DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND HUMANITIES

http://philosophy.tamu.edu

Head: T. George

PhD Advisor: K. Sweet

MA Advisor: R. Garcia

The Department of Philosophy and Humanities at Texas A&M University offers the degrees of Master of Arts in philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy. Students may pursue studies in any area of philosophy under these programs, both of which have distinctive features. Applicants are asked to specify the degree they wish to pursue.

Faculty

Bermudez Ospina, Jose L, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Cambridge University, 1992

Blanks, David S, Lecturer
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Ohio State University, 2015

Burch, Robert W, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Rice University, 1969

Conway, Daniel W, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of California, San Diego, 1985

Curry, Tommy J, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Southern Illinois University, 2009

Daniel, Stephen H, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Saint Louis University, 1977

Easwaran, Kenneth K, Associate Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of California Berkeley, 2008

Garcia, Robert K, Associate Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of Notre Dame, 2009

George, Theodore D, Associate Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Villanova University, 2000

Hand, Michael R, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Florida State University, 1985

Jaima, Amir R, Assistant Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, SUNY Stony Brook University, 2014

Katz, Claire E, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of Memphis, 1999

Leckey, Britanny W, Lecturer
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Texas A&M University, 2017

McDermott, John J, Distinguished Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Fordham University, 1959

Menzel, Christopher P, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of Notre Dame, 1984

Palmer, Clare A, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of Oxford, 1993

Pappas, Gregory F, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of Texas at Austin, 1990

Pettersson, Martin B, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, 2003

Radzik, Linda C, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, The University of Arizona, 1997

Raymond, Dwayne F, Assistant Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of Western Ontario, 2006

Rehn-Debraal, Merritt A, Lecturer
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Loyola University Chicago, 2015

Sansom, Roger B, Associate Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2002

Sweet, Kristi, Associate Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, Loyola University, Chicago, 2006

Varner, Gary E, Professor
Philosophy & Humanities
PhD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1988

Masters

• Master of Arts in Philosophy (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/liberal-arts/philosophy-humanities/ma)
Doctoral

- Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/liberal-arts/philosophy-humanities/phd)

Courses

HUMA 685 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 6. 1 to 6 Other Hours.
Directed studies in specific problem areas in the humanities. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 611 Ancient Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Greek and Roman philosophy from 600 B.C. to 300 A.D.; emphasis on Plato and Aristotle.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 616 Modern Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Developments in philosophy from the Renaissance through the Enlightenment: Renaissance humanism and natural science, 17th- and 18th-century empiricism and rationalism, idealism; major thinkers including Descartes, Hume, Kant, Hegel.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 620 Contemporary Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
19th- and 20th-century philosophical movements: phenomenology, existentialism, positivism, pragmatism, analysis, process thought. May be repeated for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 623 American Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The genesis of American philosophical thought from the seventeenth century until the work of Emerson; subsequent concentration on the philosophies of Pierce, James, Royce, Dewey, Mead, Santayana and Whitehead.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 624 Latin American Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Reading and examination of the philosophical writings of some of the most important Latino/as (or Hispanic) contributors to the history of philosophy.

PHIL 630 Aesthetics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Metaphor, the ontology of artworks, art and artificiality, aesthetic attitudes, concepts of aesthetic appraisal such as beauty and sublimity and theory of tropes.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 631 Philosophy of Religion
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of metaphysical and epistemological issues concerning religious claims, beliefs and experiences.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 632 Social and Political Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theories of justice, equality, liberty and authority in social and political institutions; individualism and the social contract; political philosophy of writers such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Dewey and Rawls.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 635 Ethical Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theories of moral value and conduct, moral language and argumentation; consequentialist and deontological approaches to ethics; ethical naturalism; theories of virtue.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 640 Epistemology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Nature and origin of knowledge, skepticism, belief, truth, rationality, justification and reliability and knowledge of necessary truths.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 641 Mathematical Logic I
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The metatheory of propositional and first-order logic.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

PHIL 642 Mathematical Logic II
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Continuation of PHIL 641. Compactness, The Lowenheim-Skolem Theorems, computability theory and Church's thesis, formal arithmetic, Godel's Incompleteness Theorems, Tarski's Theorem and Church's Theorem; other topics might include systems of modal logic, intuitionistic logic and more advanced issues in set theory.
Prerequisite: 641 or approval of instructor.

PHIL 643 History and Philosophy of Logic
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Selected topics on the historical development of logic; philosophical views of the nature of logical theory; the role of logical metatheory in the development of logic. May be repeated for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: PHIL 341 or 641 or approval of instructor.

PHIL 645 Philosophy of Science
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Philosophy of the natural and social sciences, including the nature of theories and laws, the notion of causation, probability and determinism and the nature of theoretical change.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 646 Philosophy of a Particular Science
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Focus on methodological, epistemological and ontological issues in physics, or one of the special sciences, such as biology, psychology, cognitive science, economics. Application of philosophical methods to theoretical issues in the particular science. Relationships between theories and explanations of the particular science more basic sciences or other special sciences. May be repeated for credit for courses focusing on different sciences.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.
PHIL 650 Metaphysics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Classical and contemporary treatments of the nature of reality, God, the existence of universals, space, time, causality; realism and antirealism, the existence and nature of abstract entities, the nature of events, the nature and logic of time and modality, freedom and determinism, and personal identity.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 655 Philosophy of Mind
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The mind-body problem, personal identity, thought and intentionality, action and responsibility; materialism, behaviorism, functionalism. May be repeated for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 658 Philosophy of Language
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The nature of language, the various uses of language and their philosophical import, the nature of meaning, truth, reference and issues surrounding formal representations of natural languages. May be repeated for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 661 Seminar in the History of Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Intensive study of a current issue in the history of philosophy. May be repeated for credit with variation in topic.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 662 Seminar in Ethics and Value Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Intensive study of current issue in ethics, ethical theory, applied ethics, aesthetics, or the work of particular philosophers in one of these areas. May be repeated for credit with variation in topic.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 663 Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Seminar in Metaphysics or Epistemology. Intensive study of a current issue in metaphysics, epistemology, or other core areas of philosophy. May be repeated for credit with variation in topic.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 664 Seminar in Applied Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Intensive study of a topic involving the application of philosophical concepts and theories to an issue arising in another scientific or academic field. May be repeated for credit with variation to topic.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

PHIL 682 Philosophical Authors
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Intensive study of works of an individual important philosopher, their historical context, and criticisms and interpretations of them. May be repeated for credit with different authors.
Prerequisites: Appropriate background in history of philosophy and approval of instructor.

PHIL 683 Philosophical Pedagogy
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Teaching practicum for PhD students in philosophy; detailed examination of all aspects of teaching philosophy to university- and college-level students.
Prerequisite: Enrollment in PhD program in Philosophy or approval of instructor.