



American University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Philosophy and Religion

GRADUATE HANDBOOK

History of Philosophy
&
Philosophy and Social Policy

2011~2012

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AU Student Handbook http://www.american.edu/ocl/vp/student_policies.cfm	
Academic Integrity Code http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm	
Academic Regulations http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/academicreg.cfm	

Welcome

I would like to welcome you to the Department of Philosophy and Religion and to wish you the best in your graduate studies. This handbook has been designed to inform students about department and university policies, procedures, requirements, and regulations. Although much of this information is available in other sources, such as the *American University Catalog*, much of the department information is not. By providing in one guide the essential information you will need to complete your MA, I hope to help streamline the administrative side of graduate school. Although the academic experience at AU will no doubt be challenging (but also rewarding), the administrative paperwork should be relatively painless as long as you know what to expect.

Therefore, I ask you to read this handbook cover to cover, as well as to familiarize yourself with the web sites listed in the table of contents. While it is your responsibility to make sure you successfully meet degree requirements and deadlines, please do not hesitate to contact either the graduate advisor, the chair of the department, or myself, the administrative assistant, for help when you have questions. Details and check lists are included in this handbook to help you keep organized.

I look forward to working with you over the course of your studies here at American.

Sincerely,
Shelley Harshe
Sr. Administrative Assistant
philrel@american.edu

Graduate Program Overview

The Department of Philosophy and Religion offers unique degree flexibility by providing three different possible tracks toward an MA:

- **MA in the History of Philosophy** emphasizes the rich, multi-cultural heritage of the discipline, providing the opportunity to study Asian and Latin American philosophies as well as the traditional Western canon.
- **MA in Philosophy and Social Policy** applies ethics and political philosophy to the complex social issues of today, combining philosophy with another related field to provide grounding for designing and evaluating social policy.
- **MA in Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs**, sponsored jointly with the School of International Service, applies philosophy to the dynamics of conflict, international policy, and political and social institutions. Since this is a joint program, it has separate guidelines from the other two tracks offered by the Department of Philosophy. Refer to the *Graduate Handbook for the EPGA Program* or consult one of the co-directors of this program for details:

Evan Berry, berry@american.edu

Julie Mertus, mertus@american.edu

In addition to preparing students for doctoral programs or law school, the Department's emphasis on research, writing, and philosophical interpretation prepares students for careers in government, non-governmental organizations (such as public policy institutes and ethics organizations), education, and business. Recent graduates are pursuing PhDs at universities throughout the US as well as working in organizations such as the World Bank, the US Agency for International Development, and the US Institute of Peace.

Requirements for Completion of the Program

Basic Degree Requirements

- History of Philosophy
 - 33 credit hours of approved graduate course work
 - Substantial Research Paper
 - Completion of two Qualifying Papers
- Philosophy and Social Policy
 - 33 credit hours of approved graduate course work, including Internship
 - Completion of two Qualifying Papers

Check lists for the two tracks follow this section. You should fill in the relevant check list as you complete courses since, although we are here to assist you, it is ultimately your responsibility to make sure all degree requirements are completed.

Maintain status in the program every fall and spring semester by registering in regularly scheduled courses or by paying a fee to *maintain matriculation*. * If a student fails to register during either fall or spring semesters, unless he or she has successfully petitioned in advance for a leave of absence from the program, he or she will be removed automatically from the program. Readmission will require a new application, and there is no guarantee that the Graduate Committee and Chair will readmit the candidate.

**Maintain matriculation* costs the equivalent of 1 credit hour but does not count as credit toward completion of the degree. It is generally used by students who have completed their course requirements, but are continuing work on other degree requirements that semester.

Completion of all requirements detailed above within three academic years

Academic Regulations state that all work for the master's degree must be completed within three years from the date of first enrollment. For the full-time philosophy student, the normal course load per semester is nine credit hours (three courses). If a student is unable to finish the degree requirements within three years, the student must petition the department for an *extension of candidacy*, which also must be approved by the Dean's Office. Failure to do so will result in removal from the academic program.

M.A. in Philosophy Check List History of Philosophy Track

Name: _____

AU ID#: _____

Course Requirements

(33 hours of approved graduate course work)

Semester

Grade

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

Substantial Research Paper

Focusing on a major text by a single figure in the history of philosophy, western or nonwestern:

Title: _____ Date completed: _____

Qualifying Papers (2)

One from a historical period of philosophy:

1. Title: _____ Date completed: _____

One from feminist, Latin American, or Asian philosophy, or critical race theory

2. Title: _____ Date completed: _____

M.A. in Philosophy Check List Philosophy and Social Policy Track

Name: _____

AU ID#: _____

Course Requirements

Semester

Grade

Two courses from the following: *PHIL-520 Seminar on Ethical Theory, PHIL-525 Seminar on Modern Moral Problems, or an approved course in either ethics or applied ethics*

1. _____

2. _____

Two courses from the following: *PHIL-602 19th Century Philosophy, PHIL-603 20th Century Philosophy, or an approved course in the history of philosophy*

3. _____

4. _____

5. PHIL-691 Internship in Philosophy _____

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.

Six credit hours in applied philosophy

6. _____

7. _____

Six credit hours in philosophy or religion

8. _____

9. _____

Six credit hours in social science or social policy from fields such as economics, sociology, anthropology, government, public administration, and justice

10. _____

11. _____

Qualifying Papers (2)

One in Ethics (theoretical or applied):

1. Title: _____ Date completed: _____

One in 19th or 20th Century Philosophy:

2. Title: _____ Date completed: _____

Explanation of Specific Requirements

Guidelines for Qualifying Papers

Description and Requirements

Fulfillment of the University's comprehensive examination requirement is met through satisfactory completion of qualifying papers (QPs). QPs are expanded versions of, and/or developed from, term papers written for graduate philosophy classes the student has taken. **Students may not generate a new paper for a QP; the basis of the QP must be from a term paper.** The Qualifying Papers requirement is meant to provide students with the opportunity to 1) expand their knowledge of a subject area in which they are already interested, about which they have already studied in some depth, and in which they can develop further understanding and expertise and 2) refine research and writing skills *beyond what is required for satisfactory completion of a course*. Thus, the papers should reflect a *significant deepening* of the thinking and/or research from that evident in the original version of the paper. QPs will also ensure a broader selection of writing samples for applications to doctoral programs, and provide opportunities for advancement in the profession, such as possible publication and/or presentation at professional conferences. To meet this requirement, students must successfully complete two (2) QPs. Qualifying papers, on average, are from 20 to 25 pages in length, plus bibliography.

Procedures

Throughout the semester, students should consult with professors about the possibility of turning final term papers into qualifying papers (as some term papers do not serve well as QPs, and so professors may provide feedback specific to the QP process), and are required to choose from which course the next semester's QP will come several weeks before the semester's end (see below for deadline). For example, during the first semester, students should discuss with their professors the possibility of turning final papers into their first QP, to be submitted at the beginning of the second semester; and during the second semester, should discuss the possibility of turning final papers into their second QP, to be submitted at the beginning of the third semester, and so forth. Written comments given by the professor for the class paper must be taken into account and appropriate revisions should be made for the first draft of the QP.

Students submit the draft of their qualifying paper—along with a 125-word abstract, the written comments from the course paper, and a short paragraph about how the student has addressed the professor's comments and what revisions the student has made—electronically to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (philrel@american.edu) by the due date (see below for deadline). **Students must submit their first qualifying paper during their second semester of coursework and the second paper during the third semester of coursework.** Paper submissions are only accepted for the fall and spring semesters; no papers are accepted during the summer.

The department then appoints a committee of two full-time faculty members for each qualifying paper. Students, in two mandatory meetings with faculty, work on developing and finalizing the papers. Students submit a revised draft of their qualifying paper between these two meetings (see below for deadline).

Students submit the final version of the qualifying paper, along with all previous comments, electronically to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (philrel@american.edu) by the due date.

It is imperative that students submit all versions, and attend all mandatory meetings, on time. Students who miss any of the deadlines will receive a "grade" of "Not Pass" for that semester. Students who fail

twice (receive 2 grades of Not Pass) will be expelled from the program due to failure to make satisfactory progress.

Grading

Qualifying Papers receive a grade of either "Satisfactory," "Distinction," or "Not Pass." What differentiates a satisfactory qualifying paper from one of distinction is that the latter meets both committee members' standards of "publishable quality." Few papers merit this very stringent standard.

Specific Requirements for History of Philosophy Track

- One qualifying paper must be in a historical period of philosophy (e.g., Ancient, Early Modern, Nineteenth, or Twentieth
- One qualifying paper must be in Feminist, Latin American, or Asian philosophy, or critical race theory

Specific Requirements for Philosophy and Social Policy Track

- One qualifying paper must be in ethics (theoretical or applied)
- One qualifying paper must be in 19th or 20th century philosophy

Deadlines for Qualifying Paper Fall 2011

Failure to meet **any** of these deadlines will result in a "grade" of "Not Pass" for the semester's QP. Students who receive two "Not Pass" will be expelled from the program due to failure to make satisfactory progress.

Monday, August 22, 4:00pm: Deadline for electronic submission of 1) qualifying paper, 2) 125-word abstract, 3) the written comments by the professor on the original course paper, and 4) a short paragraph about how the student has addressed the professor's comments and what revisions the student has made, to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (email to philrel@american.edu). No exceptions or extensions for any reason.

Week of Monday, August 29: Students must attend a mandatory meeting with faculty, scheduled by the department's administrative assistant, to discuss the qualifying paper draft. At this meeting, students and faculty should set the day and time (during the week of October 17) for their mandatory follow-up meeting.

Friday, September 30, 4:00pm: Deadline for electronic submission of revised qualifying paper to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (philrel@american.edu). If requested to do so, students should return marked-up copies of their QP that they received during the first meeting to their committee members.

Week of Monday, October 17: Students must attend a mandatory follow-up meeting with faculty on a date and time agreed to by the committee members and the student during their first meeting.

Monday, November 7, 4:00pm: Deadline for electronic submission of the final version of the qualifying paper to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (philrel@american.edu). If requested to do so, students should return marked-up copies of their QP that they received during meetings to their committee members.

Monday, November 28, 4:00pm: Deadline to send an email to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (email to philrel@american.edu) stating from which course the student's spring 2012 qualifying paper will come (include student's name, name of course, and working title of the final paper).

Once your committee members have read the final version of your qualifying paper, they will submit a grade to the department's administrative assistant, who will then notify you of the status of your qualifying paper (Distinction, Satisfactory, Not Passed).

Deadlines for Qualifying Paper Spring 2012

Failure to meet any of these deadlines will result in a "grade" of "Not Pass" for the semester's QP. Students who receive two "Not Pass" will be expelled from the program due to failure to make satisfactory progress.

Monday, January 9, 4:00pm: Deadline for electronic submission of 1) qualifying paper, 2) 125-word abstract, 3) the written comments by the professor on the original course paper, and 4) a short paragraph about how the student has addressed the professor's comments and what revisions the student has made, to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (email to philrel@american.edu). No exceptions or extensions for any reason.

Week of Tuesday, January 17: Students must attend a mandatory meeting with faculty, scheduled by the department's administrative assistant, to discuss the qualifying paper draft. At this meeting, students and faculty should set the day and time (during the week of March 5) for their mandatory follow-up meeting.

Friday, February 17, 4:00pm: Deadline for electronic submission of revised qualifying paper to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (philrel@american.edu). If requested to do so, students should return marked-up copies of their QP that they received during the first meeting to their committee members.

Week of Monday, March 5: Students must attend a mandatory follow-up meeting with faculty on a date and time agreed to by the committee members and the student during their first meeting.

Monday, March 26, 4:00pm: Deadline for electronic submission of the final version of the qualifying paper to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (philrel@american.edu). If requested to do so, students should return marked-up copies of their QP that they received during meetings to their committee members.

Monday, April 16, 4:00pm: Deadline to send an email to the Department of Philosophy and Religion's administrative assistant (email to philrel@american.edu) stating from which course the student's fall 2012 qualifying paper will come (include student's name, name of course, and working title of the final paper).

Once your committee members have read the final version of your qualifying paper, they will submit a grade to the department's administrative assistant, who will then notify you of the status of your qualifying paper (Distinction, Satisfactory, Not Passed).

Substantial Research Paper

A substantial research paper is required for the MA in the History of Philosophy. While the requirements, procedures, and deadlines for a substantial research paper are the same as those for qualifying papers (as detailed above), the focus of a substantial research paper is distinct: a textual analysis of a major text by a single figure in the history of philosophy, western or nonwestern. As such, a substantial research paper is an expanded version of, and developed from, a term paper written for a graduate philosophy course in the history of philosophy. Note of clarification: This substantial research paper is a specific departmental requirement for the History of Philosophy track and should not be confused with the School of International Service's "SRP" requirement.

Independent Study

Independent Study will only be approved in special cases for students whose projects require them. Any student considering an independent study must first receive approval from the graduate advisor, the faculty member who will work with the student on the independent study, and the chair of the department; and fill out an *Independent Study Registration Form* (F1).

Internships

Internship Coordinator

The internship coordinator (Ellen Feder, efeder@american.edu) oversees, supervises, and grades all internships.

Overview

A 3-credit internship, usually taken in the third semester, is required for the MA in Philosophy and Social Policy and can serve as an elective for the MA in the History of Philosophy. An internship provides the opportunity to test the claim that philosophy is the kind of discipline that teaches transferable skills such as critical reading, analytical problem solving, and clear and persuasive writing. These skills are desirable since many legal services, research institutes, non-profit organizations, think tanks, and business organizations, all of which happen to reside in Washington and offer internships, are in search of individuals with such skills. The following is a partial list of institutions where students have interned:

Academy for Educational Development
American Academy for the Advancement of Science
Amnesty International
AYUDA Inc.
Brookings Institution
Center for Advanced Studies
Children's Defense Fund
Ethics Resource Center
Everett Institute
Human Rights Watch
Institute for Policy Studies
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Institute of Religion and Public Policy
National Institutes of Health
National Partnership for Women and Families
New American Foundation
Public Defender Service
Search for Common Ground
Smithsonian Institution
Urban Institute
U.S. Congress
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of State
Women, Law and Development International
Women's Research and Education Institute
and numerous other non-profit organizations.

Please keep in mind that organizations are generous in allowing students the opportunity to work with them. While the organizations and individuals benefit from having interns, it is important to recognize that these organizations and individuals are investing time and resources for internship training for which they are not otherwise compensated.

How to get the most out of your internship experience

It is important to start thinking now about what you would like to accomplish in your internship semester. The clearer your objectives, the more likely it is that you will find the right place. Since you are working toward your MA, you should think of the internship as an element of your training that reflects both your competence in theoretical work and your ability to apply that theory in evaluating current problems and issues. In thinking about what sort of internship to pursue, let your interests determine which place can offer you the richest experience. To accomplish this, you need to start your search in the Spring Semester of your first year. Begin by consulting with Ellen Feder. AU also has an excellent Career and Internship Office that can assist you in your search. Once you've identified the appropriate site, visit and meet with people – maybe you can talk to someone who is currently interning there. Speak with the internship supervisors at the site, and discuss with them your academic interests to find out whether there is any work and research to be done in your area. If so, Congratulations!!! If not, keep looking!!!

Finding the perfect match could lead to future employment!

Requirements

1. To earn 3 credits, you are expected to **work 16 hours per week for 12 consecutive weeks**.
2. The majority of your time should be devoted to **substantive work**. No more than 15% of your time should be spent doing clerical work. You must appreciate, however, that at many nonprofit organizations and in legal settings answering phones, filing papers, and even making photocopies is not mere "clerical work." Rather, this work is shared by members of the organization as a whole, and may exceed the "15% rule." In cases such as this, it is important to appreciate that this is not simply "grunt work," but labor essential to the particular job or the running of the organization and thus essential to your experience of working in and learning about a particular field or work environment.
3. You must successfully complete a **substantive paper** of 25–30 pages, which includes a bibliography and theoretical analysis of the internship experience.
4. At the end of the internship, the instructor will solicit an evaluation from the student's supervisor.

Procedures

1. After consultation with Professor Feder, find an internship.
2. Fill out the **Internship Registration Form (F2)** and obtain the appropriate department signatures.
3. Submit the form to AU Central.
4. Submit a reading list to the internship coordinator.
5. Submit the final paper and syllabus **no later than the last day of classes**.

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

How do I set up myau.american.edu and e-mail accounts?

[Myau.american.edu](http://myau.american.edu) is a password-protected website giving students access to their records and other useful University information. To set up an account, go to <myau.american.edu>, click on the “Create your account” link at the bottom center of the page and follow the instructions. E-mail accounts are automatically created for all students and are accessible through <myau.american.edu>. In most cases, the e-mail address is the student’s first and last initials, followed by the last four digits of his or her AU ID number, followed by “a.” The initial password is the student’s six-digit birth date (MMDDYY). For example, the e-mail address and password of a student named Immanuel Kant who has an AU ID number of 1234567 and a birth date of 01/23/1724 would be ik4567a@student.american.edu and 012324.

Who do I need to contact if I move or change e-mail accounts?

If your contact information changes while you are a student at AU, please use the “Update my address” link (available at myau.american.edu under “Academics”). In addition, contact the Department of Philosophy and Religion office either by phone or by e-mail with your new contact information. As a courtesy, you should also provide this information to the graduate advisor and internship coordinator, as appropriate. The department office is here to help you and to provide you with updated information. The office cannot do so, however, without updated contact information from you.

Where do I get information about course offerings?

Course offerings for each semester are available on-line at myau.american.edu under “Academics.” The “Schedule of Classes” link provides course information, such as time, location, instructor, course availability (open or closed), and—in some cases—a brief description. In addition, the department creates a *Philosophy and Religion Course Offerings* brochure with more detailed descriptions of courses being offered. The brochure is available online at <http://american.edu/cas/philrel/courses>. Finally, general course descriptions are available in the *University Catalog* in the gray section.

Where do I go for advising?

Feel free to speak to any faculty member in the department in seeking advice on substantive issues. All faculty hold office hours and welcome students to visit, whether it be to seek advice about courses, assignments, research topics and interests, future career plans, or simply to get to know the professor and the department better. However, when it comes to administrative issues, such as specific requirements or procedures, please contact either the graduate advisor, the chair of the department, or the administrative assistant.

How do I register for classes?

The Registrar’s office requires that all graduate students register every fall and spring semester until they officially graduate, in order to maintain their standing as students in the department, NO EXCEPTIONS. This means that you must do one of the following each fall and spring semester:

1. *Register for Classes*: To register for classes, you must first make an appointment with your advisor to discuss your progress and determine which classes to take. Your advisor will then provide you with an electronic “release” that will allow you to register for courses. To do this, your advisor will need your student ID number, so bring it with you. You may then go to myau.american.edu and register for your classes on-line.
2. *Maintain Matriculation by registering for 1 credit of PHIL-099*: Maintain matriculation costs the equivalent of 1 credit hour but does not count as credit toward completion of the degree. It is

generally used by a student who has completed his or her course requirements, but is continuing work on other degree requirements that semester.

3. *Request a Leave of Absence:* For any semester in which a student will not be working toward their degree, a leave of absence may be requested. However, leaves of absence are granted on a case-by-case basis, usually due to illness or other personal hardship. Please note that under no circumstance will more than two (2) leaves of absence be granted (i.e., two semesters or one academic year).

How and when do I apply for graduation?

You should apply for graduation by filling out the online "Apply to Graduate" form available through myau.american.edu (under the "Academics" link). For the fall-semester graduation in December, the deadline for applications is usually mid-September; for the spring-semester graduation in May, the deadline is usually mid-January; and for the summer graduation in August, the deadline is usually mid-May. For current deadlines, go to the registrar's website at <http://american.edu/provost/registrar>. Once you submit your application for graduation, the department will receive notification from the registrar's office and will verify your eligibility for graduation. Please note that **commencement ceremonies** are now only offered for the spring graduation. Therefore, if you intend to walk in the ceremonies, you will need to apply for a spring graduation. After the registrar's office receives verification from the department, you will be sent specific graduation-ceremony information (ordering cap and gown, etc.) as soon as it is available.

Financial Aid

The Department receives from the University a limited amount of financial assistance, which it apportions according to merit, generally when students enter the program. Some students receive full coverage of their tuition (tuition remission), some partial tuition, and some worthy students receive no aid. In addition, some students receive a stipend. The department also has limited teaching and research assistant positions available. Those who do not receive aid from the Department's limited funds may be able to find work elsewhere at the University or in the Washington, DC area. Information on university job openings can be found on the [Human Resources](#) web site. For jobs in the DC area, try the AU [Career Center](#) or the [Washington Post](#).

All students who wish to be considered for departmental fellowship, or additional financial assistance in the form of loans, must fill out the FAFSA by March 1 for the following academic year. For details, contact the Financial Aid Office through AU Central (202-885-8000), located in the Asbury building, or visit the [FAFSA](#) web site.

For most financial aid awards (as well as for deferring previous federal loans), students must be registered as full-time status. However, during the last semester of study, many students only need to register for a few credits to finish up the last few degree requirements. In these cases, students are studying full-time, but only enrolled part-time. To maintain financial aid availability, students must fill out the *Certification of Full-Time or Half-Time Status* form (F3) available at the Registrar's office or the Philosophy office.

Annual Departmental Conferences and Activities

McDowell Conference

Every fall, the department hosts the McDowell Conference on Philosophy and Social Policy. This event provides students with an excellent opportunity to meet visiting philosophers as well as meet with faculty and fellow graduate students. Recent topics have included *Philosophy and the Emotions*, *Philosophy and Tolerance*, *The Philosophical Implications of September 11th*, *Philosophy and Democracy*, *Philosophy and Race*, and *Ethics and Genetics*.

Hurst Lecture

Each spring, the department holds the Bishop Hurst Lecture. Speakers have included such prominent philosophers as Alison M. Jaggar, Alasdair MacIntyre, Hugo Bedeau, John Lachs, Lucius Outlaw, David Crocker, Anthony Flew, Simon Critchley, and Claudia Card.

Durfee Lecture

Each year the department holds the Harold A. and Doris G. Durfee Lecture. The inaugural lecture in 2007 was delivered by Harold A. Durfee, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. Speakers have included David Little, Randall Balmer, and Amy Hollywood.

Other Lectures

In addition to the annual lecture series above, the department periodically sponsors other lectures, including the "Philosophy Matters" speakers series, usually faculty members from both AU and other institutions. Graduate students are informed about these lectures as they develop, so make sure to keep your contact information current.

Student Orientation

At the beginning of every fall semester, the department offers a graduate student orientation. This is an excellent opportunity for all Philosophy graduate students, new and continuing, to meet one another and the Department Faculty.

Writing Workshop

At the beginning of the fall semester, the department offers a Philosophy Writing Workshop oriented specifically for graduate students in philosophy. Samples of excellent and not so excellent graduate student writing are distributed in advance of the workshop. Both new and continuing graduate students benefit from the insights of faculty and peers regarding excellence in writing in philosophy.

Department Directory and Faculty Highlights

Evan Berry, Assistant Professor (EPGA Co-director and advisor)

Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara

Battelle-Tompkins 111

202-885-2493

berry@american.edu

Research interests: environmental ethics and bioethics; religion and environmentalism, the natural sciences, and popular culture; and sacred space and sacred landscapes.

Farhang Erfani, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Villanova University

Battelle-Tompkins 123

202-885-2206

erfani@american.edu

Research interests: continental philosophy, aesthetics, and political philosophy.

Ellen K. Feder, Associate Professor (Internship advisor)

Ph.D., SUNY Stony Brook

Battelle-Tompkins 118

202-885-2931

efeder@american.edu

Research interests: contemporary continental philosophy, social and political philosophy, ethics, feminist theory, and critical race theory.

Gershon Greenberg, Professor

Ph.D., Columbia University and Union Seminary

Battelle-Tompkins 114

202-885-2912

greenbe@american.edu

Research interests: philosophy of religion; America and the Holy Land; religious and philosophical meaning of the Holocaust; and religion, conflict, and peace.

Kimberly Leighton, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts

Battelle-Tompkins 121

202-885-2415

leighton@american.edu

Research interests: ethics, bioethics, social and political philosophy, and feminist philosophy.

Amy A. Oliver, Associate Professor (Chair, graduate advisor for History of Philosophy, and Philosophy and Social Policy)

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts

Battelle-Tompkins 118

202-885-2140

aoliver@american.edu

Research interests: Spanish and Latin American philosophy, philosophy of literature, women's studies.

Martyn Oliver, Professorial Lecturer

Ph.D., Boston University

oliver@american.edu

Research interests: construction of religious identity, religion and literature, Islam.

Jin Y. Park, Associate Professor

Ph.D., SUNY Stony Brook

Battelle-Tompkins 115

202-885-2919

jypark@american.edu

Research interests: Asian philosophies and religions, postmodernism.

Shubha Pathak, Assistant Professor (Undergraduate advisor for religion)

Ph.D., University of Chicago Divinity School; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

Battelle-Tompkins 113

202-885-2957

pathak@american.edu

Research interests: the philosophical, psychological, and religious aspects of epic poetry and poetic creativity; comparative religious studies; classical literary criticism; and contemporary psychological theories.

Jeffrey Reiman, William Fraser McDowell Professor of Philosophy

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Battelle-Tompkins 117

202-885-2927

jreiman@american.edu

Research interests: theoretical and applied ethics, political and legal philosophy, and the history of philosophy.

Andrea Tschemplik, Associate Professor (Undergraduate advisor for philosophy)

Ph.D., City University of New York

Battelle-Tompkins 116

202-885-2921

atschem@american.edu

Research interests: ancient philosophy (Plato); history of philosophy ancient through nineteenth century; and philosophy of love and friendship.

Lauren Weis, Assistant Professor (Philosophy honor society coordinator)

Ph.D., Boston College

Battelle-Tompkins

202-885-2926

weis@american.edu

Research interests: history of philosophy, feminist theory, continental philosophy, theory of ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.

Shelley Harshe, Sr. Administrative Assistant

Battelle-Tompkins 120 (main office)

202-885-2925

philrel@american.edu

Important Dates for Graduate Students

Fall 2011

8/22 M	Deadline for electronic submission of qualifying paper to the department's administrative assistant
8/29 M	Classes begin
8/29-9/02 M-F	Mandatory meeting with qualifying paper committee
9/02 F	Late registration ends
9/05 M	Labor Day, no classes
9/12 M	Last day to add course or change grade option Last day to drop a course for a 100% refund and without a "W" recorded
9/19 M	Last day to drop a fall course for a 50% refund
9/26 M	Last day to drop a fall course for a 25% refund (no refunds after this date)
9/30 F	Deadline for electronic submission of revised qualifying paper
10/14 F	Fall break, no classes
10/17-21 M-F	Mandatory follow-up meeting with qualifying paper committee
10/22 F	Last day to drop a course
10/28 F	Spring 2012 registration begins
11/07 M	Deadline for electronic submission of final version of the qualifying paper
11/22 T	Tuesday classes cancelled, Friday classes meet
11/23-27 W-Su	Thanksgiving, no classes
11/28 M	Deadline to send an email to the department's administrative assistant stating from which course your spring 2012 qualifying paper will come
12/09 F	Last day of classes
12/12-19 M-M	Final exams (W 12/14 is a study day)

Spring 2012

1/09 M	Deadline for electronic submission of qualifying paper to the department's administrative assistant
1/17 T	Classes begin
1/17-20 T-F	Mandatory meeting with qualifying paper committee
1/23 M	Late registration ends
1/30 M	Last day to add a course or change grade option Last day to drop for a 100% refund and without a "W" recorded
2/06 M	Last day to drop a course for a 50% refund
2/13 M	Last day to drop a course for a 25% refund (no refunds after this date)
2/17 F	Deadline for electronic submission of revised qualifying paper
3/05-9 M-F	Mandatory follow-up meeting with qualifying paper committee
3/09 F	Last day to drop a course
3/11-18 Su-Su	Spring break
3/23 F	Fall 2012 registration begins
3/26 M	Deadline for electronic submission of the final version of qualifying paper to the department's administrative assistant
4/16 M	Deadline to send an email to the department's administrative assistant stating from which course your fall 2012 qualifying paper will come
4/30 M	Last day of classes
5/02-08 W-T	Final exams
5/13 Su	Spring Commencement (1:00pm)



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

INDEPENDENT STUDY REGISTRATION FORM

Student _____ AU ID# _____
(Last) (First)

Phone _____ e-mail _____ @ _____

Term: Fall Spring Summer 20____

Course Information:

Course # _____ - _____ Credits _____ A-F Pass/Fail

Faculty supervisor _____
(Last) (First)

Project Title _____

Brief description of independent study project:

Required Signatures:

Academic Advisor _____ Date _____

Faculty supervisor _____ Date _____

Department Chair or Dean _____ Date _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS
Obtain all required approvals and submit this completed form to the Registrar's Office. You will receive confirmation by e-mail when your registration has been processed.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
202-885-2200 fax 202-885-1052



Certification of Full-Time or Half-Time Status Graduate Students in Lieu of Semester Hours Requirement

Office of the Registrar

PLEASE NOTE: This form must be signed either by the DEAN of the student's school, the CHAIR of the student's department, or the DIRECTOR of the student's program.

Name _____ Student I.D. # _____

Department _____ Degree Program _____

SEMESTER: FALL SPRING SUMMER YEAR: _____

STATEMENT BY STUDENT: (CHECK ALL APPLICABLE)

I am registered for _____ graduate credit hours this semester.

AND I am doing the following:

Preparing for comprehensive examinations to be taken _____
_____ hours per week this semester

Research/independent study _____ hours per week this semester beyond
those required for courses in which I am formally registered

Tools of research _____ hours per week this semester beyond
those required for courses in which I am formally registered

Thesis preparation _____ hours per week this semester beyond
those required for courses in which I am formally registered

Dissertation preparation _____ hours per week this semester beyond
those required for courses in which I am formally registered

STATUS CLAIMED (CHECK ONE)

Full-time Half-time

Student's Signature

Date

STATEMENT BY DEAN, DEPARTMENT CHAIR, OR DIRECTOR:

The above information is correct and I certify that this student is considered to be doing work beyond regular classwork as represented.

Yes No

This student is considered to be making satisfactory progress toward completion of a graduate degree program.

Yes No

Signature of Dean, Department Chair, or Director

Date