Philosophy and Religious Studies

Yvette E. Pearson, Chair
James Van Dore, Chief Departmental Advisor
Phone: 757 683-3861

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. There are three available concentrations within the philosophy major: general, political and legal studies, or religious studies. The program is designed to give students a solid grounding in the historical development of philosophy and an ability to analyze the validity and soundness of arguments proposed in serious discussions of any subject. The political and legal studies concentration is designed for students planning to go to law school and students generally interested in social and political philosophy. The religious studies concentration is designed to assist the student in understanding the role of religion in human culture.

The requirements are as follows.

**Bachelor of Arts–Philosophy Major**

**Lower Division General Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Communication *</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Literacy and Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language and Culture **</td>
<td>0-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Creativity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreting the Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature of Science</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>41-53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Grade of C or better required in both courses and in ENGL 110C before declaring major.

**Departmental Requirements**

The requirements are a minimum of 33 credit hours in 300- and 400-level PHIL and REL courses, nine hours of which must be at the 400 level. Students must select one of the following three concentrations. (Students interested in double majoring in philosophy and political science should see below. Students interested in double majoring in philosophy and a subject other than political science should consult the chief departmental advisor; there may be some opportunity for double counting at least one class.)

**General Concentration**

**History of Philosophy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 330W</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 331</td>
<td>Modern Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 332</td>
<td>another department-approved PHIL course on 18th century or earlier philosophy *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Logic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 340</td>
<td>Logic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recent Philosophy**

Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 304</td>
<td>Marx and the Marxists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The requirements are as follows.

**Philosophy Electives**

Three PHIL electives **

Total Hours 33

* Must be approved by the department.

** To total at least nine hours in philosophy courses.

Students may "double count" a seminar toward their seminar requirement and either the history of philosophy or recent philosophy requirement, as appropriate. In that case, they will need to take an additional 3 hours of philosophy (PHIL) elective credit, for a total of 12. Religious Studies (REL) courses can only be counted as philosophy electives with the prior consent of the chief departmental advisor.

**Political and Legal Studies Concentration**

**History of Philosophy**

<table>
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**Logic**

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**Recent Philosophy**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 304</td>
<td>Marx and the Marxists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seminar**

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 491</td>
<td>Seminar in Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Old Dominion University 1
Philosophy and Religious Studies

Religious Studies Concentration

the chief departmental advisor. Courses can only be counted as philosophy electives with the prior consent of philosophy (PHIL) elective credit, for a total of 6. Religious Studies (REL) students may "double count" a seminar toward their seminar requirement and either the history of philosophy or recent philosophy requirement, as appropriate. In that case, they will need to take an additional 3 hours of philosophy (PHIL) elective credit, for a total of 6. Religious Studies (REL) courses can only be counted as philosophy electives with the prior consent of the chief departmental advisor.

Religious Studies Concentration

History of Philosophy 9

PHIL 330W Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 331 Modern Philosophy

PHIL 332 or another department-approved PHIL course in 18th century or earlier philosophy*

Recent Philosophy 6

Select two of the following:

PHIL 304 Marx and the Marxists
PHIL 305 American Philosophy
PHIL 383T Technology: Its Nature and Significance
PHIL 402 Gender and Philosophy
PHIL 404 Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy
PHIL 406 Contemporary Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 411 Postmodernism and Political Philosophy
PHIL 431 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
PHIL 434 Contemporary Theory of Knowledge
PHIL 435 Philosophy of Psychology

PHIL course in 19th century or later philosophy *

Seminar 3

Select one of the following:

PHIL 491 Seminar in Philosophy
PHIL 492 Seminar in Philosophy
PHIL 493 Seminar in Philosophy
PHIL 494 Seminar in Philosophy

Religious Studies 3

PHIL 313 Philosophy of Religion

Religious Traditions 9

Nine hours total, with at least 3 hours from each group:

Western courses

REL 311 Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
REL 312 New Testament
PHIL 314 Studies in Western Religious Thought
REL 350 Judaism
REL 351 Christianity
REL 352 Islam
REL 400 Sacred Texts of Islam

Eastern Courses

PHIL 335 Asian Religions
PHIL 354 Comparative Philosophy East and West - Personhood
PHIL 427 Myth and Philosophy
PHIL 480 Hinduism
PHIL 481 Buddhism
PHIL 482 Chinese Religion and Philosophy
PHIL 485 Japanese Religion and Philosophy

Philosophy and Religion Elective 3

One PHIL or REL course

Total Hours 33

* Must be approved by the department.

Students may "double count" a seminar toward their seminar requirement and either the history of philosophy or recent philosophy requirement, as appropriate. In that case, they will need to take an additional 3 hours of philosophy (PHIL) elective credit, for a total of 6.

Electives

Elective courses may be taken for the remainder of the minimum 120 credits required for the degree.

Upper Division General Education

- Option A. Approved Minor, 12-24 hours; also second degree or second major
- Option B. Interdisciplinary Minor, 12 hours specified by the department, 3 of which may be in the major area of study
- Option C. International business and regional courses or an approved certification program, such as teaching licensure
- Option D. Two Upper-Division Courses from outside the College of Arts and Letters that are not required by the major (6 hours).

Requirements for graduation include a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 overall and in the major. 120 credit hours, which must include both a minimum of 30 credit hours overall and 12 credit hours of upper-level courses in the major program from Old Dominion University, completion of ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or 221C or 231C, and the writing intensive (W) course in the major with a grade of C or better, and completion of Senior Assessment.

Minors in Philosophy and Religious Studies

The requirements for minors in philosophy and religious studies are as follows:

Philosophy (General)

Twelve hours in philosophy (PHIL) courses at the 300 and 400 level 12

Philosophy-Applied Ethics

PHIL 441 Foundations of Ethics

Select three from the following:

PHIL 303E Business Ethics
PHIL 344E Environmental Ethics
PHIL 354E Bioethics
PHIL 355E Computer Ethics
PHIL 402  Gender and Philosophy
PHIL 410  Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 442E  Studies in Applied Ethics

**Philosophy-Religious Studies**

Select four from the following: 12

REL 311  Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
REL 312  New Testament
REL 350  Judaism
REL 351  Christianity
REL 352  Islam
REL 400  Sacred Texts of Islam
PHIL 313  Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 353  Asian Religions
PHIL 354  Comparative Philosophy East and West - Personhood
PHIL 427  Myth and Philosophy
PHIL 480  Hinduism
PHIL 481  Buddhism
PHIL 482  Chinese Religion and Philosophy
PHIL 485  Japanese Religion and Philosophy

**Philosophy-Political and Legal Studies** 12

Select at least two from the following:

PHIL 304  Marx and the Marxists
PHIL 340  Logic
PHIL 410  Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 411  Postmodernism and Political Philosophy
PHIL 412  Philosophy of Law
PHIL 441  Foundations of Ethics

Select from the following other options to complete a total of 12 credits:

PHIL 303E  Business Ethics
PHIL 344E  Environmental Ethics
PHIL 345E  Bioethics
PHIL 355E  Computer Ethics
PHIL 402  Gender and Philosophy
PHIL 442E  Studies in Applied Ethics

For completion of a minor, a student must have a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all courses required for the minor exclusive of lower-level courses and prerequisite courses and complete a minimum of six hours in upper-level courses in the minor requirement through courses offered by Old Dominion University.

**Advanced Placement**

Since the study of philosophy (and religion) involves intensive work with sophisticated texts and extensive analytical and critical writing, credit by examination is not usually appropriate. Students who believe that there are reasons why they should be considered for exceptions to this policy should present their cases in writing to the chair of the department, who, when appropriate, will refer them to the departmental committee. Generally, such things as “reading on one’s own” are not considered an adequate basis for such a petition. Students who have earned credit for one of the introductory philosophy and ethics way of knowing courses (e.g., PHIL 110P, PHIL 120P, PHIL 230E, or PHIL 250E) may not receive credit by examination for another of them.

**Double Majoring in Philosophy and Political Science**

The departments of Political Science and Geography and Philosophy and Religious Studies have established an arrangement that makes it possible to complete a double major in as few as 55 hours, little more than the 45-49 hours needed for a major in one and minor in the other. Philosophy majors on the Political-Legal Studies track double-majoring in Political Science will be allowed to count any two of the following Political Science courses toward their philosophy major:

Select two of the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 310</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 312</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 403</td>
<td>First Amendment Freedoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 408</td>
<td>American Constitutional Law and Politics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 409</td>
<td>American Constitutional Law and Politics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 419</td>
<td>Jurisprudence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 6

These courses will count as Political and Legal electives; students will still be required to take 6 hours from the Political and Legal core courses. Students doing the accelerated B.A./M.A. in Philosophy and Humanities can count no more than one 500-level Political Science course as a “bridge” course. Political Science “topics” course may also be counted as Philosophy electives when the topic covered is appropriate; prior approval is required from the chief departmental advisor of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Political Science will also double count certain Philosophy courses towards its major for double majors; see the Political Science section of this Catalog (http://www.odu.edu/pols-geog) for details.

**Linked B.A. in Philosophy and M.A. in Humanities**

The linked B.A. in philosophy and M.A. in Humanities makes it possible for exceptional philosophy majors to count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both an undergraduate and graduate degree. Students must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 for the undergraduate degree and 30 for the graduate degree). For more information consult the Humanities section of this Catalog (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/philosophyandreligiousstudies/#acceleratedmasterofartsinhumanities-philosophy).