Graduate Student Handbook

This section is intended to provide useful information for current graduate students in the Emory Philosophy Department, though anyone is welcome to browse.

Gray Book & Reading List

Program Planning and Evaluation

All matriculants for degrees should be familiar with the section of the Graduate School Bulletin entitled "Degree Programs." They should also be familiar with the pamphlet Philosophy, Emory University Graduate School. Each student's program is planned in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and a faculty advisor assigned in May prior to the first year of graduate studies. This planning takes into account the student's strengths, weaknesses, and philosophical interests. A student whose program requires interdisciplinary work will be advised of resources available in other departments of the Graduate School, the Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts (a program especially designed for interdisciplinary work), The Graduate Division of Religion, and The School of Law.

All students are evaluated at the end of each semester by the department’s graduate studies committee and, for any student who is not in good standing, by the department faculty as a whole. The results of this review are communicated to each student in a letter from the graduate studies committee, written by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the full committee and with the student's faculty advisor. Any student whose work is judged by the department faculty insufficient in quality or insufficient in terms of on-time progress through the Ph.D. program’s semester by semester requirements will be placed on departmental probation. In this case, the subsequent semester review will include a decision about the student’s continuation in the Ph.D. program.

Course Credit and Load

Except for PHIL 700 (2 credit) or unless otherwise noted, courses offer 4 credit hours. Course numbers followed by the letter "r" indicate that the course may be repeated for credit when the subject matter changes. Courses numbered from 525 to 769 also can be repeated for credit when the subject matter changes. Normal course load for students with teaching duties is 12 hours per semester (3 courses).

It is assumed that during their first semester of graduate study, all students will register for three graduate courses and PHIL 700 chosen from among the Philosophy Department's offerings. After successful completion of their first semester students may, with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, register for courses offered by other departments and programs.

Incompletes

A grade of "Incomplete" can be given in a course only under the most extraordinary circumstances, such as serious illness, and then only after the faculty member has consulted with the Director of Graduate Studies. Permission granted, the requisite course work must then be completed before the end of the following semester.

Probation

Via notification by the Director of Graduate Studies following the regular end-of-semester review of the progress of all Ph.D. students by the department faculty, all students are automatically placed on probation.
at the end of any semester in which they have failed to complete the program requirements specified to be completed by the end of that semester. Following consultation with the student's faculty advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies, all students placed on probation develop a plan to return to good standing by the end of the subsequent semester—by completing all program requirements specified to be completed by the subsequent semester. Students who fail to return to good standing after a semester on probation, by majority vote of the faculty in all cases, may be continued on probation for a second semester, on the basis of demonstrated evidence that the student then will return to good standing—directed and assisted in completing a terminal M.A.; directed and assisted in taking a leave of absence until that time that the student could resume in good standing the program; or, recommended to the Dean of the Graduate School for dismissal from the program.

**Grievance Policy**

Students who have a grievance related to some aspect of their program in Philosophy should report it to the Director of Graduate Studies. The student should describe the grievance and relevant details in a letter addressed to the DGS, who will try, if possible, to resolve the grievance in conversation with the student and relevant parties. If this is not successful, the Director will appoint a committee of three Philosophy faculty members (or faculty members outside the Philosophy if the situation warrants) or use an existing standing committee, who will review the grievance and propose an appropriate response. If it is impossible to resolve the grievance within this committee or within the framework of the Philosophy administrative structure, the Director will forward the grievance to the Office of the Senior Associate Dean of the Laney Graduate School. From this point forward, the grievance will be handled according to the Grievance Procedure outlined in the Laney Graduate School Handbook. If the issue is with the Director, the student should go directly to the Senior Associate Dean of the Laney Graduate School.

**Directed Study**

Directed study is available to students in advanced standing. A student may register for no more than two directed studies in any department during his/her academic program. Students considering enrollment in a directed study should consult with their faculty advisor and with the Director of Graduate Studies during the prior semester. Prior to registration, the student must submit a proposal to the Graduate Studies Committee. A proposal consists of brief description of the topics, questions, figures, or historical period to be studied, the rationale for engaging in the inquiry, and a bibliography. Enrollment is dependent upon approval by the Graduate Committee and the professor who would conduct the study. No more than two students may take a directed study with a professor at any one time.

**Departmental Colloquium**

The department sponsors a colloquium series extending throughout the academic year. Speakers include both members of the Emory faculty and invited guests from other universities. Students are expected to attend the colloquium as part of their normal graduate education.

**The Master of Arts Program**

There are three ways in which the Master of Arts degree can be earned. The first is by completing two semesters of graduate course work in full standing (the first year of graduate study at the M.A. level) for a total of 26 hours (more may be required if the student's background is deficient)—24 hours plus PHIL 700---, writing a master's thesis, and passing a general oral examination. All semester hours must be on the 500/700 level, and a grade of B- or better must be earned in at least 20 hours (5 courses). A minimum of two semesters in residence at full standing is required, but as many as 12 semester hours (3 courses) of residence credit may be taken elsewhere, either prior to matriculation or subsequent to enrollment at Emory, upon approval of the departmental Graduate Studies Committee and the Dean of the Graduate School.
The second way to earn the Master of Arts degree is to complete the course work for the Ph.D., pass one language exam, and pass at least three of the four history of philosophy comprehensive exams and one comprehensive exam research paper in either the fifth area of the history of philosophy or in a systematic area of philosophy.

The third way to earn the Master of Arts degree (open only to students who move from full standing to advanced standing at Emory) is by completing the course work for the Ph.D., passing the comprehensive examinations for the Doctor of Philosophy degree, and successfully defending a dissertation prospectus.

The Doctor of Philosophy Program

The Doctor of Philosophy degree requires four semesters of study in residence at the level of advanced standing, passing PHIL 700, passing examinations for reading knowledge of two foreign languages, passing the logic requirement, passing the comprehensive examinations for the doctorate, passing a written dissertation prospectus in an oral examination on it, writing a doctoral dissertation, and passing a final oral examination on it.

Advanced Standing

Admission to advanced standing can be achieved either by satisfactory completion of the M.A. degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution or upon the recommendation of the Department of Philosophy after the satisfactory completion of one year of graduate study at Emory in full standing. Students not recommended for advanced standing may, upon approval of the faculty, be given the option of writing an M.A. thesis.

Residence and Course Work

The program of study in advanced standing must include the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 48 semester hours. At least two academic years (48 semester hours) must be completed in residence. As much as two semesters of residence credit may be taken elsewhere, either prior to matriculation or subsequent to enrollment at Emory, upon approval of the departmental Graduate Committee and the Dean of the Graduate School. All students must complete at least one seminar in each of five areas in the history of philosophy (ancient Greek, medieval, modern, 19th century, 20th century), and take seminars from at least eight department faculty (must be met by end of the sixth semester).

Logic Requirement

In order to pass the logic requirement, students must demonstrate competence in basic symbolic logic. This can be done by successfully completing advanced undergraduate symbolic logic taken under a graduate tutorial course number with special assignments from the instructor, by successfully completing a graduate course in logic, or by departmentally administered examination. To remain in good standing, students must meet this requirement by the end of the third semester (or the end of the first semester at Emory for students admitted with advanced standing).

Language Requirement

The language requirement can be fulfilled by passing an examination for reading competence in two languages normally selected from French, Italian, German, Greek, and Latin. If another language is significant for a student's specialization, the student may, with the agreement of the Graduate Studies Committee, substitute that language for one of the above. To remain in good standing, students must meet this requirement with respect to a first foreign language by the end of the second semester (and so it is a condition of admission to advanced standing) and must meet this requirement with respect to a second
foreign language by the end of the fourth semester (or the end of the second semester at Emory for students admitted with advanced standing).

The language exams typically are given in September, January, and April.

**Program in Scholarly Integrity Requirement**

There are three elements to the program. Completion of elements (1) and (2) are required for candidacy, and (3) is required for graduation.

1. PSI 600: A 6 hour core course in scholarly integrity, supported by the Laney Graduate School in collaboration with the Center for Ethics. Participation in this course will be recorded on the student's transcript.
2. Program-Based Instruction: A minimum of 6 hours of program-based ethics material. This portion of the program will be satisfied through departmental offerings, e.g. PHIL 700, PHIL 777, and various professionalization seminars designed for advanced students.
3. PSI 610: Minimum of 4 Educational Sessions (workshops, training sessions, or lectures). These lectures and workshops will be sponsored by the LGS, the Center for Ethics, and will include any other relevant occasional lectures or workshops. Students will register for these sessions individually, and participation will be recorded on the student's transcript.

"Ten Hour" Rule

The Graduate School prohibits any student on financial aid from working in non-academic work in excess of ten hours per week over and above the normal departmental duties as a graduate assistant. The department fully endorses and supports this policy.

**Comprehensive or General Doctoral Examinations**

**Schedule**

All students are required to take comprehensive exams following their second year (or following their first year at Emory for student admitted with advanced standing).

This comprehensive exam consists of two parts. The first part is four 48-hour take-home exams in the history of philosophy. These exams are administered in mid-May, graded promptly by the department faculty as assigned by the graduate studies committee following recommendation by the Director of Graduate Studies. The subject-matters of the four exams are selected by each student from among five areas in the history of philosophy (Ancient Greek philosophy, medieval philosophy, modern philosophy, 19th century philosophy, and 20th century philosophy). During the period of these exams, students may consult published texts and their own notes. However, students may not discuss the exam questions or seek advice from other persons during the exam. Professional standards of citation apply, and students are reminded that they are bound by the terms of the Graduate School Honor Code. Students who fail only one of the four take-home history of philosophy exams may, only upon approval (by majority vote) of the faculty, re-take the exam prior to the start of the subsequent fall semester. At the decision (by majority vote) of the faculty, students who do not pass this first part of the comprehensive exam (by failing two or more of the take-home exams or by failing one of the take-home exams after re-taking it) may be put on probation while they prepare to re-take this portion of the exam at a time recommended by the student’s faculty advisor with approval of the department faculty, directed to a M.A. thesis and terminal M.A. degree, or recommended to the Dean for dismissal.
The second part of the comprehensive exam consists of two research papers each of which marks the culmination of a semester’s independent study coursework. The subject-matter of one of these research papers is the fifth area in the history of philosophy—the area not already covered by the student in the first part of the exam. The subject-matter of the other of these research papers is a standard systematic area of the discipline of philosophy—such as ethics, metaphysics, aesthetics, epistemology, social and political philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, and so on (as approved by the department faculty.) Either one of these research papers is to be completed at the end of the student’s fifth semester (or third semester for students who enter with advanced Standing); the other is to be completed at the end of the sixth semester (or fourth semester for students who enter with advanced Standing). These research papers are developed and graded by the three philosophy department faculty members who constitute the given student’s research exam committee for each exam. The faculty members of the student’s two research committees may be identical, overlap, or have no common members, but the composition of these committees must be approved (by majority vote) by the graduate studies committee. Students who fail one or both of the research paper portions of the comprehensive exams may be directed by majority vote of the faculty to a M.A. thesis and terminal M.A. degree, or recommended to the Dean for dismissal. This second part of the comprehensive exam may not be re-taken.

Click Here for instructions on how to develop either research paper.

Grading

The four history of philosophy take-home examinations of each student are read and graded by members of the graduate faculty as assigned by the graduate studies committee following recommendations from the Director of Graduate Studies. The graduate faculty meet to discuss the results and determine the overall grade for each examination (on the basis of the knowledge and interpretive and critical skills demonstrated), Pass or Fail. The research papers are read and graded by the three faculty members on the student’s two comprehensive exam committees. The faculty members of the student’s two research committees may be identical, overlap, or have no common members; the composition of these committees must be approved (by majority vote) by the graduate studies committee. These three faculty meet to discuss the results and determine the overall grade for each research paper (on the basis of demonstrated knowledge and the sound development of original thought), Pass or Fail (with two Pass votes needed for the research paper to pass).

Reading List

Questions for the history of philosophy take-home examinations are based on the Reading List and on readings required in seminars given in the Department of Philosophy during the prior two years, readings which typically include many of the works on the Reading List. The Director of Graduate Studies, the graduate studies committee, and a student’s faculty advisor will advise students on how best to prepare for the examinations.

Doctoral Candidacy

In order to be admitted to doctoral candidacy, a student must have completed 48 credit hours in advanced standing, met all logic and foreign language requirements, passed the comprehensive examinations, and submitted a dissertation prospectus acceptable to the faculty. The dissertation prospectus must be defended successfully prior to the beginning of a student’s seventh semester (or fifth semester for students admitted with advanced standing). Students who fail to defend successfully a dissertation prospectus by this time may by majority vote decision of the department faculty be put on probation while they prepare to submit or defend the prospectus, directed to a M.A. thesis and terminal M.A. degree, or recommended to the Dean for dismissal.

The Dissertation Prospectus
Students prepare a dissertation prospectus in the third year (or second year for those admitted with advanced standing). Typically the dissertation prospectus is closely related to, and draws from, the research papers written as part of the comprehensive exams. The choice of the director of the dissertation is determined by the student with the approval of the faculty member concerned. The graduate studies committee, following receipt of a recommendation from the Director of Graduate Studies, will assign two additional committee members. When the director and committee members are satisfied with the dissertation prospectus and the research it proposes, the student submits it to the graduate faculty of the department for formal approval. The prospectus should be presented before the beginning of the student’s seventh semester (or fifth semester for students admitted with advanced standing). The prospectus includes a descriptive statement of the problem of the dissertation, an outline of the contents, and a bibliography of basic works to be used. The prospectus is normally approximately 10 typed pages exclusive of bibliography.

The oral defense of the prospectus is chaired by the director of the dissertation. A copy of the prospectus is made available to all members of the department one week or more prior to the prospectus meeting. All members of the department are invited to attend. The student presenting the prospectus and the members of the student's dissertation committee are required to be present. An accepted prospectus marks the formal beginning of the student's dissertation work.

**The Dissertation**

**Dissertation Committee**

This committee is composed of the same members of the graduate faculty who supervised the preparation and successful oral defense of the prospectus. The chair of the committee is the dissertation director. This committee of three members works closely with the student in the preparation of the dissertation and guides it to completion.

A faculty member from another institution may serve as a dissertation committee member for special reasons, such as the subject matter of the dissertation. This requires the approval of the graduate faculty of the department and the Graduate School.

The maximum length of dissertations submitted to the department is 300 pages (inclusive of text and notes, exclusive of bibliography), formatted according to Graduate School guidelines. In exceptional cases, this limit may be waived by the graduate studies committee, on recommendation of the dissertation director.

**Oral Examination on the Dissertation**

Before the oral examination on the completed dissertation, the graduate studies committee following receipt of recommendations from the Director of Graduate Studies will choose two additional committee members (the "readers") to read the dissertation. One of these readers may be an Emory faculty member from outside the department.

Approximately four weeks before the oral examination the dissertation is made available to faculty members and graduate students of the department. At this time a formal announcement of the examination date, time, place, and title of dissertation is given to all faculty and graduate students in the department and circulated to other appropriate departments and interested faculty. The examination has a public character within the university community and wider community of scholars. In particular, graduate students in philosophy are welcome to attend the examination.

The examination itself is chaired and conducted by the director of the dissertation.
Teacher Training

All Ph.D. students must take the 2-credit PHIL 700 in their first semester of study (or third semester for students admitted with advanced standing). This course deals with issues specific to the philosophy of teaching the discipline of philosophy at the college and university level, as well as with issues of research and professionalization.

All Ph.D. students participate in the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity program (TATTO) sponsored by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. As implemented by the Department of Philosophy, the TATTO program has four main components: (1) a summer teaching course offered by the Graduate School, which is taken by all students prior to the beginning of their first year of advanced standing; (2) a departmental pedagogy course (Philosophy 777), which is taken by all students in the fall semester of their first year of advanced standing; (3) one semester of responsibilities as a Teaching Assistant (in the fall semester of the first year of advanced standing); and (4) one semester of responsibilities as a Co-Teacher (in the second semester of advanced standing). The duties of Teaching Assistants and Co-Teachers are determined by the faculty member responsible for the course. The assignment of assistantship, co-teaching, and, later, teaching experience will provide the student with a graduated, closely supervised series of responsibilities. Normally, a Teaching Assistant will attend classes, grade assignments, and hold regular office hours. In addition to these duties, a Co-Teacher normally will help construct a course syllabus and course requirements, evaluate student work, lecture or lead class several times, and help write exams or other assignments.

Teaching

Students will be assigned teaching responsibilities during a total of four semesters, typically in their third and fifth years (or second and fourth years for students admitted in advanced standing). During no more than two of these four semesters, students may be assigned other professional educational experience (e.g., research assistance, journal editorial work, etc.) as recommended by the director of graduate studies and approved by the department faculty.

Students preparing to enter their sixth year of graduate study are eligible to apply for Dean's Teaching Fellowships, which are awarded by the Graduate School on a competitive basis. Dean's Teaching Fellows receive generous stipends and have the freedom to design and teach one course of their own each semester.

Comprehensive Examination Reading List

Exams will be constructed from this list and can be answered entirely on the basis of this list. The exams also may include, simply to provide further options, any works taught in philosophy department seminars in the two academic years immediately prior to a given exam.

I. Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy

1. The Presocratics (Curd and McKirahan; Hackett)
2. Plato, Apology
3. Plato, Republic
4. Plato, Theaetetus
5. Aristotle, De Anima
6. Aristotle, Metaphysics
7. Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics
8. Aristotle, Politics
9. Epicurus, The Epicurus Reader (Inwood & Gerson; Hackett)
10. Marcus Aurelius, The Meditations
11. Sextus Empiricus, Outlines of Skepticism
12. Plotinus, The Enneads

II. Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy

1. Augustine, Confessions
2. Augustine, On Free Choice of the Will
3. Boethius, Consolation of Philosophy
4. Avicenna, The Metaphysics of "The Healing" (Marmura; Brigham Young Univ. Press)
5. Anselm, Proslogion
6. Averroes, On the Harmony of Religion and Philosophy
7. Maimonides, The Guide of the Perplexed (abridged, Guttmann and Rabin; Hackett)
8. Aquinas, Selected Philosophical Writings (McDermott; Oxford)
9. Duns Scotus, Philosophical Writings (Wolter; Hackett)
10. Ockham, Philosophical Writings (Boehner and Brown; Hackett)
11. Cusanus, Of Learned Ignorance
12. Pico della Mirandola, On the Dignity of Man

III. Modern Philosophy

1. Machiavelli, The Prince
2. Hobbes, Leviathan
3. Descartes, Selected Philosophical Writings (Cottingham, et al; Cambridge)
4. Spinoza, Ethics
5. Leibniz, Discourse on Metaphysics
6. Locke, Second Treatise of Government
7. Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature
8. Vico, The New Science (Bergin and Fisch; Cornell)
10. Kant, Critique of Pure Reason
11. Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals
12. Kant, Critique of Judgment

IV. 19th Century Philosophy

1. Fichte, Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre
2. Schelling, Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom
3. Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit
4. Schopenhauer, The World as Will and Representation (trans. Payne), vol. 1
5. Comte, Introduction to Positive Philosophy (Hackett)
6. Emerson, Nature
7. Marx, Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844
8. Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling
9. Mill, Utilitarianism
10. Nietzsche, The Birth of Tragedy
11. Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals
12. Peirce, Philosophical Writings (Buchler; Dover)

V. 20th Century Philosophy

1. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk
2. James, Pragmatism
3. Dewey, Experience and Nature
4. Husserl, Cartesian Meditations
5. Heidegger, Being and Time
6. Sartre, Being and Nothingness
7. de Beauvoir, Ethics of Ambiguity
8. Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception
9. Arendt, The Human Condition
10. Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations
11. Martinich and Sosa, eds., Analytic Philosophy: An Anthology***
12. Horkheimer and Adorno, Dialectic of Enlightenment
13. Foucault, The Order of Things
14. Butler, Gender Trouble
15. Derrida, The Gift of Death

***This volume is divided into 7 sections with articles by these authors:

Philosophy of Language:
    Frege (2), Russell, Strawson, Grice, Davidson, Kripke, Putnam
Metaphysics:
    Russell, Wittgenstein, Strawson, Quine, Black
Epistemology:
    Moore, Wittgenstein, Russell, Chisholm, Gettier, Hempel, Goodman, Quine
Philosophy of Mind:
    Armstrong, Putnam, Davidson, Nagel, Lewis, Searle
Freedom and Personal Identity:
    Malcolm, Strawson, Chisholm, Williams, Davidson
Ethics:
    Moore, Stevenson, Rawls, Anscombe, Foot
Methodology:
    Langford, Moore, Ayer, Carnap, Austin, Quine, Grice&Strawson, Sellars, Wittgenstein