PHILOSOPHY MAJOR - SENIOR THESIS OPTION

The Philosophy Department is now offering a thesis option for our Majors. This is not designed simply to be a long paper, but rather a developed piece of supervised philosophical research. Its length must be at least 10,000 words, and its content substantially different from any papers the student has written for other courses (that is, the student may first work on the topic in a class paper, but the thesis must involve a much richer exploration and development of this topic.)

A student writing a thesis will enroll in the 4 credit course "PHIL-4990 Senior Thesis: Philosophy", which will count as one of the 10 courses needed for the major (as one of the 3 free electives.)

This option does not replace the thesis written by Majors in the Honors program.

The procedure for completing the thesis is as follows:

1) In the Spring semester of the junior year, the student asks a faculty member to serve as the thesis mentor.

2) The student then gets the Associate Chair's approval to register for the course PHIL-4990 for the Fall Semester.

3) It is expected that the student will do preliminary research for the thesis over the summer.

4) The student will continue to research and write the thesis during the Fall semester.

5) When completed, the thesis will be read by the mentor and another member of the Philosophy faculty.

6) The student will offer an oral defense for the thesis by the end of the Fall semester. The date for the defense must be determined a month in advance, and the thesis submitted to the readers 2 weeks in advance of the oral defense date.

7) The two Faculty readers will jointly determine the thesis grade, based on the quality of the written work and the oral defense.

Prior to registering for the fall semester of senior year, Rose Hill students should contact Dr. Daryl Tress, and Lincoln Center students should contact Dr. Jeff Flynn.

Dr. Daryl Tress: tress@fordham.edu
Dr. Jeff Flynn: jefflynn@fordham.edu