

Choosing Electives by Topical Interests

The philosophy major includes 24 units of electives (eight 3-unit courses). At least four of these eight must be 400-level philosophy courses (other than PHIL 497 or PHIL 499). And up to two of these can be upper-division courses from outside the philosophy program, provided that the department chair and advisor approve them. The rest must be other philosophy courses numbered 210 or higher. Beyond these restrictions, which courses you use to satisfy the electives for the major is entirely up to you. The following areas of concentration illustrate some different ways to choose electives depending on your interests. The courses listed below from outside of the philosophy program are pre-approved for use with the major.

Mind, Metaphysics, and Epistemology

PHIL 350 – Epistemology & Metaphysics[†]
 PHIL 355 – Mind & Reality[†]
 PHIL 439 – Phenomenology
 PHIL 450 – Advanced Epistemology & Metaphysics
 PHIL 455 – Advanced Topics in Mind & Reality

Philosophy and Science

PHIL 210 – Reasoning in the Sciences
 PHIL 330 – Philosophy of Science
 PHIL 495 – Advanced Philosophy of the Sciences

Logic, Language, Linguistics, and Reasoning

PHIL 331 – Symbolic Logic II
 PHIL 431 – Philosophical Topics in Logic
 PHIL 445 – Philosophy of Language

Law, Politics, and Society

PHIL 345 – Philosophy & Public Affairs
 PHIL 346 – Social & Political Philosophy[†]
 PHIL 348 – Philosophy & Feminism
 PHIL 360 – Ethical Theory[†]
 PHIL 390 – Philosophy of Law
 PHIL 446 – Advanced Social & Political Philosophy
 POLS 350 – Great Questions in Politics* (GE §D)
 POLS 411 – Greek, Roman, and Medieval Political Theory*
 POLS 412 – Modern Western Political Theory*
 POLS 413 – American Political Thought*
 POLS 414 – Western Political Theory in the 20th Century*
 POLS 450 – Jurisprudence*
 POLS 497A – Constitutional Law I*
 POLS 497B – Constitutional Law II*

Eastern Philosophy

PHIL 343 – Indian Philosophy
 PHIL 344 – Chinese Philosophy
 RS 380 – Asian Religions*
 RS 380 – Asian Religious Texts*
 RS 380 – Hinduism*
 RS 380 – Buddhism*

Ethics and Values

PHIL 301 – Moral Problems in Contemporary Society
 PHIL 303 – Sexual Ethics
 PHIL 305 – Business Ethics and Public Policy
 PHIL 345 – Philosophy & Public Affairs
 PHIL 380 – Aesthetics
 PHIL 460 – Advanced Ethical Theory
 RS 361 – Contemporary Ethical Issues*

Race, Gender, and Sexuality

PHIL 303 – Sexual Ethics
 PHIL 348 – Philosophy & Feminism
 PHIL 496R – Philosophy of Race and Racism

Continental Philosophy

PHIL 341 – Kierkegaard and Nietzsche
 PHIL 342 – Existentialism
 PHIL 439 – Phenomenology

Philosophy and Religion

PHIL 338 – Philosophy of Religion
 PHIL 339 – Philosophical Issues in Religion
 PHIL 341 – Kierkegaard and Nietzsche
 RS 356 – Contemporary Religious Thought* (GE §C.3)
 RS 380 – Asian Religions* (GE §F.2)
 RS 383 – Asian Religious Texts*
 RS 385 – Hinduism* (GE §F.2)
 RS 390 – Buddhism* (GE §F.2)

History of Philosophy

PHIL 318 – American Philosophy
 PHIL 341 – Kierkegaard and Nietzsche
 PHIL 401 – Advanced Ancient Philosophy
 PHIL 402 – Advanced Modern Philosophy
 PHIL 439 – Phenomenology

Other Electives

PHIL 310 – Philosophical Problems
 PHIL 313 – Philosophy of Film and Literature
 PHIL 403 – Contemporary Philosophy

* Students can use at most two courses (6 units) from outside of the philosophy program to fulfill the electives required for the philosophy major.

[†] Only those who are not using this course to satisfy some requirement for the major can take this course as an elective.