

---

## PHILOSOPHY (M.A. & Ph.D.)

---

*Executive Officer:* Professor Iakovos Vasilioi

The Graduate Center

365 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10016

Email: [Philosophy@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:Philosophy@gc.cuny.edu)

URL: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/Philosophy/>

### **FACULTY (AS OF JULY 2009)**

Christa D. Acampora ■ Jonathan E. Adler ■ Sergei Artemov ■ Bernard H. Baumrin ■ Jeffrey Blustein ■ Steven M. Cahn ■ Noel Edward Carroll ■ Samir Chopra ■ Alberto Cordero ■ Omar Dahbour ■ Michael Devitt ■ William James Earle ■ Robert W. Fiengo ■ Melvin Fitting ■ John D. Greenwood ■ Stephen Grover ■ Frank Kirkland ■ John Ian Kleinig ■ Saul Kripke ■ Douglas Lackey ■ Michael E. Levin ■ Richard L. Mendelsohn ■ Emily Michael ■ Barbara Montero ■ James L. Muyskens ■ Stephen Neale ■ Angelica Nuzzo ■ Alex L. Orenstein ■ Nickolas Pappas ■ Rohit Parikh ■ Gerald Alan Press ■ Graham Priest ■ Jesse J. Prinz ■ Rosamond Rhodes ■ David M. Rosenthal ■ Steven L. Ross ■ Sibyl A. Schwarzenbach ■ Peter Simpson ■ Patricia Smith ■ Iakovos Vasilioi ■ Catherine Wilson

*For the most up-to-date faculty listings and specializations, see the program's Web site.*

### **THE PROGRAM**

The Graduate Program in Philosophy offers instruction at the Graduate Center leading to the M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees. The program is designed to provide students with a sound general training in the history of ancient and modern philosophy and in the main areas of philosophical inquiry.

#### *The M.A. Degree*

The M.A. program is intended to serve a number of purposes: to lay a general foundation for more advanced and specialized work at the doctoral level; to provide philosophical training of interdisciplinary relevance for students who intend to work in other scholarly areas or in business or the professions; to provide training to those who wish to pursue general philosophical studies beyond the baccalaureate level either for reasons of personal development or because they wish to teach in secondary schools or community colleges. There is a specialization within the M.A., "Ethics in Society," for those who want to concentrate on applied ethics, professional ethics, and ethics in practice.

#### *The Ph.D. Degree*

The Ph.D. program is intended for those who aspire to careers in teaching and research in philosophy at the college and university level. Degree requirements can be adjusted in individual

---

cases to permit the student to work in related fields. The program encourages well-thought-out interdisciplinary work for its own sake and for the professional opportunities it may provide.

### ***En-route M.A.***

Upon completing 45 credits with an average grade of B, passing the First Examination, and satisfactorily completing a major research paper, a doctoral student may apply for an en-route M.A. degree. Those seeking an en-route master's degree should have the Executive Officer initiate the appropriate action.

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION**

In addition to meeting the general University requirements for admission stated earlier in this bulletin, the student's undergraduate preparation should ordinarily include at least 18 credits in approved courses in Philosophy for admission to the Ph.D. program and at least 15 credits for admission to the M.A. Exception: the requirement for those specializing in Ethics in Society is at least 9 credits. The Committee on Admissions may waive all or part of this requirement in special cases (e.g., a strong major in a related field).

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS**

The student must follow a program of study approved by an adviser, including a minimum of 40 credits in graduate courses.

These courses must be distributed in the following manner: one course in the history of philosophy; one course from each of the following categories: logic and the philosophy of science; metaphysics and epistemology; ethics, aesthetics, and related areas. Up to two courses may be taken in a related program. These courses must contribute to a coherent program and must be approved by the Executive Officer.

In the Ethics in Society specialization the courses must be distributed in the following manner: three courses in ethics in society; one course in ethical theory; one course in political philosophy; one course in the history of philosophy; one course in either of the categories of logic and the philosophy of science, or metaphysics and epistemology. Three courses may be taken in a related program. These courses must contribute to a coherent program and must be approved by the Executive Officer.

No more than 12 credits may be transferred from other programs. No transfer credits will be approved until the student completes four courses with at least a B average. The Executive Officer will determine how many credits the student may transfer.

The student must also write a master's thesis. In the Ethics in Society specialization the thesis must be in the area of ethics in society.

There is no language requirement.

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

In addition to the general University requirements stated earlier in this bulletin, the student must meet the following special requirements in Philosophy.

*Course of Study* A minimum of 60 graduate credits (not including dissertation research) are required for the degree. Up to 15 of these credits may, with the adviser's approval, be taken

in related fields. For students admitted to the program with a master's degree in philosophy, a minimum of 30 credits are required, of which 6 credits may be in related fields.

*Core Courses* There are specially designated core courses. A core course, which is not of seminar format, is designed to prepare the student for advanced and detailed work in the area. Core courses in the following areas are offered regularly: (a) ethics, (b) metaphysics, (c) epistemology, (d) logic, (e) philosophy of science, (f) philosophy of language, (g) philosophy of mind, (h) aesthetics, (i) social and political philosophy.

Six core courses are required as follows: (a) through (c) are required. One course from the group (e), (f), and (g) is required, and one course from the group (h) and (i) is required. These requirements may be adjusted by the Executive Officer in case of students following special and/or interdisciplinary programs. Core courses or equivalents will be prerequisites for certain seminars and advanced courses. Instructors will set prerequisites.

*Logic* Knowledge of the fundamentals of logic will be demonstrated by passing (with a B+ or better) the required logic core course. This requirement may also be satisfied by passing an examination in logic and will be waived for a student who satisfactorily completes an advanced course in logic with a B+ or better.

*Comprehensive Examinations* Comprehensive examinations will be offered in the following four areas of philosophy: (1) metaphysics or epistemology; (2) ethics or political and social philosophy; (3) philosophy of language, or philosophy of science, or philosophy of mind; and (4) history of philosophy.

Students are required to demonstrate competence in two of these four areas by successful completion of written examinations (in areas to be chosen by students). In each remaining area, students may choose to demonstrate competence either by successful completion of a written examination or by successful completion of two advanced courses in that area (with a grade of B+ or better).

*First Examination* Students are judged to have passed the First Examination upon satisfaction of the logic requirement and successful completion of the two required written comprehensive examinations.

*Second Examination* Students are judged to have passed the Second Examination upon successful completion of the remaining two comprehensive examinations.

*Foreign Language and Research Techniques* The program has no general language requirement for the doctorate. When a student's dissertation prospectus committee determines that the topic of the dissertation requires the student to be able to read material in a foreign language, however, the committee will determine the method of satisfying that requirement.

*Dissertation* A dissertation prospectus prepared under the supervision of a faculty member must be approved by a committee of the faculty before the student is advanced to candidacy. After the dissertation has been approved by a dissertation supervisory committee, it must be defended before a committee of the doctoral faculty in a public oral examination.

---

## Courses

Unless otherwise stated, all courses are 30 hours plus conferences, 4 credits.

---

***Lecture Courses and Seminars***

Topics for these lecture courses and seminars will be announced in advance.

PHIL 70500-70900 Lectures on Special Topics

*Variable hours, 1–3 credits*

PHIL 72000 Logic

PHIL 76000-76400 Seminars in the History of Philosophy

PHIL 76500-76900 Seminars in Logic and the Philosophy of Science

PHIL 77000-77400 Seminars in Metaphysics and Epistemology

PHIL 77500-77900 Seminars in Ethics, Aesthetics, and Related Areas

PHIL 78500-78900 Seminars in Contemporary Philosophical Issues

PHIL 80000-81900 Advanced Seminars

***Interdisciplinary Seminar***

IDS 80100\* History and Philosophy of Social Sciences

*Offered jointly by the Ph.D. Programs in History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.*

***Independent Study and Dissertation***

PHIL 79000 Readings in Philosophy

*Variable credit*

PHIL 88000 Research for the Doctoral Dissertation

*Variable credit*

PHIL 89000 Seminar on Teaching Philosophy

*Variable hours, 1– 3 credits*

PHIL 89009 Seminar on Teaching Philosophy

*Variable hours, 0 credits*

PHIL 90000 Dissertation Supervision

*1 credit*

\*offered infrequently