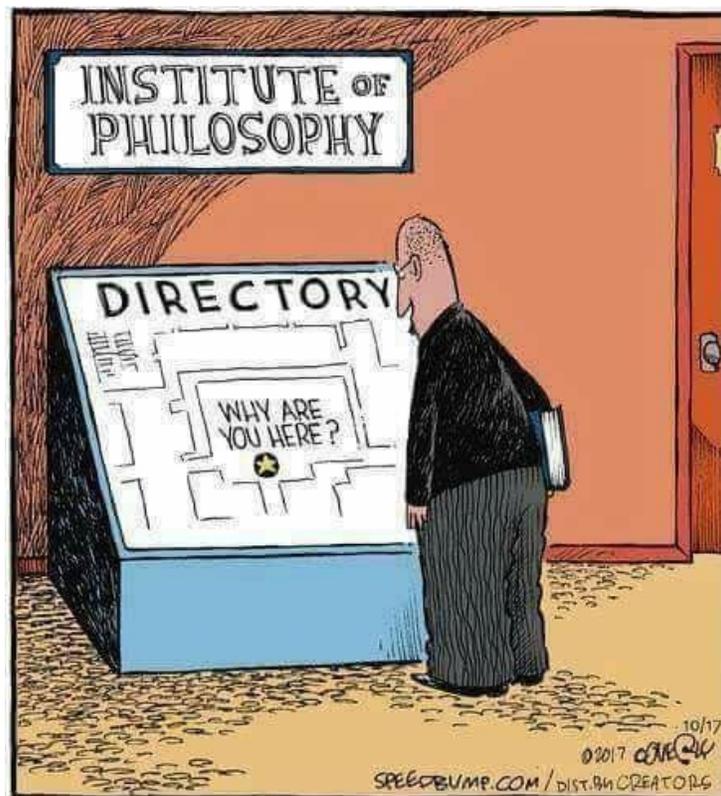




# DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS' HANDBOOK



**DISCLAIMER:** If any information presented in this handbook is in conflict with any information provided on the department website (<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/page/philosophy-115>), then the information on the department website should be considered correct and final.

# About the Department

Philosophy grapples with fundamental questions about the nature of reality, knowledge, and how we ought to act. Whether in the Indian or Western tradition, answers to these questions have been supported by rigorous arguments. Our courses offer a historically sensitive immersion in these arguments. Nevertheless, the philosophy major at Ashoka University aims to equip students to work beyond the parochialism of either the Indian or Western philosophical tradition to do philosophy without boundaries.

The philosophy major will equip students with critical reasoning and analytical problem-solving skills, expressive precision, and the intellectual spaciousness to appreciate and engage rationally with arguments and points of view with which they profoundly disagree. The Ashoka Philosophy graduate will be well prepared for higher studies in philosophy or a career in e.g. media, law, business, or consulting.

## People

### **Current Faculty Members**

1. Professor Kranti Saran (Head)
2. Professor Alex Watson
3. Professor Raja Rosenhagen
4. Professor Danny Weltman
5. Professor Aditi Chaturvedi
6. Professor Scott Dixon
7. Professor Clancy Martin (Spring semester only)
8. Professor Eric Snyder
9. Professor Arindam Chakrabarti\*
10. Professor Vrinda Dalmia\*

\*Visiting for Monsoon 2020.

### **Past Faculty Members**

1. Professor Roy W Perrett

2. Professor Piotr Balcerowicz
3. Professor Purushottama Bilimoria
4. Professor Mark Fedyk
5. Professor Amy Gordon
6. Professor Martin Lin
7. Professor Alexander Haitos
8. Professor Juliana Lima
9. Professor Lantz Miller
10. Professor Mark Siderits
11. Professor Anil Gupta

## **Degree Requirements**

### **4-year Philosophy Major**

The requirements for a major in philosophy are as follows (12 courses):

1. Introduction to Philosophy (Offered every spring semester)
2. Symbolic Logic (Offered every monsoon semester)
3. 2 courses categorised as IN (Non-western Philosophy requirement)
4. 2 courses categorised as HW (History of Western Philosophy requirement)
5. 3 courses categorised as CC (Contemporary Core requirement)
6. 7 elective courses (These can be from any of the following categories: HW/IN/CC/EO)

During their 4th year, students must gain at least 16 credits in philosophy, preferably all at the 3000 or 4000-level. This can be achieved by taking four courses. Alternatively, there is the option of writing an ASP Capstone Thesis for 8 credits as well as the option of earning up to 4 credits through TAing (2 credits will normally be given for each course TA'ed).

Any students completing a 4-year major in philosophy should complete 64 credits in PHI category courses, that is, they must complete 16 four-credit courses in philosophy.

### **3-year Philosophy Major**

The requirements for a major in philosophy are as follows (12 courses):

1. Introduction to Philosophy; Category: RC (Offered every spring semester)
2. Symbolic Logic; Category: RC (Offered every monsoon semester)
3. 2 courses categorised as IN (Non-western Philosophy requirement)
4. 2 courses categorised as HW (History of Western Philosophy requirement)
5. 3 courses categorised as CC (Contemporary Core requirement)
6. 3 elective courses (These can be from any of the following categories: HW/IN/CC/EO)

Any students completing a major in philosophy should complete 48 credits in PHI category courses, that is, they must complete 12 four-credit courses in philosophy.

## **Philosophy Minor**

The requirements for a minor in philosophy are as follows (6 courses):

1. Introduction to Philosophy; Category: RC (Offered every spring semester)
2. Symbolic Logic; Category: RC (Offered every monsoon semester)
3. 1 course categorised as IN (Non-western Philosophy requirement)
4. 1 course categorised as HW (History of Western Philosophy requirement)
5. 1 course categorised as CC (Contemporary Core requirement)
6. 1 elective course (These can be from any of the following categories: HW/IN/CC/EO)

Any students completing a minor in philosophy should complete 24 credits in PHI category courses, that is, they must complete 6 four-credit courses in philosophy.

## **Philosophy Concentration**

The requirements for a concentration in philosophy are as follows (4 courses):

1. Introduction to Philosophy; Category: RC (Offered every spring semester)
2. Symbolic Logic; Category: RC (Offered every monsoon semester)
3. 2 courses (These can be from any of the following categories: HW/IN/CC/EO)\*\*

\*\*The courses cannot be from the same category. For eg: If the first course is from IN, the other course should be from CC, HW, or EO.

Any students completing a concentration in philosophy should complete 16 credits in PHI category courses, that is, they must complete 4 four-credit courses in philosophy.

## **PPE Major with Philosophy Concentration**

The philosophy course requirement for a PPE major with a concentration in philosophy are as follows (8 courses):

1. Introduction to Philosophy; Category: RC (Offered every spring semester)
2. Symbolic Logic; Category: RC (Offered every monsoon semester)
3. 1 course categorised as IN (Non-western Philosophy requirement)
4. 1 course categorised as HW (History of Western Philosophy requirement)
5. 1 course categorised as CC (Contemporary Core requirement)
6. 3 elective course (These can be from any of the following categories: HW/IN/CC/EO)

Any students completing a PPE major should complete 32 credits in PHI category courses, that is, they must complete 4 four-credit courses in philosophy.

## **PPE Major without Philosophy Concentration**

The minimum philosophy coursework requirement for a PPE major in philosophy are as follows (4 courses):

1. Introduction to Philosophy; Category: RC (Offered every spring semester)
2. Symbolic Logic; Category: RC (Offered every monsoon semester)
3. 2 courses (These can be from any of the following categories: HW/IN/CC/EO)\*\*

\*\*The courses cannot be from the same category. For eg: If the first course is from IN, the other course should be from CC, HW, or EO.

Any students completing a PPE major should complete at least 16 credits in PHI category courses, that is, they must complete 4 four-credit courses in philosophy.

If a student on a track to completing a PPE major wants to take more courses in philosophy beyond the minimum requirements, they can do so. The other courses can be from HW, IN, CC, or EO category. However, such students are advised to get in touch with the PPE department or their academic advisor to ensure that they are completing all other requirements for the PPE degree.

A student cannot complete both a PPE major and a minor in philosophy.

## **FAQs**

1. Do I need to take the philosophy courses in some specific order?

Prima facie, no. However, higher-division philosophy courses sometimes have prerequisites - students are advised to check with the course instructor for such prerequisites. Moreover, doing philosophy requires rigorous skill in reading a text closely, writing critically, logical analysis, and sound argumentation. These skills are often acquired in lower-division courses and it is advisable (but not obligatory) to take the Introduction to Philosophy and the Symbolic Logic courses before taking higher-division classes in philosophy.

2. Can I do a thesis before my fourth year (ASP)?

Yes, that is possible. But it will count as an Independent Study Module (ISM).

3. I am not a philosophy major. I want to complete a philosophy thesis in my ASP year. Can I do so?

Yes, that is possible - all you need to do is find a professor who is willing to supervise your work. However, it is recommended that you should take some philosophy courses before doing a thesis.

4. I am taking a philosophy course. I do not know whether it is listed as RC/IN/HW/CC/EO. How do I find out?

This is easy - just go to the department website page and click on the course archive section (<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/page/philosophy-115>).

5. Is there a possibility to get a waiver for any of my degree requirements?

Yes, there is a possibility. You need to discuss with your academic advisor and the Head of the Department of Philosophy.

6. My question is not listed here. Whom should I approach?

If you cannot find your question here, please write to the student representative of the philosophy department.