The Faculty takes very seriously its responsibilities to ensure that its students are ‘work ready’ and able to compete for good graduate traineeships.

To that end we have established a scheme with a range of business partners which include some of Australia’s largest banks, telecommunications, venture capital, insurance, consulting and executive recruitment firms, to give our humanities students the opportunity to undertake a series of specially tailored work placements with these companies.

Associate Professor Richard Miles
Head of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, Director, ArtSS Career-Ready
I am delighted that you are considering the study of Philosophy at the University of Sydney. We’re very proud of our Department. We have leading thinkers in a wide range of areas of Philosophy. No Philosophy department in the southern hemisphere is more highly regarded for its research and teaching, and we have the greatest range and diversity of any of them. We strive to provide you with a rich and varied array of units taught by dedicated and enthusiastic scholars whose outstanding research informs our teaching at every level. Our aim is to excite, provoke, and stimulate you to reflect and argue insightfully about almost anything. We offer the study of both classic and novel approaches to philosophical matters from the great philosophers of the past to cutting-edge developments, in ethics, logic, epistemology, metaphysics and aesthetics.

Philosophy is about learning to think for yourself. The intellectual autonomy of philosophy doesn’t just come from having ideas that you call your own – it comes from having ideas that you understand well enough to make them your own. The wider you extend the range of your intellectual autonomy, the more philosophical you will be. Our department seeks to provide the sort of curriculum and training that will foster such development. We ask difficult, often counter-intuitive, questions and don't mind if the first question leads to further even more difficult questions! Philosophy at Sydney is a diverse and welcoming community and we extend a warm invitation to you to join us in critical reflection and debate.

Students of philosophy can expect radical improvements in their abilities to speak and write clearly, logically, and convincingly. These skills, along with the quintessential philosophical bent for independent thought, are powerful aids to future success in any profession. Philosophy at the University of Sydney has an enviable record of placing its students in excellent graduate schools and academic positions. Our former students work in areas as diverse as law, education, government, NGOs, the private sector, and the arts. The broad skills you will acquire in philosophy are highly transferable to many desirable professions. Finally—and as many who have studied philosophy in a serious manner will know—a brief acquaintance with philosophy can turn into a lifelong love for an endlessly fascinating and loyal companion.

Associate Professor Nick Smith
Chair, Department of Philosophy
WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy explores fundamental and important questions such as ‘What is consciousness?’, ‘Are we free agents?’, ‘What makes an action right or wrong?’, ‘How should we live?’, ‘What is truth?’ and ‘Can we reconcile the scientific picture of the world with our ordinary experience?’

Philosophy has a complex relationship to other disciplines: it draws on results from those disciplines and sometimes creates and then spins off whole new disciplines; but always, Philosophy formulates and explores questions that are of fundamental importance to us as human beings and which no other discipline is equipped to answer.

Learning to think philosophically about things that perplex us develops a disciplined capacity for critical reflection that will dramatically enhance your reading, writing and communication skills. Studying philosophy will teach you how to engage with different views in a robust but constructive manner. The value of this skill in any walk of life is inestimable.

Philosophy at Sydney

The philosophy department at the University of Sydney is part of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI). The Department is internationally renowned. Your teachers are regularly invited to prestigious national and international conferences. They are passionate about teaching and have interests in all areas of philosophy, including the history of ancient and early modern philosophy, the philosophy of mind, logic, aesthetics, ethics, philosophy of science, political philosophy, and critical theory, as well as many other areas that you will find listed in this guide. Sydney philosophers compose a lively research community with several seminars on offer each week. We have built strong networks with philosophers in the UK, Europe, Canada, North America, and Asia, and each year we host a number of academic visitors from overseas. Students are welcome to join this network and to attend departmental seminars, conferences, and other special research events.

Philosophy and your career

Philosophical skills are highly valuable in any career that puts a premium on independence of thought, superior communication, and the exercise of evaluative and evidentiary skills. Training in philosophy is therefore highly valued by a range of professions including business, law, journalism, politics and education.
What do we teach?

The Department of Philosophy offers an extensive choice of units of study in a broad range of areas. Philosophy at Sydney begins with an introduction to most of the major branches of the discipline. In the junior units (PHIL1011, PHIL1012, and PHIL1013) students are introduced to some fundamental philosophical issues about the nature of reality (metaphysics), how one should live (ethics), what kinds of human productions have value (aesthetics), how to reason well (logic), theories of society and the state (political philosophy), theories of the self (identity), and the criteria for knowledge (epistemology). Later years continue a more in-depth study of these issues in the many units that populate our three programs. These programs are: the History of Philosophy; Epistemology, Metaphysics and Logic; and Aesthetics, Ethics and Political Philosophy. Later senior-intermediate and senior-advanced units of study are chosen from a range of options, some of which rotate from one year to the next. In senior-intermediate units students are able to pursue their interests in a more concentrated and detailed way and in senior-advanced units the topic is intensively studied. For those students wishing to continue the study of philosophy at a higher level, a fourth year of study (Honours) is available to qualified students. In their Honours year students take a number of special Honours units of study as well as conducting specialised research resulting in a written thesis that is supervised by a member of staff. Some philosophy units are also available as elective units of study in other Departments.

Undergraduate program

Junior units

There are three junior units of study, each worth 6 credit points:

- PHIL1011  Reality, Ethics and Beauty (semester 1)
- PHIL1012  Introductory Logic (semester 2)
- PHIL1013  Society, Knowledge and Self (semester 2)

You can do any one, any two, or all three of these junior units. The normal requirement for entry to senior-intermediate and senior-advanced philosophy units is 12 junior credit points in philosophy, and for units with this prerequisite the combination of any two of the above is sufficient. (If you have completed PHIL1016 Mind and Morality HSC, this can be counted as equivalent to PHIL1011; and you may apply for special permission to do a senior-intermediate Philosophy unit in first semester.)

Senior-intermediate and senior-advanced units

The following senior-intermediate (2000 level) and senior-advanced (3000 level) units of study will be available in 2017. All are worth 6 credit points. Units with the same title cannot be taken at both the 2000 and the 3000 level. 36 credit points at senior-intermediate and senior-advanced levels constitute a major in Philosophy. The standard pattern of progression through a philosophy major will comprise a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 junior units; a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 senior-intermediate units; and a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 4 senior-advanced units. The Philosophy Department strongly recommends that students complete at least 6 credit points from each of the three Philosophy programs. How you select units for your major is partly up to you but a forward plan of your course of study in years two and three is advisable. Do not hesitate to approach your lecturer if you need advice about how to construct your major.
History of Philosophy program
- PHIL2605 Early Modern Theories of Perception
- PHIL2607 Eighteenth Century French Philosophy
- PHIL2614 The Presocratics
- PHIL2626 Philosophy and Psychoanalysis
- PHIL2629 Descartes and Continental Philosophy
- PHIL2646 Philosophy and Literature
- PHIL2660 Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein
- PHIL2665 Philosophy of Economics
- PHIL2671 Locke and Natural Philosophy
- PHIL2675 Existentialism
- PHIL3651 Emotions and Embodied Cognition

Epistemology, Metaphysics and Logic program
- PHIL2611 Problems of Empiricism
- PHIL2615 Logic and Proof
- PHIL2620 Probability and Decision Theory
- PHIL2622 Reality, Time & Possibility: Metaphysics
- PHIL2632 Modernity in Crisis
- PHIL2642 Critical Thinking
- PHIL2667 From Illusion to Reality
- PHIL2670 Philosophy of Science
- PHIL2672 Time and Space
- PHIL2677 How Biology Matters to Philosophy
- PHIL3615 Contemporary Pragmatism
- PHIL3662 Reality, Time & Possibility: Metaphysics Advanced
- PHIL3673 Fundamentality

Aesthetics, Ethics and Political Philosophy program
- PHIL2617 Practical Ethics
- PHIL2623 Moral Psychology
- PHIL2635 Contemporary Political Philosophy
- PHIL2640 Environmental Philosophy
- PHIL2645 Philosophy of Law
- PHIL2647 The Philosophy of Happiness
- PHIL2655 Philosophical Ethics
- PHIL2661 Philosophy of Sex
- PHIL2663 Justice
- PHIL2676 Democracy and Voting
- PHIL3617 Practical Ethics Advanced
- PHIL3647 The Philosophy of Happiness Advanced
- PHIL3655 Philosophical Ethics Advanced
- PHIL3663 Justice Advanced
About the major

Philosophy is a very broad subject, and in a Philosophy major at Sydney you will have the opportunity to range widely across this subject and to dig deeply into particular issues that interest you.

Pathway through the major

A major in Philosophy requires at least 36 senior credit points from the unit of study table including at least 6 credit points at 3000 level.

The units of study for the major can be found in the Table A unit of study table (in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Handbook) for Philosophy. The table shows units of study on offer in the current handbook year. You will find information regarding a full list of units of study available to the major on the departmental website.

Junior units of study (1000 level)

Junior units of study provide an overview of the major branches of the discipline, including metaphysics (the nature of reality), epistemology (the nature of knowledge), ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy and logic. You complete 12 junior credit points from a choice of three units of study offered in first year.

Senior units of study (2000 and 3000 level)

You can choose senior-intermediate (2000 level) units based on your own interests. These units allow you to look at more specific topics and develop a working understanding of philosophical methodology, including techniques of critical thinking and cogent argumentation. 2000 level units will introduce you to more detailed content in the various areas of philosophy. 2000 level units prepare you for 3000 level units by giving training in reading and understanding philosophical texts, identifying philosophical problems and assessing proposed answers to these problems, and identifying the various respects in which arguments can be good or bad and distinguishing good arguments from bad ones. You complete at least 12 credit points at 2000 level before enrolling in a 3000 level unit of study.
Senior-advanced (3000 level) units are also chosen based on your own interests and allow you to look further at specific topics. These units invite you to engage deeply in the relevant debates. Senior units continue to introduce more detailed content in the various areas of philosophy, and in these units, you will critically engage with philosophical texts, formulate philosophical problems and answers to these problems, and through this process gain a deep knowledge of the areas of philosophy covered by the units taken. You complete at least 6 credit points at 3000 level.

**Honours**

Applicants will need an average of 70 or above in 48 senior credit points of Philosophy. Meeting the minimum entry requirements does not guarantee you entry into the Honours program. Honours places can only be granted where there is supervisory capacity.

### Philosophy Pathway

There are many ways to structure the Bachelor of Arts degree. The following diagram provides an example of how students enrolled full-time in a Bachelor of Arts (ie 24 credit points per semester) over 3 years, completing one major, might structure their degree in order to major in Philosophy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL = 144</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You complete two junior Philosophy units</th>
<th>First Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>Philosophy Junior Pre-req Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>Philosophy Junior Pre-req Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You must complete 6 units of study at senior level, including at least one 3000 level unit.</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>Philosophy Major Senior Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>Philosophy Major Senior Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Third Year | S1                                      | Philosophy Major Senior Unit | Arts (Table A) Senior Unit Choice | Arts (Table A or B) Senior Unit Choice | Arts (Table A or B) Senior Unit Choice |
| S2                                      | Philosophy Major Senior Unit | Philosophy Major Senior Unit | Arts (Table A or B) Senior Unit Choice | Arts (Table A or B) Senior Unit Choice |

### Philosophy Pathway

There are many ways to structure the Bachelor of Arts degree. The following diagram provides an example of how students enrolled full-time in a Bachelor of Arts (ie 24 credit points per semester) over 3 years, completing one major, might structure their degree in order to major in Philosophy.
### Units of study in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL1011 Reality, Ethics and Beauty</td>
<td>PHIL1012 Introductory Logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL2607 Eighteenth Century French Philosophy</td>
<td>PHIL1013 Society, Knowledge and Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL2622 Reality, Time &amp; Possibility: Metaphysics</td>
<td>PHIL2605 Early Modern Theories of Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL2623 Moral Psychology</td>
<td>PHIL2611 Problems of Empiricism</td>
</tr>
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<td>PHIL2671 Locke &amp; Natural Philosophy</td>
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<td>PHIL2672 Time and Space</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PHIL2676 Democracy and Voting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMER SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td><strong>WINTER SCHOOL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL2617 Practical Ethics</td>
<td>PHIL1012 Introductory Logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL2647 Philosophy of Happiness</td>
<td>PHIL2642 Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Junior units of study

PHIL1011 Reality, Ethics and Beauty

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Dalia Nassar  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: Tutorial participation (10%), 1x2000wd Essay (30%), on-line quizzes (10%), 1x2hr exam (50%)  Prohibitions: PHIL1003 or PHIL1004 or PHIL1006 or PHIL1008

This unit is an introduction to central issues in metaphysics, ethics and aesthetics. It opens with general questions about reality, God, personal identity and free will. The middle section of the unit will consider questions about values, goodness and responsibility. The final part is concerned with the question “what is art”, the nature of aesthetic judgment and the role of art in our lives.

PHIL1012 Introductory Logic

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2, Winter  Coordinator: Nick Smith  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: Tutorial participation (10%), 2x assignments (40%) and 1x2hr exam (50%)

An introduction to modern logic: the investigation of the laws of truth. One essential aspect of good reasoning or argumentation is that it is valid; it cannot lead from true premises to a false conclusion. In this unit we learn how to identify and construct valid arguments, using techniques such as truth tables, models and truth trees. Apart from being a great aid to clear thinking about any subject, knowledge of logic is essential for understanding many areas not only of contemporary philosophy, but also linguistics, mathematics and computing.

PHIL1013 Society, Knowledge and Self

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Anik Waldow  Classes: 2x1hr lectures/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: Tutorial participation (10%), 1x2000wd Essay (30%) and 1x2hr exam (60%)  Prohibitions: PHIL1010

This unit is an introduction to central issues in political philosophy, theories of knowledge and philosophical conceptions of the self. The first part will consider the state, freedom and political obligation. The second part will examine some of the major theories of knowledge in the modern philosophical tradition. The final section will look at conceptions of the self as a knowing and acting subject.
Senior units of study

PHIL2605 Early Modern Theories of Perception
Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Peter Anstey  Classes: 1x2-hr lecture/week, 1x1-hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x1000wd tutorial exercise (25%), 1x500wd essay plan (15%), 1x2500-3000wd essay (60%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy  Prohibitions: PHIL3005, PHIL2005

This unit will trace theories of perception and representation by looking at Locke, Gassendi, Berkeley, and Hume whose fascinating, and often controversial, approaches urge us to base our concept of the world on experience. We will investigate the interplay between sense perception, reason and imagination, explore the limits of knowledge and examine the link between experience and self-conception. The unit aims to develop a perspective that allows students to reflect critically on central issues of the contemporary debate.

PHIL2607 Eighteenth Century French Philosophy
Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Peter Anstey  Classes: 1x2r lecture/week and 1x 1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x 1000 word tutorial exercise, 1x 500 word essay plan, and 1x 2500-3000 word essay  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy

This unit examines the thought of the central French philosophers of the eighteenth century from Voltaire to Rousseau, including the work of Diderot, d’Alembert and the encyclopaedists. It will trace the impact of, as well as reactions to, the new science and Locke’s empiricist philosophy, and it will examine changing attitudes to religion and society.

PHIL2611 Problems of Empiricism
Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: David Macarthur  Classes: 1x 2hr lecture/week and 1x 1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 2x essays (total 4500 words)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy  Prohibitions: PHIL2211 or PHIL3211

This unit will examine three problems that are part of the legacy of Empiricism: (i) the issues of induction, causation and causal explanation in science; (ii) the arguments from Berkeley and Hume concerning the external world; and (iii) the case of post-Humean ethical theory. Throughout we will be looking to the modern manifestations of these problems and the ways they might be rectified. We also look to emphasise the importance of these issues for the development of psychology of perception.

PHIL2614 The Presocratics
Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Rick Benitez  Classes: 1x2-hr lecture/week, 1x1-hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x2500wd essay (60%) and 1x2hr exam (40%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy or ANHS1600  Prohibitions: PHIL3014

A critical examination of the first developments in philosophy among the early Greeks, emphasising two emerging traditions of philosophy, in Ionia and the Italian peninsula respectively. The main emphases are on the origin of thought about being and the development of different philosophical methods through the activities of criticism and response prevalent among the Presocratics. These activities are particularly well exhibited in the argumentative challenges of Parmenides and Zeno, and the responses made by the fifth-century B.C. thinkers.
PHIL2615 Logic and Proof

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Nicholas Smith  Classes: 1x2-hr lecture/week, 1x1-hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x2hr exam (50%) and weekly exercises (50%)  Prerequisites: PHIL1012  Prohibitions: PHIL2215, PHIL3215

We examine the major ways of proving things in logic: tableaux (trees), axiomatic proofs, natural deduction and sequent calculus. We learn to construct proofs of each of these kinds and then establish fundamental adequacy results (e.g. soundness and completeness) for each kind of proof system.

PHIL2617 Practical Ethics

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2, Summer  Coordinator: Caroline West  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x2500wd Essay (40%), Tutorial participation (10%), Tutorial presentation (10%) and 1x2000wd Take-home exam (40%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points  Prohibitions: PHIL2517 or PHIL3617

This unit draws on contemporary moral philosophy to shed light on some of the most pressing practical, ethical questions of our time, including euthanasia, abortion, surrogacy, censorship, animal rights, genetic testing and cloning and environmental ethics. By the end of the unit, students should have a good understanding of these practical ethical issues; and, more crucially, be equipped with the conceptual resources to think through new ethical questions and dilemmas as they arise in their personal and professional lives.

PHIL2620 Probability and Decision Theory

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Brian Hedden, Mark Colyvan  Classes: 1x2-hr lecture/week, 1x1-hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x in-class test (10%), 1x2000wd Essay (40%), 1x2hr exam (50%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points  Prohibitions: PHIL2220

Throughout our lives, in making decisions large and small, we gamble in the face of uncertainty. Because we are always unsure what the future holds, we base our choices on estimates of probability. But what is probability, how do we know about it, and how should we use that knowledge in making rational choices? This unit provides an introduction to the foundations and philosophical puzzles of probability and rational decision theory.

PHIL2622 Reality, Time and Possibility: Metaphysics

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: David Braddon-Mitchell  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x1400wd Essay (33%), 1x2000wd Essay (45%) and 11 short multiple choice quizzes (22%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points  Prohibitions: PHIL3662

This is a unit in metaphysics: the discipline that tells us about the nature of the world. The unit carries on from the Reality component of first year. We engage with questions like: What is time? What is space? What makes something a person? How much change can I undergo and still be me? Are objects four-dimensional space-time worms? Do the past or future exist, and could we travel to them? Are there numbers?
PHIL2623 Moral Psychology

**Credit Points:** 6  
**Session:** Semester 1  
**Coordinator:** Luke Russell  
**Classes:** 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  
**Assessment:** 1x2500wd Essay (50%) and 1x2000wd Take-home exam (50%)  
**Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy  
**Prohibitions:** PHIL2513 or PHIL3513

We go beyond the question of which actions are morally right to consider the following: How should we evaluate motives and emotions? Is anyone actually virtuous, or are we all weak-willed, self-deceived confabulators? Are any actions or persons evil? When should we feel guilty or ashamed? Should forgiveness be unconditional? Is morality the product of Darwinian natural selection, or of culture and learning? Is there any objective truth in morality, or are moral claims merely subjective or culturally relative?

PHIL2629 Descartes and Continental Philosophy

**Credit Points:** 6  
**Session:** Semester 2  
**Coordinator:** Anik Waldow  
**Classes:** 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  
**Assessment:** 1x1000wd tutorial exercise (30%), 1x1000wd presentation (20%), 1x2500 word essay (50%)  
**Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy  
**Prohibitions:** PHIL2004, PHIL3004

Descartes is generally regarded as the founder of modern philosophy, and in this unit we look both at his own contribution, and at his influence on the subsequent course of philosophical thought in the work of Malebranche, Spinoza, and Leibniz. Just over half the unit will be devoted to Descartes' own thought, and we will look at the various stages in the development of his ideas. In the second half of the unit, we will examine the ideas of his successors on selected metaphysical themes, above all on perception and the mind/body question.
PHIL2632 Modernity in Crisis
Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 1 Coordinator: John Grumley Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessment: 1x500wd tutorial paper (10%), 1x2000wd essay (50%), 1x2000wd take-home exam (40%) Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy Prohibitions: PHIL2532, PHIL3532

This unit continues the themes developed in Theorising Modernity into the Twentieth Century. We will see how the new realities of free markets, democracy, the state and bureaucracy, individualism and cultural rationalisation presented new problems and opportunities and gave rise to new theoretical frameworks for their comprehension. The unit will focus on the work of Weber, The Frankfurt School, Foucault and Habermas.

PHIL2635 Contemporary Political Philosophy
Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 2 Coordinator: Sam Shpall Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessment: 1x2000wd Essay (50%), 1x500wd tutorial paper (10%) and 1x2000wd Take-home exam (40%) Prerequisites: (12 Junior credit points of Philosophy) or (12 Junior credit points from Government) Prohibitions: PHIL2535 or PHIL3535

This unit offers a critical introduction to the major schools of thought in contemporary political philosophy organised around the theme of inclusion and exclusion. The inclusive ambitions of liberal political theory will be confronted with objections from thinkers motivated by concern with various aspects of social and political exclusion based on categories such as gender, cultural difference, and statelessness.

PHIL2640 Environmental Philosophy
Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 2 Coordinator: Mark Colyvan Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessments: 1x1500wd assignment (30%), 1x3000wd essay (60%), tutorial participation (10%) Prerequisites: 12 junior credit points in Philosophy, 12 junior credit points in History and Philosophy of Science, or 12 junior credit points in Biology Prohibitions: PHIL2240

This unit presents a variety of philosophical issues associated with the study and management of the natural environment. We will look at questions such as: what does it mean to live in harmony with the environment? what is sustainability? why should we preserve biodiversity? what is the best way to achieve conservation goals? what are ecological models and how do they work? and what is the proper relationship between environmental science and the values found in environmental policy and management?

PHIL2642 Critical Thinking
Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 2, Winter Coordinator: Luke Russell Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessment: 1x1500wd Essay (30%), 1xin-class test (20%) and 1x2hr exam (50%) Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points

An introduction to critical thinking and analysis of argument. By examining arguments drawn from diverse sources, including journalism, advertising, science, medicine, history, economics and politics, we will learn how to distinguish good from bad arguments, and how to construct rationally persuasive arguments of our own. Along the way we will grapple with scepticism, conspiracy theories and pseudoscience. The reasoning skills imparted by this unit make it invaluable not only for philosophy students but for every student at the University.
PHIL2645 Philosophy of Law

**Credit Points:** 6  **Session:** Semester 2  **Coordinator:** Rick Benitez  **Classes:** 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  **Assessment:** 1x2000wd essay (40%), 1x2000wd take-home exercise (40%), tutorial participation 10%, 4x125wd critical reflections (10%)  **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy  **Prohibitions:** PHIL2510 or PHIL2604 or PHIL3510

This unit will analyse a range of theoretical and practical issues in the philosophy of law, both historical and contemporary. Issues addressed may include: legal obligation; punishment; legal responsibility; legal exclusion, including exclusion of race, gender, and class; citizenship; rule of law; legal pluralism; the nature of rights and duties; autonomy; and the relations between law and morality.

PHIL2646 Philosophy and Literature

**Credit Points:** 6  **Session:** Semester 2  **Coordinator:** Sam Shpall  **Classes:** 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  **Assessment:** 1x2000wd essay (40%), 1x500wd tutorial paper (10%) and 1x2hr exam (50%)  **Prerequisites:** 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy

This unit addresses the 'ancient quarrel' between philosophy and literature. We will examine arguments about the importance of imagination and sympathy to moral judgement by putting various philosophical and literary texts in dialogue with each other.

PHIL2647 Philosophy of Happiness

**Credit Points:** 6  **Session:** Semester 1, Summer  **Coordinator:** Caroline West  **Classes:** 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  **Assessment:** 2x 500wd Argument Analysis Exercise (20%), 1x2000wd Research essay (35%), 1x2000wd Take-home Exercise (35%), Tutorial participation (10%)  **Prohibitions:** PHIL3647

We all want to be happy and to live a worthwhile life. But what is happiness? Why should we want it? And how do we get it? These are among the most fundamental questions of philosophy. We will evaluate the answers of major thinkers from ancient and modern and eastern and western traditions; and consider the implications of current psychological research into the causes of happiness for the question of how to live well, as individuals and as a society.
PHIL2660 Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: David Macathur  Classes: 1x2-hr lecture/week, 1x1-hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x500wd tutorial presentation (10%), 1x1500wd take-home assignment (30%), 1x2500wd essay (50%), tutorial participation (10%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points of philosophy

In this unit we will study the way in which the appeal to logical analysis in the context of Frege's new quantificational logic gave rise to Analytic Philosophy in the early 20th century. A central theme will be to explore the way in which questions of metaphysics and epistemology were transformed into questions about the logical form of language. We shall also explore the extent to which early analytic philosophy is a reaction against Kant and post-Kantian idealism by focusing on the writings of Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein.

PHIL2661 Philosophy of Sex

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Paul Griffiths, Caroline West  Classes: 1x2-hr lecture/week, 1x1-hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x2500wd Essay (50%), 1x2hr exam (50%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy or 12 credit points in Gender and Cultural Studies

This course addresses philosophical issues concerning sex. From the perspective of metaphysics, we will ask what sexual differences and relations are. From the perspective of moral and political philosophy, we will ask which sexual relationships and identities are ethically justifiable. Sample questions include: What is it to have a sexual identity? Is sexual difference innate or socially constructed? Is intoxicated sexual consent valid? Is there anything wrong with being a sex object? Is pornography problematic? Is bestiality ever ok?

PHIL2665 Philosophy of Economics

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Brian Hedden  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 2x 1250wd essay (50%), 1x2000wd take-home exercise (40%), tutorial participation (10%)  Prerequisites: (12 Junior credit points of Philosophy) or (12 Junior credit points of Economics)

We will explore questions at the intersection of economics and philosophy, such as: What is it to make rational decisions, and how well do we live up to the rational ideal? Does individual selfishness promote the common good? Are there things that should be kept out of the market? What should be the goals of economic policy? Is economics a science?

PHIL2667 From Illusion to Reality

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Anik Waldow, David Macarthur  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x1500wd Scaffolded Essay (50%), 1x3000wd Take-home Exercise (50%)  Prerequisites: (12 Junior credit points of Philosophy) or (6 Junior credit points of Philosophy and 6 Junior credit points from Gender and Cultural Studies; Sociology or Psychology)  Prohibitions: PHIL2605

What is the boundary between reality and illusion? Can we be certain that we do not just project our own feelings and thoughts onto reality? Can we know that we are not dreaming? This unit will address these questions by analysing sceptical arguments and theories of knowledge from antiquity to modernity. The unit is designed to introduce students to epistemological topics in the historical context, thereby offering the basis for further studies in contemporary epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of mind.
PHIL2670 Philosophy of Science

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Brian Hedden  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 2x1250wd essay (50%), 1x2000wd take-home exam (40%), tutorial participation (10%)  Prerequisites: (12 junior credit points in Philosophy) or (12 junior credit points in History and Philosophy of Science (HPSC))

We will explore philosophical questions about the nature of science, such as: When does evidence count for or against a scientific theory? What does it take for a theory to be explanatory? Should we believe that our best scientific theories are true (or approximately true), or only that they are predictively successful? What does it take for a truth to count as a law of nature?

PHIL2671 Locke and Natural Philosophy

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Peter Anstey  Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x2500wd essay (50%), 1x2hr exam (50%)  Prerequisites: PHIL1010 or PHIL1011 or PHIL1013

This course examines John Locke's views on the correct method of the acquisition of knowledge of nature with a special focus on his Essay concerning Human Understanding. Topics include experimental philosophy, natural history, hypotheses and analogy, matter theory, generation and species, and the theory of qualities.

PHIL2672 Time and Space

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Kristie Miller  Classes: 2x1hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x1000wd essay 1 (20%), 1x1000wd essay 2 (20%), 1x 1000wd take-home exercise (20%), 1x1500wd essay 3 (40%)  Prerequisites: PHIL1011 and either PHIL1012 or PHIL1013.

Are time and space substances, or is there nothing more to them than the relations between objects or events? How is time different from space? Does time have a direction? If it does, what gives it its direction? If it doesn't, why does it seem to us that it does? Does space have a direction? This unit investigates the nature of time and space and objects (including persons) within space and time.
PHIL2675 Existentialism

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Dalia Nassar  Classes: 2x1hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x1500wd mid-term essay (30%), 1x500wd tutorial presentation (10%), 1x2500wd final essay (50%), tutorial participation (10%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy

This course examines a major movement in 19th and 20th century European philosophy, and focuses on key questions and figures from the movement. Topics to be considered include: the possibility of morality after the death of God, meaning in human life, the self, freedom, finitude and historicity.

PHIL2676 Democracy and Voting

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 2  Coordinator: Brian Hedden, Mark Colyvan  Classes: 2x1hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 2x1250wd essays (50%), 1x2000wd take-home exercise (40%), tutorial participation (10%)  Prerequisites: 12 Junior credit points in Philosophy

Voting is often taken to be the cornerstone of a democratic society. We will look at a variety of voting systems and consider various philosophical questions about these systems and their proper role in democratic governance. We will consider famous theoretical results such as Arrow’s Theorem and the Condorcet Jury Theorem and investigate whether these results have any implications for the scope and limits of democratic governance. We will also look at recent work on alternative approaches to democratic decision making.

PHIL2677 How Biology Matters to Philosophy

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Paul Griffiths  Classes: 2x1hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week  Assessment: 1x 1000wd report (20%), 1x1500wd essay (30%), 1x2000wd take-home exercise (50%)  Prerequisites: 12 junior credit points, including at least one of either PHIL1011 or PHIL1012 or PHIL1013.

This unit introduces students to debates in which contemporary philosophers appeal to biology. Claims about human nature, race, normality, innateness, and evolutionary design feature in arguments in epistemology, philosophy of mind and language and ethics. Students will learn how to evaluate such efforts to base philosophical theories on biology.
PHIL3615 Contemporary Pragmatism

Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 2 Coordinator: David Macarthur Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessment: 1x 1000wd tutorial exercise (20%), 1x1000wd take-home exercise (30%), 1x2500wd essay (50%) Prerequisites: 12 senior credit points from Philosophy Prohibitions: PHIL3015

This unit will explore the distinctive philosophical outlook known as “Pragmatism” which many see as a third way beyond the analytic-continental divide. After a brief survey of classical American Pragmatism (C.S. Peirce, William James, John Dewey) we will consider in depth neo-pragmatism (Richard Rorty, Hilary Putnam), linguistic pragmatism (Robert Brandom, Huw Price), and methodological pragmatism (David Macarthur). Key issues will include realism, empiricism, naturalism, scientism, metaphysical quietism, the fact/value distinction, and the agent point of view in philosophy.

PHIL3647 Philosophy of Happiness Advanced

Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 1 Coordinator: Caroline West Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessment: 1x1250wd Independent Research essay (30%), 1x500wd Essay feedback to peers (5%), 1x1250wd Revision of Essay (30%), 1x1500wd Take-home Exercise (35%) Prerequisites: 12 Senior credit points in Philosophy Prohibitions: PHIL2647

This is the advanced version of PHIL2647, with common lectures but separate tutorials and assessments. Students will apply advanced philosophical methods to the understanding of happiness. Students will analyse influential theories of what happiness is, why we should want it and how we get it. They will evaluate the implications of psychological research into happiness’s causes. Students will learn to apply their understanding of happiness to the question of how to live well, as individuals and as a society.

PHIL3651 Emotions and Embodied Cognition

Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 1 Coordinator: Anik Waldow Classes: 1x2hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessment: 1x2000wd research project (50%), 1x1000wd group presentation (20%), 1x 1500wd applied methods assignment (30%) Prerequisites: 12 Senior credit points in Philosophy Prohibitions: PHIL2651

Students will apply advanced philosophical methods to the understanding of the passions. Students will analyse the most influential theories, historical and contemporary, about how passions function in society. They will evaluate how passions have reflected and interacted with the predominant culture since the early-modern era. Students will learn how to apply their understanding of the passions to the social and political challenges of today.

PHIL3662 Reality Time and Possibility: Metaphysics Advanced

Credit Points: 6 Session: Semester 1 Coordinator: David Braddon-Mitchell Classes: 2x1hr lecture/week, 1x1hr tutorial/week Assessment: 1x1475wd Essay (33%), 1x2000wd Essay (45%) and 12 quizzes (22%) Prerequisites: 12 Senior credit points in Philosophy Prohibitions: PHIL2622

This unit is an advanced version of PHIL2622. It explores the relationship between space, time and modality. It asks the questions: What is time? What is space? How do objects exist through time? Could our world have been other than it is? What sorts of things are persons? Is it possible to travel backwards in time? Is our world ultimately composed of fundamental simple objects? The course provides a general background in analytic metaphysics.
PHIL3673 Fundamentality

Credit Points: 6  Session: Semester 1  Coordinator: Kristie Miller  Classes: 2x1hr lecture, 1x1hr tutorial per week. Assessment: 1x2000wd paper (40%), 1x2500wd paper (60%)  Prerequisites: PHIL2622 or PHIL2672

This is an advanced course in metaphysics building on concepts introduced in PHIL2622 Reality, Time and Possibility: Metaphysics and PHIL2672 Time and Space. In it, we consider whether some things are more fundamental than others, and, if so, what fundamentality consists in. Must there be some most fundamental things, or could there be chains of dependence all the way down?
Academic staff and their research interests

**Professor Peter Anstey** • 9351 2477 • peter.anstey@sydney.edu.au • Early modern philosophy; philosophy of science; ancient philosophy; metaphysics.

**Professor Eugenio (Rick) Benitez** • 9351 6658 • rick.benitez@sydney.edu.au • Ancient Greek philosophy; aesthetics and philosophy of literature; philosophy of law.

**Dr Pierrick Bourrat** • 8627 0870 • pierrick.bourrat@sydney.edu.au • Philosophy of biology; philosophy of science; evolutionary biology; cognitive sciences.

**Professor David Braddon-Mitchell** • 9351 2372 • dbm.braddon-mitchell@sydney.edu.au • Philosophy of mind; metaphysics; meta-ethics, philosophy of science, philosophy of biology; epistemology.

**Dr Brett Calcott** • 8627 4261 • brett.calcott@sydney.edu.au • Novelty, evolvability, and the various evolutionary transitions.

**Dr Millicent (Millie) Churcher** • 9351 2721 • millicent.churcher@sydney.edu.au • Early modern sentimentalist philosophy and contemporary social and political philosophy, moral philosophy, feminist philosophy, and applied ethics.

**Professor Mark Colyvan** • 9036 6175 • mark.colyvan@sydney.edu.au • Philosophy of science, metaphysics, philosophy of logic, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of biology (especially philosophy of ecology), decision theory.

**Professor Moira Gatens** • 9351 2468 • moira.gatens@sydney.edu.au • Social and political philosophy; 17th century rationalism (especially Spinoza); feminist philosophy.

**Professor Paul Griffiths** • 9036 6265 • paul.griffiths@sydney.edu.au • Professorial Research Fellow • Philosophy and history of biology, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of science.

**Associate Professor John Grumley** • 9351 2465 • john.grumley@sydney.edu.au • Social and political philosophy; German idealism; critical theory from Marx to Habermas; theories of modernity.
Dr Brian Hedden • brian.hedden@sydney.edu.au • 9351 2205 • Epistemology, decision theory, philosophy of language.

Prof Duncan Ivison • 8627 8150 • duncan.ivison@sydney.edu.au • Contemporary political philosophy and the history of political and moral philosophy, especially in the early modern period; theories of justice, freedom, the self and the state, as well as the rights of indigenous peoples and the philosophy of law.

Dr Alexandre Lefebvre • 9351 4945 • alexandre.lefebvre@sydney.edu.au • Political philosophy, human rights, jurisprudence, modern and contemporary French thought.

Associate Professor David Macarthur • 9351 3193 • david.macarthur@sydney.edu.au • Epistemology; philosophy of psychology; history of modern philosophy; Wittgenstein; aesthetics.

Associate Professor Kristie Miller • 9036 9663 • kristie.miller@sydney.edu.au • Metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of time.

Dr Dalia Nassar • 9351 4588 • dalia.nassar@sydney.edu.au • German romanticism and idealism; History of philosophy; philosophy of history and hermeneutics; philosophy of nature.

Dr Arnaud Pocheville • Evolutionary biology; ecology; philosophy of biology

Associate Professor Luke Russell • 9351 3821 • luke.russell@sydney.edu.au • Normativity; realism and naturalism in epistemology and ethics; virtue theory, moral psychology, philosophy of mind; philosophy of biology.

Dr Sam Shpall • 9351 2721 • sam.shpall@sydney.edu.au • Ethics, aesthetics, action theory, philosophy of law, social and political philosophy, epistemology.

Associate Professor Nicholas J.J. Smith • 9036 6242 • nicholas.smith@sydney.edu.au • Logic (especially logics of vagueness and theories of truth); metaphysics; philosophy of language; philosophy of time (especially time travel); early analytic philosophy (especially Frege).

Dr Anik Waldow • 9114 1245 • anik.waldow@sydney.edu.au • Early modern philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics.

Dr Caroline West • 9036 9349 • caroline.west@sydney.edu.au • Contemporary moral philosophy (meta-ethics and normative ethics); applied ethics; political philosophy; metaphysics (especially personal identity); feminist philosophy.

Academic coordinators

Enquiries relating to Undergraduate study, Honours or Postgraduate study should be directed to the appropriate Academic Coordinator. For further information please visit sydney.edu.au/arts/philosophy
Useful Info

Student Enquiries
School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI)
Lobby H, Level 3, Quadrangle A14 (next to MacLaurin Hall Stairway)
T +61 2 9351 2862
F +61 2 9351 3918
W sydney.edu.au/arts/sophi

Key Dates

Semester 1
- Info day: 5 Jan
- Lectures begin: 6 Mar
- Census date: 31 Mar
- Semester break: 14-21 Apr
- Last day of lectures: 9 Jun
- Exam period: 19 Jun-1 Jul
- Semester ends: 1 Jul

Semester 2
- Lectures begin: 31 Jul
- Census date: 31 Aug
- Semester break: 25-29 Sept
- Last day of lectures: 3 Nov
- Stuvac: 6-10 Nov
- Exam period: 13-25 Nov
- Semester ends: 25 Nov

Prizes, Scholarships and Financial Assistance
Information on Departmental prizes and scholarships can be found on the Department's website.
Other scholarships and financial assistance available through the University can be found at:
sydney.edu.au/arts/future_students/scholarships.shtml
sydney.edu.au/scholarships

Policies
For information on policies that apply to current students, please visit:
sydney.edu.au/arts/current_students/policies.shtml

Summer and Winter Schools
Through Summer and Winter School programs, students can accelerate their degree, catch up a failed subject, balance their timetable or study subjects outside their current program. Recent high school graduates can enrol in first year subjects.
sydney.edu.au/summer