
THE COLLEGE OF
WOOSTER

The Philosophy Major's Handbook

Department of Philosophy
The College of Wooster
2011-2012

Welcome to the Philosophy Department! The aim of this handbook is to help you develop the skills and acquire the knowledge that will be most beneficial to you in your study of philosophy at the College of Wooster. As faculty we share the same aim as you, to facilitate your learning and development. It is your responsibility to use the resources, services, and help that we can provide.

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1. MISSION STATEMENT AND LEARNING GOALS

§ Philosophy Department Mission Statement

The Philosophy Department has as its fundamental mission the cultivation of skills and dispositions in its students that contribute to their development as autonomous persons and as responsible and engaged members of society. These skills and dispositions are acquired and honed through studying and doing philosophy. They facilitate a student's development by enabling the critical, systematic, and philosophically informed examination of beliefs, values, and conceptions of the world. Such an individual has an independent mind: one that is open, flexible, creative, critical, and capable of making well-reasoned decisions.

§ Learning Goals

The following five goals are what the department expects majors to achieve by the end of their course of studies.

1. *Interpretation and Analysis*

Students should be able to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.

2. *Argumentation*

Students should be able to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.

3. *Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology*

Students should be able to demonstrate a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.

4. *Communication*

Students should be able to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective, and systematic manner in writing and discussion.

5. *Praxis*

Students should be able to critically and creatively synthesize and apply concepts, theories, and arguments to the variety of problems encountered in academic, personal, and professional contexts.

§ Primary Traits Associated With Each Learning Goal

Each of the five learning goals is associated with measurable skills and traits (i.e., primary traits) that help determine whether students are meeting the learning goals.

1. *Interpretation and Analysis*

Students should be able to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.

Success in achieving this goal will be assessed by a student's ability to:

- identify and describe the main aim(s) of a text or thinker.
- identify and describe the strategy of a text or thinker.
- identify and describe the main assumption(s) of a text or thinker.
- recognize what is important about or “at stake in” a philosophical debate.
- separate understanding a text from evaluating a text.
- summarize and explicate the main support for the main conclusion(s).
- pick-out key terms for analysis.
- identify incomplete, ambiguous, vague, or nonsensical concepts and statements.
- ask incisive questions of a thinker/text.
- apply the principle of charity in interpretation.

2. *Argumentation*

Students should be able to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.

Success in achieving this goal will be assessed by a student's ability to:

- identify the difference between a position and an argument for a position.
- extract an argument from a piece of text.
- define and identify formal and informal fallacies.
- employ elementary logic to evaluate an argument.
- formulate a strong objection to a given argument.
- formulate an effective and well-reasoned argument for and against a position.

3. *Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology*

Students should be able to demonstrate a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.

Success in achieving this goal will be assessed by a student's ability to:

- recognize the difference between philosophical and non-philosophical questions.
- explain the relationship between the methodology of philosophy and that of other disciplines.
- distinguish between empirical claims and *a priori* claims.
- use conceptual analysis to enrich one's understanding of philosophical problems and proposed solutions.
- explain and employ the distinctions between metaphysics, epistemology, value theory, and logic.
- explain and use the fundamental concepts and theories in metaphysics.
- explain and use the fundamental concepts and theories in epistemology.
- connect and integrate the discussion in one area of philosophy to another.

- explain and use the fundamental concepts and theories in ethics and political philosophy.
- exhibit fluency with major traditions and figures in the history of philosophy.

4. *Communication*

Students should be able to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective, and systematic manner in writing and discussion.

Success in achieving this goal will be assessed by a student's ability to:

- discuss philosophy in a thoughtful and engaging manner.
- show respect for others and their ideas (express disagreement in a respectful and rational manner).
- deliver oral presentations to a class or group.
- research a paper.
- plan a paper strategically.
- structure a paper given the strategy.
- choose the most appropriate and precise wording.
- stick to the point.

5. *Praxis*

Students should be able to critically and creatively synthesize and apply concepts, theories, and arguments to the variety of problems encountered in academic, personal, and professional contexts.

Success in achieving this goal will be assessed by a student's ability to:

- use knowledge of the history of philosophy to enrich one's understanding of philosophical problems and proposed solutions.
- reach well-reasoned conclusions regarding ethical, political, social, and other philosophical issues in everyday contexts.
- apply philosophical concepts and skills to problems as they arise in various academic disciplines.
- apply philosophical concepts and skills to problems as they arise in various careers and professions (e.g., teaching, business, law, medicine, and science).

2. CURRICULUM

Ethics, Justice, and Society

- 100 Ethics, Justice, and Society
- 210 Jurisprudence: Law and Society (Alternate Years)
- 212 Race, Gender, and Justice [C, Cross Listed with Women's Studies]
(Alternate Years)
- 215 Biomedical Ethics (Alternate Years)
- 216 Environmental Ethics (Alternate Years)

Philosophy and the Liberal Arts

- 220 Logic and Philosophy
- 221 Philosophy and the Religious Life (Alternate Years)
- 222 Scientific Revolutions and Methodology (Alternate Years)
- 223 Philosophy, Culture, and Education (Alternate Years)
- 224 Art, Love, and Beauty (Alternate Years)

Comparative Philosophy

- 230 East/West Comparative Philosophy [C, W†] (Alternate Years)
- 231 Indian Philosophy and Its Roots [C, W†] (Alternate Years)
- 232 Chinese Philosophy [C] (Alternate Years)
- 234 African Philosophy [C] (Alternate Years)

Historical Foundations

- 250 Ancient Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle
- 251 Rationalism and Empiricism
- 261 Themes in Continental Philosophy (Alternate Years)
- 264 Existentialism (Alternate Years)
- 266 American Philosophy (Alternate Years)

Advanced Seminars in Philosophy

- 301 Ontological Commitments (Alternate Years)
- 302 Epistemology: Rationality and Objectivity (Alternate Years)
- 303 Understanding Language (Alternate Years)
- 304 Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science (Alternate Years)
- 310 Seminar in Philosophy [W†]
- 311 Ethical Theory
- 312 Political Philosophy
- 400 Tutorial

Independent Study

- 401 Junior Independent Study
- 451 Senior Independent Study
- 452 Senior Independent Study

(Prerequisite for 300 and 400 level courses: Minimum of **two** philosophy courses.)

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

§ Required Courses

We designed the major to provide students with as wide a knowledge of philosophy as we can, and, at the same time, to encourage double majors. This is why we have the minimum of *ten* required courses and, for this reason, majors need to understand and follow the structure of the curriculum. Additionally, the department offers courses in non-western philosophy and applied ethics, as well as interdisciplinary philosophical courses, such as jurisprudence (the philosophy of law), which majors can take even though they are not required. The entire curriculum is presented in Section 5.

The ten courses required for a philosophy major are:

- Logic and Philosophy (PHIL 220)
- Ancient Philosophy (PHIL 250)
- Rationalism and Empiricism (PHIL 251)
- Advanced Seminars in Philosophy (One Course)
 - Ontological Commitments (PHIL 301)
 - Epistemology: Rationality and Objectivity (PHIL 302)
 - Understanding Language (PHIL 303)
 - Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science (PHIL 304)
- Ethical Theory (PHIL 311)
- Junior Independent Study (PHIL 401)
- Senior Independent Study – Semester One (PHIL 451)
- Senior Independent Study – Semester Two (PHIL 452)
- Philosophy Elective
- Philosophy Elective

[**Note:** PHIL 100 – Ethics, Justice, and Society can count as one of the required electives.

Also Note: In the Spring 2010, EPC approved a change to the Philosophy curriculum so that the (old) Continental Philosophy requirement has been replaced by the (new) Logic requirement. Students graduating in 2011-2013 may choose to complete the major under either set of requirements.]

§ Recommended Timeline

The courses in the department are systematically related; skills and knowledge developed in some courses are presupposed and/or integrated into other courses. Thus, there is a timeline or schedule that helps students most effectively progress through the major. In general, we expect students to follow this schedule:

First Year

Ethics, Justice, and Society (PHIL 100)
One Historical Foundations Course: Either PHIL 250 or PHIL 251

Sophomore Year

One Historical Foundations Course: Either PHIL 250 or PHIL 251
Logic and Philosophy (PHIL 220) or one Continental Philosophy course
(PHIL 261 or PHIL 264)
Philosophy Elective

Junior Year

Advanced Seminar in Philosophy (Either Semester)
Junior I.S. (Either Semester)
Ethical Theory (Spring Semester Only)

Senior Year

Senior I.S. Semester One
Senior I.S. Semester Two

This sequence will help effectively develop your philosophical skills and knowledge. Since the two historical foundations courses (PHIL 250 – Ancient and PHIL 251 – Rationalism and Empiricism) provide important background for other courses, they should be completed in your sophomore year. Continental Philosophy courses presuppose an understanding of the issues in PHIL 251 Rationalism and Empiricism; thus it is recommended to take this after completing PHIL 251. Please remember that your writing intensive course (W) must be completed prior to enrolling in Junior I.S. Additionally, students are urged to take courses that are relevant to their Senior I.S. before their senior year. In general, if you are planning to take a 200-level philosophy course as an elective, we would suggest that you do so in your sophomore or junior year.

However, we recognize that the program of study for each student may vary according to individual circumstances and needs. For example, students who study off-campus for a semester will need to carefully adjust their schedule, and double majors will need to be attentive to scheduling conflicts that can arise between required courses, such as Junior I.S. It is important to follow this schedule when possible and to discuss possible variations with your advisor.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOUBLE MAJOR

We encourage students to consider a double major. There is a synergy between the study of philosophy and of the basic concepts and principles of another discipline: each can deepen one's understanding of the other.

With regard to almost all other disciplines, there is a philosophical study for that area, such as the philosophy of literature, biology, economics, and history. Each of these branches of philosophy has its own books, journals, and specialists, many of whom have advanced degrees in both philosophy and the other discipline. Some of the work done in these branches of philosophy is very exciting. Often conceptual debates in other disciplines occur at the cutting edge. Furthermore, sometimes insights from one area of philosophy have not been applied in another.

Students who have a strong interest in two fields should begin by discussing their interests with faculty in each department. This will help in identifying questions that can be effectively explored using the methodologies of different disciplines. To officially declare a double major you need to obtain the "Proposal for a Double Major " from the Academic Affairs' website <<http://www.wooster.edu/Academics/Registrar/Forms>>. To complete the form you must meet with the Chair of each department to discuss potential topics for Senior I.S.

Requirements for each major in a double major are the same as those for a single major with the exception that, subject to the approval of both departments/programs, a joint Senior I.S. project may be done on a topic that incorporates materials, methodologies, and approaches from both disciplines.

Students who declare a double major must complete two separate **Junior I.S.** courses (401)—one in **each** major department. Students who have been approved for a double major must register for the **Senior Independent Study Thesis** in one major during the fall semester and in the second major during the spring semester.

An individualized piece of work for two departments requires some additional planning, and double major students are strongly advised to consult with both departments in mid-April of their junior year. Your philosophy adviser should help you to build a preliminary conceptual thesis that dovetails with your work in the other major. He or she will also help you build a preliminary bibliography to guide your summer research before your senior year.

As a double major student, your Senior I.S. thesis must satisfy the requirements of both departments. For example, most of the social and natural sciences will expect you to complete empirical research using the appropriate methods. Likewise, in the humanities, you will be expected to employ the critical methodology of the other discipline, such as literary criticism. However, almost any empirical investigation in the sciences or critique in the humanities raises, or depends upon, conceptual issues that can form the basis of an interesting philosophical thesis. Thus, you will learn how each discipline can inform the work of the other. In this way, one can write a joint senior thesis that satisfies the criteria for both departments and yet that has the integrity of a unified piece of work.

6. OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Off-campus study enriches one's life both academically and culturally. Philosophy majors have participated in a wide array of off-campus study programs. In general, off-campus experiences can be distinguished into two general types: academic and cultural. Your experience can be designed to expose you to an academic environment different than Wooster's or to help you become engaged with a different culture and conception of the world. Clearly, these are not mutually exclusive, but on-campus living at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland where you are studying philosophy, history, and religious dimensions of the Scottish Enlightenment is different from a home-stay in Kenya where you are studying health care and development issues.

If you are planning to study off-campus for a semester, please consult your adviser about which courses you might take during that period. You should also contact the Director of International and Off-Campus Study. A complete listing of Wooster Endorsed Programs and Policies is available at <<http://www.wooster.edu/Academics/Off-Campus-Study/>> .

Below is a list of off-campus programs in which philosophy students have recently participated.

AFRICA

Botswana (SIT)

David Wissemann, Fall 2007

Ethiopia (SIT)

Jaimy Stoll, Fall 2006

Ghana (SIT)

David Wigger, Fall 2006

Kenya (SIT)

Kathryn Allen, Fall 2005

South Africa, Cape Town (SIT)

Colin Turner, Spring 2004

Uganda Development Studies (SIT)

Megan Mitchell, Fall 2004

NORTH AMERICA

USA, Chicago (Newberry Seminar in the Humanities)

Pandora Clark, Fall 1999

USA, Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Center

Manisha Wimalasekera, Spring 2005

Seth Stuck, Fall 2006

Anthony Apollon, Fall 2007

USA, Washington, American University Washington Semester

Alec Muller, Spring 2011

Tucker Brennan, Spring 2005

Dan Fleszar, Fall 2005

Alex Chadwick, Fall 2006

OCEANIA

Australia, Adelaide (IES)

Aishwarya Nukala, Fall 2002

Kate McGaughey, Fall 2005

Australia, Melbourne (IES)

Austin Drewyor, Spring 2009

New Zealand, (Arcadia)

Rachel Worth-Cappell, Spring 2008

New Zealand, Christchurch (IES)

Ben Schwan, Spring 2006

New Zealand, Auckland (IES)

Michael McMaster, Fall 2005

Addy Cary, Fall 2006

New Zealand, Wellington (IFSA Butler)

Kalyn Kappelman, Fall 2005

Russell Roberts, Fall 2007

LATIN AMERICA

Chile, Santiago (IES)

Robert Ippolito, Fall 2007

Cassiel Archdeacon, Fall 2008

MIDDLE EAST

Jordan, Amman (SIT)

Zane Shetler, Spring 2009

EUROPE

Austria, Vienna (IES)

Mark Wells, Spring 2004

Denmark, Copenhagen

Sam Dorrance, Spring 2005

England, London (IES)

Halley Chehayl, Fall 2000

Thar Roeung, Spring 2001

England, University College London (Butler)

Daniel Cohen, Fall 2004

Cory Becker, Spring 2003

England, Oxford University (Butler)

Lisa Perkins, Fall 2001

England, Oxford University (University of Wisconsin)

Seth Levy, Spring 2001

Sarah Mizell, Spring 2005

England, University of Sussex (Butler)

Erin Barnes, Fall 2005

France, Toulouse (Dickinson)

Stewart Campbell, Spring 2006

France, Grenoble (API)

Laura Barnhart, Fall 2004

France, Paris (IES)

Lauren Schreur, Fall 2005

Germany, Freiburg (IES)

Matthew Blint, Fall 2004

Greece, Athens (Arcadia)

Christina Shiroma, Fall 2006

Kevin Whalen, Spring 2009

Greece, Athens (College Year in Athens)

Brittany Potts, Fall 2008

Halden Schwallie, Fall 2009

Ireland (SIT)

James Riviere, Spring 2005

Ireland, Dublin (IES)

Sarah Palagyi, Spring 2009

Ireland, Cork (Butler)

Sophia Derugen-Toomey, Fall 2009

Italy, Florence (Syracuse University)

Abigail Adams, Fall 2004

Italy, Florence (API)

Deb Coffman, Spring 2006

Elizabeth Deringer, Fall 2008

Italy, Florence (Arcadia)

Dylan Takores, Fall 2009

Italy, Milan (IES)

Konrad Brown, Spring 2005

Italy, Rome (IES)

Mary Brickhouse, Fall 2010

Timothy Gillis, Fall 2008

Iceland, Reykjavik

Jon Martin, Fall 2006

Netherlands, Amsterdam (IES)

Penn Tarleton, Fall 2009

Netherlands, Amsterdam (SIT)

Meredith Wilson, Fall 2007

Netherlands, Leiden

Mark Schneider, Spring 2007

Scotland, University of Aberdeen (Butler)

Evan Watson, Spring 2006

Frank Simmerman, Spring 2006

David Albrechta, Fall 2006

Scotland, University of St. Andrews (Arcadia)

Quentin Fisher, Spring 2011

Scotland, University of St. Andrews (Butler)

James Owens, Fall 2005

Lindsay Brainard, Spring 2008

Scotland, University of Edinburgh (Arcadia)

Robert Lauwers, Fall 2008

Destinee Reynolds, Fall 2009

Scotland, University of Edinburgh (Butler)

Scott Smith, Fall 2008

Benjamin Gartin, Fall 2009

Scotland, University of Edinburgh

(Parliamentary Internship)

Cam MacLeod, Fall 2005

Ben Gummo, Spring 2007

Spain, Cordoba (PRESHCO)

Lara Pfaff, Spring 2006

Timothy Seaton, Spring 2008

South East Asia

China, Beijing (CIEE)

Brian Crist, Summer 2006

Thailand

Troy Schmidt, Fall 2004

Kyle Christensen, Fall 2007

Amihan Jones, Fall 2007

7. JUNIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY SEMINAR

§ Description and Seminar Goals

The fundamental goal of the Junior Independent Study Seminar is to help students further develop their ability to do independent research in philosophy and to write a philosophical thesis. In order to achieve this goal, the course will require students to examine questions about the nature and methodology of philosophy, engage in research using philosophical journals and electronic data bases, deliver oral presentations, participate in peer review of others' writing, and plan and write a philosophical paper.

Since Senior Independent Study integrates all five learning goals in philosophy, the Junior Independent Study Seminar will focus upon helping students integrate all five of these learning goals. Special attention will be devoted to help students interpret and analyze texts with increasing independence, to construct strong arguments, and to communicate in discussion and in writing.

§ Structure of the Seminar

The overall structure of the seminar is designed to equip students with the skills to form clear and interesting independent study projects; it will also provide students with the opportunity to arrive at a level of expertise sufficient for carrying out these projects. The exposure to other students' topics and projects should be both informative and motivating. In addition, students will engage in the process of peer review and peer-led philosophical discussions.

The Junior Independent Study Seminar has three parts.

1. The Nature and Methodology of Philosophy

In the first unit students will read and discuss articles on meta-philosophy (i.e., reflections on the nature and purpose of philosophy), philosophical methodology (e.g., What is conceptual analysis? What are its limits? What role should descriptive claims play in philosophical analysis?), and the historiography of philosophy (i.e., How should we read texts in the history of philosophy?). Research tools and methodologies will also be discussed in the first several weeks.

2. Student Presentations of Philosophical Articles

In the second unit each student will be required to lead the seminar by presenting an article that bears directly on the topic that he or she has chosen to investigate. The article selected by the student, with guidance from the instructor, should be appropriately accessible to a general philosophical audience and should provide a framework for inquiry into his or her thesis topic. The student presenting the article will be required to provide study questions one week prior to leading the seminar. All students in the seminar will be expected to read and to discuss the article(s) in question.

3. *Student Oral Presentations of Theses*

In the third unit, each student will give an oral presentation of his or her Junior I.S. thesis. These presentations may draw on the material discussed in the earlier presentation, but should cover more ground and contain original analysis.

§ Junior Independent Study Paper

The paper that emerges from the Junior Independent Study process should be about 15 pages and should be of the type and quality that could be submitted to an undergraduate journal. In addition, it should demonstrate a knowledge of the relevant issues on the topic and should be attentive to the relevant philosophical literature, including journal articles.

We strongly encourage students to pursue the thesis topic that interests them most. There is no special reason to postpone choosing such a topic of interest until the senior year; it is possible to write a senior thesis on a different aspect of the same topic as your junior thesis.

Stages of the Junior Independent Study Project:

1. *Selection of a Topic (Completed by Week 3)*
 - Identify a topic that interests you.
 - Convert an unfocused interest in a general topic to a clear and specific conceptual question that can form the basis of a thesis.
 - Develop a research strategy for answering the question.
 - Select an appropriate reading for the group by the fourth week.
(Note: This reading must be approved by the instructor.)
 - Write a one-paragraph proposal.
2. *Peer Review of Proposals (Completed by Week 4)*
3. *Submit Detailed Proposal (Completed by Week 5)*
 - Revise and develop a thesis proposal.
 - Construct an appropriate bibliography for the thesis.
 - Write a complete proposal using the I.S. Proposal Sheet.
4. *Seminar Presentation of Salient Article (Weeks 4 - 9)*
5. *Oral Presentation on Project (Weeks 10 - 12)*
6. *Submit a Draft of Paper (By Week 12)*
7. *Submit Final Paper to the Instructor (By the Last Day of Class in the Semester)*

§ Undergraduate Journals of Philosophy

Submitting work to undergraduate philosophy journals or essay contests can be a valuable experience for any philosophy major. Preparing a paper for submission requires a careful review of one's analysis, presentation, and writing mechanics, a process that serves to hone one's philosophical skills. Students are encouraged to submit papers that they may have already written for a class or on any topic of philosophical interest. Students completing both Junior and Senior Independent Study should consider these or other journals when submitting their work for publication.

Aporia

Brigham Young University
<http://aporia.byu.edu/site.php?id=current>

Canadian Undergraduate Journal of Cognitive Science

Simon Fraser University
<http://www.sfu.ca/cognitive-science/journal>

The Dialectic

University of New Hampshire
<http://www.unh.edu/philosophy/index.cfm?ID=D4C495C5-BBAF-BC84-E60BA47928FA53EB>

The Dualist

Stanford University
<http://philosophy.stanford.edu/departamental-information/undergraduate-program/the-dualist-undergraduate-journal/>

Ephemeris

Union College
<http://punzel.org/Ephemeris/>

Episteme

Denison University
<http://www.denison.edu/academics/departments/philosophy/episteme.html>

Ergon

University of South Carolina
<http://www.cas.sc.edu/phil/ergon/index.html>

Interlocutor

Sewanee University
<http://www.sewanee.edu/Philosophy/interlocutor/index.html>

Janua Sophia

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
http://www.edinboro.edu/departments/philosophy/janua_sophia.dot

Lyceum

Saint Anselm College
<http://lyceumphilosophy.com>

Meteorite

University of Michigan

<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/meteorite/home>*Phi Sigma Tau*

Philosophy Honor Society Journal

<http://www.achsnatl.org/society.asp?society=pst>*Populus*

University of California

<http://philosophy.ucdavis.edu/ugjournal>*Princeton Journal of Bioethics*

Princeton University

<http://www.princeton.edu/~pjb/Welcome.html>*Prolegomena*

University of British Columbia

<http://www.philosophy.ubc.ca/prolegom/index.php/prolegomena>*Prometheus*

Johns Hopkins University

<http://www.prometheus-journal.com/>*The Yale Philosophy Review*

Yale University

<http://www.yale.edu/ypr>

8. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY

§ Introduction

Senior Independent Study is a unique requirement at Wooster and a special opportunity for you to develop intellectually and philosophically. This section is designed to provide you with information regarding the requirements for a Senior Independent Study Project in the Department of Philosophy and also to provide you with some recommendations to help you construct a quality project and thesis. It also outlines some useful tips for writing the thesis, identifies some pitfalls to avoid, and discusses the criteria used for grading the I.S. project.

The Senior Independent Study thesis you create is your *own*. Your thesis should be an example of your best work. Your advisor's role is to help you shape your project and to challenge you to perform your best, but in the end, the thesis is your responsibility. It is your responsibility to know the deadlines and the requirements related to your project. (Deadlines are listed at the end of this section.) The standard pattern in this department is for each student to meet weekly with his or her advisor for at least an hour of discussion. Each advisor should periodically inform each student whether he or she is making adequate progress toward completion of the thesis. In almost every case that progress will be measured by the amount and quality of writing produced. Throughout the year there are specific departmental deadlines which are designed to help you make effective progress in completing your thesis.

§ Recent Senior I.S. Titles

Your senior thesis can be on any philosophical topic that interests you. Some students choose topics that examine an aspect of a central question in philosophy. Other students write on problems and ideas that arise from a specific philosopher of the past. Still others work in areas where philosophy intersects with other disciplines, such as mathematics, art, and literature. Of course, it is also possible to write a thesis that does not fit into any of these categories. We encourage you to explore your ideas with several faculty members. Please feel free to review the list of Senior I.S. titles online and contact the Philosophy Department Administrative Coordinator to review the department's collection of past senior theses.

Online Data Base: <http://www.wooster.edu/Independent-Study/Search-the-IS-Database>

2011

- Good Medicine: A Response to Libertarian Concerns Regarding Universal Health Care
- Jurisprudence and Morality in Theory and Practice
- Conditional Foreign Aid: The Morality and Success of Its Use for Democratization
- Korsgaardian Agency and Lived Agency: Some Concerns
- Irish Political Society: A Normative Democratic Evaluation
- Engineering New Life in a Utilitarian World: Crating a Social Policy for Synthetic Life
- A Crash Course in Riding Philosophy: Why Zen & Motorcycles Really Do Go Together
- The Importance of Being Earnest: Virtue Ethics and the Environment
- Determining the Goals of an Education
- Caring for Justice: When Liberalism is Not Enough
- The Language of Totalitarianism: Newspeak, Freedom, and Orwellian Dystopia

- Stuck at the Fork in the Middle of the Road?: Towards the Rational Discretion of Microfinance Institutions
- Establishing Good Will- It's Not Just About the Criminal: An Analysis of Punishment Theory
- On Artificial Intelligence: The Logical Impossibility of Strong Artificial Intelligence
- The Poetics of Metaphor: How It Means, Conceptualizes, and Creates
- Disentangling the Origins of the Western Conception of Nature
- Create, Think, Be
- The Philosophy of Education: Setting Goals for Enlightened Learning
- The Ethical Weapon: Just War in the Gulf
- Feeling Virtuous: The Role of Emotions in Moral Judgments
- Procedural Justice in Game Theoretic Systems
- Breaking the Law: Justified Civil Disobedience
- What Should Prisons Do? Ascertaining the Proper Purpose of a Prison System
- What is it like to be a shark?

2010

- Explanation, Relation, and Meaning in Scientific Realism and Anti-Realism
- Blurred Lines: Prodding the Liminal Space between Fine Art and Fine Craft
- What Are We So Afraid Of?: A Comprehensive Approach to Censorship
- The Right People to Vote: The Citizens, the Old, and the Informed
- Ethical Guidelines for Scientific Research: Doing Research for Humanity's Sake
- Contextualism, Factivity, and the Nature of Knowledge
- Tell Me That's Not Just! How Social Interactions Shape Thoughts About Justice
- Ancient Virtue Theory Verses Contemporary Virtue Theory: Why/How MacIntyre's Virtue Theory is Better Perceived Than Aristotle's Virtue Theory
- We The Nauseous: What Ayn Rand and Jean-Paul Sartre Have to Teach Us About What Literature Can Do for Philosophy
- "Because I'm Your Parent, That's Why!": An Examination of Filial Piety as it Relates to Moral Action
- Chinese Philosophy: Cultivation of the Moral Self
- Why Unlocking Life's Mystery is the Responsibility of the Dissatisfied Individual: An Investigation of Camus' Absurdism
- A Solution to Health Care's Difficult Problems: A Philosophical Investigation into Cost Cutting Initiatives in Health Care
- Language for a New Day and Age: An Inquiry into the Philosophy of Language
- Moral Obligations to the Global Poor: An Investigation of Duties to the World's Most Needy
- Science on Trial: Rethinking Judicial Gatekeeping
- Broadening the Revolution: An Examination of Liberation Theory & Technology Adoption
- The Irresponsibility of Absolutist Political Beliefs in Democratic Government
- We Are How We Eat: Industrial v. Agrarian Agricultural Ethics
- The Destruction of Identity and Citizenship Through Loneliness & Totalitarianism
- Lockean Environmentalism: Virtuous Stewardship of the Earth
- Straitjacketing War: How Just War Theory Can Transform Modern Warfare
- Virtue in Business: A New Path for the Corporation
- The Relationship Between Personal Morality and Professional Ethics: A critical assessment of the FBI and the ideal conduct for interrogation practice
- Hidden Motives in the Hearts of Reagan and His Administration: An Analysis of U.S. National Interest during the Iran-Contra Scandal
- Why Should I Care?: A Comparative Discussion on Service, Altruism, and Personal Identity
- The Righteousness of Strength: Relying on Authentic Action to Overcome Oppression
- Entrepreneurial Ethics: A Pragmatic Approach to Resolving Entrepreneurial Moral Conflict

2009

- Defining Agency: An Empirical Study Observing the Effects of Sense of Agency and its Influence on the Philosophical Discussion of Agency, Action, and Free Will
- The Democratic Crusade: A Conceptual and Normative Analysis
- The Role of Rights in Ethical Theory: Sufficient, Necessary, or Nonsense
- How Do We Interpret the 14th Amendment In Guaranteeing Natural & Civil Rights: Brown vs. Board of Education case (1954)
- Varieties of Civil Disobedience
- Natural Rights?: Alternative Theories of Rights
- The Butterfly Effect. Much to do about Science: Rethinking the standard view and the presence of values
- The Consistent Histories Interpretation as a Solution to the Quantum Measurement Problem
- Why Neoclassical Economics Must Eliminate the Assumption of Utility Maximization, Ceteris Paribus
- Out of the Ivory Tower: Pragmatism in Environmental Ethics
- An Investigation into Human Rights: The Case of Female Genital Cutting in the Gambia
- Pan-handlers, Deserted Islands, and Philosophers: Solving Problems of Charity
- Faith as Coherence: An Alternative Justification of Religious Belief
- Free Will and Animals: Rethinking the Traditional View
- Moral Responsibility and the Insanity Defense: Implications for the Mentally Ill
- A Practical Anthropocentric Holistic Environmental Ethic
- Finding a Metagraffiti: Visual Art of the Urban Environment and the Public Good
- Indeterminacy and Incommensurability
- When Science Evolves: The Role of the Meme in Social Explanation
- Life in a Glass House: How State Surveillance Affects American Liberalism
- Rebel Souls: Confessing the condition for coming to know the unknown
- Sport as a Discipline: The Role of Bodily Training in the Development of the Self
- My Friends, There Are No Friends: Friendship, Egoism, and Altruism in Ancient Greek and Christian Thought
- Sharing is Caring: Rethinking Property in the Digital Age
- The Case for Consideration of Animal Rights and Ethics to Reform the Commercial Dog Breeding Industry
- Environmental Philosophy and the Problem of Our Time: Where Does Theory Meet Our Values?
- Closing the Straight Highway: A Critique of Frege, Russell and Early Wittgenstein's Handling of the Sense-Reference Investigation Through a Later Wittgensteinian Lens
- A Dog Eat Dog World: Human Immorality and the Role of Competition

2008

- Happiness and Desire: What's Virtue Got to Do With It?
- Environmental Ethics in the Arctic: Investigating the Source of Moral Obligations to Wilderness
- Linguistics and Mental Content: Derrida's Challenges to Fodor and Putnam
- Respect, Dignity, and Human Rights Martha Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach and Transitional Social Justice
- A Big Liberal Tea Party Where Will Discuss the Finer Points of Political Philosophy: Why I Write Such a Good Independent Study.
- The Aesthetic Value of Nature
- A Critical Examination of Theories of Technology: Synthesizing A Tenable Foundation and Reclaiming Enframement
- Women as Physicians: Impossible, Unthinkable, and Completely Justifiable: An inquiry into the nature of women, the nature of medicine, and how gender equality transfers to contemporary society
- The Recovery of Philosophy through Pragmatism
- There is No Theory, Only a Strategy: Speculation to Death
- Don't Be Deceived, This Is Not A Lie: An examination of the role of truth (or lack thereof) in our advisory system

- Examining the Mythology of Rock Music: Sincerity, Authenticity, and the Nature of Musical Content
- "Look Mom No Hands!" Letting go of the Philosophical Chains of Causality
- The Philosophy of Development: Towards a Normative Theory
- Thinking Outside the Belief-Box: Problems with Mental Representations in Cognitive Science
- How Should We Conceive of Ourselves to Better Cope with Disability?
- Subjected: A Study of Literary-Critical Discourse and Agency After Foucault
- Staying Free
- Utopianism: A Worthwhile Endeavor
- "What's Faith Got to Do with It?": An Investigation into the Cognitive Significance of Religious Language
- Moral Foundations Of Truth Commissions In Theory And Practice
- Donald Davidson and Natural Language Processing
- Philosophy of Social Science: Determining and Assessing the Factors that Underpin Moral and Profitable Worker Productivity
- Defense Counsel and the Criminal Justice System: Resolving Moral Dilemmas and the Limits of Professional
- Nietzsche and Flamenco: An Analysis of Artistic Expression in Music
- Dirty Little Secret: Photography's Relationship With Harm
- A Kantian Examination of the Capitalist System and the Employee-Employer Relationship Contained Within the Neo-Classical Business World
- Grammatical, Not Ontological: Why Davidson's Philosophies of Action and Mind Can't Work
- In Praise of a Brighter Future: Theories of Post-Colonial Identity Formation
- An Evolutionary Account of Cultural Relativism: Defying Objective Moral Values
- Toward an Authentic Attitude Concerning Nature: Learning from Existential Themes to Save the Environment
- Rethinking Equality, Homosexuality, and Natural Law
- Philosophy of the Dude: A Philosophical Investigation of Film

2007

- The Rational Kernel Must Stay in the Mystical Shell: The Impossibility of Marx's Attempt to Separate the Dialectic from Hegel's System
- Changing the Substrate Specificity of Creatine Kinase to Glycocyamine Through Random Mutagenesis of Non-Conserved Residues: and Philosophical Reflections on Theory Choice and Objectivity
- A Melodious Decree of the Passions: Defining Melody's Role in Opera, Theater, and Life
- Resurrecting the Dead Canvas: Aesthetic Post-essentialism and the Reevaluation of the Traditional Theories of Justifying Art Restoration
- A Kierkegaardian Defense of Meaningful Religious Language Against the Verificationist's Claim that Religious Language is Nonsensical
- The Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research
- Role Morality vs. Moral Rights: An Examination of Legal Ethics
- The Fate of an Axe Murderer: Dostoevsky's Advance on the Utilitarian Retributive Debate
- The Senses and Reference: Descriptivism, Concept Empiricism, and Modality Specific Effects of Perceptual Interference in Conceptual Property Verification
- Faux?: Liberation and Language
- The Sorting Hat: Questioning Our Moral Obligation to Others
- Life is a Garden: Dig it
- A Critical Analysis of Wittgenstein's Essential Connection of Thought and Language
- Environmental Issues: Ethics or Justice
- Determining Indicative Factors of International Institutional Legitimacy
- The Dream of Utopia: A Philosophical Investigation of Utopias and their Interaction with the Human Condition
- On Global Justice: Resolving the Conflict Between International Courts and National Sovereignty

- Emotions as Beliefs: How the Structure of Beliefs and the Structure of Emotions Support a Cognitive Theory of Emotions
- Are you...? (A) Your Thoughts (B) What You Eat (C) A Product of Your Environment (D) All of the Above. On Personal Identity and the Question of Persistence Over Time.
- Chimerical Value: A Critique of the Foundations of Ethical and Legal Theory
- Justifying War and Its Causes
- The Ethics of Green Architecture and the Built Environment
- Charity and National Borders through a Utilitarian Perspective
- A Missing Link: Incorporating Sympathy Into the Ethical Discourse
- Concerns of an Anti-Skeptic: Traditional Epistemology: Why it Should be Naturalized and Taken Back to Common Sense
- Carefully Chosen Words: Historical Foundations of Judicial Review and Implications for Contemporary Theories of Interpretation
- The Existential Life: Exploring Existential Freedom in Camus, Kafka and Dostoevsky
- Can a Good Person be a Good Lawyer? Confidentiality and the Lawyer-Client Relationship
- Nietzsche: Morality in a Post-Transcendental World
- The Concept of Epistemic Responsibility
- The Seafarer's Dilemma: An Investigation of Faith in Existentialism
- In Defense of the Land Ethic Analyzing the views of Aldo Leopold
- The Aesthetic Theory of R.G. Collingwood and the Music of the Beatles

§ Expectations

1. You should discuss possible topics with faculty before you leave campus at the end of your junior year in order to define and refine your general topic and to construct an appropriate reading list. Read and think about your project during the summer months.
2. Your thesis should consist of arguments in favor of a definite conclusion or answer to a specific philosophical question.
3. Your thesis should contain critical thinking, analysis, and argumentation. It should not primarily consist in a historical report, a psychological study, or a collection of opinions.
4. The thesis should be well organized, argued, and written. We expect it to explain, evaluate, and use important research in the relevant areas of philosophy. At the same time, it should include your own conclusions. We will evaluate your work according to the criteria specified in Section 11.
5. The thesis should be about 50-80 pages in length. Writing a thesis of greater length will not necessarily increase the grade. What is crucial is the quality of the philosophical work and argumentation. It should be grammatically correct, without mistakes in typing, punctuation, or spelling.
6. A complete rough draft should be submitted to your advisor by the fifth week of the second semester.

7. We expect that all seniors will regularly attend the Philosophy Roundtable, and that you will provide constructive criticism and comments on the presentations of other students.

§ Official Department Requirements

1. During the first week of your senior year, you must attend the Thursday Philosophy Roundtable, briefly present your topic, and submit a Senior I.S. Proposal. The Senior I.S. Proposal form is presented near the end of this section. The department will then assign an advisor to you. You may indicate a preference for a particular advisor, but the final decision rests with the department.
2. No later than the fourth week of the Fall Semester, you are required to submit a two-page revised project proposal with a bibliography to the Philosophy Department Administrative Coordinator for circulation to the faculty.
3. You are required to give a Roundtable presentation of your thesis during your senior year. The date of this presentation will be determined by the department. You are required to hand-in a copy of your Roundtable handout to the Philosophy Department Administrative Coordinator, Patrice Reeder.
4. In order to receive a grade of Satisfactory Progress for PHIL 451 (i.e., the first semester of Senior Independent Study), you must come prepared for your meetings with your advisor, and work consistently at a sufficient level throughout the semester.

In addition, by the end of the last day of classes you must submit to the Philosophy Department Administrative Coordinator, Patrice Reeder, a title page, abstract, outline of the entire project, working bibliography, and a minimum of 20 pages which must include at least one polished chapter. It is possible to receive a failing grade for PHIL 451 for poor preparation, non-attendance at meetings with one's advisor, or insufficient work.

5. In accordance with College policy, you are required to submit two bound copies of the thesis to the College Registrar's Office before the I.S. deadline, and you are invited to submit a third electronic copy for the library archives. You should keep a fourth bound copy for yourself; please bring a copy to your oral exam.
6. Your thesis must contain a title page, 150-300 word abstract, a table of contents, and a bibliography. The format for each of these is outlined in Section 10 of this Handbook.
7. After you have submitted a thesis, you will have a one-hour oral examination, during which your advisor and a second reader will ask you questions about your thesis and the topics it covers.

§ Grades

A. Grading Scale

For PHIL 451, there are two possible grades: Satisfactory Progress (SP) and Unsatisfactory Progress (U). A grade of Unsatisfactory Progress indicates insufficient work, poor preparation, failure to attend meetings, or a failure to adequately meet the requirements stipulated above. A grade of Satisfactory Progress indicates that all requirements have been met and sufficient progress has been made toward the completion of Senior I.S.

For PHIL 452, there are four possible grades: Honors, Good, Satisfactory, and NC (No Credit). A grade of Honors is reserved for outstanding philosophical work. A grade of Good indicates an exceptionally strong project. A grade of Satisfactory does not indicate substandard work, and the department expects that many of the majors will receive this grade.

B. Assigning a Grade

To determine a grade, we look at four aspects of your independent study project: the thesis itself, the Roundtable Presentation, the quality of the process you undertook, and the oral examination.

For each aspect of the project, there are specific criteria which we use to determine the grade. These criteria are specified in Section 11: Independent Study Assessment Guide and Interpretative Scale.

After the oral exam the department will meet to discuss the entire project. On the basis of the criteria within each category, the department as a whole will assign a grade.

C. Double Major - Joint Thesis

If you are a double major and choose to write a joint thesis, your work will be judged as a single integrated piece of work using the relevant criteria from both departments. You will receive one final grade based on the joint evaluation of both departments. You are advised to pay equal attention to both aspects of your work. Please realize that to receive an Honors you must satisfy the expectations for both departments.

D. Time Schedule

Oral examinations will usually be completed in the first two to three weeks after spring break. The philosophy department will meet to determine grades in the third or fourth week. The department announces grades only after all theses have been discussed, evaluated, and assigned a grade. As a consequence, if the department needs to appoint further readers for borderline cases, then the announcing of the final grades may be delayed by a week or so. Once all grades have been determined, you will receive a letter stating your grade and a written set of comments from both your first and second readers.

§ Tips and Pitfalls

The following is a short list of positive suggestions and pitfalls to avoid. The list is not exhaustive.

1. It is easy to waste the first half of the first semester and, thereby, feel rushed in the month of February. You do not have two full semesters to complete your project. You need to submit a complete rough draft around mid-February so that your advisor can give you comments before spring break. Therefore, please try to define your main aims early in the first semester, and begin to write as soon as you can in order that you can complete a substantial part of the written work by the end of the first semester.
2. Try to choose a general topic for your thesis that really interests you. After this, define the main aims of your thesis early in the process. These can be definite conclusions you wish to argue for or, failing that, a specific philosophical question that you wish to answer. However, avoid asking a question that is too broad.
3. In order to not feel daunted by the amount you must write, please consider, with the help of your advisor, how to best split the thesis into smaller projects, or chapters and subsections. For example, you might have chapters on the following: explaining the problem and its importance; explaining and evaluating significant attempts by important other authors to solve the problems; and explaining and arguing for your solution to the problems.
4. Each part of the I.S. should have a clearly defined aim. Signs that this is lacking include the following: the reader never knows just what is at issue; the discussion seems to ramble from one point to the next without structure or rationale; issues introduced are not dealt with later, or are dealt with only superficially; or significant portions of the I.S. are irrelevant to the main aims.
5. Once you understand something, write it down immediately. Do not leave it for later, even if you intend to deal with this idea in a later section or chapter. If in conversation with your advisor, a point becomes clear, write it down. Later, you may find it difficult to recollect and reconstruct the point. You can always place it in a file called 'notes' or 'points to consider later'.
6. Avoid trying to answer empirical questions with philosophical methods. For example, 'why are people violent?' is an empirical question that requires a study based on observation. Also, avoid merely expressing your opinion; your thesis must have arguments for your position.
7. In your research you need to be thorough. This means that you need to know what the most important works are which are directly relevant to your thesis. However, it is also easy to get distracted and confused by either reading too much or by focusing on complex ideas that are not directly relevant to your thesis. To avoid this, try to find recent works that give a solid overview of your area, and use their bibliographies to guide and help you select your reading.

8. You are expected to know the major authors and scholarly papers in your area of concern, however, your thesis is not just a research project that reports and explains these works. You have to try to argue for your own conclusions. This does not mean that you cannot use the arguments of other philosophers to construct your own piece. Avoid reinventing the wheel. You must decide which arguments are best, and you must do this in a rational manner, providing reasons for your position. When you use someone else's work, cite it.
9. It is very useful to identify important authors that would disagree in a significant way with what you want to say. Try to spot and challenge their assumptions, and specify why you disagree with their arguments or interpretation of a text.
10. Please be careful when using Internet sites as reference sources; their quality can vary tremendously. It is probably best to use published books and journal articles initially, until you are more familiar with the field.
11. Finally, you will end up writing various versions of the same chapter or section. You should always date your rough work, so that you know which is the latest version. Also, keep back-up copies of everything. Please consider copying all your work regularly onto your Novell account.

§ Senior I.S. Proposal Form

The College of Wooster Department of Philosophy Independent Study Proposal

Name: _____

Date: _____

I. Area of Project

This proposed I.S. project deals primarily with the following area(s) of philosophy:
(check a maximum of 2)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metaphysics | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethical Theory | <input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epistemology | <input type="checkbox"/> Applied Ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy of Mind | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy of Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy of Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Existentialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy of Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Continental Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy of Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Logic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) |

II. Central Question(s) of this Project:

I propose to address the following question(s):

III. Prospectus

A prospectus is a brief account (250 - 750 words) of the project that you are proposing. It should include any ideas that you have for the organization (chapter/section breakdown) of the project. Explain what is at stake or why these questions are important. Indicate, to the best of your ability at this time, what you think your answer(s) to the central question(s) is (are) likely to be.

The prospectus must be typed, follow I.S. format guidelines, and be attached to this proposal form.

IV. Bibliography

This is an initial bibliography of sources that are relevant to your project. This bibliography should be typed and should follow I.S. format guidelines.

- You are required to include a minimum of 10 entries.
- You should include *at least* one professional journal article, one book, and one book chapter. [A maximum of 5 of these entries can be selected from the readings you have completed in any of your courses. Indicate which are from coursework and which are items found in preparing this proposal.]
- In assembling this bibliography, be sure to make use of the *Philosopher's Index* and other standard, reliable research databases.

§ Important Deadlines

<i>Classes Begin Fall Semester</i>	Monday – 29 August, 2011
<i>First Philosophy Roundtable</i> <i>Brief Presentation of Topic & Senior Independent Study Proposal Due</i> (see Senior I.S. Proposal Form)	*Thursday – 1 September, 2011
<i>Revised Thesis Proposal With Bibliography Due</i> (To be submitted to the Philosophy Department Administrative Coordinator, Patrice Reeder)	*Friday – 23 September, 2011
<i>Last Day of Classes Fall Semester</i> <i>First Semester Thesis Components Due</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title page; • Abstract; • Outline of the entire project; • Working bibliography; and • Minimum of 20 pages which must include at least one polished chapter. (To be submitted to the Philosophy Department Administrative Coordinator, Patrice Reeder)	*Friday – 9 December, 2011
<i>Classes Begin Spring Semester</i>	Monday – 16 January, 2012
<i>Final Draft of Thesis for Advisor Due</i>	*Friday – 17 February, 2012
<i>Spring Break</i>	Friday – 9 March, 2012 to Sunday – 25 March, 2012
<i>Turn Thesis into Registrar's Office</i> (Submit 2 bound copies to the Registrar's Office and an electronic copy to the Library Archives.)	*Monday – 26 March, 2012
<i>Target Date for Completing I.S. Orals</i>	Friday – 20 April, 2012
<i>Last Day of Classes</i>	Friday – 4 May, 2012
<i>Graduation</i>	Monday – 14 May, 2012

*Designates official Department/College deadlines

9. STYLE AND CITATION REQUIREMENTS

§ Word Processing Style Requirements

Please abide by the following suggestions regarding the style for your thesis:

1. **Fonts:** Always pick a font that is specifically designed for the LaserWriter printer. We recommend that you use 'Times,' the font you are reading now.
2. **Font styles:** Use the underlining, boldfacing, and italics options sparingly but effectively. For example, the titles of books should always be italicized, and titles of articles and essays should be in double quotes. Subtitles sometimes are clearer if they are boldface.
3. **Margins:** With the exception of page numbers, all text must fit within margins set at 1.5 inches from the bound edge of the page and 1 inch from other edge, top, and bottom. These dimensions are known as 'thesis margins.'
4. **Justification:** The text should be justified on the right margin as well as the left.
5. **Page numbering:** All pages must be numbered except the title page. Page numbers may be centered at the bottom of the page at least 0.5 inches from the edge, or in the top right corner at least 0.5 inches from the top and right page edges.
6. **Line spacing:** Text must be double-spaced. Quotations longer than four lines should be single-spaced and indented on both sides. Footnotes and references should be single-spaced.
7. **Double-sided printing:** In order to save paper, you are strongly encouraged to print the final copies of your thesis back-to-back.

§ Citation Requirements

Ideas and/or arguments that are not your own, as well as, direct quotations from another author, must be referenced with a citation to the original source. Citations and bibliography should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition (ReadRef Z253 .U69 2003).

There are two different documentation systems presented in *Chicago Manual of Style*: (1) footnotes/bibliography and (2) in-text citation/references. You should discuss with your advisor which system is most appropriate for your thesis. The footnote system presents bibliographic information in footnotes at the bottom of each page and a bibliography at the end of the thesis. The in-text system provides name of the author, year of publication, and page number in the original work in the body of the text and a bibliography (or list of references) at the end of the thesis.

The Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide provides examples of the most common types of citations. It is available at < http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html >

10. INDEPENDENT STUDY FORMAT SAMPLES

§ Sample Title Page

Pulling Rabbits from the Hat of Uncertainty:

Rethinking Epistemology's Pursuit of Truth

By Aaron McKay Kriska

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements of Senior Independent Study

Advisor: Henry Kreuzman

Department of Philosophy
The College of Wooster
March 2011

§ Sample Abstract

Abstract

Pulling Rabbits from the Hat of Uncertainty:
Rethinking Epistemology's Pursuit of Truth

Abstract

By Aaron McKay Kriska

This Independent Study thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter, "Appearance, Reality, and Relativism", draws a distinction between our sensory experiences and what is or is not true of the external world. The conclusion is drawn that we do not have direct access to the external world. Because of this, no one can ever lay claim to having knowledge about the "true" nature of the external world. It seems as if the doctrine of skepticism prevails, stating that truth is relative to the perceiver, and that there can be no epistemic warrant for our beliefs.

The second chapter, "The Traditional Epistemological Enterprise," examines responses to the charges of skepticism by two major schools of philosophy. Specifically, it looks at the rationalist answer given by Descartes and the empiricist answer given by the Logical Empiricists. Neither of these responses, however, can successfully dispute the charges of relativism and ground our knowledge.

The third chapter, "Quine's Critique of Traditional Epistemology," inspects the philosophy of W.V.O. Quine as a refutation of traditional epistemology. Although he identifies errors, particularly in regard to the Logical Empiricists, his comments can be viewed as a broader attack on any foundational picture of knowledge and justification.

The fourth chapter and final chapter, "Order Restored to Epistemology...Almost," presents and argues for an account of how we can non-arbitrarily choose between theories even though access to the external world can never be had. I conclude that there can be rules governing theory choice only in relation to a particular goal. However, the threat of relativism and skepticism will always lurk near the periphery of a theory, ready to jump in and attack any claims of absolute certainty.

§ Sample Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

[This page, which thanks and acknowledges those who have contributed to your project, comes after the Abstract and before the Table of Contents.]

§ Sample Table of Contents

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11. ASSESSMENT GUIDES

Research Paper Assessment Guide

Student: _____

Date: _____

Form:

- Title (*clear, concise, informative*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Abstract (*150-300 word effective summary of the paper's thesis, main arguments*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Introduction (*provides context and purpose for the thesis*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Summary (*the thesis's primary points are briefly restated*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Citation of sources (*all borrowed ideas and words adequately cited*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Spelling & Grammar (*proper punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, etc.*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Proper format followed (*meets the requirements outlined in our style guide*): 0 1 2 3 4

Content:

- Understanding – Interpretation and Analysis: 0 1 2 3 4
(The thesis demonstrates an ability to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.)
- Argumentation: 0 1 2 3 4
(The thesis demonstrates an ability to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.)
- Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology: 0 1 2 3 4
(The paper demonstrates a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.)
- Communication: 0 1 2 3 4
(The thesis demonstrates an ability to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective and systematic manner.)
- Praxis: 0 1 2 3 4
(The thesis demonstrates an ability to critically and creatively apply concepts, theories, and arguments from one context to another.)

Comments:

**Oral Presentation Assessment Guide
(Department of Philosophy)**

Student: _____

Date: _____

ORAL PRESENTATION

Form:

- Student was clear with audible vocal projection: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student was articulate with minimal verbal clutter: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student spoke at an appropriate pace: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student showed poise and self confidence: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student developed a rapport with the audience: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student communicated effectively with the audience: 0 1 2 3 4
- Handout was well organized, clear, and effectively used: 0 1 2 3 4

Content:

- Understanding – Interpretation and Analysis: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates an ability to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.)
- Argumentation: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates during meetings an ability to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.)
- Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology – (Depth, Originality, Creativity): 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.)
- Communication: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates an ability to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective and systematic manner.)
- Praxis: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates an ability to critically and creatively apply concepts, theories, and arguments from one context to another.)

Independent Study Assessment Guide
(Department of Philosophy)

Student: _____

Date: _____

I. THESIS**Form:**

- Title (*clear, concise, informative*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Abstract (*150-300 word effective summary of the paper's thesis, main arguments*): 0 1 2 3 4
- Introduction (provides context and purpose for the thesis): 0 1 2 3 4
- Summary (the thesis's primary points are briefly restated): 0 1 2 3 4
- Citation of sources (all borrowed ideas and words adequately cited): 0 1 2 3 4
- Spelling & Grammar (proper punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, etc.): 0 1 2 3 4
- Proper format followed (*meets the requirements outlined in our style guide*): 0 1 2 3 4

Content:

- Understanding – Interpretation and Analysis: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The thesis demonstrates an ability to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.*)
- Argumentation: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The thesis demonstrates an ability to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.*)
- Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The paper demonstrates a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.*)
- Communication: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The thesis demonstrates an ability to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective and systematic manner.*)
- Praxis: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The thesis demonstrates an ability to critically and creatively apply concepts, theories, and arguments from one context to another.*)

II. ROUNDTABLE PRESENTATION

Form:

- Student was clear with audible vocal projection: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student was articulate with minimal verbal clutter: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student spoke at an appropriate pace: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student showed poise and self confidence: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student developed a rapport with the audience: 0 1 2 3 4
- Student communicated effectively with the audience: 0 1 2 3 4
- Handout was well organized, clear, and effectively used: 0 1 2 3 4

Content:

- Understanding – Interpretation and Analysis: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates an ability to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.)
- Argumentation: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates during meetings an ability to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.)
- Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology – (Depth, Originality, Creativity): 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.)
- Communication: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates an ability to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective and systematic manner.)
- Praxis: 0 1 2 3 4
(The student demonstrates an ability to critically and creatively apply concepts, theories, and arguments from one context to another.)

III. PROCESS

- Understanding – Interpretation and Analysis: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates an ability to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.*)
- Argumentation: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates during meetings an ability to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.*)
- Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology – (Depth, Originality, Creativity): 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.*)
- Communication: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates an ability to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective and systematic manner.*)
- Praxis: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates an ability to critically and creatively apply concepts, theories, and arguments from one context to another.*)
- Literature and Research: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates skill in finding and using appropriate research materials.*)
- Effort: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student comes prepared for each meeting, exhibits consistent effort, and demonstrates active engagement with the project.*)

IV. ORAL EXAMINATION

- Understanding – Interpretation and Analysis: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates an ability to analyze, interpret, and understand philosophical texts and discourse.*)
- Argumentation: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates during meetings an ability to effectively identify, evaluate, and formulate arguments.*)
- Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology – (Depth, Originality, Creativity): 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates a high degree of fluency with the major traditions, figures, concepts, and methods of philosophy.*)
- Communication: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates an ability to develop, organize, and express ideas in a precise, clear, effective and systematic manner.*)
- Praxis: 0 1 2 3 4
(*The student demonstrates an ability to critically and creatively apply concepts, theories, and arguments from one context to another.*)

Interpretative Scale

Understanding – Interpretation and Analysis

- 4 Exceptional: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions are exceptionally clear, precise, and reveal a rich and insightful understanding of the assumptions, strategies, and aims of the text.
 - 3 Exceeds expectations: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions are clear, precise, and reveal a rich understanding of the basic assumptions, strategies, and aims of the text.
 - 2 Satisfies expectations: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions are correct on all basic points and fit within the standard interpretations and show an awareness of the basic assumptions and aims of the text.
 - 1 Does not satisfy expectations: Interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions do not reveal an understanding of “what is at stake” and/or do not effectively identify the basic aims and assumptions of the text.
 - 0 Significantly below expectations: There is an absence of interpretations and analyses of the philosophical positions and/or a failure to engage the text.
- NA Not Applicable.

Argumentation

- 4 Exceptional: Argumentation is exceptionally well-organized, tightly constructed, clearly presented, philosophically sophisticated, effective, and well-reasoned. In addition, it shows a rich and insightful understanding of other arguments for and against the position.
 - 3 Exceeds expectations: Argumentation is well-organized, tightly constructed, clearly presented, philosophically sophisticated, effective, and well-reasoned. In addition, it shows a rich understanding of other arguments for and against the position.
 - 2 Satisfies expectations: Argumentation is organized, clearly presented, philosophically informed, and generally well-reasoned. In addition, it effectively demonstrates an understanding of other arguments for and against the position.
 - 1 Does not satisfy expectations: Argumentation is poorly organized, lacking clarity and structure, and not well-reasoned and/or does not effectively demonstrate an understanding of other arguments for and against the position.
 - 0 Significantly below expectations: There is an absence of argumentation and/or no indication of an awareness of other arguments for or against the position.
- NA Not Applicable.

Philosophical Knowledge and Methodology

- 4 Exceptional: The project demonstrates facility with and mastery of a wide range of philosophical concepts and methodologies. In addition, the project exhibits a deep and insightful understanding of the relevant literature, theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s).
 - 3 Exceeds expectations: The project demonstrates facility with a wide range of philosophical concepts and methodologies. In addition, the project exhibits a deep understanding of the relevant theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s).
 - 2 Satisfies expectations: The project is developed in accordance with fundamental philosophical concepts and methodologies. In addition, it effectively demonstrates an understanding of theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s).
 - 1 Does not satisfy expectations: The project is not clearly developed in accordance with fundamental philosophical concepts and methodologies and/or does not effectively demonstrate an understanding of theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s).
 - 0 Significantly below expectations: The project fails to employ fundamental philosophical concepts and methodologies and/or to demonstrate an awareness of theories and traditional approaches to the issue(s).
- NA Not Applicable.

Communication

- 4 Exceptional: Ideas and issues are presented with clarity and in a style that is engaging, thoughtful, and insightful. Tone and word choice is not only effective, but also elegant and demonstrates an awareness of the audience in a manner which not only eliminate potential misunderstandings but also enriches understanding. The project is developed according to a clear and effective structure and strategy that is easily recognizable and enhances the audience's understanding.
 - 3 Exceeds expectations: Ideas and issues are presented with clarity and precision and in a style that is engaging and thoughtful. Tone and word choice is effective and demonstrates an awareness of the audience by attempting to eliminate potential misunderstandings and confusions. The project is developed according to a clear and effective structure and strategy.
 - 2 Satisfies expectations: Ideas and issues are presented with a reasonable degree of clarity and precision. Appropriate tone and word choice are generally employed. The project is developed with a discernible structure and strategy such that lapses do not detract from overall understanding.
 - 1 Does not satisfy expectations: Ideas and issues are presented in a manner that is frequently vague or ambiguous. Organization and structure is inconsistent and the strategy employed is difficult to recognize and assess.
 - 0 Significantly below expectations: There is an absence of clarity, precision, and/or organization.
- NA Not Applicable.

Praxis

- 4 Exceptional: Concepts, theories, and arguments are critically and creatively apply from one context to another such that there is a discernible philosophical vision manifest. Ideas are connected and integrated from one field to another with clarity and precision in a manner which exhibits philosophical sophistication and originality.
 - 3 Exceeds expectations: Concepts, theories, and arguments are critically and creatively apply from one context to another. Ideas are connected and integrated from one field to another with clarity and precision in a manner which exhibits philosophical sophistication.
 - 2 Satisfies expectations: Concepts, theories, and arguments are critically applied from one context to another. Ideas are connected and integrated from one field to another with a reasonable degree of clarity and precision.
 - 1 Does not satisfy expectations: Concepts and theories are not effectively applied from one area to another. Attempts to connect and integrate ideas are frequently vague and ambiguous.
 - 0 Significantly below expectations: There is a failure to apply concepts and theories and/or to connect ideas from one area of inquiry to another.
- NA Not Applicable.

12. FURTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The department encourages all majors to participate and to become engaged in various activities that provide an opportunity to do philosophy outside the classroom.

§ Philosophy Roundtable

Roundtable is held every week on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. All majors are *expected* to attend, and we hope that you will feel motivated to participate in the discussion. Seniors present their thesis topics from October to March. Students are welcome to present papers, to lead discussions, and to suggest speakers and topics outside those dates.

§ Special Lectures

Throughout the year, philosophers are invited to campus to give talks and lead discussions. These are valuable opportunities to be exposed to different philosophical ideas and to engage other philosophers. Recent philosophers invited to campus have included: Erin Kelley (Tufts), Richard Fumerton (University of Iowa), Richard Foley (New York University), and David Luban (Georgetown). Onora O'Neill (British Academy, President), Aloysius P. Martinich (University of Texas at Austin), Daniel Jacobson (Bowling Green State University), Nigel Dower (University of Aberdeen), Edward Minar (University of Arkansas), Louise M. Antony (The Ohio State University), Martin Gunderson (Macalaster College), Janet Kourany (Notre Dame University).

§ Teaching Apprenticeships

The department offers students the opportunity to serve as a teaching apprentice for some courses. The goal of this course is to help students reflect upon the nature and process of teaching and education and to also gain a deeper understanding of the course's subject matter. If there is an area of philosophy in which you are especially interested and you would like to assist in the teaching process, please approach the professor as early as possible.

§ Research Assistants

Faculty are engaged in research projects, and the department itself sometimes has research needs (e.g., to ensure that the library holdings are sufficient). If you are interested in participating in the Sophomore Research Program, please ask members of the department. Information about the College's support for undergraduate research is available at <<http://www.wooster.edu/Academics/Undergraduate-Research>>.

13. HONORS AND PRIZES

§ Phi Sigma Tau – Philosophy Honor Society

The Department of Philosophy has been a member of *Phi Sigma Tau*, the National Philosophy Honor Society, since 1983. Every spring, students are inducted into *Phi Sigma Tau*. To be eligible you must have a general grade point average of 3.0, have completed at least four courses in philosophy, and have earned a grade of B+ or higher in three of those courses.

§ John F. Miller Prize

The John F. Miller Prize, established in 1913, is given at graduation to the major student who has the highest standing in Philosophy.

§ Remy Johnston Memorial Prize

The Remy Johnston Memorial Prize in Philosophy was established in 1989 by the Johnston family and the faculty and students of the Department of Philosophy in memory of Remy Alexander Johnston, a senior Philosophy major at the College. The prize is awarded annually to a senior Philosophy major who, in the Department's judgment, has shown outstanding progress in developing philosophical skills and promise as a philosopher.

§ D. Ivan Dykstra Philosophy Roundtable Book Prize

The D. Ivan Dykstra Philosophy Roundtable Book Prize was established in 1999 by the family of Dr. Ivan Dykstra. This prize honors Ivan Dykstra's lifelong commitment to the study of philosophy in the context of a liberal arts education. His commitment was manifested both in his long teaching career at Hope College and in his leading role through penetrating questions and insightful comments at Philosophy Roundtable discussions during his retirement in Wooster. This Prize is awarded annually to a Philosophy major who, in the Department's judgment, has distinguished herself/himself during the past year in the weekly Philosophy Roundtable.

§ The Ronald E. Hustwit Prize in Philosophy

The Ronald E. Hustwit Prize in Philosophy, which was established in 2007 by students, colleagues, and friends of Ron Hustwit, will be awarded annually to a senior philosophy major who, in the judgment of the Department, has shown great love of both the subject and the practice of philosophy. This prize honors Professor Ronald Hustwit for his life-long commitment to the students at the College of Wooster and for his contributions to the cultivation of philosophical skills, dispositions, and enthusiasm for philosophy among those students.

14. PHILOSOPHY AFTER WOOSTER

On our department notice board you can find plenty of evidence that graduates in philosophy have found high-quality employment in almost all fields of work. Our alumni careers vary widely: doctor, lawyer, teacher, systems programmer, artist, actor, sales director, minister, professor, CPA, financial analyst, dentist, writer, social worker, airline pilot, and military analyst.

We recommend that all majors examine the book *What Color is Your Parachute?* (Richard Bolles) which provides an effective non-traditional approach to seeking employment. It includes helpful advice for determining what type of work best suits you.

We also recommend William Poundstone's *How Would You Move Mount Fuji? : Microsoft's Cult of the Puzzle – How the World's Smartest Companies Select the Most Creative Thinkers*. Poundstone tells the history of Microsoft's hiring practices and interlaces it with intellectual puzzles which challenge one's analytic and creative abilities. Matthew Stewart's essay in *Atlantic Monthly* (June 2006), "The Management Myth," recounts his experience as a consultant and argues that studying philosophy is an excellent path to success in business. This article is on the department bulletin board and a copy is available in the Department Office.

§ Selected Alumni Careers

Law

Solomon Oliver '69
Federal Judge

Amelia Beyer Kays '01
Judge Advocate
U.S. Marine Corps

Latecia Eileen Wiles '00
Assistant Prosecutor
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office

Joseph Buckley '85
Judge
Cleveland Juvenile Court

Research and Archives

Colleen K. Flewelling, Ph.D. '91
Director of Institutional Research
St Vincent College

Wendy Marie Pflug '02
Archivist
The History Factory

Higher Education

Justin Steinberg '99
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
College of Wooster

Kathleen Dean Moore '69
Professor of Philosophy
Oregon State University

Elizabeth A. Bartlett '74
Professor of Women Studies
University of Minnesota

Jeff Edwards '73
Professor of Philosophy
SUNY - Stony Brook

Environmental Fields

Seth Micah Levy '02
Public Lands Fellow
American Hiking Society

Anne L. Moser '78
Process Engineer
First Solar

Art

Theresa Jenoure '74
Director, Augusta Savage Gallery
University of Massachusetts

Krista Hicks Benson '93
Graphic Artist

Andy Cobb '93
Comedian and Actor
Second City

William C. Hunt '68
Professor
Columbus College/Art & Design

Ford Neale '69
Filmmaker and TV Script Writer

Business

Mark D. Goodman '89
Exec VP-Marketing & Membership
Sam's Club

Jennifer Lynn Novak Callaway '94
Vice President
Cumberland Trust & Investment

Elaine P. Keyes '67
Investment Performance Analyst
Bank One

Owen S. Lyons '88
Market Maker
Neuberger and Berman

Computer Programming

Seth A. Fagans '97
Quality Assurance Engineer
Phase Forward – Linden Group

David Corey Hershhorn '97
Software Engineer
Quovadx

Joseph Shemac '02
Department of Homeland Security

Medicine

Dr. Margaret L. Plews-Ogan '77
Professor Clinical Internal Medicine
University of Virginia VA

Dr. James F. Leckman '69
Professor of Child Psychology & Pediatrics
Yale Child Study Center

Social Services

Jill M. Maiorca '97
Program Coordinator
Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Ronald C. Hughes '70
Psychologist/Director
Institute for Human Services

Holly Huswit '91
Social Worker
Hospice of Wayne County

Rev. Shannan Renee Vance-Ocampo '98
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church of Rumson

Childhood Education

Beth Goldstein Gormley '97
Special Education Teacher

Wende Laker Patton '82
Teacher
Washington Waldorf School

Michael Smith '93
History Teacher
Eastern Lancaster County Schools

Seth R. Jenkins '95
Vocational Teacher/Coordinator
Hillcrest Educational Centers

Law Enforcement and Military

Thomas Hetrick '84
Special Agent
FBI

Richard Lottes '73
Pilot – 737
United Airlines

Ronald E. Hustwit, Jr., Ph.D. '95
2nd Lieutenant
United States Air Force

Carlton Shafer III '79
Major USMC Reserve
Director of National Helicopter Museum

PHILOSOPHY AT WOOSTER

1. GENERAL AREAS OF PHILOSOPHY

The Philosophy Department faculty shares a conception of philosophy: philosophy is the critical search for new understanding through argumentation and the analysis of concepts. Philosophical issues arise in all areas of human inquiry, and consequently the types of questions that philosophy examines are diverse. What is a just society? What is the relationship between law and morality? When is killing murder? What is the meaning of a word? Can computers think? Does the world consist only of matter? What is friendship? What does it mean to be rational? What obligations do we have to the environment?

Traditionally philosophy is divided into five areas:

- Metaphysics – the study of the nature of reality
- Epistemology – the study of the nature and scope of knowledge
- Logic – the study of reasoning and language
- Ethics – the study of moral concepts and how we should live our lives
- Political Philosophy – the study of the nature of the state, political authority, and justice

However, this way of drawing boundaries within the discipline does not really do justice to many aspects of contemporary philosophical investigation. The question “What is the nature of meaning?” cuts across the traditional boundaries and thus gives rise to the philosophy of language and the philosophy of mind, which are distinct from both logic and epistemology. Similarly, questions about the nature of race and gender contain metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, and political dimensions. An important part of contemporary philosophy is the study of conceptual questions related to other areas of knowledge, such as the philosophy of science, law, history, and literature. Often these studies do not easily fit into the traditional divisions. Another area of recent philosophical investigation is the metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical views within a given cultural tradition; this has given rise to other subjects, such as Indian Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy, and Comparative Philosophy. Some of the special fields within philosophy are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Philosophy of Mind | • Philosophy of Law |
| • Philosophy of Language | • Philosophy of Race |
| • Philosophy of Science | • Philosophy of Gender |
| • Philosophy of Biology | • Environmental Ethics |
| • Philosophy of Physics | • Bio-Medical Ethics |
| • Philosophy of Mathematics | • Business Ethics |
| • Philosophy of Logic | • Applied Ethics |
| • Philosophy of History | • Philosophy of Art |
| • Comparative Philosophy | • Philosophy of Education |
| • Indian Philosophy | • Philosophy of Religion |

For a broad overview of contemporary western philosophy, please consult:

Scruton, Roger. *Modern Philosophy: An Introduction and Survey*. New York: Penguin, 1994.

This book's primary purpose is to present the fundamental questions, concepts, and arguments in contemporary philosophy. Each chapter focuses upon a different conceptual issue.

Grayling, A.C., ed. *Philosophy: A Guide Through the Subject*. Volumes 1 & 2. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

This is an excellent collection of essays edited by Grayling that contains essays written by leading philosophers on various areas of philosophy.

Russell, Bertrand. *The Problems of Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.

This book by Russell, first published in 1912, is still an outstanding introduction to classic philosophical questions. Russell introduces the issues in clear, concise, and non-technical language.

2. READING PHILOSOPHY

Reading furnishes the mind with materials of knowledge; it is thinking which makes what we read ours. We are of the ruminating kind, and it is not enough to cram ourselves with a great load of collections; unless we chew them over again they will not give us strength and nourishment.

– John Locke

Locke describes the reading process as an active and iterative process in which the reader needs to continually reflect upon and engage with the author and text. Here are five steps that will be helpful in guiding your reading so that it becomes an interactive and reflective process.

1. Preview

Preview the entire selection before you start reading. The purpose of this is to become familiar with the *general outline* or to grasp the *big picture*.

Specific suggestions:

- Read the “Introduction” and the “Preface.”
- Look at the titles of chapters and the headings of sections.
- Scan the chapter you are reading.
- Make predictions about what issues will be addressed.

2. Formulate Questions

Read with a purpose. This means that you should have specific questions in mind and read to find answers to these questions.

Specific questions:

- Why did this philosopher write this? What is this philosopher's purpose?
- To whom is the philosopher writing? (e.g., the general public, other philosophers, a particular group of philosophers, one opponent?)
- What is the meaning of the title of the chapter or section?
- What is the main point that the philosopher is trying to get across?
- Why is he or she emphasizing this point that does not seem to relate to everything else that is said?

3. Read Interactively

Now you are ready to begin reading. Keep in mind that reading philosophy is *an active process*, not a passive process. You must *interact* with the material. You can not act like a sponge; rather you should act like a participant in a discussion. Carry on a dialogue with the philosopher.

Most importantly, you should *try to get an overall picture* of the text. You want to get the whole picture so that you can fit the parts into it. You should make a very brief outline of the reading (half a page). The most important thing in *remembering*

what you read and in *understanding* what you read is *organizing the material into a general pattern*. This enables you to fit pieces of the puzzle into the overall picture.

Specific suggestions:

- Identify and describe the main aim(s) of a text or thinker.
- Identify and describe the strategy of a text or thinker.
- Identify and describe the main assumption(s) of text or thinker.
- Recognize what is important about or “at stake in” a philosophical debate.
- Separate understanding a text from evaluating a text.
 - Identify the *conclusions* by looking for conclusion indicators – words such as ‘therefore,’ ‘hence,’ ‘thus,’ ‘so,’ ‘consequently.’
 - Identify the *premises* by looking for premise indicators – words such as ‘since,’ ‘because,’ and ‘for the reason that.’
 - One of the best ways to identify the arguments is to *find the summaries of the argument*. Many times these summaries are also easier to understand and follow.
- Summarize and explicate the main support for the main conclusion(s).
- Pick-out key terms for analysis.
- Identify incomplete, ambiguous, vague, or nonsensical concepts and statements.
- Ask incisive questions of a thinker/text.
- Apply the principle of charity in interpretation.

4. *Reconstruct the Reasoning*

Try to reconstruct the reasoning of the philosopher. Look away from the book and try to *state in your own words* what you just read. If you can do this then you understand what you just read. If you cannot, then you do not understand and you must stop and *reread* the previous section. It is not enough to think about what the philosopher said; *you must verbalize it*, either out loud or under your breath. This helps you remember what you read and helps you get the general organization. *This is challenging and takes time.* Spend *at least 1/3 of your time* in thoughtful reconstruction. *Remember* – your goal is to understand and comprehend what you read, not to just cover pages.

5. *Review*

Sometime after you have finished reading, *without looking at your book*, try to *reconstruct in your own words* what the philosopher wrote. If you fail at this try, then try to do it just looking at your marginal notes.

An additional resource on reading philosophy: Jim Pryor (New York University) “Guidelines on Reading Philosophy” <<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>>.

3. DISCUSSING PHILOSOPHY

Reading philosophy can be rewarding, but most people find talking about what they have read also enjoyable. Fortunately, it is a skill that with time and practice one can significantly improve. Here are some suggestions that should help you get more out of class, small group discussions, and Philosophy Roundtable. The conversational skills you will be developing are ones that you can easily apply in other classes and non-academic situations.

1. Some Basic Strategies for Discussions

- *Listen* to other people. This is perhaps the most difficult but also the most essential skill of all. A discussion needs the cooperation of all its members, and people stop cooperating if they feel ignored or not taken seriously.
- Apply *the principle of charity*. Don't interpret the text, the author, or remarks of others as mistaken if you can think of a more reasonable interpretation. Be considerate of all questions and opinions sincerely offered. In short, be *sympathetic* to the text and others.
- Express your ideas as *clearly as possible*, and always *give reasons* for them. Make *the argument* the center of attention.
- Be flexible, reasonable, and eager to consider other points of view. Don't express a fixed, and thus foreboding, argument the first time you offer an opinion in a discussion.
- Always think in terms of what will help the group advance in the discussion to a clearer understanding. Don't dominate the discussion. Back off if you find yourself doing too much of the talking.
- When someone who is talking gets stuck, *help out*. Offer an example, a restatement, a distinction, or a point of clarification.

2. Ways to Clarify and Focus a Discussion

- *Ask a question of clarification*. If you feel shy or awkward about joining the discussion, this is the easiest, most painless way. It is an option which almost always helps out other members of the group and usually makes you look smart. Examples: "I think I see what general approach Kant is taking here, but I'm not clear on exactly what he means by the *hypothetical imperative*," or "I really don't understand what you mean by *perception*."
- *Draw a distinction* if you see one being glossed over and if you think it will help the group think more clearly about the subject under discussion. Example: "When you call the fetus a person, do you mean to say that it is a member of the

species *Homo sapiens sapiens* or, instead, that it is something like a member of the moral community?"

- *Offer an example or analogy to help illustrate or clarify* a difficult point with which the group is struggling. Example: "It sounds like what Gorgias does for a living is something like what someone does who works for an advertising agency."
- *Restate* a point that has been made. Example: "Let me see if I've got this straight; you are saying that . . ."
- *Make a connection* with another author or topic. Example: "What Aristotle says about the *teleos* reminds me of what Plantinga says in his lecture about intelligent design."
- *Pull the discussion back on track* if you think it is straying. Everyone will be grateful to you. Example: "I don't understand how this relates to Regan's argument for animal rights. What is the connection?"
- Focus attention on a *specific passage*. Example: "On the top of page 89 Singer gives a definition of the 'prior existence' version of utilitarianism."

3. Ways to Defend or Critique a Position

- *Ask a critical question* of the author, text, or participants. For example: "I believe that in Book V of the *Republic* Plato is not endorsing a feminist position because he is not concerned with the 'rights' of women. Your comments indicate that you disagree. Can you explain what is wrong with my interpretation?"
- *State a reason for disagreeing* about a specific point in the theory. Examples: "I can't agree with you on that because . . ." (Providing a *reason* for disagreeing changes it from a direct confrontation to a shared search for the best reasons.), or "I think that X is a good point you are making, but I worry about Y and Z."
- *Offer a counter-example*. Example: "I don't see how the definition of lying can possibly be 'deliberately saying something false.' When I tell a joke I might be deliberately saying something false, but I'm not lying."

4. RESEARCH IN PHILOSOPHY

For any paper that you write, it will almost certainly help your thinking to use the work of recent philosophers. For the process of Independent Study, it is essential. However, building a strong bibliography that is relevant to your research can be a difficult process. It is easy to make a large bibliography of works that are only half-relevant. Yet, at the same time, it is easy to omit vitally important pieces. On the one hand, if you construct a large bibliography that includes many works of little value, you may end up reading too much and becoming confused. On the other hand, if you leave out some crucial works then you may have a thesis that reinvents the wheel or is radically incomplete.

One of the best ways to start investigating a topic and developing a list of valuable references is to talk with someone who knows the field, such as a member of the department or a fellow student who has done some work on the topic.

§ Print and Electronic Resources

1. *Encyclopedias*

Encyclopedias are a useful place to start researching. They will help you understand the overall issue and the main positions on the issue.

- *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
This is one good place to start. This ten-volume work, published in 2000, has essays written by contemporary philosophers for a general philosophical audience and also has extensive bibliographies on topics which direct you to some of the most important books and articles on the topic.
- *Concise Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
This is a companion volume to the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*; it has briefer entries and more compact bibliographies but is also a good starting point.
- *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Paul Edwards, ed. New York: Macmillan, 1967)
This is a classic. Some of the essays are a little dated, but this is still a good source for obtaining an overview of a topic and identifying central essays on the topic. A one-volume "Supplement" published in 1996 provides additional articles and resources.
- *Stanford Philosophy Encyclopedia*
This is an excellent electronic encyclopedia. The articles are written by leading philosophers and provide very good overviews of the main issues. The Bibliographies direct you to both classical and contemporary sources.
<<http://plato.stanford.edu/>>
- *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
This is another good source. It is a work in progress, so there may be topics for which the essays are not yet written.
<<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>>

- *Wikipedia*
Wikipedia is “the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.” This tag-line captures its primary strength and weakness. Some of the articles are very good, but some are wrong, confused, or quirky. The primary problem is that unless you know the subject, you can’t tell whether the article is reliable. It can be a good place to start research, but do so with epistemic caution.
<http://en.wikipedia.org>
- *The Citizendium* (sit-ih-ZEN-dee-um)
 This is a new encyclopedia started by a founder of *Wikipedia* and designed to improve on the *Wikipedia* model by adding “gentle expert oversight.” At this stage *Citizendium* is not as comprehensive as the other resources.
<http://citizendium.org/>

2. *General Introductory Books*

Books that provide a general introduction to an area or field of philosophy are one place to start your research. The purpose of these books is to provide the reader with both the big picture and the primary issues in the field. These books are also valuable because they can guide you to further readings in the area. Clearly, one drawback of this approach is that the book can shape the way you see a problem in a way that is peculiar to the author.

Specific Examples of Introductory Books:

- Honderich, Ted, ed. *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- McGee, Bryan. *The Great Philosophers: An Introduction to Western Philosophy*. 2nd rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Lowe, E.J. *A Survey of Metaphysics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Fumerton, Richard. *Epistemology (First Books in Philosophy)*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
- Haack, Susan. *Philosophy of Logics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978.
- Read, Stephen. *Thinking about Logic: an Introduction to the Philosophy of Logic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Rachels, James. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*. 3rd ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 1999.
- Deutsch, Eliot. *Introduction to World Philosophies*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997.

- Blocker, H. Gene. *World Philosophy: An East-West Comparative Introduction to Philosophy*. Englewoods Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.

3. *Classics in the Field*

Another way to approach your investigation is to read one of the classics (i.e., *locus classicus*) in a field. It can be exciting to read an author and text that has become one of the defining works of the field and frames the issues and subsequent debates. While it is stimulating to be engaged directly with a philosopher's words and ideas, such a book might have a peculiar viewpoint on an issue and might not provide a good overall perspective.

Specific Examples of Classics:

- Singer, Peter. *Practical Ethics*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Okin, Susan Moller. *Justice, Gender and the Family*. New York: Basic Books, 1989.
- Longino, Helen. *Science as Social Knowledge*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.
- Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. Rev. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Nozick, R. *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1974.

4. *Anthologies*

Anthologies are also an excellent place to begin your research because they bring together a collection of the most important primary sources in a field and provide a structure for thinking about the relationship between the philosophers. This approach to research has the advantage of immediately immersing you into some of the most central debates through primary texts. You may also find an article related to your topic; the bibliography of the article can serve as a starting point from which you can build your own preliminary bibliography of relevant books and journal articles.

Specific Examples of Anthologies:

- Kim, J., and E. Sosa, eds. *Metaphysics: An Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
- Daniels, N., ed. *Reading Rawls: Critical Studies on Rawls' 'A Theory of Justice'*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1975.
- Martinich, A. P., ed. *The Philosophy of Language*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.

- Pojman, Louis, ed. *Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and Application*. 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2004.
- Pojman, Louis, ed. *The Theory of Knowledge: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2004.

There are three recent *series of anthologies* that are designed to provide comprehensive introductions to various areas of philosophy:

Oxford Companion Series (Examples)

- Honderich, Ted. *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy*. New ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Gregory, Richard. *The Oxford Companion to the Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Blackwell Companion to Philosophy Series (Examples)

- Bunnin, Nichols, and E. P. Tsui-James, eds. *The Blackwell Companion to Philosophy*, Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2002.
- Singer, Peter, ed. *A Companion to Ethics (Blackwell Companions to Philosophy)*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.
- Patterson, Dennis, ed. *A Companion to Philosophy of Law and Legal Theory (Blackwell Companions to Philosophy)*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
- Deutsch, Eliot, and Ron Bontekoe, eds. *A Companion to World Philosophies (Blackwell Companions to Philosophy)*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1997.

Cambridge Companion Series (Examples)

- Guyer, Paul, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy (Cambridge Companions to Philosophy)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Gutting, Gary, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Foucault (Cambridge Companions to Philosophy)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Villa, Dana, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Hannah Arendt (Cambridge Companions to Philosophy)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

5. Printed Research Guides

Printed research guides and bibliographies were until recently one of the standard starting points for doing philosophical research. The printed research guides are still valuable tools to locate classical pieces but more importantly to learn research strategies.

- De George, Richard. *The Philosopher's Guide to Sources, Research Tools, Professional Life and Related Fields*. Lawrence, Kansas: Regents Press of Kansas, 1980.
- Tice, Terrence, and Thomas Slavens. *Research Guide to Philosophy*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1983.
- List, Charles, and Stephen Plum. *Library Research Guide to Philosophy*. Ann Arbor, MI: Pierian Press, 1990.

6. *The London Philosophy Study Guide*

Web-based research guides provide access to recent information and their quality is rapidly increasing. The University of London has developed a comprehensive study guide which is excellent – *The London Philosophy Study Guide*. The *LPSG* is organized by philosophical areas, and within each area the material is organized in the following manner:

- *Paper*: A brief overview (1-3 paragraphs) describing the area and the focus of the following bibliography.
- *General Readings*: A list of central books and some of the most important general anthologies on the topic.
- *Topics*: A detailed list of books and articles arranged by special topic within the area.

The areas covered in the *London Philosophy Study Guide* are:

<<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/philosophy/LPSG/contents.htm>>

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Logic & Metaphysics | • Greek Philosophy |
| • Epistemology & Methodology | • Modern Philosophy |
| • Ethics | • Post-Aristotelian Philosophy |
| • Political Philosophy | • Medieval Philosophy |
| • Philosophy of Mind | • Indian Philosophy |
| • Philosophy of Religion | • Kant |
| • Philosophy of Language | • 19th Century German Philosophy |
| • Philosophy of Science | • Phenomenology |
| • Aesthetics | • Frege, Russell & Wittgenstein |
| • Set Theory & Further Logic | • Philosophy of Psychology |
| • Mathematical Logic | • Marxism |
| • Philosophy of Mathematics | |

7. *Books and Articles in Books*

Searching for books and articles in books can be done via CONSORT and OhioLINK.

- **CONSORT**

The College's library and the libraries at Denison, Kenyon, and Ohio Wesleyan can be searched using CONSORT. This database continues to grow and develop in sophistication. It can be searched by Keyword, Title, Author, and Subject. In

addition, most recent books are indexed so that not only authors of books but also authors of articles in books can be found by the Author search. You can electronically request that items not available on-campus be sent to you free of charge, usually within three working days. Items sent to you from other libraries may be picked up at the Andrews Library circulation desk.

- ***OhioLINK***

A larger consortium of colleges, universities, and research libraries across the state of Ohio is accessible via OhioLINK. This consortium has a shared library catalog that allows you not only to determine which library owns an item, but also to electronically request that a circulating item, not available in CONSORT, be sent to you at the College of Wooster Libraries free of charge, usually within five working days. Items sent to you from other libraries may be picked up at the Andrews Library circulation desk.

8. ***Journals***

There are a variety of ways to search for journals and articles in journals. If you have found a reference to an article that you would like to read, these databases will help you locate the journal and get a copy. In addition, if you want to search a journal(s) for articles which contain a particular keyword, these databases will be useful. For further guidance you may want to consult the Libraries' FAQ page:

< <http://www.wooster.edu/Academics/Libraries> >

- ***Wooster eJournals and Journals***

This search engine can be accessed from The College of Wooster Libraries homepage. Use this search engine to determine if the College has access to specific journals (electronic/microform/print) through our databases, subscriptions, and collections. <<http://yb7zk3sd3g.search.serialssolutions.com/>>

- ***OhioLINK EJC***

In addition to using the College's search engine, you can also directly search the OhioLink Electronic Journal Collection. You can access OhioLINK EJC from this Wooster site: <<http://yb7zk3sd3g.search.serialssolutions.com/>>.

- ***JSTOR***

Many major philosophy journals are part of the JSTOR electronic system. This system provides access to back issues of the journal but usually has a 'moving wall' that blacks out the last four or five years. Even if JSTOR does not provide access to the journal, it may be in the College's print collection or it may be accessible through another electronic database. You can access JSTOR from this Wooster site: <<http://yb7zk3sd3g.search.serialssolutions.com/>>.

- ***EBSCOhost (Religion and Philosophy Collection)***

This database indexes articles in religion, theology, and philosophy from 1974 to the present; many citations link to the full text online. It covers such topics as world religions, major denominations, biblical studies, religious history, epistemology, political philosophy, philosophy of language, moral philosophy,

and the history of philosophy. It provides indexing, abstracts, and full text for over 290 journals. You can access EBSCOhost from this Wooster site:
<<http://libguides.wooster.edu/philosophy>>.

- ***CONSORT (Journal Title Search)***

This is another gateway to the College's extensive network of Journals and eJournals. Once in CONSORT, you search by 'Journal Title.' If the College has only the printed edition of the journal, you can go to the stacks to retrieve the proper volume. If the College has electronic access to the journal, you can download the article. You can access CONSORT from this Wooster site:
<<http://140.141.130.3/>>.

- ***WebZap***

WebZap is the Libraries' online interlibrary loan (ILL) system. It is used to request journal articles not available at Wooster, or books and other materials that are not available via CONSORT or OhioLINK. You log into the system using the barcode number from the back of your C.O.W. card and your last name. Once you have accessed WebZap you will be prompted to fill in your patron information. You will then proceed to choose the type of item to be requested (article, book, etc.) and then subsequently be provided the appropriate form to fill out.

9. Electronic Databases

The following two databases may help you to locate relevant research material, but they do not provide direct electronic links to journal articles. Both of these databases are crucial in doing philosophy research, but they require some practice to use effectively.

- ***Philosopher's Index***

This is an electronic index for most major philosophy journals from 1940 to the present. You can search by keyword or author.
<<http://libguides.wooster.edu/philosophy>>

- ***Arts and Humanities Citation Index (ISI)***

This is a fascinating database that allows you to do a citation search. Once you have identified a book or article that is of interest, you can do a citation search to find all subsequent works that cite the earlier book or article. For example, suppose you were interested in replies to W.V.O. Quine's "Two Dogmas of Empiricism." This database allows you to find books and articles that subsequently cited Quine's earlier essay.
<<http://libguides.wooster.edu/philosophy>>

10. Browse the Stacks and Journals

In a highly electronic age it may seem anachronistic and archaic to actually browse through the library or the paper copies of a journal, but this can actually be a useful research technique.

The Library of Congress Cataloguing System is designed to place books with similar subjects on the shelf next to each other. For example, you may be interested in the concept of virtue and ethics, and you find that Phillipa Foote has written the book

Virtues and Vices. It would be helpful to locate Foote's book in the stacks and browse the surrounding shelves for others who have written about virtue and ethics.

It can also be helpful to browse through the philosophy journals. This can be a way to quickly peruse a large number of articles for relevance to your topic. You may also discover connections between other areas of philosophy that initially did not seem related to your project. In addition, sometimes journals produce special issues in which all the articles are on the same topic; these issues can be particularly valuable because you may have one location that contains eight to ten current articles on a single topic. Finally, browsing journals can help you discover new areas of philosophy of which you were previously unaware.

5. WRITING IN PHILOSOPHY

Writing a philosophy paper is an intellectual process in which you explain and defend a thesis. Your goal should be to write a well-structured and tightly argued paper. There are a variety of general models for writing a philosophy paper, but one of the most effective is outlined below. A variation of this model is developed and explained by Robert Paul Wolff. He calls this “A Simple Foolproof Method for Writing Philosophy Papers”:

1. A clear and concise statement of your thesis.
2. An analysis and explanation of the thesis.
3. The arguments in support of your thesis.
4. The examination of objections to your thesis.
5. Your replies to these objections.
6. Your conclusion.

§ Resources on Writing Philosophy

- Feinberg, Joel. *Doing Philosophy: A Guide to the Writing of Philosophy Papers*. 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 2004.
- Graybosch, Anthony J., Gregory Scott, and Stephen Garrison. *The Philosophy Student Writer's Manual*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003.
- Martinich, A.P. *Philosophical Writing*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.
- Pryor, Jim. “Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper.” Available from <<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>>. Accessed 5 February, 2007.
- Wolff, Robert Paul. “Appendix: How to Write a Philosophy Paper.” In *About Philosophy*. 5th ed. Robert Paul Wolff. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1992.

6. KEY CONCEPTS AND LEXICON

§ Philosophy Dictionaries

The following dictionaries are helpful in defining the above concepts:

- Audi, Robert, ed. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Blackburn, Simon. *The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Flew, Antony, and Steven Priest. *A Dictionary of Philosophy*. 3rd ed. London: Pan Books Limited, 2005.
- Mautner, Thomas. *The Penguin Dictionary of Philosophy*. 2nd ed. Pittsburgh, PA: Penguin Press, 2007.
- Pence, Gregory. *A Dictionary of Common Philosophical Terms*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2000.
- Pryor, Jim. "A Philosophical Glossary for Beginners." Available from <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/glossary.html>. Accessed 5 February, 2007.

§ Key Concepts

Philosophy majors should have a good understanding of various technical philosophical terms and of elementary logical inferences and fallacies. The key concepts are listed below.

Metaphysics

Existence / Essence
 Being / Non-being
 Realism / Idealism
 Substance – Monism / Dualism
 Substance – Materialism / Idealism
 Particulars / Universals
 - Realism
 - Conceptualism
 - Nominalism
 Free Will
 - Libertarianism
 - Determinism
 - Compatibilism
 Ontology
 Teleology
 Cosmology
 Four *Aitia* (Causes)
 Zeno's Paradox
 Meno's Paradox

Ethics

Metaethics / Normative ethics
 Descriptive Ethical Relativism
 Normative Ethical Relativism
 Cognitivism / Non-cognitivism
 Subjectivism / Objectivism
 Egoism
 Altruism
 Morally Obligatory / Supererogatory
Prima Facie Duty
 Intrinsic Value / Instrumental Value
 Fact / Value
 Is / Ought
 Utilitarianism
 Deontology
 Divine Command Theory
 Categorical Imperative
 Virtue Theory
Eudaimonia
Akrasia

Epistemology

Empirical / Non-empirical
A priori / *A posteriori*
 Necessary / Contingent
 Analytic / Synthetic
 Rationalism / Empiricism
 Skepticism
 Solipsism
 Relativism
 Objectivism / Subjectivism
 Knowledge
 Justification
 Problem of Induction
 Foundationalism
 Coherentism
 Truth
 - Correspondence Theory
 - Coherence Theory
 Abstraction
 Innate Ideas

Logic

Argument
 Premise
 Conclusion
 Entailment
 Necessary and Sufficient
 Conditions
 Deduction
 Valid / Invalid
 Sound / Unsound
 Induction
 Strong / Weak
 Cogent / Uncogent
 Formal Fallacy
 - Affirming the Consequent
 - Denying the Antecedent
 Informal Fallacy
 - Complete List in Appendix XI

Political Philosophy

Autonomy
 Justice
 Rights
 Political Obligation / Duties
 State of Nature
 Social Contract
 Consent (Tacit / Express)
 Positive Law / Natural Law
 Neutrality
 Free Rider
 Liberalism
 - Comprehensive / Substantive
 - Political / Procedural
 Communitarianism
 Marxism
 Historical Materialism
 Libertarianism
 Perfectionism
 Civil Disobedience
 Ideology
 Priority of Right Thesis
 Public / Private Distinction
 Impartiality
 Distributive Justice
 Original Position
 Reflective Equilibrium
 Veil of Ignorance
 Basic Liberties Principle
 Difference Principle
 Primary Goods (Natural, Social)
 Locke's Conception of Property
 Nozick's "Entitlement Theory"
 Maximin Strategy
 Humanism
 Individualism
 Social Constructionism

Philosophy of Language

Sense / Reference
 Intension / Extension
 Connotation / Denotation
 Picture Theory of Meaning
 Verification Theory of Meaning
 Logical Atomism
 Private Language
 Performative Utterance
 Conversational Implicature
 Metaphor
 Paradox

Philosophy of Mind

Mind - Body Dualism
 Behaviorism
 Functionalism
 Physicalism
 Phenomenalism
 Personal Identify
 Artificial Intelligence
 Turing Test
 Identity Theory
 Consciousness
 The Unconscious
 Will
 Emotions

7. INDUCTIVE LOGIC

Inductive Argument: An argument in which it is claimed that, if the premises are assumed to be true, then it is probable that the conclusion is true.

Strong Argument: An inductive argument in which the premises support the conclusion in such a way that, if the premises are assumed to be true, then (based on that assumption) it is probable that the conclusion is true.

Cogent Argument: An inductive argument that: (1) is strong, and (2) has all true premises.

§ Some Types of Inductive Arguments

1. Arguments by Example (Inductive Generalization)

All of the *observed* A's are B's.
Therefore, it is probable that *all* A's are B's.

X percent of the *observed* A's are B's.
Therefore, it is probable that X percent of *all* A's are B's.

Criteria for evaluation:

- a. Is the sample size large?
- b. Is the sample representative?
- c. Has evidence against the generalization been overlooked (e.g., counterexamples)?

2. Arguments by Analogy

A and B are alike in the following relevant respects: W, X, Y.
A also has characteristic Z.
Therefore, it is probably true that B has Z.

Criteria for evaluation:

- a. Number of similarities – In how many ways are A and B alike?
- b. Relevance of similarities – Are the observed similarities relevant?
- c. Number and Variety of Primary Analogates – How many and varied are the observed A's?
- d. Disanalogies – Are A and B different in important ways?

Ways to refute an argument by analogy:

- a. Disanalogies – Point out dissimilarities between A and B.
- b. Counteranalogies – Produce a counteranalogy.
- c. Extending the analogy – Extend the original analogy to produce an unacceptable conclusion; thereby illustrating the weakness of the original conclusion.

3. Arguments from Authority

X (some person or organization who ought to know) says that Y.
Therefore, Y is probably true.

Criterion for evaluation:

Is the authority qualified, unbiased, trustworthy, and reliable?

4. Hypothetico-Deductive Arguments

Confirmation:

If hypothesis H is true, then the prediction P will be true.
The prediction P is true.
Therefore, it is probable that the hypothesis H is true.

Disconfirmation:

If hypothesis H is true, then the prediction P will be true.
The prediction P is not true.
Therefore, the hypothesis H is not true.

Criteria for evaluating predictions:

- a. Deducibility - Does the prediction follow as a logical consequence of the hypothesis?
- b. Testability - Is it possible to determine whether the prediction is true?
- c. Specific Prediction (Severe Test) - Is the prediction unlikely to be true, unless the hypothesis is true?

8. DEDUCTIVE LOGIC

§ Categorical Logic

These are argument forms based on set membership. A set is a collection of entities. For example, Hilary Clinton is a member of the set of all women, which is a more formal way of expressing the claim 'Hilary Clinton is a woman.' The members of a set are said to belong to that set. For example, 'All As are B' means that all members of the set of A things belong to the set of things that are B. An instance of 'All As are B' is 'All apples are fruit' or 'All members of the set of apples are members of, or belong to, the set of all fruit.'

1. Standard Form for Categorical Propositions

A: All S are P.	Every member of the class S is a member of the class P.
E: No S are P.	No member of the class S is a member of the class P.
I: Some S are P.	At least one member of the class S is a member of the class P.
O: Some S are not P.	At least one member of the class S is not a member of the class P.

2. Some Valid Argument Forms in Modern Categorical Logic

All A are B. <u>All B are C.</u> Therefore, all A are C.	All A are B. <u>No C is B.</u> Therefore, no C is A
No B is A. <u>Some C is A.</u> Therefore, some C are not B.	All A are C. <u>Some B are A.</u> Therefore, Some B are C.

§ Propositional Logic

1. Three Types of Symbols in Propositional Logic

- **Abbreviating Symbols**

Capital letters which represent a simple sentence (i.e., P, Q, R, S, T, etc.)

For example: 'The grass is green.' can be symbolized as G.

'Snow is white.' can be symbolized as W.

- **Logical Operator Symbols**

There are five logical operators: \sim , \cdot , \vee , \supset , \equiv

The following chart shows the logical operators and corresponding symbols and .

Logical Operator	Symbol	Description
Negation	\sim	not
Conjunction	\cdot or $\&$ or \wedge	and
Disjunction	\vee	or
Conditional	\supset or \rightarrow	if . . . then . . .
Biconditional	\equiv or \leftrightarrow	. . . if and only if . . .

- **Grouping Symbols**

Any formula or symbolization which contains 3 or more letters (i.e., abbreviating symbols) requires grouping symbols. All of the following symbols can be used for grouping: () or [] or { }.

2. Truth Functions

In propositional logic simple sentences can be combined using the logical operators and grouping symbols to produce compound sentences. It is also truth functional; this means that the truth-value of a compound sentence is a function of its component parts.

These five basic operators are defined in the following truth tables.

P	\sim P
T	F
F	T

P	Q	$P \leftrightarrow Q$	$P \vee Q$	$P \supset Q$	$P \equiv Q$
T	T	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	T	F	F
F	T	F	T	T	T
F	F	F	F	T	F

3. Rules of Inference

Modus Ponens (MP)

$$\begin{array}{l} P \supset Q \\ \underline{P} \\ Q \end{array}$$

Modus Tollens (MT)

$$\begin{array}{l} P \supset Q \\ \underline{\sim Q} \\ \sim P \end{array}$$

Hypothetical Syllogism (HS)

$$\begin{array}{l} P \supset Q \\ \underline{Q \supset R} \\ P \supset R \end{array}$$

Disjunctive Syllogism (DS)

$$\begin{array}{l} P \vee Q \\ \underline{\sim P} \\ Q \end{array}$$

Constructive Dilemma (CD)

$$\begin{array}{l} (P \supset Q) \cdot (R \supset S) \\ \underline{P \vee R} \\ Q \vee S \end{array}$$

Simplification (SIMP)

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{P \cdot Q} \\ P \\ Q \end{array}$$

Conjunction (CONJ)

$$\begin{array}{l} P \\ \underline{Q} \\ P \cdot Q \end{array}$$

Addition (ADD)

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{P} \\ P \vee Q \end{array}$$

§ Predicate Logic

Predicate logic is a system that roughly combines the features of both categorical logic and propositional logic. It starts with the symbolization and the rules of inference from propositional logic and adds three additional types of symbols.

1. Four Additional Types of Symbols in Propositional Logic

- **Predicate Symbols**

Capital letters which represent a predicate (i.e., P, Q, R, etc.)

For example: 'is green.' can be symbolized as G.

'is hot' can be symbolized as H.

- **Individual Constants**

Lower case letters usually at the beginning of the alphabet which symbolize individuals (i.e., a, b, c, etc.).

For example: 'Socrates' can be symbolized s.

- **Variables**

Lower case letters usually at the end of the alphabet (i.e., x, y, z, etc.).

For example: 'Socrates' can be symbolized s.

- **Quantifiers**

- *Existential Quantifier*

For example: 'Something is red.'

This sentence posits the existence of a red thing.

It has the logical form: 'There is an x, and x is red.'

Symbolization: $(\exists x) (Rx)$

- *Universal Quantifier*

For example: 'Everything is blue'

This sentence asserts that all everything is blue but in predicate logic this does not entail that anything blue exists.

It has the logical form: 'For all x, x is blue.'

Symbolization: $(x) (Bx)$

2. Exchange of Quantifier Rules

$$(x) Fx :: \sim(\exists x) \sim Fx$$

$$\sim(x) Fx :: (\exists x) \sim Fx$$

$$(\exists x) Fx :: \sim(x) \sim Fx$$

$$\sim(\exists x) Fx :: (x) \sim Fx$$

§ Modal Logic

(Adapted from *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*)

Modal Logic addresses the modal concepts of possibility and necessity.

1. Modal Operators

The basic modal operators are usually written \Box (or L) for Necessarily and \Diamond (or M) for Possibly.

$\Box P$ means 'necessarily P'

$\Diamond P$ means 'possibly P'

In a classical modal logic, each can be defined from the other and negation:

$\Diamond P \equiv \sim \Box \sim P$ means

'It is possible that P is logical equivalent to it is not necessary that not P.'

$\Box P \equiv \sim \Diamond \sim P$ means

'It is necessary that P is logically equivalent to it is not possible that not P.'

2. Axioms of System K

Necessitation Rule: If A is a theorem of K, then so is $\Box A$.

Distribution Axiom: $\Box(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (\Box A \rightarrow \Box B)$.

3. Axioms of System T

If Axiom (M) is added to System K the result is System T.

Axiom (M): $\Box A \rightarrow A$

(M) claims that whatever is necessary is the case.

4. Axioms of System S4

Many logicians believe that M is still too weak to correctly formalize the logic of necessity and possibility. They recommend further axioms to govern the iteration, If Axiom (S4) is added to System T the result is System S4.

(S4) $\Box A \rightarrow \Box \Box A$

5. Axioms of System S5

If Axiom (S5) is added to System S4 the result is System S5.

(S5) $\Diamond A \rightarrow \Box \Diamond A$ (S5 implies: $\Diamond \Box A \rightarrow \Box A$)

9. FALLACIES

(Adapted from Patrick Hurley, *An Introduction to Logic*)

Affirming the Consequent -- A formal fallacy which has the following form:

If A, then B.
B
 Therefore, A

Denying the Antecedent -- A formal fallacy which has the following form:

If A, then B.
Not A
 Therefore, not B

False Dichotomy (false dilemma) -- A fallacy in which the argument has the form of a disjunctive syllogism (i.e. A or B; not A; therefore B). But the two alternatives are not jointly exhaustive, that is, there is a third alternative possible. Such an argument is an informal fallacy even though the argument is deductively valid.

Equivocation -- A fallacy in which the conclusion appears to follow from the premise(s) because there is some word or short phrase which is used in two different senses in the argument. The fallacy results from an ambiguous word or short phrase (i.e. semantical ambiguity).

Straw Person (straw man) -- A fallacy in which the arguer ignores an opponent's actual position and presents in its place an exaggerated or misrepresented version of that position, then demolishes the misrepresentation and concludes that the original position is demolished.

Hasty Generalization ("person who" fallacy or provincialism) -- A fallacy in which the arguer uses a non-representative sample as the basis for a generalization about all individuals of a particular type. The sample group may be too small, not random or atypical in some way. This is a weak inductive generalization.

Weak Analogy -- A fallacy in which the conclusion of the argument depends upon a weak analogy (similarity). A weak analogy is one in which there is not the appropriate causal or systematic relationship between the attributes of the two things being compared.

Appeal to Illegitimate Authority (*ad vericundiam*) -- A fallacy in which the arguer attempts to get a person to accept a conclusion on the basis of an illegitimate authority. The authority may be "illegitimate" because they are unqualified (i.e. outside his or her field of expertise), biased, untrustworthy, or unreliable.

False Cause -- A fallacy in which the arguer attempts to get one to accept a conclusion on the basis of a causal connection that does not probably exist. One should be able to state the supposed causal connection: "It is assumed that X causes Y when in fact it probably does not." Five types of false causes:

- 1) coincidence fallacy - believing that A causes B, when really A and B are independent events, occurring together as a matter of chance.
- 2) *post hoc ergo propter hoc* - (after this, therefore on account of this); believing that A causes B, when really A and B are independent events, occurring one after another as a matter of chance.
- 3) backward fallacy - believing A causes B, when really B causes A.
- 4) common cause - believing A causes B, when really a third factor causes both A and B.
- 5) oversimplified cause - identifying one aspect as the cause when in actuality there are a variety of causal factors.

Slippery Slope -- A fallacy in which it is assumed that some event A must inevitably lead to some other Z, but no argument or reason has been given for the inevitability of this chain reaction from A to Z.

Ad Hominem -- A fallacy in which the arguer attacks the person, not the person's claim. Three types of *ad hominem* attacks:

- 1) *ad hominem* abusive - the attack is insulting and verbally abusive of the person.
- 2) *ad hominem* circumstantial - the attack takes the form of attempting to discredit the claim by alluding to certain circumstances relating to the person.
- 3) *ad hominem tu quoque* - the attack attempts to make the person appear to be a hypocrite. Common forms: "Your claim cannot be taken seriously because you are no better than I" or "You would do the same to me" or "What you say is inconsistent with other things you have said or done."

Appeal to Force -- A fallacy in which the arguer tries to get a person to accept a conclusion by threatening him or her.

Appeal to Pity (*ad misericordiam*) -- A fallacy in which the arguer tries to get a person to accept a conclusion by eliciting pity or compassion.

Appeal to the People (*ad populum*) -- A fallacy in which the arguer attempts to win acceptance of a conclusion by exciting the emotions and enthusiasms of a large crowd (direct approach). A fallacy in which the arguer attempts to win acceptance of a conclusion by appealing to an individual reader's or listener's desire for acceptance, security, love, respect, vanity, etc. (indirect approach). This fallacy relies heavily upon emotive language. Common types of this fallacy:

- 1) bandwagon argument - A fallacy in which the arguer attempts to get a person to accept a conclusion because everyone (lots of people, most societies, etc.) accepts the conclusion.
- 2) appeal to snobbery - A fallacy in which the arguer attempts to get a person to accept a conclusion by playing on the individual's need to feel superior.
- 3) appeal to vanity - A fallacy in which the arguer attempts to get a person to accept a conclusion by playing on the individual's vanity.

Appeal to Ignorance (*ad ignorantiam*) -- A fallacy in which an arguer uses the fact that nothing has been proven about something as evidence in support of some conclusion about that thing.

Missing the Point (*non sequitur*) -- A fallacy in which the arguer is ignorant of the logical implications of his or her own premises and draws a conclusion different from that supported by the premises. The arguer misses the point of his or her own argument. One should be able to identify the correct conclusion that the premises logically imply. Non sequitur means "does not follow".

Red Herring -- A fallacy in which the arguer diverts the attention of the reader/listener by changing the subject to some totally different issue. The structure of this fallacy is: "I have succeed in drawing you off the track; therefore, I have won the argument."

Begging the Question (*petitio principii*) -- A fallacy in which the arguer phrases a key premise in such a way that it conceals the questionably true character of the premise. There are various techniques for concealing the nature of a premise:

- 1) the premise and the conclusion may be merely restatements of each other;
- 2) there may be a chain of arguments that move in a circle;
- 3) there may be a hidden premise which is ignored altogether.

The argument begs the question at issue; in other words, it asks that the statement to be proved be granted beforehand. (These arguments are deductively valid yet they are not good arguments because of this informal fallacy.)

Suppressed Evidence -- A fallacy in which the arguer suppresses or ignores relevant evidence which outweighs the presented evidence and supports a different conclusion.