophy of Rational Choice	B		B	
	2650	Introduction to the Philosophy of Science	B		B	
	2660	Metaphysics, Religion, and Magic in the Scientific Revolution	B	B		
	2670	Science and Religion	B		B	
	2680	Scientific Controversies	B		B	
	2690	Genes and Society	B		B	
	2850	Introduction to Philosophy of Religion	B	B		
	3001	Economy, Polity, and Community	I		I	
	3002	Tradition, Progress, and Utopia	I		I	
	3111	Introduction to Jewish Philosophy	I	I		
	3120	Engaging Time: Philosophical Dimensions of Temporality	I	I	I	
	3260	Movements in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy	I	I		
	3262	Contemporary Continental Thought	I	I		
	3310	Morality and the Mind			I	
	3351	Judaism and Ethics	I		I	
	3410	Philosophical Problems in the Law	I		I	
	3420	Philosophical Perspectives on Issues of Gender	I		I	
	3430	The Philosophy of Sex and Love	I		I	
	3440	Theorizing Race	I		I	
	3680	Philosophy of Biology	I		I	
	3820	Philosophy of Perception	I		I	
	3830	Consciousness			I	

	3870	Jewish Mysticism	I	I	I	
	5010S	Teaching Philosophy	A		A	