Philosophy

The name of philosophy translates literally to 'love of wisdom.' Wisdom, as opposed to any sort of specialized knowledge, is the ability to discern what sorts of knowledge and skills lead to a better life for individuals and communities. The pursuit a good life requires individuals and communities to subject their priorities to careful scrutiny. Philosophy promotes a thoughtful engagement with the world around us through a careful analysis of the problems that confront us on a daily basis.

Bemidji State University's philosophy program emphasizes the history of philosophy and applied ethics. We examine closely how current debates in politics, law, religion, and the arts are grounded in longstanding theoretical debates. In our program, students are taught to read, write, and speak on those debates. In this way, students will develop knowledge and skills applicable to public service, law school, human rights, public policy, the arts, and religious leadership training.

Programs

- Philosophy, B.A. *major*
- Philosophy, B.A. (Pre Law Emphasis) *major*
- Philosophy *minor*

Career Directions

Business
Communications
Government
Higher Education
Law
Ministry
Nonprofit Organizations
Public Service
Also: Graduate Study

Preparation

Recommended High School Courses

Critical Thinking
Humanities
Science
Debate Recommended Activity

Philosophy, B.A. *major*

Required Credits: 39
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED COURSES

REQUIRED CORE COURSES:

- PHIL 2220 Ethics (3 credits)
- PHIL 2230 Logic (3 credits)

HISTORY CYCLE: COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

COMPLETE 21 ELECTIVE CREDITS (AT LEAST 15 CREDITS MUST BE PHIL ELECTIVES. UP TO 6 CREDITS OF ELECTIVES MAY BE TAKEN FROM THE LISTED NON-PHIL COURSES:

- PHIL 1100 Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 2240 Aesthetics (3 credits)
- PHIL 2250 Human Nature (3 credits)
- PHIL 2260 Women and Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 2290 Topics or Philosophers (3 credits)
- PHIL 2310 Philosophy in Literature (3 credits)
- PHIL 2330 Philosophies of Non-Violence (3 credits)
- PHIL 2400 The American Mind (3 credits)
- PHIL 2925 People of the Environment: Environmental Ethics Perspective (3 credits)
- PHIL 2954 Study-Travel, Humanities and the Arts (1-6 credits)
- PHIL 3360 Asian Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3390 Marxist Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 4490 Close Readings in Philosophy (1-3 credits)

SELECT UP TO 6 CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING IN CONSULTATION WITH PROGRAM DIRECTORS.

Note: Some courses below require pre-requisites that are not part of this program.

- ANTH 1110 Cultural Anthropology (3 credits)
- ARTH 2551 Art History Survey I (4 credits)
- ARTH 2552 Art History Survey II (4 credits)
- ENGL 2350 American Literature, to 1865 (3 credits)
- ENGL 2355 American Literature, 1865 to Present (3 credits)
- HST 2799 Religion in America (3 credits)
- HST 3208 Greece and Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- INST 2201 Creation to Contact (3 credits)
- INST 4207 Indigenous Philosophy (3 credits)
- INST 4900 Social Justice (3 credits)
- LEAD 3500 Theories and Contexts of Leadership (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)
- PSY 3367 Social Psychology (3 credits)
- PSY 3437 Cognitive Psychology (3 credits)
- SOC 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)
- SOC 2230 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)

Philosophy, B.A. *major*
Pre Law Emphasis

Required Credits: 39
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED COURSES

REQUIRED CORE COURSES:

- PHIL 2220 Ethics (3 credits)
- PHIL 2230 Logic (3 credits)

HISTORY CYCLE: COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

COMPLETE 21 ELECTIVE CREDITS (AT LEAST 15 CREDITS MUST BE PHIL ELECTIVES. UP TO 6 CREDITS OF ELECTIVES MAY BE TAKEN FROM THE LISTED NON-PHIL COURSES:

- PHIL 2330 Philosophies of Non-Violence (3 credits)
- PHIL 2400 The American Mind (3 credits)
- PHIL 2954 Study-Travel, Humanities and the Arts (1-6 credits)
- PHIL 2925 People of the Environment: Environmental Ethics Perspective (3 credits)
- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 4490 Close Readings in Philosophy (1-3 credits)

NON-PHILOSOPHY COURES:

- HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
- INST 4900 Social Justice (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)
- SOC 2230 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)

SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE
FOR PHILOSOPHY MAJOR, B.S. PRE-LAW EMPHASIS

Students will be able to complete their major requirements in 2-3 years. This will allow students to participate in the BSU-Mitchell Hamline School of Law 3+3 Pre-Law Articulation.

Freshman

- PHIL 2220 Ethics (3 credits)
- PHIL 2230 Logic (3 credits)
- PHIL elective

Sophomore

- PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL elective
- PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL elective

Junior/Senior

- PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL elective
- PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL elective

Philosophy *minor*

Required Credits: 18
Required GPA: 2.00

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 2220 Ethics (3 credits)
- PHIL 2230 Logic (3 credits)

II REQUIRED COURSES IN THE HISTORY OF PHILISOPHY

SELECT 6 CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3360 Asian Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)

III REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 6 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM PHILOSOPHY COURSES

Philosophy Courses

PHIL 1100 Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)
Introduction to a variety of philosophical issues and the philosophers, past and present, who have tried to resolve them. Selection of readings and approach vary with instructor. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

PHIL 2220 Ethics (3 credits)
Introduction to the philosophical treatment of selected moral issues; alternative theories of ethical right and wrong, good and bad will also be addressed. Liberal Education Goal Area(s) 6 & 9.

PHIL 2230 Logic (3 credits)
Methods of distinguishing between correct and incorrect reasoning. Special emphasis on deductive reasoning and informal fallacies. Liberal Education Goal Area 4.

PHIL 2240 Aesthetics (3 credits)
Philosophical problems involved in judgment and experience of beauty and ugliness in nature and art of various kinds. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

PHIL 2250 Human Nature (3 credits)
Various views of the nature of human beings. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area(s) 6 & 8.

PHIL 2260 Women and Philosophy (3 credits)
A historical survey of the views of patriarchal and feminist thinkers from Plato to the present. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

PHIL 2290 Topics or Philosophers (3 credits)
Study of a philosophical subject or movement or a philosopher or group of philosophers, as announced in the schedule. Might not be offered every year.

PHIL 2310 Philosophy in Literature (3 credits)
Exploration of a variety of literary texts with an emphasis on the philosophical issues they raise. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

PHIL 2330 Philosophies of Non-Violence (3 credits)
Philosophical foundations of non-violent conflict resolution as they have been articulated in a variety of historical and cultural contexts. Questions regarding moral, political, and religious values, as well as related metaphysical and epistemological issues, will be addressed. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 9.

PHIL 2400 The American Mind (3 credits)
The American Mind acquaints students with American philosophical traditions, emphasizing the diversity of views on topics such as freedom, knowledge, faith, peace, and "the American dream". The specific themes of the course will be up to the instructor, but the current relevance of debates in American philosophy will be the focus. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 9.

PHIL 2925 People of the Environment: Environmental Ethics Perspective (3 credits)
The purpose of this section of People of the Environment is to examine our moral obligations to the environment. No matter how strong these moral obligations may be, the only way to follow through with them is in the political arena. This course is therefore largely devoted to exploring the intersection of environmental ethics and politics. The course explores a number of environmental issues, the theoretical and practical impasses of the environmental movement, and environmental philosophy, as well as the challenge of mitigating global climate change. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

PHIL 2954 Study-Travel, Humanities and the Arts (1-6 credits)
Study-Travel course in Philiosophy for Lib Ed Goal Area 6.

PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)
History of European philosophy from Thales to William of Occam. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
Historical survey of 17th and 18th century European philosophy. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)
History of European philosophy from Hegel to Nietzsche. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 6.

PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)
This course covers the major movements in twentieth-century Western philosophy, including contemporary analytic philosophy and continental philosophy. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 7.

PHIL 3360 Asian Philosophy (3 credits)
Historical survey of influential philosophies and philosophers of Asia. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)
Various philosophical views on the nature of human society and the state. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 9.

PHIL 3390 Marxist Philosophy (3 credits)
An in-depth introduction to the philosophical perspective of Marxism as it originally developed and as it has been subsequently interpreted and applied from the latter 19th century to the present. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 8.

PHIL 4490 Close Readings in Philosophy (1-3 credits)
In this course students will practice a close reading of a single text over the course of the semester. We will pay very close attention to the author's strategic choice of vocabulary. We will become attentive to the thinkers to whom the philosopher responds, as well as the historical and philosophical influences that shape the ideas presented in the text. We will move slowly through each paragraph, thinking carefully about the practical implications of each element of the theory in question, as well as the theory as a whole. Topics will vary from semester to semester.

All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY
1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE
1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE
1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR
1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION
1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP
1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH
1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS