

# College of Arts and Sciences

## Philosophy and Religion

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### **B.A. in Philosophy**

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#### **Admission to the Program**

Admission is through a formal declaration of major. The department counsels freshmen and new transfer students.

#### **University Requirements**

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

#### **General Education Requirements**

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than 6 credit hours may be taken in the same discipline

#### **Major Requirements**

- 39 credit hours with grades of C or better

#### **Course Requirements**

- 30 credit hours in philosophy and religion, including 9 credit hours in philosophy at the 300 level or above, and up to 9 credit hours in religion
- 9 credit hours in a single department outside of philosophy and religion, including 6 credit hours at the 300 level or above

#### **University Honors Program**

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to [www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/](http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/).

### **Minor in Philosophy**

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- 18 credit hours with grades of C or better with at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor, and at least 9 credit hours at the 300 level or above

#### **Course Requirements**

- 3 credit hours from the following:
  - PHIL-105 Western Philosophy 2:1 (3)
  - PHIL-300 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3)
  - PHIL-301 Modern Philosophy from Bacon to Hegel (3)
- 15 credit hours in philosophy (or 12 credit hours in philosophy and 3 credit hours in religion)

### **Minor in Religion**

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- 18 credit hours with grades of C or better with at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor, and at least 9 credit hours at the 300 level or above

#### **Course Requirements**

- 6 credit hours from the following:
  - RELG-105 Religious Heritage of the West 2:1 (3)
  - RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East 3:1 (3)
  - RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions 3:2 (3)
  - RELG-220 Religious Thought 2:2 (3)
- 12 credit hours in religion courses, or 9 credit hours in religion and 3 credit hours in philosophy

### **Combined B.A. and M.A. in Philosophy**

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#### **Admission to the Program**

Undergraduate philosophy majors should apply for admission to the B.A./M.A. program by the end of the junior year. Admission is open to undergraduates with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 overall and in philosophy courses. Applications must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and an academic writing sample. Students should discuss their interest in the program with members of the faculty before submitting a formal application.

#### **Requirements**

- All requirements for the B.A. in Philosophy  
Undergraduate students may apply 6 credit hours of approved 500-level course work in philosophy to satisfy the requirements of both degrees.
- All requirements for the M.A. in Philosophy, including a minimum of 24 credit hours completed in residence in graduate status after the undergraduate degree has been awarded.

## **M.A. in Philosophy**

### **Admission to the Program**

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study. Admission is based on academic record, two letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and an academic writing sample. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General is required.

### **Tracks**

History of Philosophy or Philosophy and Social Policy

### **Degree Requirements**

- 30–33 credit hours of approved graduate work

#### **History of Philosophy Track**

- Tool of research: demonstrated proficiency in a foreign language, consult the department for more information
- Comprehensive examination requirement: submission of three qualifying papers

- Thesis and oral defense of thesis

#### **Philosophy and Social Policy Track**

- 3 credit internship in an appropriate setting followed by a substantial paper analyzing the ethical and social issues arising from the experience. Students employed full-time may request permission to receive credit for prior experience, but the paper is still required.
- Comprehensive examination requirement: submission of three qualifying papers

### **Course Requirements**

#### **History of Philosophy Track (30 credit hours)**

- 24 credit hours of approved graduate course work
- PHIL-797 Master's Thesis Seminar (6)

#### **Philosophy and Social Policy Track (33 credit hours)**

- Two courses from the following:  
PHIL-520 Seminar on Ethical Theory (3)  
PHIL-525 Seminar on Modern Moral Problems (3)  
an approved course in either ethics or applied ethics (3)
- Two courses from the following:  
PHIL-602 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3)  
PHIL-603 Twentieth Century Philosophy (3)  
an approved course in the history of philosophy (3)
- PHIL-691 Internship in Philosophy (3)
- 6 credit hours in applied philosophy, with departmental approval
- 6 credit hours in philosophy or religion, with departmental approval
- 6 credit hours in social science or social policy from fields such as economics, sociology, anthropology, government, public administration, and justice, with departmental approval

## **M.A. in Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs**

### **Admission to the Program**

The M.A. in Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs is an interdisciplinary program administered jointly by the School of International Service (SIS) and the Department of Philosophy and Religion in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Students may apply to either the Department of Philosophy and Religion or the School of International Service. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. Students applying to SIS must apply by January 15 for fall and October 1 for spring to be considered for merit-based aid.

### **Degree Requirements**

- 39 credit hours of approved graduate work including 6 credit hours of research course work with grades of B or better
- Comprehensive examination requirement  
CAS: submission of three qualifying papers

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Core (12 credit hours)**

- PHIL-525 Seminar on Modern Moral Problems (3)
- PHIL-693 Global Ethics (3)
- SIS-607 Peace Paradigms (3)
- SIS-614 Ethics in International Affairs (3)

#### **Foundation (6 credit hours)**

- PHIL-520 Seminar on Ethical Theory (3)
- SIS-622 Human Rights (3)

#### **Research Methodology (3 credit hours)**

- SIS-600 Quantitative Analysis in International Affairs (3)  
*or*  
qualitative research seminar

#### **Research and Writing (6 credit hours)**

- 6 credit hours from the following: the thesis or substantial research paper and internship must relate clearly to the student's concentration and be supervised by faculty teaching related courses:

PHIL-797 Master's Thesis Seminar (1–6)

*or*

PHIL-691 Internship in Philosophy (3) *and*  
PHIL-702 Graduate Seminar in Philosophy

*or*

SIS-691 Internship in International Affairs (3) *and*  
SIS-795 Master's Research Requirement (3)

- 12 credit hours in one of the following areas of concentration:

#### **Peace and Conflict Resolution**

- SIS-609 Conflict Analysis and Resolution: Theory and Practice (3)
- Three courses from the following:  
PHIL-613 Studies in Asian Philosophy (3) (approved topic)  
PHIL-686 Selected Topics in Philosophy (3) (approved topic)  
SIS-515 Islamic Peace Paradigms (3)  
SIS-516 Peacebuilding in Divided Societies (3)  
SIS-517 Gender, Human Rights, and Conflict (3)

SIS-540 Conflict and Development (3)  
SIS-606 Culture and Peace and Conflict Resolution:  
    Alternatives to Violence (3)  
SIS-611 International Negotiation (3)  
SIS-613 Reconciliation and Justice (3)  
SIS-619 Special Studies in International Politics:  
    Human Rights and Conflict (3)

**Human Rights and Social Justice**

- Four courses from the following:  
    PHIL-616 Feminist Philosophy (3)  
    PHIL-617 Race and Philosophy (3)  
    PHIL-686 Selected Topics in Philosophy (3) (approved topic)  
    SIS-613 Reconciliation and Justice (3)  
    SIS-517 Gender, Human Rights, and Conflict (3)  
    SIS-619 Special Studies in International Politics:  
        Human Rights and Conflict (3)  
    SIS-621 International Law and the Legal Order (3)

**Global Environmental Justice**

- SIS-660 Environment and Politics (3)
- Three courses from the following:  
    PHIL-686 Selected Topics in Philosophy (3) (approved topic)  
    SIS-619 Special Studies in International Politics:  
        Global Environmental Politics and Policy (3)  
    SIS-649 Environment and Development (3)  
    SIS-663 Washington Workshop: Advanced Studies and  
        Research in Environmental Policy (3)

**Ethics of Development**

- SIS-637 International Development (3)
- Three courses from the following:  
    PHIL-686 Selected Topics in Philosophy (3) (approved topic)

SIS-540 Conflict and Development (3)  
SIS-636 Micropolitics of Development (3)  
SIS-647 Governance, Democracy, and Development (3)  
SIS-648 Women and Development (3)  
SIS-649 Environment and Development (3)  
SIS-650 Global Economy and Sustainable Development (3)  
    (prerequisite: SIS-637 International Development)

**International Economic Justice**

- SIS-616 International Economics (3) (prerequisite:  
    ECON-603 Introduction to Economic Theory)
- Three courses from the following:  
    PHIL-686 Selected Topics in Philosophy (3) (approved topic)  
    SIS-504 Multinational Corporations (3)  
    SIS-587 Globalization: Power, Production, and Culture (3)  
    SIS-650 Global Economy and Sustainable Development (3)  
        (prerequisite: SIS-637 International Development)  
    SIS-665 International Trade and Investment Relations (3)  
    SIS-666 International Monetary and Financial Relations (3)  
    SIS-673 Comparative Political Economy (3)

**Global Governance and International Organizations**

- SIS-621 International Law and the Legal Order (3)
- SIS-625 International Organizations (3)
- Two courses from the following:  
    PHIL-686 Selected Topics in Philosophy (3) (approved topic)  
    SIS-587 Globalization: Power, Production, and Culture (3)  
    SIS-605 Theory of Cooperative Global Politics (3)  
    SIS-647 Governance, Democracy, and Development (3)  
    SIS-672 Theories of Comparative and International  
        Studies (3)