

Philosophy**Chairperson**

Robert Crease, Harriman Hall 246 (631) 632-8040

Assistant to the Chair

Alissa Betz, Harriman Hall 211-A (631) 632-7590

Graduate Program Coordinator

Lisa-Beth Platania, Harriman Hall 213 (631) 632-7580

Graduate Program Director

Mary Rawlinson, Harriman Hall 235 (631) 632-7590

MA Recruitment

Ed Casey, Harriman Hall 213 (631) 632-7585

Department Secretary

Michelina Perrino, Harriman Hall 213 (631) 632-7570

Degrees Awarded

M.A. in Philosophy; Ph.D. in Philosophy and Art; Advanced Graduate Certificate in Art and Philosophy

Application

https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantLogin.asp?id=sunysb-gs

The Department of Philosophy, in the College of Arts and Sciences, offers programs leading to the Doctor of Philosophy and the Master of Arts in Philosophy.

PhD Degree in Philosophy

The doctoral program offers a rare opportunity to integrate the study of the history of philosophy with an exploration of contemporary philosophical methods and to apply an interdisciplinary approach to the framing and treatment of philosophical problems. The Philosophy Department is a sponsor of the Transatlantic Philosophical Collegium that offers advanced students opportunity for extended study at select German universities.

There are three general aims of the doctoral program:

1. To cultivate and make explicit the values and principles of the principal contemporary styles of philosophical reasoning.
2. To investigate the areas between philosophy and other disciplines that involve methodological, conceptual, and historical exchanges between philosophy and these other disciplines.
3. To provide an understanding of the history, major figures, and diverse problems of philosophy.

MA Degree in Philosophy with a focus on the Arts and Aesthetics

The Masters Degree in Philosophy with a focus on the Arts and Aesthetics at Stony Brook is an intensive, cross-disciplinary program. Founded in 2005, the program explores the intersections between philosophy and art, offering a terminal MA to theorists, practicing artists, critics, and those with an interest in the philosophical implications of art history and contemporary artistic practices. No other set of courses with a comparable emphasis exists in the New York area. Our seminars are characterized by close attention to specific texts in the history of philosophy and innovative approaches to traditional and contemporary art, drawing on arts venues and resources in New York City. The Philosophy Department at Stony Brook University is internationally recognized for its focus on contemporary European philosophy and its interdisciplinary orientation. Stony Brook Philosophy Department faculty who specialize in or have strong research interests in aesthetics, phenomenology, the history of philosophy, psychoanalysis, and technoscience teach M.A. seminars, with additional faculty support from the departments of Art, Music, and Cultural Analysis and Theory. The program also attracts renowned visiting scholars and artists to teach courses and give lectures. Our internationally recognized graduate student Philosophy and Art conference takes place yearly at the end of March (www.philosophyartconference.org).

MA in Philosophy Curriculum and Degree Requirements

Completion of the master's degree entails 30 course credits, the equivalent of 10 courses. You will find specific course descriptions for each semester on our website under the "current courses" tab. Of the 30 credits, 6 may be taken as Independent Study. Additionally, with the permission of the M.A. program director, 6 credits (2 courses) may be taken in the Philosophy Department's PhD program or in other departments at Stony Brook. One M.A. course per year is delivered at the Stony Brook Campus. An M.A. thesis option is available but not required for graduation.

Advanced Graduate Certificate (AGC) in Art and Philosophy (ArtPHIL)

For information on this advanced certificate program, go to <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/philosophy/docs/artscert.html>

Admission to the Ph.D. and M.A. Programs in Philosophy

For admission to the doctoral and master's programs in philosophy, the following are normally required:

- A. A bachelor's degree with a major in philosophy.
- B. Some knowledge of the history of philosophy and of contemporary modes of thought is highly desirable. Deficiencies in these areas may require the student to undertake special work.
- C. An official transcript of undergraduate record and of any work completed at the graduate level.
- D. Letters of recommendation from three previous or current instructors.
- E. Submission of a philosophical essay (which may be a paper written for a previous course).
- F. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores.
- G. Acceptance by both the Department of Philosophy and the Graduate School.

Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Philosophy

The doctoral program is designed to be completed in five years of full-time work. In addition to the minimum degree requirements of the Graduate School, the following are required:

A. Seminars

Seminar coursework will be required from the following three areas: history of philosophy, interface studies, and contemporary philosophy. Each of the three areas has a minimum number of required courses. The student will also take at least two additional seminars in one of the three areas to fulfill the concentration of studies requirement.

1. Three seminars in the history of philosophy from four groups of courses concentrating on ancient philosophy, medieval/Renaissance philosophy, modern philosophy, and 19th-century philosophy. These courses will feature an intensive writing component. For those students wishing to pursue a concentration of studies in the history of philosophy, a minimum of two additional courses may be taken from these areas or from seminar studies directed to special topics in the history of philosophy (which draw upon specific authors, texts, themes, or problems from the history of philosophy).
2. Two interface seminars in interdisciplinary areas between philosophy and another discipline pertaining to the natural sciences, to the social sciences, or to the humanities. The requirement may be satisfied by taking two seminars within the department that focus on an interdisciplinary area or by taking one seminar in the department that focuses on an interdisciplinary area and one course in another discipline. Two additional departmental seminars from this category may be taken to fulfill concentration requirements.
3. Five seminars in contemporary philosophy are required. Two seminars in the preeminent styles or modes of philosophy are required: one in continental philosophy (PHI 630) and one in analytic philosophy (PHI 631). These two seminars will explore the methods, presuppositions, and operational modes of the contemporary philosophy involved. Two additional seminars, chosen from a list of subjects, must be taken to fulfill the basic requirement. Two more seminars from the contemporary category may be taken to fulfill concentration requirements.
4. A practicum in the teaching of philosophy. This involves a supervised teaching seminar, along with additional teaching experience in the undergraduate program.
5. A series of prospectus workshops taken in the spring semester of the third year. The primary goal will be to produce a dissertation proposal.
6. An overall average grade of B or better is required, with no more than six credits of B- grades counting toward the degree.

B. General Requirements

1. The student must pass an examination in the History of Philosophy. Although the student may take the exam any number of times prior to the deadline, the examination must be passed by the end of the second year. The history of philosophy examination is constructed and read by the faculty on the History of Philosophy Committee.
2. The student must submit an essay, judged acceptable by a committee, in one of the areas of contemporary philosophy.
3. The student must submit an essay, judged acceptable by a committee composed of at least one Philosophy faculty member and a faculty member from the relevant second discipline, in one area of interface studies.

General reviews of student progress based upon a portfolio (courses taken, courses completed, grades, faculty evaluations of seminar work sample papers, teaching evaluations and performance in the above general requirements) will be undertaken at the end of the first and third years and in the second year after the deadline for passing the history of philosophy examination. The second-year review is the milestone requirement of the program. These reviews will assess the progress of students and determine qualifications for continuance or non-continuance in the program.

The Graduate Program Director will guide students in planning their program of studies to assure that general requirements are completed prior to their advancement to candidacy.

C. Ph.D. Candidacy

Official Ph.D. candidacy is attained when, in addition to the requirements listed above, a student fulfills the following competency requirements:

1. Competence in symbolic logic. Sufficient knowledge of concepts and notations of first-order logic for understanding and applying them to problems in philosophy.
2. Competence in a foreign language. This is shown by translating a previously untranslated philosophical article (or the equivalent).
3. Competence to undertake a dissertation project. This is shown by (a) a prospectus (10-15 pages) outlining projected study, expected findings, and relevant arguments and evidence (e.g., bibliography), and (b) an oral defense of the projected study before a faculty examining committee.

Upon the recommendation of the Examining Committee and the Graduate Program Director that the dissertation project be initiated, the student becomes a candidate for the Ph.D.

D. Dissertation

After advancement to candidacy, the student will concentrate on a dissertation (the written results of specialized study and research) under the supervision of a dissertation committee. After the dissertation is completed, it is read by a committee of four members, consisting of the director, two other members of the philosophy faculty, and one faculty member from outside the department who has specialized in related areas. Before final approval can be granted, the student must present the results of the dissertation research at an oral examination convened for that purpose by the department and open to interested faculty members and graduate students. If the dissertation defense is successful, the candidate is recommended to the University for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Doctoral students may be awarded the M.A. degree upon completion of the minimum coursework of 30 graduate credits of graded coursework.

Courses

Detailed course descriptions for the doctoral program are available from the Philosophy Department office each semester. Please refer to the current undergraduate and Graduate Class Schedules for specific semester offerings.

Requirements for the MA Degree in Philosophy

Given its commitment to philosophical pluralism and its triple focus on the history of philosophy, interdisciplinary studies, aesthetic and the philosophy of art, Stony Brook's Master of Arts in philosophy has been recognized throughout the profession as distinctive and innovative. The curriculum of the program embodies this commitment and focus.

A. Administration

The administration of the MA Program is carried out by the MA Director in consultation with the Chair of the Philosophy Department, the Graduate Program Committee, the Graduate Coordinator and the core faculty of the Philosophy and Arts program.

B. Course of Study

The primary purpose of the Master of Arts Program in Philosophy is to prepare students for original and independent research and scholarship in the field, and to prepare them for further postgraduate work in either philosophy or other humanistic disciplines. As an MA Program with special emphasis on the fine arts, it is also designed to provide artists with access to philosophical and intellectual resources not generally available in the art field.

In order to graduate, the student must have earned a total of 30 credits. Of these 30 credits:

1. 6 credits may be transfer credits (so long as they were not used toward earning another degree).
2. 6 credits may be earned either by taking 2 independent study courses, or by taking 1 independent study course and PHI 599 (Master's Thesis Research).
3. In order to be able to register for the MA Thesis course, students must fill out the MA Thesis Approval form, and have it signed by the MA Program Director as well as the Advisor of the MA thesis. The MA Thesis Advisor must be a permanent faculty member of the Philosophy Department.
4. All MA students must take at least one 500 or 600 level seminar on the Stony Brook University Campus
5. First year MA students may not take either Ph.D. seminars or independent studies. A second year MA student wishing to enroll in a PhD seminar must first obtain approval from the program director to request permission from the teaching faculty member. Only the teaching faculty member can give permission to enroll in the seminar.
6. If students enroll in PHI 520, it must be done with a permanent faculty member of the Philosophy Department.

Note the difference between **PHI 520: Advanced Studies in Philosophy** (3 credits, ABCF grading, variable and repetitive credit) and **PHI**

521: Independent Study (may be repeated for credit, S/U grading). If the Independent Study is intended to reach the required 30 credits for graduation, enrollment in PHI 520 is recommended (as only ABCF graded courses count towards cumulative credits).

C. The MA Thesis Option

Students are strongly encouraged to fulfill all of their MA degree requirements by taking the regularly scheduled graduate courses. Under certain conditions, however, a student may wish to pursue the MA thesis option by requesting the formation of a faculty committee for the thesis project. Such a Thesis Committee will consist of a thesis advisor, and at least one other member of the departmental faculty or a reader from the faculty of another discipline. The MA Thesis Advisor is selected by the student, while the Second Reader (and possibly third reader) is selected by the advisor and student together. The Thesis Committee must be approved by the MA Program Director upon submission of the appropriate form

and a brief thesis proposal summary. This form must be submitted to the MA Program director at least four weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the student is registering for PHI 599: Masters Thesis Research. The student will not be able to register for the MA thesis course without this form having been fully filled out and signed.

An MA student who takes the thesis option (see above) must notify the MA Program Director when submitting the thesis document to her/his thesis director. Once a student has submitted the thesis, the faculty thesis director has 3 weeks in which either to approve it for graduation purposes or require further revisions. In either case, the thesis director will notify the MA Director of the decision to approve or to require revisions. In the event that a thesis director fails to act within the time frame just specified, the MA Director will notify the student of her/his right to be assigned a different thesis director. The MA Director will also inform the Department Chair in case further administrative action is required.

Department Secretary

Michelina Perrino, Harriman Hall 213 (631) 632-7570

Distinguished Professor

Casey, Edward S., Ph.D., 1967, Northwestern University: Aesthetics; phenomenology; philosophy of psychology.

Harvey, Robert Ph.D. 1988, University of California, Berkeley; aesthetics, literature-philosophy interpenetrations, history of ideas, critical theory.

Ihde, Don, Emeritus, Ph.D., 1964, Boston University: Phenomenology; philosophy of technology; hermeneutics.

Kittay, Eva, Emeritus, Ph.D., 1978, City University of New York: Philosophy of language; philosophy and literature; feminism.

Professors

Carravetta, Peter, Ph.D. 1983, NYU: Modern thought and hermeneutics; Italian philosophy

Chakrabarti, Arindam, D. Phil. 1982, Oxford University: Philosophy of Language and Mind, Metaphysics, Aesthetics, Comparative Indian-Analytic Philosophy

Crease, Robert, Ph.D., 1987, Columbia University: Philosophy of science; aesthetics.

de Laurentiis, Allegra, PhD, 1982, University of Frankfurt. Nineteenth Century German Philosophy; Greek Philosophy

Dilworth, David, Ph.D., 1963, Fordham University; Ph.D., 1970, Columbia University: History of philosophy, East Asian languages and cultures.

Edwards, Jeffrey B., Ph.D., 1987, Universität Marburg, Germany: History of philosophy; Kant; modern philosophy.

Miller, Clyde Lee, Ph.D., 1974, Yale University: History of philosophy.

Rawlinson, Mary C., Ph.D., 1978, Northwestern University: 19th-century philosophy; Hegel; contemporary French philosophy; aesthetics and literary theory; bioethics.

Simpson, Lorenzo, Ph.D., 1978, Yale University: Contemporary continental philosophy (hermeneutics and critical theory); philosophy of the social sciences; philosophy of science and technology; neopragmatism and post-analytic philosophy; philosophy and race.

Associate Professors

Cormier, Harvey J., Ph.D., 1992 Harvard University: American philosophy; William James and pragmatism; philosophy and culture; philosophy of biology; philosophy of race.

Craig, Megan, Ph.D., 2006, New School of Social Research: Ethics; aesthetics; pragmatism; phenomenology; Levinas.

Jackson, Gabrielle, Ph.D., 2011, Harvard University: phenomenology; philosophy of mind; cognitive science; feminist philosophy.

Kim, Alan, Ph.D., Ph.D., 2001, McGill University: Ancient Greek philosophy; German philosophy.

Mar, Gary

[5], Ph.D., 1985, University of California, Los Angeles: Logic; philosophy of mathematics; contemporary analytic philosophy; philosophy of religion.

O'Byrne, Anne, Ph.D, 1999, Vanderbilt University: 20th-century and contemporary European philosophy; political philosophy.

Assistant Professors

Platt, Andrew, Ph.D., 2010, University of Massachusetts, Amherst: history of 17th and 18th century philosophy; social-political philosophy; philosophy of religion.

Emeritus Faculty

Grim, Patrick

, B. Phil., 1975, University of St. Andrews, Scotland; Ph.D., 1976, Boston University: Logic; ethics; computer modeling; contemporary analytic philosophy.

Inde, Don, Ph.D., 1964, Boston University: Phenomenology; philosophy of technology; hermeneutics.

Kittay, Eva, Ph.D., 1978, City University of New York: Philosophy of language; philosophy and literature; feminism.

Nolan, Rita, Ph.D., 1965, University of Pennsylvania: foundations of cognitive science; philosophy of art; philosophy of language.

Simon, Michael A., Ph.D., 1967, Harvard University: Social philosophy; philosophy of biological and social science; philosophy of mind; philosophy of law.

Spector, Marshall, Ph.D., 1963, Johns Hopkins University: Philosophy of science; philosophy of technology; environmental issues.

Welton, Donn

, Ph.D., 1973, Southern Illinois University: Phenomenology and epistemology; philosophical psychology; Contemporary German philosophy..

Williams, Peter

, Emeritus, Ph.D., 1973, Harvard University: Philosophy of law; ethics

Number of teaching, graduate, and research assistants, Fall 2019: 26

Joint Appointment in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature. Recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1980

Joint Appointments in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, Women's and Gender Studies, and The College of Business. Recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1984.

Recipient of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award, 1990; University of Richmond's Distinguished Educator Award, 1984

Joint appointment with Linguistics, Chancellor's and President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1993; Pew Scholar's Award, 1995; Outstanding Professor Award from the Alumni Association, 1995; Chancellor's Award for Excellence in University Service, 2015.

Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1988

Recipient of President's and Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activity, 2005

Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1978

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.