



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

# UNDERGRADUATE HANDBOOK

2011~2012

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AU Student Handbook .....	<a href="http://www.american.edu/ocl/vp/student_policies.cfm">http://www.american.edu/ocl/vp/student_policies.cfm</a>
Academic Integrity Code .....	<a href="http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm">http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm</a>
Academic Advising & Student Resources .....	<a href="http://american.edu/cas/advising">http://american.edu/cas/advising</a>
Academic Regulations .....	<a href="http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/academicreg.cfm">http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/academicreg.cfm</a>

# Welcome

I would like to welcome you to the Department of Philosophy and Religion and to wish you the best in your philosophical and religious 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*, some of the department information is not. 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 undergraduate 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](mailto:philrel@american.edu)

## Why Study Philosophy or Religion?

Students often want to know the practical value of studying philosophy or religion. In other words, how will it help you in the future? What jobs are available for philosophy and religious studies majors? What if you want to continue on to graduate school, but don't want to teach philosophy or religion?

The study of philosophy or religion helps students develop valuable skills leading to work in any number of fields. Studying philosophy or religion provides excellent preparation for graduate study in many disciplines and areas of study.

### ➤ Career opportunities

Students graduating with majors in philosophy or religion have chosen careers in law, medicine, social work, the ministry, computer science, environmental protection, human rights, journalism, communication, government, business, education, race relations, and applied ethics.

### ➤ Graduate school

Students have pursued graduate study in philosophy, religious studies, theology, history, psychology, linguistics, anthropology, medicine, law, economics, public health, literature, and education.

### ➤ Intellectual development and skills

Philosophy and religion courses are ideal for students who want to develop and improve their writing and analytical skills. Students of philosophy or religion become more aware of themselves and the world around them. By raising questions which explore the basic principles of existence and ultimate human concerns, the study of philosophy or religion helps students develop many skills such as

- the ability to reason clearly
- the ability to extract what is essential from large amounts of information
- understanding and analyzing complicated texts
- developing a well-structured argument
- expressing ideas in a clear and persuasive manner
- problem-solving

# Requirements for Majors in Philosophy and Religious Studies

## Major in philosophy

### Course requirements

The major in philosophy requires the completion of **39 credit hours** with grades of C or better, including 15 credit hours at the 300 level or above, and up to 6 credit hours in religion:

- **30** of these credit hours are taken in courses in philosophy and religion, including 9 credits in the history of philosophy, 9 credits in moral and political philosophy, 6 credits in critical perspectives, and 6 credits of electives
- **9** of these credit hours are taken in a subspecialty in philosophy, such as applied ethics or aesthetics, which may involve courses outside the department

See check list for specific courses.

### Example of a well-balanced major program

Students majoring in philosophy may tailor their programs to their specific interests, which may include areas such as applied ethics or aesthetics. The formulation of a strong major program is the joint responsibility of the undergraduate advisor in philosophy and the student. Many students also choose to take an internship in philosophy (see p. 18 in this booklet), or to pursue their studies in philosophy abroad (see p. 22 in this booklet). Students who wish to do advanced study in philosophy in a non-English speaking country must make sure that they are developing a proficiency in the appropriate language. Here is one **example** of a well-balanced program in philosophy:

#### 9 credits in history of philosophy:

PHIL-105 Western Philosophy  
PHIL-300 Ancient Philosophy  
PHIL-302 Nineteenth Century Philosophy

#### 9 credits concentration in applied ethics:

PHIL-240 Ethics in the Professions  
PHIL-241 Introduction to Bioethics  
PHIL-391 Internship in Philosophy

#### 9 credits in moral and political philosophy:

PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy  
PHIL-386 Rawls and Habermas  
PHIL-525 Seminar in Modern Moral Problems

#### 6 credits of electives:

PHIL-200 Introduction to Logic  
PHIL-480 Senior Seminar

#### 6 credits in critical perspectives

PHIL-317 Race and Philosophy  
PHIL-319 Buddhist Philosophy

## Major in religious studies

### Course requirements

The major in religious studies requires the completion of **39 credit hours** with grades of C or better:

- **24** of these credits must be taken in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, including 12 credits of Foundation Courses, 3 credits of Internship, and 9 credits in religion courses at the 300-level or above
- **15** of these credits may be earned by taking courses chosen from the following:
  - 6 credits in philosophy
  - 9 credits outside of the Department of Philosophy and Religion

See check list for specific courses.

### Example of a well-balanced major program

Students majoring in religious studies may tailor their programs to their specific interests, which may include such areas as Western religions, Eastern religions, comparative religion, ethics, philosophy of religion, religion and literature, and religion and the social sciences. The formulation of a strong major program is the joint responsibility of the undergraduate advisor in religious studies and the student. In addition to completing the

required courses in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, students may study religion abroad (see p. 22 in this booklet). Here is one **example** of a well-balanced program in religious studies:

*30 credits in philosophy and religion:*

RELG-105 Religious Heritage of the West  
RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East  
RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions  
RELG-230 Methods of Studying Religion  
RELG-391 Internship in Religious Studies  
RELG-370 Islam  
RELG-375 Religion and Violence  
RELG-386 Topics in Religious Discussion: Religion, Politics, and Human Rights  
PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy  
PHIL-300 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

*9 credits outside of philosophy and religion:*

ANTH-431 Taboos  
HIST-344 Topics in Jewish History: Modern Jewish Politics  
PSYC-335 Psychology of Religion

Check lists for the two majors follow this section. You should fill in the 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.

## Second majors

As a method of inquiry, philosophy and religious studies is always about “something,” whether the nature of knowledge or reality itself, or the application of ethical principles to conflict resolution, to medical or business practices, or to questions concerning what “human rights” are. For this reason, majors in philosophy are required to take 9 credits in a subspecialty, which may be interdisciplinary in nature, and majors in religious studies are required to take 9 credits outside of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Many of our students go one better by taking a second major in another field of study. Having two majors is an excellent way to combine related fields of study (and it also makes for a very impressive resume!). Most students are able to complete all the requirements for both majors within the normal timeframe of undergraduate study (four years), and—not surprisingly—two particularly complementary majors are philosophy and religious studies. However, students who decide to double-major need to keep in mind the relationship of the two majors as well as their own responsibilities.

### *Relationship of the dual courses of study*

- Technically at AU, there are no “double-majors.” Instead, a student has a **first major** and a **second major**. AU distinguishes between the two majors for administrative purposes only, which means it does not make a difference for graduate study or your resume which major is “first” and which is “second.” However, your choice of a first major does make a difference while you are at AU. What you choose as your **first** major determines the following:
  - who will be your primary advisor (this person receives all your records first and also clears you for registration each semester)
  - the department with which you will attend the graduation ceremony
- If the first and second majors lead to different degrees (e.g., BA and BS), you will need to specify which of the two degrees you prefer.
- A course may count toward both majors as long as it meets the requirements for the majors.
- **Example:** Mark is majoring in both philosophy and biology. Mark decides to make philosophy his first major because he knows more people in that department and wants to walk with them during graduation. Since philosophy leads to a BA and biology to a BS, he must decide which he prefers to be awarded. In addition, after speaking with his advisors in both departments, he learned that a course in bioethics will count toward both majors.

*Students' responsibilities as a second major:*

- Consult with your advisors in **both** departments before registering for courses
- Report any address or e-mail changes to both departments
- Never assume that a course will count toward both majors—always ask
- Make sure your first major advisor is also helping assure that general education requirements are met
- Contact both departments if you decide to change which major is first and which is second, since this shifts advisor responsibilities as well.

# Major in Philosophy Check List

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The major in philosophy requires the completion of **39 credit hours** with grades of C or better, including 15 credit hours at the 300 level or above, and up to 6 credit hours in religion.*

Course	Semester	Credits	Grade
--------	----------	---------	-------

**History of Philosophy (9 credits)**

PHIL-105 Western Philosophy \_\_\_\_\_

6 credit hours of approved course work at the 300 level or above:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Moral and Political Philosophy (9 credits)**

PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy (3) \_\_\_\_\_

PHIL-235 Theories of Democracy  
and Human Rights \_\_\_\_\_

6 credit hours of approved course work at the 300 level or above:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Critical Perspectives (6 credits)**

6 credit hours of course work from the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-313 Studies in Asian Philosophy (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-316 Feminist Philosophy (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-317 Race and Philosophy (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-318 Chinese Philosophy (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-386 Latin American Thought (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-386 Philosophy and Film (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ RELG-373 Hinduism (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved philosophy or religion course: \_\_\_\_\_

**Concentration (9 credits)**

9 credit hours of course work in a subspecialty in philosophy, such as applied ethics or aesthetics, which may involve courses outside the department, approved by department advisor:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Electives (6 credits)**

6 credit hours of approved course work

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## Major in Religious Studies Check List

*The major in religious studies requires the completion of 39 credit hours with grades of C or better.*

24 of these credits must be taken in the Department of Philosophy and Religion:

*12 credits of Foundation Courses:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-105 Religious Heritage of the West
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions or  
RELG-220 Religious Thought
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-230 Methods of Studying Religion

*3 credits of Internship:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-391 Internship in Religious Studies

*9 credits in religion courses at the 300 level or above, chosen from the following:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-370 Islam
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-371 Topics in Jewish Religion
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-372 Religion in America
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-373 Hinduism
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-375 Religion and Violence
- \_\_\_\_\_ RELG-386 Topics in Religious Discussion

15 of these credits may be earned by taking courses chosen from the following:

*6 credits in philosophy, chosen from the following:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-235 Theories of Democracy and Human Rights
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-300 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-318 Chinese Philosophy
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-319 Buddhist Philosophy
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-335 Philosophy of Religion
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-520 Ethical Theory
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHIL-525 Modern Moral Problems

*9 credits outside of philosophy and religion, chosen from the following:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ ANTH-430 Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion
- \_\_\_\_\_ ANTH-431 Taboos
- \_\_\_\_\_ HIST-239 Topics in European History (Religious Conflict in Early Modern Europe and other versions, depending on topic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ HIST-245 Modern Jewish Civilization
- \_\_\_\_\_ HIST-332 Contemporary Historical Studies: Islamic Society in the Modern World
- \_\_\_\_\_ HIST-344 Topics in Jewish History (depending on topic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ JWST-320 Topics in Jewish Culture
- \_\_\_\_\_ PSYC-335 Psychology of Religion
- \_\_\_\_\_ SIS-514 Spirituality and Global Politics
- \_\_\_\_\_ SOCY-315 Major Social Theorists (depending on content)

Note: 15 credits must be taken in upper-level courses "in residence" at AU.

## Requirements for Minors in Philosophy and Religion

### Minor in philosophy

The minor in philosophy requires the completion of **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:

- 3 credit hours from the following:
  - PHIL-105 Western Philosophy *or*
  - PHIL-300 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy *or*
  - PHIL-301 Modern Philosophy from Bacon to Hegel
- 15 credit hours in philosophy (or 12 credits in philosophy and 3 credits in religion). PHIL-391 Internship in Philosophy counts only toward the philosophy major.

### Minor in religion

The minor in religion requires the completion of **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:

- 6 credit hours chosen from the following:
  - RELG-105 Religious Heritage of the West
  - RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred
  - RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions
  - RELG-220 Religious Thought
- 12 credit hours in religion (or 9 credits in religion and 3 credits in philosophy). RELG-391 Internship in Religious Studies may be taken for up to 3 credits.

Check lists for the two minors are included on the following two pages. You should fill in the respective 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.

## Minor in Philosophy Check List

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

1st Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Major: \_\_\_\_\_

*The minor in philosophy requires the completion of **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.*

<i>Course</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Grade</i>
<i>3 credit hours from the following:</i>			
PHIL-105 Western Philosophy	_____	_____	_____
<b>OR</b>			
PHIL-300 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	_____	_____	_____
<b>OR</b>			
PHIL-301 Modern Philosophy from Bacon to Hegel	_____	_____	_____

*15 credit hours in philosophy (or 12 credits in philosophy and 3 credits in religion). PHIL-391 Internship in Philosophy counts only toward the philosophy major:*

	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

## Minor in Religion Check List

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

1st Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Major: \_\_\_\_\_

*The minor in religion requires the completion of **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.*

<i>Course</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Grade</i>
<i>6 credit hours chosen from the following:</i>			
RELG-105 Religious Heritage of the West	_____	_____	_____
RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East	_____	_____	_____
RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions	_____	_____	_____
RELG-220 Religious Thought	_____	_____	_____

*12 credit hours in religion (or 9 credits in religion and 3 credits in philosophy). RELG-391 Internship in Religious Studies may be taken for up to 3 credits:*

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

# Requirements for the Combined BA/MA in Philosophy

## Overview

The Department of Philosophy and Religion offers a combined BA/MA in philosophy for students who are interested in a career in philosophy, careers in advocacy and social policy, other careers where analytical skills are needed, or a stronger foundation in philosophy for graduate education such as law school. Interested students apply to the undergraduate degree first, and then apply to the MA program by the end of their junior year. Admission is open to undergraduates whose overall GPA is 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale).

## Requirements

- all requirements for the **BA major in philosophy**, to be completed **before** the following requirements
- all requirements for the **MA in philosophy**, to be completed **after** the above requirements
- students may use up to 9 credit hours (for History of Philosophy, and Philosophy and Social Policy) or 12 credit hours (for Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs) at or above the 500 level to satisfy the requirements for both the BA and the MA

## How to prepare for this option

- Work toward completing all your **undergraduate** requirements **first**
- By the end of your junior year, apply to the MA program
- During your senior year:
  - Complete all undergraduate requirements
  - Take 3 (for History of Philosophy, and Philosophy and Social Policy) or 4 (for Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs) of the philosophy courses that count for your BA at the 500 level or above (these will also count toward your MA once you graduate from the BA)
  - You may take additional graduate-level classes during your senior year only if you have already met **all** undergraduate requirements
  - Once you have been accepted to the MA program, pick up a *Graduate Handbook* in Battelle-Tompkins 120 or online
  - Apply for graduation for your BA in the semester in which you will finish all the BA requirements (do not wait until later as this will cause problems with your MA)

Please see the following page for a checklist of the BA/MA requirements.

# Combined BA/MA in Philosophy Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. During your first two years, work toward completion of your BA Requirements. In fact, you should take *no* graduate-level courses during these years.**

**II. During your junior year, continue to take undergraduate-level courses only, while beginning to plan for your graduate studies**

- Apply to the MA program online by the end of the junior year at <http://www.american.edu/cas/admissions/apply.cfm>
- Choose your MA track: History of Philosophy; Philosophy and Social Policy; or Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep working toward undergraduate requirements (taking courses no higher than those at the 500 level)

**III. During your senior year,**

- Complete all undergraduate requirements:
  - General education requirements
  - Undergraduate major in philosophy requirements, of which 9 credits (for History of Philosophy, and Philosophy and Social Policy) or 12 credits (for Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs) are taken at the 500 level or above (see A–B below)
  - University minimum of 120 credits toward the BA (this includes the 9 or 12 credits that will also count toward the MA)
  - If applicable, all requirements completed for additional majors
  - If applicable, all requirements completed for minors
  - If applicable, all requirements completed for the Honors Program
- Once you have been accepted to the MA program, pick up a *Graduate Handbook* in Battelle-Tompkins 120 or read it online at <http://american.edu/cas/philrel/MA-PHIL.cfm> for the History of Philosophy, and the Philosophy and Social Policy tracks, or at <http://american.edu/cas/philrel/MA-EPGA.cfm> for Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs
- Apply for graduation for your BA degree in the semester in which you will finish all the BA requirements

**In addition,**

**A. If you choose the *History of Philosophy* track or the *Philosophy and Social Policy* track for your MA,**

- Take 3 philosophy courses (9 credits) at the 500 level or above. These courses will count for both the BA and the MA, so see your advisor to make sure the courses meet requirements for both programs
- Take 2 additional courses (6 credits) at the 500 level or above. These courses will count toward your MA only; therefore, take these courses only if you are able to meet the university minimum of 120 credits for the BA without counting these courses
- \*The remaining 18 credits **must** be taken as graduate-degree standing (**after** you have graduated with your BA)

**B. If you choose the *Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs* track for your MA,**

- Take 4 philosophy courses (12 credits) at the 500 level or above. These courses will count for both the BA and the MA, so see your advisor to make sure the courses meet requirements for both programs
- Take 3 additional courses (9 credits) at the 500 level or above. These courses will count toward your MA only; therefore, take these courses only if you are able to meet the University minimum of 120 credits for the BA without counting these courses
- \*The remaining 18 credits **must** be taken as graduate-degree standing (**after** you have graduated with your BA)

**IV. Meet all requirements for the MA in philosophy.** Follow the guidelines below to complete the BA/MA program in 5 years. You may study longer than five years if needed; however, you must complete the MA requirements within 3 years from the date of first enrollment in the MA program.\*\*

- Verify that you have **officially** graduated before taking the courses below. If you have not finished an undergraduate requirement, these courses will **not** count toward your MA
- Take 9 credits for the fall semester and complete one qualifying paper
- Take 9 credits for the spring semester and complete one qualifying paper
- Make sure to complete all MA requirements using the appropriate MA checklist for your track (e.g., History of Philosophy; Social Policy; Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs)

\*Per University Regulation 40.10.13.G. Absolutely **no** exceptions will be made, so make sure you plan accordingly and in consultation with your advisor.

\*\*Per University Regulation 40.10.13.I.

# Requirements for the Certificate in Applied Ethics and Professional Responsibility

## Overview

The public is increasingly concerned with matters of ethics in the everyday conduct of professional life. Both as a society and as members of professional communities, individuals are measuring their and others' actions in accordance with ethical norms. Ethical engagement demands that actors be able to articulate and justify not only their actions, but also the process of decision making behind those actions and its guiding framework.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Ethics and Professional Responsibility includes a core in ethics and philosophy that offers a foundation on which students build their understanding of professional responsibilities in their chosen fields. Students learn to support and defend their own ethical positions and to judge the adequacy of others' claims. They gain insight into our understanding of right and wrong as well as into judgments about matters of social justice and human rights, and will be prepared as members of their professional communities to both follow and define ethical guidelines and codes of conduct.

Completing the certificate enhances a student's candidacy for positions in business by signaling to potential employers an appreciation for the complexities of professional life. It also provides students with essential leadership tools, thereby accelerating their progress beyond the entry level to decision-making positions.

## Requirements

The certificate in Applied Ethics and Professional Responsibility requires the completion of **18 credit hours**, with a grade of B or better for core courses in the certificate and with a grade of C or better for elective courses. All courses taken in the Department of Philosophy and Religion toward the Certificate may be used by undergraduates toward departmental majors or minors. All courses in the Kogod School of Business may be used by undergraduates toward school majors or minors:

- 9 credit hours of core courses:
  - PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy
  - PHIL-240 Ethics in the Professions
  - MGMT-201 Global Corporate Citizenship
  
- 9 credit hours of electives (Some of the elective courses have prerequisites. Please consult the catalog's course descriptions):
  - PHIL-525 Seminar in Modern Moral Problems
  - Approved selected topics in Philosophy (300-level or above)
  - KSB-356 Management Communications for Social Responsibility
  - MGMT-360 Nonprofit and Social Entrepreneurship
  - Approved selected topics in Business or Management (300-level or above)
  - Approved internship in management (MGMT-391 or 491) or philosophy (PHIL-391)

Please see the following page for a checklist of the certificate requirements.

# Certificate in Applied Ethics and Professional Responsibility Check List

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The certificate in Applied Ethics and Professional Responsibility requires the completion of 18 credit hours, with a grade of B or better for core courses in the certificate and with a grade of C or better for elective courses. All courses taken in the Department of Philosophy and Religion toward the Certificate may be used by undergraduates toward departmental majors or minors. All courses in the Kogod School of Business may be used by undergraduates toward school majors or minors.*

<i>Course</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Grade</i>
<b>Core courses (9 credits):</b>			
PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy (3)	_____	_____	_____
PHIL-240 Ethics in the Professions (3)	_____	_____	_____
MGMT-201 Global Corporate Citizenship (3)	_____	_____	_____
<b>Elective courses from the following (9 credits):</b>			
Note: Some of the elective courses below have prerequisites. Please consult the catalog's course descriptions.			
PHIL-525 Seminar in Modern Moral Problems (3)	_____	_____	_____
KSB-356 Management Communications for Social Responsibility (3)	_____	_____	_____
MGMT-360 Nonprofit and Social Entrepreneurship (3)	_____	_____	_____
Approved selected topics in Business or Management (300-level or above)	_____	_____	_____
Approved selected topics in Philosophy (300-level or above)	_____	_____	_____
Approved internship in management (MGMT-391 or 491) or philosophy (PHIL-391)	_____	_____	_____

## General Education & Philosophy and Religion

The Department of Philosophy and Religion offers quite a few General Education courses. Many of these courses also meet requirements for the majors and minors. For example, PHIL-105 Western Philosophy is a foundation course for the General Education requirement in Curricular Area 2, Cluster 2; and may count toward the major or the minor in philosophy. RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East is a foundation course for the General Education requirement in Curricular Area 3, Cluster 2; and may count toward the minor in religion or philosophy, and/or the major in religious studies. By taking advantage of this “double-counting,” students may free up credits in order to take more electives. This strategy is also useful for students with more than one major, allowing them to complete all their requirements within the 120 credits required for a degree.

It is important to note that, to satisfy the requirements of General Education, no more than **two courses in a single discipline** may be taken to count for General Education credit. But, because we are a “joint” department of Philosophy AND Religion, you may take up to **four** courses (2 in Philosophy and 2 in Religion) to satisfy the requirements of both General Education and the majors in philosophy and religious studies.

## Consortium Courses

AU is part of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. The other universities in the Consortium are Catholic, Gallaudet, George Mason, George Washington, Georgetown, Howard, Marymount, Southeastern, Trinity College, UDC, and the University of Maryland. With the appropriate approval, students may take courses, for residence credit, at another Consortium university as long as the course is not being offered at AU during the same semester and there is room in the course. Payment and rates for a Consortium course are the same as if the course were an AU course.

Consortium registration is available during the first two weeks of AU classes only, unless classes at the Consortium university begin before those at AU.

If you decide to take a Consortium course:

- Go to the Consortium website ([www.consortium.org](http://www.consortium.org)) for information and details
- Make sure the course is not being offered at AU during the same semester
- Make an appointment with your advisor to assure the course will count toward your degree
- During the first two weeks of classes, fill out AU’s registration form, available at the Department of Philosophy and Religion office or at the registrar’s office, and get the required signatures
- Make arrangements directly with the Consortium school, since the AU registration form is for AU purposes only and does not guarantee a space in the course

## Independent Studies

Independent studies will be approved only in special cases for students whose projects require inquiries into areas that are not covered by courses offered at AU or in the Consortium. Any student considering an independent study must first receive approval from the following:

- the undergraduate advisor,
- the faculty member who will work with the student on the independent study, and
- the chair of the department

Upon receiving approval, the student should fill out the **Independent Study Registration Form** available in the *Schedule of Classes*, and submit this form to AU Central.



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

## Internships

### Internship coordinator

The internship coordinator oversees, supervises, and grades all internships. Students must receive her approval before registering for their internships.

### Overview

An internship is required for the religious studies major and is optional, although highly recommended, for the philosophy major. An internship may be taken for up to 3 credits for the religion minor, but an internship may not count toward the philosophy minor. An internship provides the opportunity to test the claim that philosophy and religious studies are the kinds of disciplines that teach transferable skills such as critical reading, analytical problem-solving and clear and careful writing. These skills are desirable, since many research institutes, non-profit organizations, think tanks and legal and business organizations—all of which Washington supports in abundance—are in search of individuals with such skills. The following is a partial list of institutions where students have interned:

Brookings Institution  
Ethics Resource Center  
Urban Institute  
Public Defender Service  
Smithsonian Institution  
Everett Institute  
U.S. Congress  
National Institutes of Health  
AYUDA Inc.  
Institute for Policy Studies  
Center for Advanced Studies  
U.S. Department of Education  
Washington Legal Foundation  
American Academy for the Advancement of Science  
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy  
Academy for Educational Development  
Institute of Religion and Public Policy  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
American Society of International Law  
NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Women, Law and Development International  
Women's Research and Education Institute  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington  
and numerous other nonprofit 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 in 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 early 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. 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 early in the semester before you would like to begin an internship. First, you should think about what issues, concerns, or professions you are interested in. Then, you should discuss these with your advisor, and speak with other students about their experience with similar internships. Another resource for internship information is AU's Career and Internship Office. Once you have 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** (24 hours will earn 6 credits).
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 10 pages for a 3-credit internship or 15 pages for a 6-credit internship, 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. Find an internship.
2. Fill out the **Internship Registration Form** (p. 20) and the **Internship Consent and Release Form** (p. 21), and obtain the appropriate department signatures.
3. Submit the two forms 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**.

**INTERNSHIP REGISTRATION FORM**

Student \_\_\_\_\_ AU ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Local address \_\_\_\_\_  
Apt # Street City State Zipcode

Term:  Fall  Spring  Summer 20\_\_\_\_ International student F-1 or J-1 visa  Yes  No

**Course Information** Course # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Credits \_\_\_\_\_  A-F  Pass/Fail

Faculty supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

Internship Position Title \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and brief description of internship:

**Internship Information** Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Room/Suite # Street City State Zipcode

Site supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Schedule** Inclusive dates from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Hours per week \_\_\_\_\_

Days each week (check all that apply)  M  T  W  Th  F  S  Su

Will any part of this Internship experience be outside of the US? [ ] YES [ ] NO Location: (city/country) \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, you are required to meet with the International Internship Advisor at the Career Center.  
Call 202-885-1804 for an appointment.

**Required Approvals:**

Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair or Dean \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

International Internship Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS**

Obtain all required approvals and submit this completed form to the Registrar's Office along with a signed Internship Consent and Release form. You will receive confirmation by e-mail when your registration has been processed. Additional documentation may be required by the academic department.

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



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

INTERNSHIP CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

Student \_\_\_\_\_ AU ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Course # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Term:  Fall  Spring  Summer 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ International student F-1 or J-1 visa  Yes \*  No

The following Agreement is designed to protect all participants in American University's internship programs, including students, faculty members, American University and the agencies and individuals cooperating with the University. You, as the student, must sign this form, with parental or guardian approval if you are under the age of eighteen (18), to indicate agreement and permission to participate.

I understand that participation in this internship is entirely voluntary and that any such internship program involves some element of risk. I agree that in consideration of American University sponsoring this activity and permitting me to participate, I will indemnify, defend and hold harmless American University, its officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns from liability for any and all claims, demands, rights or causes of action, present or future, resulting from or arising out of any travel or activity conducted by or under the auspices of this internship program.

I understand that the University requires that all students be covered by appropriate accident and medical insurance and that the student be financially responsible for such expenses. My signature below verifies that I am covered by the required insurance.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE PROVISIONS AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THEM AS INDICATED BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW.

**Required Signatures:**

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If under age of 18  
Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

\* Note: International students in F-1 or J-1 visa status must obtain authorization from International Student Services (ISS) before registration for this internship will be accepted.

International Student Services (ISS) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS**

Obtain all required approvals and submit this completed form to the Registrar's Office along with a completed Internship Registration form.

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

# Study Abroad

## **AU Abroad Program**

The following is a partial list of study abroad opportunities for students of philosophy or religion. Many students consider their study abroad as one of their best college experiences, since it allows them to travel, meet people, obtain different perspectives on their field, and in some cases learn another language, all while earning credit toward their degree. Several programs are offered by AU for which students may earn philosophy or religious studies credit. Many philosophy and religious studies majors, however, go on a variety of programs (including programs in Italy, South Africa, and China), and take a “semester off” from their studies in philosophy or religion to pursue study in their other major or minor fields of study.

AU Abroad programs that may be of particular interest to students of philosophy are:

### *Madrid and the Mediterranean Program*

This study abroad program is an excellent choice for philosophy students since “the Mediterranean has served as a fertile basin of ideas and history. This still-thriving modern area has profoundly influenced Western civilization through the first democratic government, the development of coinage and market economy, early theatre, the beginning of classical sculpture and architecture, and philosophers who articulated ideas on human reason” (*AU Abroad* website).

### *Canada Program at Carleton University*

The Canada Program is another excellent AU Abroad choice for philosophy majors, since the philosophy department at Carleton University in Ottawa offers a broad range of philosophy courses. Visit the department online at <http://carleton.ca/philosophy>.

### *University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland*

The University of Edinburgh has “a distinguished place in the history of philosophy, having been home to David Hume and Adam Smith.” For further information, check the University’s International Office at <http://www.ed.ac.uk>.

AU Abroad programs that may be of particular interest to students of religion are:

### *Canada Program at the University of Toronto*

Located “at the center of one of the most religiously diverse cities in the world,” the University of Toronto offers students of religion an array of resources under the auspices of the University’s Department and Centre for the Study of Religion. Further information about these resources can be found at <http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/site4.aspx>.

### *New Zealand Program at Victoria University of Wellington*

Victoria University affords students the opportunity to join a vibrant intellectual community in the heart of New Zealand’s scenic capital. Victoria’s religious studies program is staffed by faculty members from all over the world who approach religions in myriad ways. For descriptions of the courses that these scholars teach, see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/religion/index.html>.

## Outside the AU Abroad Program

Some students choose to study philosophy or religion intensively at a foreign institution. Study in many of the great university centers of the world is a wonderful opportunity, and provides the chance to genuinely immerse oneself in another culture. For example:

### *Australia National University, Canberra, Australia*

Australia National University is another university frequented by our philosophy majors. The university has many philosophy resources, such as the *ANU Philosophy Society*, the *Australasian Philosophy Network*, and the *Australasian Association of Philosophy*. For further information, check the University's International Office at <http://www.anu.edu.au/ieo>.

### *Comparative Religion and Culture Academic Program (administered by Global College, Long Island University)*

From the Program's website (<http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/fw/crc/theme.html>): "The Comparative Religion and Culture Program is an intensive 30 week series of lectures, workshops, readings and field trips which introduces students to the Religions and Cultures of Taiwan, India and Turkey. Scheduled events include lectures on, and visits to: Lung-shan Buddhist Temple and Hsin-chuang's Temples, Taoist Shrines, and the Confucian Day ceremony in Taiwan; the Gandhian Peace Foundation, the Taj Mahal, the Tibetan community in Dharmasala, the Jain temple and pilgrimage site in Sravanabelagola, and Sufi and Sikh temples in New Delhi in India; Cappadocia, Atatürk's Mausoleum and the Haci Bayram Mosque to observe noon prayers in Turkey. In addition to the Director's year-long seminar on Comparative Religion, at least one course on the religions and culture of each country will be part of each ten week segment. Students write a series of weekly papers synthesizing readings and field trips and one final reflective response in each ten week term. The program culminates in a year-end paper which integrates the sixty-plus papers and reflects upon the issues involved in cross-cultural study."

## Study Abroad Procedures

Students interested in studying abroad should first meet with an advisor in the AU Abroad Office to discuss their options and obtain a signature of approval for their chosen program on a *Permit to Study Abroad Program* form. Students should then take the form to their academic advisor and to the dean's office to obtain signatures of approval for academic credit. Students must return the completed *Permit* to the AU Abroad Office for final approval and recording.

For further details, please refer to the AU Abroad Philosophy Majors or the Religious Studies Majors advising sheets (pp. 24–27).



# Study Abroad for Philosophy Majors

**AU Abroad**, in consultation with the **Department of Philosophy and Religion**, offers a selection of programs suited for Philosophy Majors. These programs are recommended based on the academic quality of the host institution's course offerings in your major. In addition to the following programs, students can also explore other options through AU Abroad.

## *Philosophy Guidelines for Study Abroad*

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Battelle Tompkins, Room 120  
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
ph —202.885.2925  
f —202.885.1094  
philrel@american.edu

~  
AU Abroad  
Rockwood Building  
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
ph —202.885.1320  
f —202.885.1370  
auabroad@american.edu

- The Department of Philosophy and Religion recommends that students study abroad during the second semester of their sophomore year and/or the first semester of their junior year.
- Philosophy majors can count up to 6 credits per semester, and up to 12 total credits, toward their major course requirements while abroad.
- To have courses approved, students must submit course descriptions, along with the completed course approval form, to their philosophy academic advisor.
- If you are interested in studying abroad, please let your philosophy academic advisor know as soon as possible. He/she will work with you so that you will be able to study abroad in the best place for your interests and your academic program.



**Please see reverse for a selection of study abroad options!**

## STUDY ABROAD FOR PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

Our prestigious English language partner universities in fourteen countries all have excellent Departments or Faculties of Philosophy. You may take Philosophy courses at any of the following AU partner universities or programs. For complete university descriptions and course listings, please visit the AU Abroad website, [www.auabroad.american.edu](http://www.auabroad.american.edu).

### **Australia**

Adelaide University  
Monash University  
Murdoch University  
The Australian National University  
University of Melbourne  
University of New South Wales  
University of Wollongong

### **Canada**

Carleton University  
University of British Columbia  
University of Toronto

### **Egypt**

American University of Cairo

### **England**

King's College London  
London School of Economics  
Middlesex University  
Oxford University  
University College London  
University of Exeter

### **Germany**

Freie Universitaet- Berlin European  
Studies program (FU-BEST)

### **Ghana**

University of Ghana

### **Ireland**

Trinity College Dublin  
University College Dublin

### **Italy**

John Cabot University

### **Netherlands**

Leiden University  
University College Maastricht

### **New Zealand**

University of Auckland  
University of Otago  
Victoria University of Wellington

### **Scotland**

University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow

### **South Africa**

University of Cape Town  
University of KwaZulu-Natal

### **Spain**

Madrid and Mediterranean Program

### **Turkey**

Koc University

Students with foreign language fluency may be eligible to take Philosophy courses at non-English language partner universities. For a comprehensive listing of options, please visit [www.auabroad.american.edu](http://www.auabroad.american.edu).



Abroad at AU

Updated August 2009

# Study Abroad for Religious Studies Majors



**AU Abroad**, in consultation with the **Department of Philosophy and Religion**, offers a selection of programs suited for Religious Studies majors. These programs are recommended on the basis of their academic quality and their relevance to Religious Studies. In addition to the following programs, other options are available through AU Abroad.

## *Religious Studies Guidelines for Study Abroad*

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Battelle-Tompkins, Room 120  
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
ph —202.885.2925  
f —202.885.1094  
philrel@american.edu

~

AU Abroad  
Rockwood Building  
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
ph —202.885.1320  
f —202.885.1370  
auabroad@american.edu

- The Department of Philosophy and Religion recommends that students study abroad during their junior year.
- Religion-related courses taken abroad will count toward the Religious Studies major requirement of nine credits to be taken outside the Department of Philosophy and Religion.
- To have courses approved, students must submit course descriptions and completed course equivalency forms to their Religious Studies advisor.
- If you are interested in studying abroad, please let your Religious Studies advisor know as soon as possible. He/she will work with you to locate the best program for your academic interests.



**Please see the reverse for a selection of study-abroad options!**

## STUDY ABROAD FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJORS

Twenty-three of our prestigious English-language partner institutions in twelve countries have excellent programs in religion. You may take religion courses at any of the following AU partner universities and organizations. For further information about these institutions and their course offerings, please visit the AU Abroad website, [www.auabroad.american.edu](http://www.auabroad.american.edu).

### Canada

Carleton University  
University of British Columbia  
University of Toronto

### China

Chinese University of Hong Kong

### Czech Republic

Prague Jewish Studies (CET)

### Egypt

American University in Cairo

### England

King's College London  
Oxford University—Lady Margaret Hall  
School of Oriental and African Studies  
University of Exeter

### Ireland

Trinity College Dublin

### Israel

Ben Gurion University  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
University of Haifa

### Korea

Sogang University

### Netherlands

University of Leiden

### New Zealand

University of Auckland  
University of Otago (AustraLearn)  
Victoria University of Wellington

### Scotland

University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow

### South Africa

University of Cape Town (CIEE)  
University of Kwazulu-Natal

Students with foreign-language fluency may be eligible to take religion courses at non-English-language partner universities. For a comprehensive listing of options, please visit [www.auabroad.american.edu](http://www.auabroad.american.edu).



Abroad at AU

Updated January 2010

## Graduation Honors

### Latin Honors

To be eligible for AU graduation honors, a student must have completed at least 60 credit hours in residence at AU. These honors are listed both on his or her diploma and permanent record. Latin Honors are based on the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA). The GPAs required are as follows:

*summa cum laude*: 3.90+ *magna cum laude*: 3.70–3.89 *cum laude*: 3.50–3.69

### University Honors in Philosophy and Religious Studies

University Honors is based on a combination of Honors course options and cumulative GPA, and is established through AU's Honors Program (x6194, Hurst Hall 206). Students have two different honors options: 1) University Honors or 2) University Honors in the Major. University Honors is intended to provide an option for double majors or interdisciplinary and specialized work. University Honors in Philosophy and Religious Studies offers more specialization in these fields.

#### *Requirements for University Honors in philosophy and religious studies*

- Meet all University Honors requirements (contact the Honors Program office directly)
- Declare a major in philosophy or religious studies through the Department of Philosophy and Religion with the undergraduate advisor
- Assure that "HNRS" courses that you want to apply toward your major do in fact meet the major requirement by speaking with either the undergraduate advisor or the department's Honors coordinator
- Meet all major requirements (see pages 3–7)
- Complete an Honors capstone in philosophy or religious studies

#### *What is a capstone?*

According to the Honors Program's website, "as the final component of the Honors Program, students complete a capstone project. Often, these capstones are completed in the students' major, but can be completed in any department of the University. Projects range from research papers to creative writing pieces, from web sites to art portfolios to recitals. The possibilities are truly unlimited!"

## Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society

### General information

Founded at Muhlenberg College in 1930, and subsequently incorporated as a nonprofit corporation of Washington, DC, Phi Sigma Tau is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. The Society's central purpose is to promote ties among philosophy departments in accredited institutions and among students interested in philosophy. At both the national and local levels, the organization of the Society is instrumental—a means for developing and honoring academic excellence and philosophical interest, and for popularizing philosophy among the general collegiate public.

*DIALOGUE*, the Journal of Phi Sigma Tau, is published twice annually (in October and April). Wholly devoted to the publication of articles by graduate and undergraduate students, it has a circulation of more than two thousand. The *PHI SIGMA TAU NEWSLETTER* appears at least three times annually and provides an informal means for chapter communication and information exchange.

Local chapters are located in private and public institutions throughout the United States and Canada. These chapters, numbering 148 in 2000, constitute the focal point of Phi Sigma Tau activities. Their officers are students at the host institutions, with faculty advisors serving as institutional and department liaisons; and each chapter enjoys a high degree of autonomy in its activities and by-laws.

## Membership

Junior and senior philosophy majors who have completed at least four philosophy courses and have an overall 3.50 GPA are eligible for membership. Please contact the faculty advisor for more details.

Prospective members pay a one-time initiation fee (currently \$25) to the National Office. Following initiation, each new member receives a membership certificate and package containing a membership card and information on registering as a member of the NATIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTER (NAC) following graduation. Membership for the first year in the NAC is without cost, and a modest fee (currently \$5) is required for subsequent years of membership. A student initiated into Phi Sigma Tau remains a member throughout her/his career as a student, and receives copies of both *DIALOGUE* and the *Phi Sigma Tau NEWSLETTER* as these are published (they are distributed locally by the chapter's faculty advisor). NAC members also receive personal subscriptions to these two publications.

Phi Sigma Tau keys and graduation stoles are also available for purchase (currently \$13.60 per key and \$21.50 per stole, plus shipping and handling). Contact the chapter officers for more details.

## Pharmakon Journal

[\*Pharmakon\*](#) is AU's student journal of philosophy, open to undergraduate and graduate students of all fields enrolled at American University. The journal, created and run by Phi Sigma Tau, serves as a forum for discussion about philosophy and its application in all fields of study. The journal has grown from an in-house publication to one with a national reputation, and has received submissions from students all over the country.

## Awards and Events

### Harold J. and Ruth Pearson Prize

A \$1000 award is presented each spring semester to a graduating senior or seniors majoring in philosophy for their outstanding performance in philosophy.

A book prize is also awarded to each of the graduating philosophy majors who have demonstrated excellent work in philosophy. Both of these awards are decided in mid-March and awarded at the end of the spring semester.

### 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, graduate students and other undergraduate majors. 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.

## After Graduation

### The uses of philosophy in nonacademic careers

"[The] value of a field of study must not be viewed mainly in terms of its contribution to obtaining one's job after graduation. Students are understandably preoccupied with getting their first job, but even from a narrow vocational point of view it would be short-sighted to concentrate on that at the expense of developing potential for success and advancement once hired. What gets graduates initially hired may not yield promotions or carry them beyond their first position, particularly given how fast the needs of many employers alter with changes in social and economic patterns. It is therefore crucial to see beyond what a job description specifically calls for. Philosophy need not be mentioned among a job's requirements in order for the benefits derivable from philosophical study to be *appreciated* by the employer, and those benefits need not even be explicitly appreciated in order to be *effective* in helping one advance.

"It should also be emphasized here that—as recent studies show—employers want, and reward, many of the capacities which the study of philosophy develops: for instance, the ability to solve problems, to communicate, to organize ideas and issues, to assess pros and cons, and to boil down complex data. These capacities represent *transferable skills*. They are transferable not only from philosophy to non-philosophy areas, but from one non-philosophical field to another. For that reason, people trained in philosophy are not only prepared to do many kinds of tasks; they can also cope with change, or even move into new careers, more readily than others.

"[Finally] the long-range value of philosophical study goes far beyond its contribution to one's livelihood. Philosophy broadens the range of things one can understand and enjoy. It can give one self-knowledge, foresight, and a sense of direction in life. It can provide, to one's reading and conversation, special pleasures of insight. It can lead to self-discovery, expansion of consciousness, and self-renewal. Through all this, and through its contribution to one's private life can be incalculable; its benefits for one's public life as a citizen can be immeasurable" (quoted from The APA's *Brief Guide for Undergraduates* pp. 6–8).

### The value of undergraduate religious studies

From "The Religion Major and Liberal Education," a proposal from the American Academy of Religion (AAR) to the Teagle Foundation's initiative, "The Disciplines and Undergraduate Liberal Education" ([http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Religion\\_Major\\_and\\_Liberal\\_Education/default.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Religion_Major_and_Liberal_Education/default.asp)):

"In religion courses, students come to engage issues central to the human condition—questions of diversity, inclusion, tolerance, values, and violence. Students examine normative questions in a way now foreign to most other undergraduate disciplines. They are exposed to great works of human literature and thinking. And the impact of the academic study of religion on undergraduate education is not limited to students who major in the field.

In the face of oftentimes mystifying acts of religious violence globally, American colleges and universities have increasingly turned to the academic field of religion for reason and insight. Religious studies is, by some measures, among the fastest growing academic disciplines, with over fifty new programs having been established at colleges and universities in the United States since 1960. On many campuses, religion courses are among the most popular electives; in not only private colleges but also state universities, courses in the field are increasingly required as a part of core requirements, thus impacting all aspects of undergraduate education. *Time* magazine cites a large and widespread increase in enrollments in religious studies courses at the university level since September 2001. And there is a growing public call for more and better education of Americans in the understanding of diverse cultures and belief systems. The Higher Education Supplement of the *Times* of London has urged U.S. universities to take steps to aid 'Americans to become more religiously literate so that they can [better] judge public policy issues.' Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright concurs, writing that a failure to understand other religions 'poses one of the great challenges to our public diplomacy.'"

## Graduate study in philosophy or religion

The main reason for going on to graduate school in philosophy or religion should be a strong love of the subject and a desire to make it a continuing part of your life. Finishing a PhD in philosophy or religion takes four to ten years of concentrated study, so it is a significant commitment of time and effort. But it is also an extraordinary opportunity for pursuing a love of the subject in the company of other equally dedicated students and faculty.

Many graduate programs in philosophy or religion offer financial aid to accepted students, making it possible to go to graduate school without falling deeply into debt. This aid may be in the form of tuition waivers, fellowships, or opportunities to teach. Jobs in philosophy or religion—i.e. jobs teaching philosophy or religion at a college or a university—are scarce. Recently, there have been about 60 tenure-track philosophy positions advertised in the US each year, and there are hundreds of applicants for each job. That being said, graduates with good records from the best graduate schools have a fairly good chance of finding a job.

It is possible to earn an MA rather than a PhD in philosophy. Completing an MA in philosophy usually takes between two and three years of study, and it too can be a deeply rewarding experience. An MA will not enable you to teach philosophy at a college or a university, but having the degree can be beneficial in pursuing various other careers, including careers in law, government, publishing, college administration, and high school teaching.

The competition for acceptance into graduate schools in philosophy or religion is very keen, and into the leading graduate schools extremely so. It is recommended that you apply to many schools and to schools ranked at different levels. The most important factor in determining whether you will be admitted will be your overall record of achievement, as indicated in your college transcript (i.e. overall grades but also overall depth and seriousness of your studies) and in your letters of recommendation. Many graduate schools also ask for a sample of your writing and/or a written statement of purpose, which should be carefully crafted in consultation with AU faculty. Other factors, largely out of your control, include the strength of the competition in any given year, and the balance of interests or backgrounds a department seeks.

In order to determine which departments to apply to, you should do the following:

1. Look at webpages on graduate schools in philosophy, such as the *Philosophical Gourmet*, currently the most detailed and up-to-date resource on a wide range of graduate schools in the United States. Be aware, however, that there is much disagreement about the value and accuracy of its ranking system. Students are advised to consult additional sources as well and not to base their decision solely on the ranking system of the *Gourmet Report*. The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy has a good website, with a list of graduate schools offering both MA and PhD programs ([http://www.spep.org/content.php? p =52](http://www.spep.org/content.php?p=52) ). For more information about doctoral programs in religion or theology, see the AAR's Guide to the Graduate Study of Religion and Theology, an online database available at [http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Department\\_Services/Find\\_Departments/Graduate/default.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Department_Services/Find_Departments/Graduate/default.asp) .
2. Discuss your plans with those faculty most familiar with your interests and capacities, and with those who might have special knowledge about certain schools and faculties.
3. Ask for university catalogues from the institutions that interest you most and write to particular departments' Directors of Graduate Study asking for any supplementary information available (including answers to very specific questions you have about the school).
4. Consult the last 3 to 5 years of the September issues of *The Review of Metaphysics*. In the back of each September issue is a complete list of all North American graduate schools that gives the sizes of their philosophy faculties, the numbers of students in their philosophy PhD programs, and current dissertation titles and directors. The latter information is important because it gives you a concrete idea of what sorts of dissertations get written at a given school, and of who is active in the work of directing them. Naturally, it is essential to look at a number of years to make the sampling representative.

## Graduate Study

### Am I ready for graduate school?

While some undergraduate students know for sure that they want to continue their studies, many others simply do not know what it is that they want to do after graduation. Am I ready for the long-term commitment of graduate study? Is graduate study for me? For some students, taking a year or two off to work or travel may provide answers to these questions. During this time, you may gain life and job experiences that were not possible during your undergraduate studies. Many AU students who have decided to delay graduate school have stated that it was a good decision for them. Waiting to apply for graduate school has given some students time to develop their interests, increase their skills, and find graduate schools to meet their interests. Other students who have deferred the graduate application process have found work they enjoy and have decided that graduate study is not necessary to pursue their career paths.

### Philosophy majors and the GRE, LSAT and GMAT Exams

The GRE (Graduate Record Exam), LSAT (Law School Admission Test) and GMAT (Graduate Management Aptitude Test) are tests designed to assess your aptitude for graduate school in much the same way the SAT and ACT are designed to assess your aptitude for a bachelor's degree. Philosophy majors tend to rank among the very best of all students who take the GRE, LSAT, and GMAT exams. The chart below summarizes the percentages by which the average scores of the test-takers from various undergraduate majors differ from the average score of all test-takers (as reported in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*).

Major	LSAT	GMAT	GRE verbal	GRE quant.
Philosophy	+8.7%	+11.0%	+17.6%	+4.6%
Arts & Music	-.05%	-1.2%	+14.5%	-5.7%
English	+5.6%	+4.1%	+14.5%	-5.7%
Foreign Langs.	+5.7%	+3.3%	+7.9%	-4.2%
History	+2.9%	+4.6%	+10.8%	-5.5%
Gen. Humanities	+4.7%	+1.8%	+7.3%	-5.0%
Political Science	-1.6%	+0.6%	+3.5%	-5.0%
Psychology	+0.9%	+0.8%	+3.1%	-4.0%
Sociology	-7.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-15.0%
Education	-8.7%	-4.2%	-10.4%	-15.8%
Speech	-2.7%	not reported	-6.0%	-14.3%
Biology	+4.0%	+3.3%	+5.4%	+8.0%
Mathematics	+12.8%	+13.3%	+2.7%	+26.3%
Chemistry	+7.6%	+7.5%	+2.1%	+18.3%
Business Adm.	-4.5%	-0.8%	-9.1%	-2.3%
Management	-5.4%	-7.7%	not reported	not reported

### Planning ahead for the application process

Many alumni of our BA programs go on to pursue graduate work not only in philosophy or religion but also in other fields such as history, psychology, linguistics, computer science, anthropology, literature, law, and medicine. Regardless of the field chosen, the application process is similar. Application deadlines are usually at the beginning of January or February. See below for a list of the most common items required on graduate- and professional-school applications:

#### *Official transcripts*

Universities are looking for solid grades, not only in philosophy and religion courses, but throughout your undergraduate studies. They are also looking for breadth of study and diversity. For law school, it is recommended that students take a course in logic before their senior year, and for medical school, that

students take a course in ethics before their senior year. For more information about doctoral programs in religion or theology, see the AAR's Guide to the Graduate Study of Religion and Theology, an online database available at [http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Department\\_Services/Find\\_Departments/Graduate/default.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Department_Services/Find_Departments/Graduate/default.asp).

### *Letters of recommendation*

Do not be bashful about asking faculty members to write a letter, or even a large number of letters, on your behalf. (Remember: present faculty have relied on their teachers in just this way.) You should, however, be as considerate about time as you can be. Two weeks is the minimum amount of time that should be given between the date of your request and the due date. Do not be hesitant about checking back to see if the recommendation has been written; occasionally, something slips through the cracks. Finally, be sure to let your recommenders know where you are accepted and your plans. They are interested.

### *GRE*

Although the GRE is not necessarily a good predictor of a student's ability to do graduate work, it is the only constant measure available to universities for comparing students. Because of this, most universities take GRE scores strongly into account when awarding fellowships and assistantships. Therefore, high GRE scores are essential for securing funding for your graduate work. Take the test seriously and do well. The best source for information on the GRE is the GRE website itself (<http://www.gre.org>). This site provides information about the test, as well as test site information and a few practice tests.

### *Statement of purpose*

The statement of purpose for graduate- and professional-school applications is quite distinct from the one you wrote for your undergraduate application. It should include general information about why you want to go to graduate or professional school and what you want to do once you are there. It should be a serious explanation of your interests and why you chose the field of philosophy or religious studies. You should also explain why you feel that a particular university is the right fit for your interests. In addition, be clear and concise. This is not the place for flowery writing and flourishes. Remember that the admissions committee has to read many of these statements and will appreciate a straightforward, clear, well-written statement. As always, proofread your statement, have others proofread it (especially a faculty member), and polish it to perfection. You want to make a good first impression.

### *Writing sample*

The writing sample—a substantial paper of, on average, 10 to 15 pages—is perhaps the most important part of the application. Therefore, you should not choose a paper that you have written during your senior year, since you will not have enough time to revise and polish this work.

## **Answers to Commonly Asked Questions**

### **How do I set up <myau.american.edu> and e-mail accounts?**

*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](http://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 undergraduate 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](http://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 as you seek advice on substantive issues. All faculty hold office hours and welcome students to visit—whether to seek advice about courses, assignments, research topics and interests, or future career plans, or simply to become better acquainted with the department and its professors. However, when it comes to administrative issues, such as specific requirements or procedures, please contact either the undergraduate advisor, the chair of the department, or the administrative assistant.

### **How do I register for classes?**

#### *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. Please be sure to bring your student ID number, which your advisor will need in order to provide you with an electronic "release" that will allow you to register for courses. You may then go to [myau.american.edu](http://myau.american.edu) and register for your courses online.

#### *Request a Leave of Absence*

Undergraduate students may request a leave of absence for a reason other than studying at another institution (see the "Study Abroad" section). However, you must first receive permission from the CAS Dean's Office, so make an appointment with a CAS advisor to assure that all the paperwork is processed correctly. Once the leave of absence is approved, please also notify your departmental advisor as well.

### **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](http://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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:greenbe@american.edu)

Research interests: philosophy of religion; America and the Holy Land; and 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:weis@american.edu)

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

**Shelley Harshe**, Sr. Administrative Assistant

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202-885-2925

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