This major is designed to acquaint students with the fundamental problems of Western thought and introduce them to the concepts and techniques necessary for independent philosophical thinking. It provides a broadening perspective for the various areas of specialization in the natural and social sciences and in literature and the arts.

Opportunities for Students

- **Honors Program**: Ideal for students planning to continue their studies at the graduate level, or just looking for a more intensive course of study, the Honors program requires a capstone seminar and completion of a senior thesis. Students must also earn a 3.5 or higher in their philosophy courses.

- **Philosophy Club**: Students from any major with an interest in philosophy can join this club. Meetings include guest speakers and discussions on many different philosophical topics.

- **Study Abroad**: Explore the origins of Western philosophy by spending a year in Athens, while learning about ancient Greek civilization, Byzantine art, and examining cultural trends in modern Greece.

Notable Courses

- **PHIL 315: History of Western Philosophy — Ancient Period** — Major figures in the history of Western philosophical thought from the pre-Socratics to the Hellenistic period; emphasis on Plato and Aristotle.

- **PHIL 351: Reasoning and Logic** — Study of reasoning as a strategy for arriving at knowledge in dependence upon logical theory. Logical theories are developed alongside historically influential strategies of reasoning.

- **PHIL 422: British Empiricism** — Development of philosophy in Great Britain from the 17th to the 19th centuries; emphasis on Locke, Berkeley, and Hume.

- **PHIL 430: Philosophy of Law** — The nature of law, legal realism, legal positivism; concepts used in law, such as punishment, responsibility, insanity, negligence, and strict liability; law and morality.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

**Gateway Course Requirement (select one)**
- PHIL 300: Introduction to the Philosophical Classics
- PHIL 315: History of Western Philosophy — Ancient Period
- PHIL 320: History of Western Philosophy — Modern Period
- PHIL 340: Ethics
- PHIL 360: Epistemology and Metaphysics

**History of Philosophy Course Requirement (select one)**
- PHIL 345: Greek Ethics
- PHIL 410: Early Greek Thought
- PHIL 423: The Critical Philosophy of Kant
- PHIL 427: 20th Century Anglo-American Philosophy

**Ethics, Law, and Value Theory Course Requirement (select one)**
- PHIL 330: Theories of Law
- PHIL 335: Theoretical Models of Leadership
- PHIL 337: History of Modern Political Philosophy
- PHIL 437: Social and Political Philosophy

**Systematic Philosophy Course Requirement (select one)**
- PHIL 350: Symbolic Logic
- PHIL 385: Science and Rationality
- PHIL 460: Metaphysics
- PHIL 462: Philosophy of the Mind
- PHIL 470: Theory of Knowledge

**Addition Course Requirements**
- Four (4) PHIL courses, two (2) of which must be 300/400-level

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or [http://dornsife.usc.edu/phil](http://dornsife.usc.edu/phil). Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.