PHILOSOPHY MAJOR - B.A.

Primary Faculty, Rockland: Dr. James Danaher  
Primary Faculty, NYC: Alfredo Cid

Mission  
The mission of the Philosophy Department at Nyack College is to promote academic excellence and personal transformation by exposing the students to the history of ideas and the rigorous and deep thinking that is philosophy.

Student Learning Goals  
At Nyack College, the study of philosophy will:
1. Enhance the student’s ability to solve problems, write clearly, and reason cogently in order that they would be better prepared for the fullness of life to which God is calling them.
2. Acquaint the students with the history and methods of philosophy which, because philosophy is elementary to almost all areas of inquiry, will prepare students for graduate school and advanced study in whatever specific area they choose to pursue as Christian scholars.
3. Instill in the students an awareness of the deeper questions, and promote a desire for lifelong learning.

Program Assessment  
The following assessments are used to assess program effectiveness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Location in Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Test the student’s knowledge of philosophical terms, concepts, perspectives, methods of reasoning, as well as the history of philosophy and its major schools</td>
<td>Written examinations</td>
<td>At the midterm and end of each semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Test the student’s ability to write coherently, argue cogently, and reason philosophically.</td>
<td>Written Paper</td>
<td>At the end of each semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Test the student’s ability to organize and conduct philosophical lectures and discussions</td>
<td>Senior Seminar where the students conduct the classes</td>
<td>Senior year</td>
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No prior year assessments. Assessments will be instituted Fall 2009.

Assessment results are evaluated on an annual basis for program improvement. No individual student is identified in the evaluation of the program data. Results are reported below with percentage of students in each performance category.
The philosophy curriculum at Nyack consists of course offerings in three major areas. The first area is that of the major branches or subdivisions of philosophy, such as: Epistemology, Ethics, Logic, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion, and Social and Political Philosophy. The second area of the philosophy curriculum is the history of philosophy and includes such courses as: The Dialogues of Plato; Aristotle and the Medievals; Kant; The British Empiricist; Locke, Berkeley, and Hume; Modern Continental Philosophy from Descartes to Hegel; and Recent Philosophy. Finally, the curriculum also offers courses that center on particular philosophical movements or topics of interests to the students and faculty of the philosophy department. Such courses include: Existentialism, Pragmatism, Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy, and Philosophy of Love.

The philosophy major is particularly practical in providing an excellent basis for graduate school since philosophy explores all of the fundamental questions and issues that underlie many other disciplines and areas of inquiry. It is especially appropriate as a basis for advanced studies in law, teaching, educational administration, public service, health care, the social sciences, or as a preparation for seminary.

126 credit hours, distributed as follows, are required for the Bachelor of Arts degree:

**Liberal Arts and Science Core Component** ............................................................... 37
**Foreign Language Component** ................................................................. 6
1 year (2 semesters) of the same language
**Bible and Ministry Minor Curriculum** ...................................................... 15

**Major Field Component (27 credits)**
(PHI101 Intro to Philosophy in the Core component contributes to the major)

PHI 202 - Logic............................................................................................................. 3
PHI 321 - Dialogues of Plato or PHI 322 - Aristotle & the Medievals.................. 3
PHI 323 - The Empiricists or PHI 324 - Modern Continental Philosophy ......... 3
PHI 348 - Philosophical Hermeneutics (Worldview requirement) ................ 3
PHI 470 - Philosophy Seminar ..................................................................................... 3
Philosophy electives.................................................................................................... 12

**Miscellaneous/Liberal Arts Elective Component (41 credits)**

Miscellaneous electives............................................................................................... 20
Liberal arts electives ................................................................................................... 21

**Total credits required** ..................................................................................... 126
# Philosophy Major Suggested Program Plan

**FIRST YEAR: Fall**
- PMN 101-Intro to Spiritual Form. . 2
- INT 112-Found. for Excellence .... 2
- ENG 101-College Writing I .......... 3
- HIS 113-Hist. of World Civ. I....... 3
- MAT-Math Elective .................. 3
- PHI 101-Intro. to Philosophy ....... 3

**SECOND YEAR: Fall**
- BIB 201-New Testament Lit......... 3
- ENG 201 or 202-Global Lit. I or II 3
- Foreign Language .................. 3
- PHI 321-Plato or PHI 322-Aristot... 3
- Laboratory Science ................. 4

**THIRD YEAR: Fall**
- BIB 303 Christian Thought ........ 3
- SOC 347-Multicultural America .... 3
- Liberal Arts Elective ............... 3
- PHI-Elective ....................... 3
- Elective ................................ 3

**FOURTH YEAR: Fall**
- PHI 348-Phil Hermeneutics ......... 3
- PHI-Elective ....................... 3
- Electives ............................ 10

**FIRST YEAR: Spring**
- BIB 102-Old Testament Lit......... 3
- ENG 102-College Writing II ...... 3
- HIS 114-Hist. of World Civ. II.... 3
- PHI 202-Logic ...................... 3
- Social Science Elective .......... 3
- INT 101-Info Literacy ............ 1

**SECOND YEAR: Spring**
- Fine Arts requirement ............. 3
- Foreign Language .................. 3
- PHI 323-Empiricists or PHI 324-Mod. Cont. Phil .... 3
- PHI-Elective ....................... 3
- PMN 201-Nyack Heritage .......... 1
- Elective ............................ 3

**THIRD YEAR: Spring**
- BIB-Elective ....................... 3
- PHI-Elective ....................... 3
- Liberal Arts Electives .......... 9

**FOURTH YEAR: Spring**
- PHI 470-Philosophy Seminar ...... 3
- PHI-Elective ....................... 3
- Electives ........................... 10