

B.A. PHILOSOPHY



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC LEARNING COMPACT

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge): Graduating philosophy majors will demonstrate knowledge of the vocabulary, history, theories and concepts specific to philosophy.

In PHH 3100 (Ancient Philosophy), students learn the history of ancient Western philosophy from the pre-Socratics to the Hellenistic philosophers, with a focus on Plato and Aristotle. In PHH 3240 (Early Modern Philosophy), students learn the history of early modern philosophy, from Descartes to Hume. In PHH 4440 (Late Modern Philosophy), students learn the history of late modern philosophy, beginning with Immanuel Kant through the 19th century. In these courses, the students' acquisition of declarative knowledge will be assessed through a series of examinations, which can be a combination of short answer and essay questions. Declarative knowledge may also be assessed through one or more research papers.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Technical Skills) and CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills): Graduating philosophy majors will demonstrate advanced skills in logic that will help them both develop and evaluate philosophical arguments and theories.

In PHI 3132 (Logic), students will learn logical principles and critical thinking skills through the study of Aristotelian syllogistic logic, and first-order symbolic (predicate and propositional) logic. The students' acquisition of logical and critical thinking skills will be assessed through a series of examinations, in which students will have to evaluate arguments for validity, construct valid arguments, translate ordinary language arguments into symbolic notation, and develop proofs to demonstrate the validity of symbolic arguments.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Research Skills) Graduating philosophy majors will demonstrate knowledge of the procedures involved in philosophical research, such as idea generation, library research skills, and review of philosophical texts.

COMMUNICATION (Written communication; Oral communication): Graduating philosophy majors will demonstrate the ability to write grammatically correct, well-organized, and properly formatted philosophy papers. Graduating philosophy majors will also demonstrate the ability to prepare informative, persuasive, and well-organized oral presentations.

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical skills; Creative skills): Graduating philosophy majors will demonstrate advanced analytical critical thinking skills by being able to analyze, evaluate, compare and contrast, and judge different logical arguments. They will demonstrate the ability to identify the structure of an argument, distinguish premises from conclusion, and apply proper methods of analysis to determine the validity of an argument. Graduating philosophy majors will also demonstrate creative critical thinking skills by formulating their own arguments and by being able to synthesize philosophical knowledge. Students will show a solid grasp of a range of philosophical issues and an understanding of the nature of a conceptual problem.

In PHI 4938 (Senior Seminar), students' acquisition of research skills, written communication skills, oral communication skills, and critical thinking skills will be evaluated through a series of theoretical research papers. In order to write these papers, students will be required to do library research. The papers will have to be written in a style and format that conforms to accepted standards for philosophy research papers, including the appropriate use of citation. Students will have to read a draft of each of their papers in class and answer questions from both other students and the professor. These papers will have to be revised in light of comments and turned in for a final grade. Students' oral communication skills will be evaluated through the class presentations in terms of how well a student is able to engage comments and questions from his/her peers and the professor. Written communication skills will be evaluated when the papers are graded for syntax, clarity, spelling, grammar, and content. Critical thinking skills will be evaluated when grading research papers by examining the student's ability to construct good argument to defend the paper's thesis and his/her ability to critically evaluate the arguments of other philosophers.

Approved 3-15-2006

COMPLETE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS APPEAR IN FAU'S UNIVERSITY CATALOG