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Additional Sources of Information:
  AU Student Guide ................................................................................... http://www.american.edu/ocl/studentguide/index.cfm
  Academic Integrity Code .......................................................................... http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/code.cfm
  Academic Advising & Student Resources ................................................. http://american.edu/cas/advising
  Academic Support and Access Center ...................................................... http://www.american.edu/ocl/asac/index.cfm
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 websites 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 the undergraduate advisor, the administrative assistant, or myself, the chair of the department, 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,

Dr. Amy Oliver
Chair
aoliver@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
  - extract what is essential from large amounts of information
  - understand and analyze complicated texts
  - develop a well-structured argument
  - express ideas in a clear and persuasive manner
  - solve problems
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 include courses outside the department with approval of the department's undergraduate advisor

See check list for specific courses.

In residence requirements
At least 18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU. Of the in residence credit hours, 15 must be at the 300 level or above. See undergraduate academic regulation 7.1 for details regarding in residence credits.

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. 17 in this booklet), or to pursue their studies in philosophy abroad (see p. 21 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-400 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL-402 Nineteenth Century Philosophy

**9 credits in moral and political philosophy:**
- PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy
- PHIL-520 Ethical Theory
- PHIL-525 Seminar in Modern Moral Problems

**6 credits in critical perspectives**
- PHIL-417 Race and Philosophy
- PHIL-419 Buddhist Philosophy

**9 credits concentration in applied ethics:**
- PHIL-240 Ethics in the Professions
- PHIL-241 Introduction to Bioethics
- PHIL-391 Internship in Philosophy

**6 credits of electives:**
- PHIL-200 Introduction to Logic
- RELG-225 Meaning and Purpose in the Arts

Major in religious studies

Course requirements
The major in religious studies requires the completion of **39 credit hours** with grades of C or better, including 18 credit hours at the 300 level or above:

- **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.
In residence requirements
At least 18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU. Of the in residence credit hours, 15 must be at the 300 level or above. See undergraduate academic regulation 7.1 for details regarding in residence credits.

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 The Religious Heritage of Asia
- RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions
- RELG-330 Approaches to Studying Religion
- RELG-391 Internship in Religious Studies
- RELG-470 Islam
- RELG-475 Religion and Violence
- RELG-486 Topics in Religious Discussion: Religion, Politics, and Human Rights
- PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy
- PHIL-400 Ancient Philosophy

9 credits outside of philosophy and religion:
- ANTH-331 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
- Students who want to declare more than one major must have a minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA.
- 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.

Some courses may count toward both majors as long as they meet the requirements for the majors. However, at least 18 credits must be unique to each major.

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. Also, Mark takes advantage of his tuition covering 17 credits by taking PHIL 380, the one-credit colloquium, for three semesters. The three credits together count as a PHIL course.

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
- Do not assume that a course will count toward both majors—always ask
- Keep track of which courses count toward what requirement to ensure that 18 credits remain unique to each major
- 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.

Also consider whether you can do the Certificate in Applied Ethics and Professional Responsibility (see p. 13 of this handbook).
# 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. Note that at least 18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU. Of the in residence credit hours, 15 must be at the 300 level or above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Philosophy (9 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL-105 Western Philosophy (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 credit hours of approved course work at the 300 level or above:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moral and Political Philosophy (9 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy (3) or</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL-235 Theories of Democracy and Human Rights (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 credit hours of approved course work at the 300 level or above:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Perspectives (6 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 credit hours of course work from the following:</td>
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<td>PHIL-413 Studies in Asian Philosophy (3)</td>
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<td>PHIL-416 Feminist Philosophy (3)</td>
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<td>PHIL-417 Race and Philosophy (3)</td>
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<td>PHIL-418 Chinese Philosophy (3)</td>
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<td>PHIL-485 Latin American Thought (3)</td>
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<td>PHIL-485 Philosophy and Film (3)</td>
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<td>RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions (3)</td>
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<td>RELG-473 Hinduism (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved philosophy or religion course:</td>
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| Concentration (9 credits)                        |          |         |       |
| 9 credit hours of course work in a subspecialty in philosophy, such as applied ethics or aesthetics, which may include 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, including **18 credit hours at the 300 level or above**. At least **18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU. Of the in residence credit hours, 15 must be at the 300 level or above.**

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 The Religious Heritage of Asia
- RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions
  - or
  - RELG-220 Religious Thought
- RELG-330 Approaches to 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-470 Islam
- RELG-471 Topics in Jewish Religion
- RELG-472 Religion in America
- RELG-473 Hinduism
- RELG-475 Religion and Violence
- RELG-486 Topics in Religious Discussion

15 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-400 Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL-418 Chinese Philosophy
- PHIL-419 Buddhist Philosophy
- PHIL-520 Ethical Theory
- PHIL-525 Modern Moral Problems

**9 credits outside of philosophy and religion, which might include:**

- ANTH-330 Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion
- ANTH-331 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-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 Classical Social Theory (depending on content)
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; and at least 9 of the 18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU:

- 3 credit hours from the following:
  - PHIL-105 Western Philosophy or
  - PHIL-400 Ancient Philosophy or
  - PHIL-401 Early Modern Philosophy

- 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; and at least 9 of the 18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU:

- 6 credit hours chosen from the following:
  - RELG-105 Religious Heritage of the West
  - RELG-185 The Religious Heritage of Asia
  - 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; and at least 9 of the 18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 credit hours from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL-105 Western Philosophy</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td>PHIL-400 Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL-401 Early Modern Philosophy</td>
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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:

_________________________________________  Semester  Credits  Grade
_________________________________________  Semester  Credits  Grade
_________________________________________  Semester  Credits  Grade
_________________________________________  Semester  Credits  Grade
_________________________________________  Semester  Credits  Grade
_________________________________________  Semester  Credits  Grade
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; and at least 9 of the 18 credit hours must be earned in residence at AU.*

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 credit hours chosen from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELG-105 Religious Heritage of the West</td>
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<td>RELG-185 The Religious Heritage of Asia</td>
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<td>RELG-210 Non-Western Religious Traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELG-220 Religious Thought</td>
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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:

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<th>Course</th>
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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 must apply to the MA program as soon as they have completed 75 earned credit hours (the second semester 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
- During the second semester of your junior year, apply online to the MA program. The year and term for which you are applying must be the semester after you expect to graduate from your BA program. For example, a student intending to graduate from the BA program at the end of Spring 2015 would apply to enter the MA program for either Summer 2015 or Fall 2015.
- Once you have been accepted to the combined program:
  - Meet with the department’s graduate advisor to determine your Program of Study that will show which courses will be applied toward your undergraduate degree and which courses will be applied toward your graduate degree. The graduate advisor will obtain permission from the CAS Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for you to take during your senior year any courses in your Program of Study that are at the 600-level or above (you will not be able to register for these courses through the portal).
  - Familiarize yourself with the Graduate Handbook for the History of Philosophy and Philosophy and Social Policy tracks, or the Graduate Handbook for Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs, available online.
- During your senior year:
  - Complete all undergraduate requirements
  - In accordance with your prescribed Program of Study, 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)
  - 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 note that students must maintain continuous enrollment at American University. Once the BA is complete, students must continue through to the MA program (Summer term is not required).

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.

- Keep working toward undergraduate requirements (taking courses no higher than those at the 400 level).
- During the second semester of your junior year, apply online to the MA program. The year and term for which you are applying must be the semester after you expect to graduate from your BA program. For example, a student intending to graduate from the BA program at the end of spring 2015 would apply to enter the MA program for either summer or fall 2015.
- Choose your MA track: History of Philosophy; Philosophy and Social Policy; or Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs ________________________________.
- Once you have been accepted to the combined program, meet with the department’s graduate advisor to determine your Program of Study that will show which courses will be applied toward your undergraduate degree and which courses will be applied toward your graduate degree. The graduate advisor will obtain permission from the CAS Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for you to take during your senior year any courses in your Program of Study that are at the 600-level or above (you will not be able to register for these courses through the portal).
- Familiarize yourself with the Graduate Handbook for the History of Philosophy and Philosophy and Social Policy tracks, or the Graduate Handbook for Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs, available online.

III. During your senior year,

- Complete all undergraduate requirements:
  - General education requirements
  - Undergraduate major in philosophy requirements: In accordance with your prescribed Program of Study, 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)
  - 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
- Apply for graduation for your BA degree in the semester in which you will finish all the BA requirements

IV. Meet all requirements for the MA in philosophy.

- 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 the remaining 24 credits (for History of Philosophy, and Philosophy and Social Policy) or 27 credits (for Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs) required for the MA
- Complete the qualifying paper requirements
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-456 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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core courses (9 credits):</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL-220 Moral Philosophy (3)</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL-240 Ethics in the Professions (3)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>________</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT-201 Global Corporate Citizenship (3)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>________</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective courses from the following (9 credits):**

Note: Some of the elective courses below have prerequisites. Please consult the catalog’s course descriptions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL-525 Seminar in Modern Moral Problems (3)</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSB-456 Management Communications for Social Responsibility (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT-360 Nonprofit and Social Entrepreneurship (3)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>________</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved selected topics in Business or Management (300-level or above)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>________</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved selected topics in Philosophy (300-level or above)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>________</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved internship in management (MGMT-391) or philosophy (PHIL-391)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>________</td>
<td>______</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 an Area 2 General Education requirement and may count toward the major or the minor in philosophy. RELG-185 The Religious Heritage of Asia is an Area 3 General Education requirement 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. Please also keep in mind that students are expected to satisfy their General Education requirements during the first 60 earned credits.

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) 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 well in advance of registration 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 on the university’s portal, and submit this form to AU Central.
INDEPENDENT STUDY REGISTRATION FORM

Please print the following information.

Student ____________________________ AU ID# _____________________
(First) (Last)

Phone ____________________________ E-mail _______________________

Term: □ Fall □ Spring □ Summer 20___

Course Information:

Course Subject ______- Course Number ______ Credits ______ ○ A-F ○ Pass/Fail

Faculty supervisor ____________________________ (Last) (First)

Project Title ______________________________________
(30 characters maximum including spaces)

Brief description of independent study project:

Required Signatures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Advisor (Please Print)</th>
<th>Academic Advisor Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Supervisor (Please Print)</td>
<td>Faculty Supervisor Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Chair or Dean (Please Print)</td>
<td>Department Chair or Dean Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student (Please Print)</td>
<td>Student Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Last Updated 2.2014
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. The department encourages students to complete their internships in the fall semester. 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 enroll in an internship, you must have completed 30 earned credit hours at AU with a minimum 2.0 GPA; or, as a transfer student, have completed 12 earned credit hours at AU with a minimum 2.0 GPA.
2. To earn 3 credits, you are expected to **work 14 hours per week for 14 consecutive weeks** (7 hours will earn 1 credit, 10 hours will earn 2 credits, 18 hours will earn 4 credits, 22 hours will earn 5 credits, and 26 hours will earn 6 credits).
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. You must also develop an individual course syllabus, which should include readings and assignments that draw connections between the work of your internship and analysis in philosophy or religious studies.
6. 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](#) and the [Internship Consent and Release Form](#), and obtain the appropriate department signatures.
3. Submit the two forms to the Registrar’s Office ([record_services@american.edu](mailto:record_services@american.edu)).
4. Submit a reading list to the internship coordinator.
5. Submit the final paper and syllabus [no later than the last day of classes](#).
INTERNERNSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Student ___________________________ _______________ AU ID# ____________

(First) (Last) e-mail ___________________________

Phone ___________________________ @

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 ___________________________ □ Paid □ Unpaid

Brief description of internship:

Employer Information

Organization ___________________________ □ For-profit □ Nonprofit □ Government

Address ___________________________ Room/Suite #: ______ Street ___________________________

City ___________________________ State Zipcode

Site supervisor ___________________________ (Last) Title ___________________________

(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 occur outside of the U.S.? [ ] YES [ ] NO Location: (city/country) ______

Required Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Advisor (Please Print)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student (Please Print)</td>
<td>Student Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

Obtain all required approvals and submit this completed form to the Registrar’s Office (via AU Central as appropriate) 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 202-885-1016

Last Updated 4.2014
INTERNERNSHIP 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 & Scholar Services (ISSS) before registration for this internship will be accepted.

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) ___________________________ Date __________

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

Obtain all required approvals and submit this completed form to the Registrar’s Office (via AU Central as appropriate) along with a completed Internship Registration Form.

American University
Office of the Registrar
202-885-2200 | fax 202-885-1018

Last Updated 4.2014
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:

**Germany: Freie Universitaet—Berlin European Studies Program (FU-BEST)**

**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](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](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/](http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/).

**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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/religion/index.html).
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 that follow.
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*

- 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Universities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Adelaide University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monash University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Murdoch University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Australian National University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Wollongong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Carleton University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>American University of Cairo</td>
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<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>King's College London</td>
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<td></td>
<td>London School of Economics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Middlesex University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oxford University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University College London</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Exeter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Free Universitaet- Berlin European Studies program (FU-BEST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>University of Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>John Cabot University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Leiden University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University College Maastricht</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>University of Auckland</td>
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<td>University of Otago</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Victoria University of Wellington</td>
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<td>Scotland</td>
<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Glasgow</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>University of Cape Town</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of KwaZulu Natal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Madrid and Mediterranean Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Koc University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).
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-Tomkins, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Carleton University, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Chinese University of Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Prague Jewish Studies (CET)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>American University in Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>King’s College London, Oxford University—Lady Margaret Hall, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Ben Gurion University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Haifa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Sogang University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>University of Leiden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>University of Auckland, University of Otago (AustraLearn), Victoria University of Wellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>University of Cape Town (CIEE), University of Kwazulu-Natal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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**: 3.91+
- **magna cum laude**: 3.81–3.90
- **cum laude**: 3.67–3.80

- “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

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 monetary 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 our graduating majors who have demonstrated excellent work in philosophy or religious studies. 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 Climate Change, 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, Amy Hollywood, and Abdulaziz Sachedina.

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 2007 proposal from the American Academy of Religion (AAR) to the Teagle Foundation’s initiative, “The Disciplines and Undergraduate Liberal Education”:

“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 it may help clarify whether doctoral study is right for you. Furthermore, 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. 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. 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.
2. Look at webpages on graduate schools in philosophy. The American Philosophical Association and the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy have good websites, with a list of graduate schools offering both MA and PhD programs. For more information about graduate programs in religion or theology, see the American Academy of Religion’s search engine.
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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>LSAT</th>
<th>GMAT</th>
<th>GRE verbal</th>
<th>GRE quant.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>+8.7%</td>
<td>+11.0%</td>
<td>+17.6%</td>
<td>+4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Music</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>+14.5%</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>+5.6%</td>
<td>+4.1%</td>
<td>+14.5%</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Langs.</td>
<td>+5.7%</td>
<td>+3.3%</td>
<td>+7.9%</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>+2.9%</td>
<td>+4.6%</td>
<td>+10.8%</td>
<td>-5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Humanities</td>
<td>+4.7%</td>
<td>+1.8%</td>
<td>+7.3%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>+0.6%</td>
<td>+3.5%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>+0.9%</td>
<td>+0.8%</td>
<td>+3.1%</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>-7.0%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
<td>-15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>-8.7%</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
<td>-10.4%</td>
<td>-15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>-2.7%</td>
<td>not reported</td>
<td>-6.0%</td>
<td>-14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>+4.0%</td>
<td>+3.3%</td>
<td>+5.4%</td>
<td>+8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>+12.8%</td>
<td>+13.3%</td>
<td>+2.7%</td>
<td>+26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>+7.6%</td>
<td>+7.5%</td>
<td>+2.1%</td>
<td>+18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Adm.</td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
<td>-9.1%</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
<td>not reported</td>
<td>not reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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 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 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/phirel/courses](http://american.edu/cas/phirel/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 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 (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](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. The university grants degrees at the end of each summer, fall, and spring term. *Commencement ceremonies* are held once a year at the end of the spring semester to recognize summer and fall graduates and spring degree candidates. Detailed information about commencement is available online at [http://www.american.edu/commencement/](http://www.american.edu/commencement/).
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**, Associate Professor
Ph.D., Villanova University
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202-885-2206
erfani@american.edu
Research interests: continental philosophy, aesthetics, and political philosophy.

**Ellen K. Feder**, Professor (Internship advisor)
Ph.D., SUNY Stony Brook
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202-885-2932
efeder@american.edu
Research interests: contemporary continental philosophy, social and political philosophy, ethics, feminist theory, and critical race theory.

**Nathifa Greene**, Instructor
Battelle-Tompkins 117
Research interests: American pragmatism, critical philosophy of race, feminism, and phenomenology.

**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
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leighton@american.edu
Research interests: ethics, bioethics, social and political philosophy, and feminist philosophy.

**Justin Marquis**, Professorial Lecturer (Philosophy honor society coordinator)
Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago
Research interests: nineteenth and twentieth century continental European philosophy.

**Amy A. Oliver**, Associate Professor (Chair, graduate advisor for History of Philosophy, and Philosophy and Social Policy)
Ph.D., University of Massachusetts
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aoliver@american.edu
Research interests: history of philosophy, feminist theory, continental philosophy, theory of ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.

**Martyn Oliver**, Professorial Lecturer (Undergraduate advisor for religion)
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Research interests: construction of religious identity, religion and literature, Islam.

**Jin Y. Park**, Associate Professor
Ph.D., SUNY Stony Brook
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Research interests: Asian philosophies and religions, postmodernism.

**Shubha Pathak**, Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago Divinity School; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
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Research interests: the philosophical, psychological, and religious aspects of epic poetry and literary creativity; comparative philosophy and comparative religion; literary criticism; and contemporary psychological theories.

**Jeffrey Reiman**, William Fraser McDowell Professor of Philosophy
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Research interests: theoretical and applied ethics, political and legal philosophy, and the history of philosophy.

**Andrea Tschemplik**, Associate Professor (Undergraduate advisor for philosophy)
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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
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Research interests: history of philosophy, feminist theory, continental philosophy, theory of ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.

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