

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY (MA)

The Master of Arts in Social Philosophy provides an education for students interested in ethical, political, and other philosophical issues concerning society and social justice. Students enrolled in this program will learn to analyze the human condition through complex social, political, economic, and cultural contexts that characterize the contemporary global landscape. This program emphasizes the integration of theoretical work in the classroom with work in the community. It also encourages interdisciplinary research and engagement with a variety of philosophical traditions and methodologies.

The MA in Social Philosophy serves several student populations with tracks appropriate to each. This includes a track for students who are interested in developing their knowledge of social, political, critical, and ethical philosophy and integrating this with professional and non-profit work in areas like law, criminal justice, public policy, migration, environmental justice, and education. It also serves Jesuit scholastics in Loyola's First Studies program. The Jesuit portion of this degree has two tracks. The first is called the Foundational Track, and it is designed for Jesuits who enter First Studies with little or no background in philosophy. This track is structured to introduce Jesuits to philosophy through a sequence of courses in the history of philosophy, as well as tiered courses in social and political philosophy that build foundational knowledge. The second track is called the Enhanced Track. It is designed for Jesuits with some background in philosophy who are interested in enhancing their theoretical knowledge of social, political, critical, and ethical philosophy, as well as those interested in pursuing doctoral studies in philosophy.

Key Strengths of Loyola's MA in Social Philosophy

Foundational Studies in the History of Philosophy: The Philosophy Department at Loyola has expert faculty and exceptional breadth in the history of philosophy, with coverage in ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, modern philosophy, and nineteenth-century philosophy. Our department is also distinguished by its strengths in traditions that expand beyond traditional Western European philosophy, with faculty working in Ancient Chinese philosophy, Islamic philosophy, and the history of the philosophy of race. This allows students to explore questions of metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics from the vantage point of a variety of philosophical traditions and cultural perspectives.

Philosophy and the Existing World: Loyola's philosophy faculty has significant strengths in social, political, ethical, and critical philosophy. The degree prepares students to think critically and analytically about pressing matters facing the world today. This includes issues such as racial justice, poverty, migration, and environmental sustainability, not only in the U.S., but globally.

Interdisciplinary Research: Loyola's Philosophy Department embraces interdisciplinary approaches to these matters, for instance, by working with Loyola's School of Environmental Sustainability to offer courses that speak to issues of ecology, environmental philosophy, and environmental justice. The program encourages research across philosophy, the humanities, and the sciences, and many of our faculty are engaged in cross-disciplinary research and teaching activities that integrate philosophy with studies in history, theology, literature, neuroscience, and bioethics.

Integrating Theory and Practice: Students in this program are encouraged to bring the work they do in the classroom to bear on the service and ministerial work they are doing in the community. Equally important is learning how their work in the community can challenge and reshape theoretical research in philosophy. Chicago is an especially important site for undertaking this work and offers a unique opportunity to bring the theoretical and practical together. At the end of the program, students on all three tracks are required to take a Social Ethics Practicum that involves 70-80 hours of work in the community as well as a series of discussions, reflection papers, and research papers centered on the relation of this experience to their theoretical work.

Related Programs

Master's

- Philosophy (MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ma/>)

Doctoral

- Philosophy (PhD) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-phd/>)

Curriculum

For students who begin the MA in Social Philosophy in Fall 2024 or after there are three available tracks: Master of Arts in Social Philosophy - Jesuit Scholastic Foundational Track (p. 1), Master of Arts in Social Philosophy - Jesuit Scholastic Enhanced Track (p.), and Master of Arts in Social Philosophy (Non-Jesuit Track) (p.).

Master of Arts in Social Philosophy - Jesuit Scholastic Foundational Track

The MA in Social Philosophy Jesuit Scholastic Foundational Track requires 30 credit hours of coursework, a 0-credit Pedagogy Seminar, and an MA examination. The Foundational Track is designed for Jesuit scholastics in First Studies with little or no background in philosophy. It includes a sequence in the history of philosophy as well as sequenced courses in ethics and social and political philosophy to build foundational knowledge and skills.

Specific courses may not be offered every semester and course offerings are subject to change.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|--------------------------|-------|
| European History of Philosophy | | |
| <i>Select one course in Ancient Philosophy:</i> | | 3 |
| PHIL 401 | Plato | |
| PHIL 402 | Aristotle | |
| PHIL 403 | Ancient Philosophy | |
| <i>Select one course in Medieval Philosophy:</i> | | 3 |
| PHIL 405 | Augustine | |
| PHIL 406 | Aquinas | |
| PHIL 407 | Medieval Philosophy | |
| PHIL 408 | Late Medieval Philosophy | |
| <i>Select one course in Modern Philosophy:</i> | | 3 |
| PHIL 410 | Descartes | |
| PHIL 411 | Classical Rationalism | |
| PHIL 412 | Classical Empiricism | |
| PHIL 415 | Kant | |

| | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| PHIL 416 | 17th-18th Century Philosophy | |
| PHIL 417 | Classical German Philosophy | |
| PHIL 419 | Aesthetics ¹ | |
| PHIL 420 | Hegel | |
| PHIL 462 | Kant's Moral Philosophy | |
| Non-European Traditions | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| PHIL 407 | Medieval Philosophy ¹ | |
| PHIL 439 | Chinese Philosophy | |
| PHIL 463 | Virtue Ethics ¹ | |
| PHIL 468 | Topics in Ethics ¹ | |
| PHIL 484 | Philosophical Anthropology ¹ | |
| PHIL 490 | Current Philosophical Issues ¹ | |
| Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics (p. 3) | | 6 |
| PHIL 480 | Social & Political Philosophy | |
| Select one Level II course ² | | |
| Contemporary/Critical Perspectives (p. 3) | | 3 |
| Select one course | | |
| Select two 400-level Electives ^{3, 4, 5} | | 6 |
| PHIL 505 | Teaching Internship I ⁶ | |
| PHIL 511 | Social Ethics Practicum | 3 |
| Total Hours | | 30 |

¹ In general, these courses meet the requirements, but sometimes a topic may not be suitable, in which case the Graduate Program Director will advise about a substitute.

² Whether a course counts as Level I or Level II may vary depending on the topic, which will be determined by the Graduate Program Director in consultation with the Graduate Program Advisory Committee and flagged on the graduate course schedule.

³ Students may also take PHIL 500, PHIL 501, PHIL 502 and PHIL 503

⁴ While it is not required, it is recommended that students take electives in areas that emphasize interdisciplinarity, engaged learning, and/or environmental issues.

⁵ Up to two electives may be taken in related courses offered by other graduate departments or schools within Loyola, subject to approval from the Graduate Program Director.

⁶ This will be taken as a 0-credit Pedagogy Seminar.

Students should consult with the Graduate Program Director if a course of interest is not shown in the curriculum grid. For a full list of Philosophy graduate level courses, click here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/philosophy/#coursestext>).

Master of Arts in Social Philosophy - Jesuit Scholastic Enhanced Track

The MA in Social Philosophy Jesuit Scholastic Enhanced Track requires 30 credit hours of coursework, a 0-credit Pedagogy Seminar, and an MA examination. The Enhanced Track is designed for Jesuit scholastics in First Studies who have some background in philosophy. It serves students interested in enhancing their theoretical knowledge of social, political, critical, and ethical philosophy as well as students interested in pursuing doctoral studies in philosophy.

Specific courses may not be offered every semester and course offerings are subject to change.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|---|-----------|
| Select one course in European History of Philosophy: | | 3 |
| PHIL 401 | Plato | |
| PHIL 402 | Aristotle | |
| PHIL 403 | Ancient Philosophy | |
| PHIL 405 | Augustine | |
| PHIL 406 | Aquinas | |
| PHIL 407 | Medieval Philosophy | |
| PHIL 408 | Late Medieval Philosophy | |
| PHIL 410 | Descartes | |
| PHIL 411 | Classical Rationalism | |
| PHIL 412 | Classical Empiricism | |
| PHIL 415 | Kant | |
| PHIL 416 | 17th-18th Century Philosophy | |
| PHIL 417 | Classical German Philosophy | |
| PHIL 420 | Hegel | |
| PHIL 462 | Kant's Moral Philosophy | |
| Non-European Traditions | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| PHIL 407 | Medieval Philosophy ¹ | |
| PHIL 439 | Chinese Philosophy | |
| PHIL 463 | Virtue Ethics ¹ | |
| PHIL 468 | Topics in Ethics ¹ | |
| PHIL 484 | Philosophical Anthropology ¹ | |
| PHIL 490 | Current Philosophical Issues ¹ | |
| Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics (p. 3) | | 9 |
| PHIL 480 | Social & Political Philosophy | |
| Select two additional courses | | |
| Contemporary/Critical Perspectives (p. 3) | | 3 |
| Select one course | | |
| Select three 400-level Electives ^{2, 3, 4} | | 9 |
| PHIL 505 | Teaching Internship I ⁵ | |
| PHIL 511 | Social Ethics Practicum | 3 |
| Total Hours | | 30 |

¹ In general, these courses meet the requirements, but sometimes a topic may not be suitable, in which case the Graduate Program Director will advise about a substitute.

² Students may also take PHIL 500, PHIL 501, PHIL 502, and PHIL 503

³ While it is not required, it is recommended that students take electives in areas that emphasize interdisciplinarity, engaged learning, and/or environmental issues.

⁴ Up to two electives may be taken in related courses offered by other graduate departments or schools within Loyola, subject to approval from the Graduate Program Director.

⁵ This will be taken as a 0-credit Pedagogy Seminar.

Students should consult with the Graduate Program Director if a course of interest is not shown in the curriculum grid. For a full list of Philosophy graduate level courses, click here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/philosophy/#coursestext>).

Master of Arts in Social Philosophy

The MA in Social Philosophy requires 30 credit hours of coursework and an MA examination. It serves any student interested in developing their knowledge of social, political, critical, and ethical philosophy and integrating this with professional and non-profit work in areas like law, criminal justice, public policy, migration, environmental justice, and education.

Specific courses may not be offered every semester and course offerings are subject to change.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|-----------|
| Non-European Traditions | | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | | |
| PHIL 407 | Medieval Philosophy ¹ | |
| PHIL 439 | Chinese Philosophy | |
| PHIL 463 | Virtue Ethics ¹ | |
| PHIL 468 | Topics in Ethics ¹ | |
| PHIL 484 | Philosophical Anthropology ¹ | |
| PHIL 490 | Current Philosophical Issues ¹ | |
| Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics (p. 3) ² | | 15 |
| PHIL 480 | Social & Political Philosophy | |
| Select four additional courses | | |
| Select three 400-level Electives ^{3, 4} | | 9 |
| PHIL 511 | Social Ethics Practicum | 3 |
| Total Hours | | 30 |

¹ In general, these courses meet the requirements, but sometimes a topic may not be suitable, in which case the Graduate Program Director will advise about a substitute.

² While it is not required, students are advised to choose two areas and take two courses in one area, and three courses in another area. These areas are:

1. Social and Political Philosophy/Philosophy of Law
2. Critical Philosophy of Race/Feminism
3. Human Security
4. Climate Change and Environmental Justice
5. Bioethics
6. International Issues and Perspectives

³ Students may also take PHIL 500, PHIL 501, PHIL 502, and PHIL 503

⁴ Up to two electives may be taken in related courses offered by other graduate departments or schools within Loyola, subject to approval from the Graduate Program Director.

Students should consult with the Graduate Program Director if a course of interest is not shown in the curriculum grid. For a full list of Philosophy graduate level courses, click here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/philosophy/#coursestext>).

Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics Courses

| Code | Title | Hours |
|----------|---|-------|
| PHIL 431 | Marxism | 3 |
| PHIL 436 | Contemporary French Philosophy ¹ | 3 |
| PHIL 438 | Topics in Continental Philosophy ¹ | 3 |
| PHIL 457 | Aesthetics ¹ | 3 |

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| PHIL 459 | Philosophy of Law | 3 |
| PHIL 462 | Kant's Moral Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 463 | Virtue Ethics | 3 |
| PHIL 464 | Utilitarianism | 3 |
| PHIL 466 | Major Authors in Moral Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 467 | Contemporary Ethical Theories | 3 |
| PHIL 468 | Topics in Ethics | 3 |
| PHIL 469 | Ethics and Rationality | 3 |
| PHIL 470 | Ethics & Economic Justice | 3 |
| PHIL 475 | Philosophy of Nursing: Nursing as a Moral Practice | 3 |
| PHIL 477 | Social Health Care Ethics | 3 |
| PHIL 478 | Research Methods in Social Justice | 3 |
| PHIL 479 | Issues in Applied Ethics | 3 |
| PHIL 480 | Social & Political Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 481 | Philosophy of Action | 3 |
| PHIL 482 | Philosophy of Social Science | 3 |
| PHIL 483 | Philosophical Questions in Human Rights | 3 |
| PHIL 484 | Philosophical Anthropology ¹ | 3 |
| PHIL 485 | International Ethics | 3 |
| PHIL 487 | Moral and Legal Issues of Economic Sanctions | 3 |
| PHIL 490 | Current Philosophical Issues ¹ | 3 |

¹ In general, these courses meet the requirements, but sometimes a topic may not be suitable, in which case the Graduate Program Director will advise about a substitute.

Contemporary/Critical Perspectives Courses

| Code | Title | Hours |
|----------|---|-------|
| PHIL 422 | Nietzsche | 3 |
| PHIL 430 | Husserl | 3 |
| PHIL 431 | Marxism | 3 |
| PHIL 432 | Heidegger | 3 |
| PHIL 433 | Phenomenology/Existentialism | 3 |
| PHIL 434 | Hermeneutics & Critical Theory | 3 |
| PHIL 436 | Contemporary French Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 437 | Contemporary German Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 438 | Topics in Continental Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 440 | American Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 441 | Wittgenstein | 3 |
| PHIL 442 | Anglo-American Philosophy | 3 |
| PHIL 444 | Studies in Logic | 3 |
| PHIL 445 | Philosophy of Mind | 3 |
| PHIL 446 | Philosophy of Perception | 3 |
| PHIL 447 | Issues in Cognitive Science | 3 |
| PHIL 449 | Philosophy of Language | 3 |
| PHIL 450 | Epistemology | 3 |
| PHIL 451 | Metaphysics | 3 |
| PHIL 452 | Philosophy of Science | 3 |
| PHIL 454 | Philosophy of Religion | 3 |
| PHIL 455 | Philosophical Theology | 3 |
| PHIL 468 | Topics in Ethics ¹ | 3 |
| PHIL 490 | Current Philosophical Issues ¹ | 3 |

¹ In general, these courses meet the requirements, but sometimes a topic may not be suitable, in which case the Graduate Program Director will advise about a substitute.

For students who began the MA in Social Philosophy before Fall 2024

The Master of Arts in Social Philosophy requires 30 credit hours of graduate coursework (10 courses). The below requirements apply to any student following the M.A. program in Social Philosophy. However, Jesuits who elect to pursue this degree should consult with their advisor regarding other requirements associated with their First Studies program.

Specific courses may not be offered every semester and course offerings are subject to change.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|--|-----------|
| <i>Select two courses in Moral Philosophy:</i> ¹ | | 6 |
| PHIL 462 | Kant's Moral Philosophy | |
| PHIL 463 | Virtue Ethics | |
| PHIL 464 | Utilitarianism | |
| PHIL 466 | Major Authors in Moral Philosophy | |
| PHIL 467 | Contemporary Ethical Theories | |
| PHIL 468 | Topics in Ethics | |
| PHIL 469 | Ethics and Rationality | |
| PHIL 470 | Ethics & Economic Justice | |
| PHIL 474 | Principles of Business Ethics | |
| PHIL 475 | Philosophy of Nursing: Nursing as a Moral Practice | |
| PHIL 477 | Social Health Care Ethics | |
| PHIL 479 | Issues in Applied Ethics | |
| <i>Select three courses in Social Philosophy:</i> ^{1,2} | | 9 |
| PHIL 459 | Philosophy of Law | |
| PHIL 480 | Social & Political Philosophy | |
| PHIL 481 | Philosophy of Action | |
| PHIL 482 | Philosophy of Social Science | |
| <i>Select five graduate level Elective Courses</i> ³ | | 15 |
| Total Hours | | 30 |

¹ PHIL 470 Ethics & Economic Justice can fulfill either the Moral Philosophy or the Social Philosophy requirement. Some courses can fulfill the Moral or Social Philosophy distribution requirements depending on course content. Students may seek course selection advice from the Graduate Program Director in order to meet requirements.

² These courses often include issues concerning ethics and social justice.

³ Up to two electives may be taken in related courses offered by other graduate departments or schools within Loyola, subject to approval from the Graduate Program Director.

- For students who begin an M.A. in Social Philosophy in Fall 2023 or later: Beginning in Fall 2023, all required courses must be taken at the 400 or 500 level. 300-level undergraduate courses cannot be counted toward the MA in Social Philosophy. This does not apply to students who entered before Fall 2023.
- For students who began an M.A. in Social Philosophy before Fall 2023: Of the required courses, up to three may (but need not) be

taken as upper-division undergraduate (300-level) courses. The remainder must be graduate courses (400 or 500 level).

Other Philosophy graduate level courses may be used in the above requirements. Students should consult with the Graduate Program Director if a course of interest is not shown in the above curriculum grid.

For a full list of Philosophy graduate level courses, click here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/philosophy/#coursestext>).

Research Tool Requirement

There is no research tool/language requirement for this degree.

MA Examination

An MA Examination is required for students in the BA/MA, MA in Social Philosophy, and MA in Philosophy programs. It is also required for students in the PhD program who have not completed an MA thesis prior to entering the PhD program at Loyola. There are three options for completing the MA Examination depending on the program of study: (1) Oral Defense of MA Thesis; (2) Oral Defense of MA Paper; and (3) Faculty Review of MA Portfolio comprised of Two Scholarly Research Papers (article-length).

Options 1 and 2 are designed for students in the BA/MA, MA in Social Philosophy, and MA in Philosophy. Option 3 is designed for students in the PhD program. While students may fulfill the MA examination in any one of these three ways, it is strongly recommended that students take the exam that has been designed for their program of study. Students will determine in consultation with their advisors which MA Examination option is best for them. Students should also consult the GPD if they wish to deviate from the recommended MA Examination option for their program.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the MA in Social Philosophy students will have:

- Acquired advanced knowledge and be able to: demonstrate knowledge of the history of philosophy; demonstrate knowledge of perennial and contemporary issues in philosophy; and demonstrate expertise in a particular area of philosophy.
- Engaged in discursive and critical thinking and be able to: identify hidden presuppositions of everyday beliefs; articulate and evaluate philosophical arguments; consider alternative kinds of philosophical argumentation; apply philosophical categories, methods, and insights to other areas of human interest, experience, or cognitive inquiry.
- Produced and disseminated scholarship and be able to: frame, research, complete and defend the MA examination; and frame, complete and submit papers for scholarly conferences and publications.
- Developed the skills to appreciate and participate in citizenship in the academic community, in the larger community, and the world and

be able to: work for others for the sake of common purposes; foster Jesuit ideals, including truth and justice; enhance the pleasures of work in common.